CRACKING THE MOCHE CODE
Expanding Access to a Scholarly Photographic Archive

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Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA)
Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection

ARLIS/NA Annual Conference, Fort Worth, TX
March 22, 2015, 3:30 PM
Donna McClelland, From *Moche Fineline Painting*, 1999

The problem of making a flat rollout drawing of the design on a spherical vessel is similar to that of a cartographer making a flat map of the spherical earth. Something similar to an orange-peel map, rather than a Mercator projection must be created.
COLLECTION ARRANGEMENT

SUBGROUP 1: PHOTOGRAPHS – CHRISTOPHER DONNAN

• Series 1: Photographic Prints of Moche Vessels (3 x 5, 4 x 6)
  – Subseries 1: Photographic Prints (0001-0819)
  – Subseries 2: Photographic Prints (1000-2990)
  – Subseries 3: Photographic Prints (7020-7990)
• Series 2: Contact Prints [Subject Boards] (35 mm)
• Series 3: Medium Photographic Prints (3 x 5, 4 x 6)
• Series 4: Large Photographic Prints (5 x 7 and larger)
• Series 5: Slides (35 mm)
• Series 6: Negatives (35 mm)
• Series 7: Guides Created by Christopher B. Donnan

SUBGROUP 2: FINELINE DRAWINGS – DONNA McCLELLAND

• Series 1: Photographic Prints and Reprographic Prints of Fineline Drawings (0001-0819, 3000s)
• Series 2: Reprographic Prints of Fineline Drawings from Published Sources (1000-2990)
• Series 3: Duplicate Reprographic Prints of Fineline Drawings
• Series 4: Fineline Drawing Inventory by Donald McClelland
METHOD

RECONNAISSANCE
- Assessment

RECORDING
- Inventory
- Research

ANALYSIS
- Arrangement Plan

INTERPRETATION
- Rearrangement
- Rehousing
- Description

PRESENTATION
- Finding aid
- Digitization
- Online Publication
CHRISTOPHER B. DONNAN AND DONNA MCCLELLAND MOCHE ARCHIVE, 1963-2011

Repository: Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection
Location: ICFA Stacks
Identifier: PH.PC.001
Collection Title: Christopher B. Donnan and Donna McClelland Moche Archive, 1963-2011
Primary Creators: Donnan, Christopher B., 1940-
McClelland, Donna, 1932-2004
Secondary Creators: McClelland, Donald
Fang, Madeleine
Cordy-Collins, Alana
Languages: English, Spanish, German
Quantity: Approximately 53 boxes of photographic material; 24 boxes of slides; 20 boxes of negatives; and 15 binders of fineline drawings

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Christopher B. Donnan created the Moche Archive as a graduate student and, over a period of almost 50 years, developed it into a major research collection. This archive documents the art and iconography of the Moche, an ancient South American culture that inhabited river valleys in the arid coastal plain of northern Peru ca. 100-850 CE. Comprised of two (2) subgroups, the Moche Archive consists of various types of photographic material and fineline drawings. The bulk of its subject matter are mold-made, painted ceramic vessels. Other media, such as metalwork, textiles, wood sculpture, mural painting, and architecture, are also represented. Elements of the Moche Archive are arranged by iconographic category, archival source codes, and/or drawing number. Reflecting Donnan’s research needs, the Moche Archive grew organically between 1963 and 2011 and Donnan continued to develop it through his academic collaborations with the McClellands (Donna and her husband Donald) and many other colleagues (for more information, see Historical Note).
You’re coming and trying to make order out of chaos. Not that it [the archive] was so chaotic, you’ll just have to bear with us, Donna and I. It [the archive] has inconsistencies. And it’s wonderful that you’re doing this now...[It’s] wiser to do this now, rather than later.

- Christopher B. Donnan, during an informal interview on April 11, 2014
The categories sometimes changed as the size of the Moche Archive increased. Some of the original categories became so large that they were divided into two or more categories. Other original categories remained so small that they were combined with other existing categories, leaving some of the original numbers, such as 62 and 65, no longer in use.

Many of the images in the archive have only one copy, and thus are filed under only one category. In many instances, however, an object or rollout drawing has iconography that pertains to two or more categories.
SUBJECT CATEGORIES

Category 48 – Snails (natural, mythical, collecting)

Moche Archive, Drawings 551 and 61
SUBJECT CATEGORIES

Category 42 – Deer (mythical)

Category 43 – Deer (natural)

Moche Archive, Drawings 547 and 87
• Category 1: Human Heads
• Category 2: Collages
• Category 3: Body Ornaments
• Category 4: Supernatural Figures
• Category 5: Decapitation
• Category 6: Coca Chewers
• Category 7: Figures with Empty Sleeves
• Category 8: Figures Holding Pottery
• Category 10: Figures Holding an Animal
• Category 11: Figures with a Small Figure
• Category 12: Figures with a Burden Bag
• Category 13: Figures under an Arch
• Category 14: Figures Holding a Miscellaneous Object
• Category 15: Figures Not Holding an Object
• Category 16: Sleeping Figures
• Category 17: Optically Impaired Figures
• Category 18: Mutilated and Deformed Figures
• Category 19: Figures with Sores on Body
• Category 20: Childbirth and Nursing Figures
• Category 21: Erotica
• Category 22: Shamanistic Healing
• Category 23: Figures on Rack
• Category 26: Felines with Human Figure
• Category 27: Supernatural Confrontations
• Category 24: Figures Held by Birds
• Category 25: Three or More Figures
• Category 28: Prisoners (capture)
• Category 29: Prisoners (sacrifice)
• Category 30: Warriors
• Category 31: Warriors in Combat
• Category 32: Bean and Stick Ceremony
• Category 33: Weapons and Clothing
• Category 34: Beans (natural)
• Category 35: Beans (mythical)
• Category 36: Figures Seated on Dais or Litter
• Category 37: Wrestling
• Category 38: Body Parts
• Category 39: Skeletal Figures
• Category 40: Llamas
• Category 41: Figures with Bag in Lap
• Category 42: Deer (natural)
• Category 43: Deer (mythical)
• Category 44: Hunting (deer, fox, sea lion, bird)
• Category 45: Foxes (natural)
• Category 46: Foxes (mythical)
• Category 47: Strombus Shells (natural, monster)
• Category 48: Snails (natural, mythical, collecting)
• Category 49: Sea Shells and Sea Animals
• Category 50: Iguanas and Lizards (natural)
• Category 51: Iguanas and Lizards (mythical)
• Category 52: Fish (natural and mythical)
• Category 53: Fishing Scenes
• Category 54: Bats (natural and mythical)
• Category 55: Birds (natural—other than owls)
• Category 56: Birds with a Bowl
• Category 57: Birds (mythical—other than owls)
• Category 58: Masks
• Category 59: Owls (natural)
• Category 60: Owls (mythical)
• Category 61: Food, Food Gathering and Preparation
• Category 62: No longer exists
• Category 63: Crested Animals
• Category 64: Monkeys (natural and mythical)
• Category 65: No longer exists
• Category 66: Crustaceans (natural)
• Category 67: Crustaceans (mythical)
• Category 68: Frogs (natural)
• Category 69: Octopus (natural and mythical)
• Category 70: Snakes (natural and mythical)
  Category 71: Botanical Frogs
• Category 72: Spiders, Insects and Centipedes
• Category 73: Turtles
• Category 74: Sea Lions (natural and mythical)
• Category 75: Felines (natural and mythical)
• Category 76: Animals (miscellaneous)
• Category 77: Geometric Designs
• Category 78: Architecture
• Category 79: Mountain Scenes
• Category 80: Specific Individuals
• Category 81: Plants (natural and mythical)
• Category 82: Headdresses
• Category 83: Ritual Runners (human and mythical)
• Category 84: Dance
• Category 85: Metal Working
• Category 86: Music
• Category 87: Tule Boats and Rafts
• Category 88: Chavin Archaism
• Category 89: Weaving
• Category 90: Burial Theme
• Category 91: Badminton
• Category 92: Presentation Theme / Sacrifice Ceremony
• Category 93: Figures Holding a Garment
• Category 94: No longer exists
• Category 95: Hybrid Styles
• Category 96: No longer exists
• Category 97: No longer exists
• Category 98: No longer exists
• Category 99: Miscellaneous
SUBJECT CATEGORIES

Category 44 – Hunting (deer, fox, sea lion, bird)

Moche Archive, Drawings 111 and 84
FOUND IN: Category 48 – Snails (natural, mythical, collecting)

NUMBERED: 118-MAL-IV-44-NC-NP
Category 90: Burial Theme

Category 92: Presentation Theme / Sacrifice Ceremony

Moche Archive, Drawings 94 and 92
p. 6: There are two major figures in the upper part of this scene: an anthropomorphized iguana and an individual with lines on his face that look like wrinkles. We will refer to them as **Iguana** and **Wrinkle Face**.
WRINKLE FACE

- The Fanged god (and the Lizard helper) The Snake-Belt God
- A God
- El Personaje Antropomorfo de Cinturones de Serpientes
- La Divinidad Antropomorfa de Cinturones de Serpientes
- The Mountain god
- Quismique con su ayudante Murrup (iguana)
- La Divinidad Intermediadora
- Dios F
- El ancestro de cinturón de serpientes y la Iguana mítica
- Ai-Apaec
- Le démon-aux-serpents
- El Mellizo Terrestre (vs. El Mellizo Marino)
- El Mellizo de cinturones de serpientes

Moche Archive, Drawing 166
## PILOT #1: ICONOGRAPHIC CONCORDANCE FOR DONNAN MOCHE ARCHIVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Donnan's Moche Archive</th>
<th>Donnan's Moche Archive</th>
<th>Cross references</th>
<th>Additional information</th>
<th>Illustrated examples</th>
<th>Elisabeth Benson's</th>
<th>Yuri Berezkin's</th>
<th>Steve Bourget's</th>
<th>Luis Jaime Castill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 2</td>
<td>&quot;Collages&quot;</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Abstract supernatural collage&quot;; &quot;Irregularly shaped vessels&quot;</td>
<td>119-Deposito Dragon IV-2-NC-NP; 710-MAL 22/23-IV-2</td>
<td>&quot;Fantasy pots&quot;;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 4</td>
<td>&quot;Supernatural Figures&quot;</td>
<td>38-60-63</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Antropomorphic decapitators&quot;; &quot;Dismemberment of human bodies&quot;; decapitators holding a</td>
<td>310-STU 28-IV-5; 311-BM 26/35-III-5</td>
<td>&quot;A supernatural being &quot;; &quot;Supernaturals&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 5</td>
<td>&quot;Decapitation&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;Individuals chewing coca&quot;; &quot;Coca&quot;</td>
<td>157-BAN 1-IV-06-NC-NP; 056-MAL41-06-06</td>
<td>&quot;Coca-taking ceremony&quot;; &quot;A&quot;</td>
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<td>Category 6</td>
<td>&quot;Coca Chewers&quot;</td>
<td>13-18-64-80</td>
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<td>&quot;Figures holding an elaborate decorated</td>
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<td>&quot;Figures with Empty Sloopers&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SUBJECT CATEGORIES FOR WRINKLE FACE

Category 4: Supernatural Figures
Category 27: Supernatural Confrontations
Category 32: Bean and Stick Ceremony
Category 44: Hunting (deer, fox, sea lion, bird)
Category 53: Fishing Scenes
Category 86: Music
Category 90: Burial Theme
Category 91: Badminton

Dumbarton Oaks Museum, PC.B.578
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phylum Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Genus</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Kerr Iconographic Terms</th>
<th>Other terms</th>
<th>Spanish terms</th>
<th>Related Linnaean terms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mammal (Mammalia)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Felid (Felidae)</td>
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<td>Feline, felids</td>
<td>Felino</td>
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<td>Carnivor (Carnivora)</td>
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<td>Canis</td>
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<td>Canid</td>
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<td>Dog (Canis familiaris)</td>
<td>Dog, canine</td>
<td>Dogs, tz’i’, ook, oc, pek’, tz’i’, ch’i’, pek’, c’i’?</td>
<td>Perro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felid (Felidae)</td>
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<td>Feline, felids</td>
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<td>Feline, felids</td>
<td>Felino</td>
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<td>Large Cat (Jaguar, Panthera and puma, Puma)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jaguar (Panthera onca)</td>
<td>Jaguar, jaguar deer</td>
<td>Jaguars, balam, bahiam</td>
<td>Jaguar, ocelot, tigre</td>
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<td>Puma (Puma concolor)</td>
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<td>Puma (Puma concolor)</td>
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<td>Pumas, cah, kah</td>
<td>Puma</td>
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<td>Small cat (Leopardus, Felis)</td>
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<td>Ocelot (Leopardus pardalis)</td>
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<td>Jaguarundi (Puma yagouroundi)</td>
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<td>Jaguarundi (Puma yagouroundi)</td>
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<td>Margay (Felis wiedii)</td>
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<td>Margay (Felis wiedii)</td>
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<td>Margays</td>
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<td>Coati, raccon, ringtails, etc. (Procyonidae)</td>
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<td>Coati (Nasua)</td>
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<td>Coati (Nasua)</td>
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<td>White-nosed coati (Nasua narica)</td>
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<td>White-nosed coatis, coatimundis, coati mundi, chi’ik, chi’we, tz’utz’ih</td>
<td>Tejón, pizote, cuchucho, andasolo, saqui-nima-tsísi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Even-toed ungulates (Artiodactyla)</td>
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<td>Cervidae</td>
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<td>Odocoileus</td>
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</table>
FAUNAL TERMS ANALYSIS

• **Other terms:** Plural use of the term and other Maya terms applied to this animal.

• **Related Spanish terms:** Common names in Spanish

• **Related Linnaean terms:** Other common names or scientific names applied to this animal (e.g., cougar for puma).

• **Biological features:** Characteristics of the animal represented in the iconography or its symbolism

• **Iconography:** How the animal can be recognized, common themes/forms where the animal is depicted.

• **Symbolism:** What the animal symbolized based on the current literature on Maya archaeology, as well as in greater Mesoamerica.

• **Deities/rulers/names:** Variant forms the animal takes when depicted in supernatural or anthropomorphized forms

• **Keywords:** Links to terms in Getty AAT

• **Photographs:** Images of animal from CONABIO database (Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad)

Prepared by Nawa Sugiyama
JAGUAR (*Panthera onca*)

**Phylum:** Vertebrate, Arthropod, Mollusca  
**Class:** Mammal, Bird, Reptile, Amphibian, Fish  
**Order:** Carnivore, ungulate, primate, rabbit/hare, bat  
**Family:** Canid, Felid, Coati/raccoon/ringtails  
**Genus:** Large cat, small cat  
**Species:** Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)
JAGUAR (*Panthera onca*)

- **Other terms**: Jaguars, balam, bahlam
- **Spanish terms**: Jaguar, ocelot, tigre
- **Biological features**: Largest predator on the landscape, unique coat marked with black rosettes over an orange yellow or tan background. Jaguars can see in the dark, their eyes have light-reflecting retina cells that acts like a mirror when light shines onto them. This is why they are often associated with sight, mirrors, and darkness.

- **Iconography**: As ferocious animals, their body parts adorned warriors and were used as emblems of royalty (jaguar thrones). They are often displayed as ritual regalia, warn by warriors, royalty and shaman, and as sacrificial victims.

- **Symbolism**: Jaguars conceived as the master guardians of animals, symbol of strength, fierceness and valor. Their aquatic habits as they like to fish and swim, they were associated with water.

- **Deities/rulers/names**: Water-lily jaguar, jaguar-serpent-bird, jaguar god of the underworld, jaguar baby, jaguar paddler, jaguar way