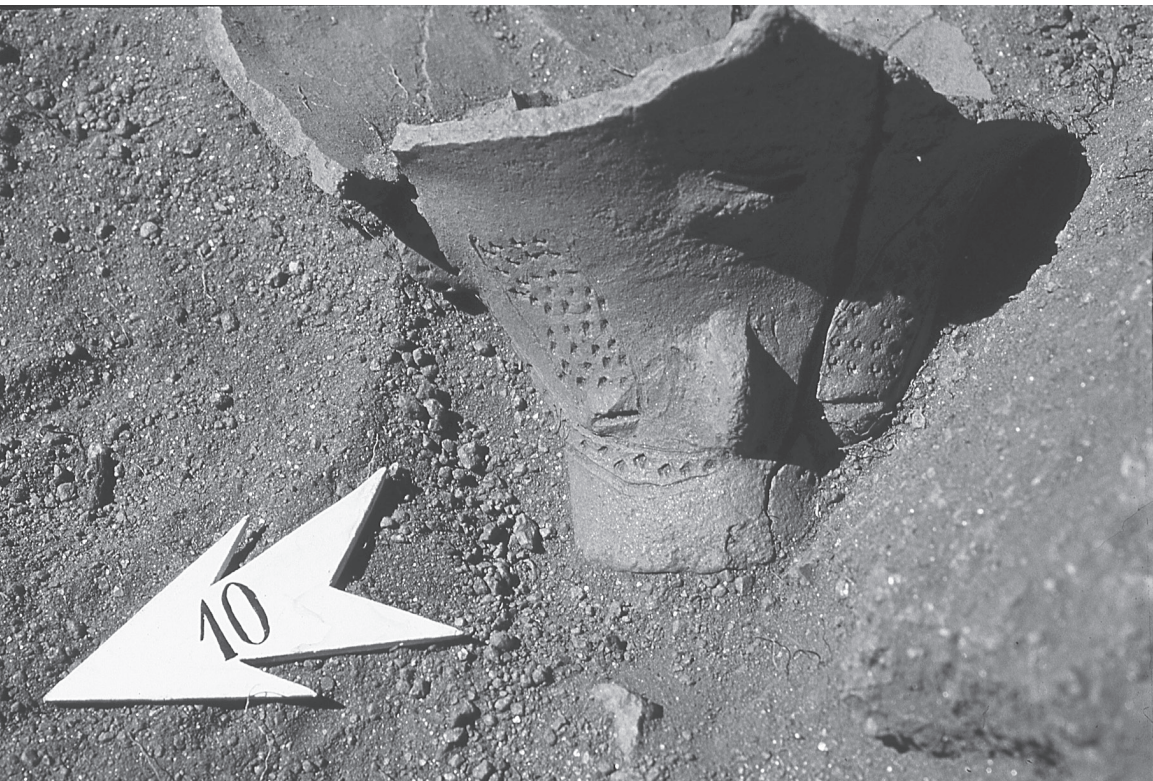


YUTOPIAN



In situ anthropomorphic Candelaria sherd from Estructura Uno, eager to tell its story.



THE WILLIAM & BETTYE NOWLIN SERIES
in Art, History, and Culture of the Western Hemisphere

YUTOPIAN

*Archaeology, Ambiguity and the Production
of Knowledge in Northwest Argentina*

JOAN M. GERO

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Facts

“Zurich is in the Alps” I learned
that, and had a fact. But I thought the Alps
were in South America. Then I learned
that’s the Andes—the Alps were somewhere
else. And Zurich is famous, for something.

So I gave up fact and went to myth:
Zurich is the name of a tropical bird that
whets its bill on the ironwood tree in South America
singing about life and how good facts are.
The Alps are a people who raise reindeer, somewhere else.

Then it became important that the moon be
a close friend. I wanted the wind
always to make that same sound, sustaining
us through all the seasons, and always
around us—the night, and then the world.

Moons have changed many times by now,
and the wind has a voice more peremptory. Clear
nights have deepened all the way to the stars.
Zurich is famous and far from here,
And there isn’t enough room for all the facts—
In this world.

WILLIAM STAFFORD

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