

DUMBARTON OAKS
PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES

PUBLIC LECTURE

STEVE BOURGET, MUSÉE D'ETHNOGRAPHIE, GENEVA

**DRESSED TO KILL:
THE REGALIA OF THE LORD OF UCUPE AND ITS SYMBOLISM**



Recent excavations have revealed the splendor of Moche regalia. Rulers who lived on the north coast of Peru between the 5th and the 8th century wore some of the most exquisitely crafted objects known from the ancient Americas. Their funerary chambers were filled with crowns, diadems, necklaces, and ear ornaments of silver, gold, and other precious materials. These works were decorated with complex designs, including naturalistic motifs based on a large array of animal species including owls, spiders, crabs, and octopuses. In this lecture, Dr. Bourget will present the impressive regalia of the Lord of Ucupe, a Moche ruler whose tomb was recently discovered and excavated at Huaca el Pueblo, exploring the meaning of these objects and their roles in the making of Moche ideology and rulership.

Steve Bourget is the newly appointed Conservator for the Americas and Director of Scientific Research at the Musée d'Ethnographie, Geneva. He has conducted archeological investigations at numerous pre-Columbian sites in Peru, including Huaca de la Luna, Huancaco, and Huaca el Pueblo. His current research addresses the roles of ritual violence in the rise of social complexity and rulership. His most recent publications include *Sex, Death and Sacrifice in Moche Religion and Visual Culture* (University of Texas Press, 2006), and *The Art and Archaeology of the Moche* (co-editor, with Kimberly L. Jones, University of Texas Press, 2008). He is the curator of an exhibition now at the Musée du Quai Branly, *Sexe, Mort et Sacrifice dans la Religion Mochica* (3 March - 30 May 2010).

Thursday, March 11th, 2010
5:30 P.M. in the Music Room of Dumbarton Oaks
1703 32nd Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20007

The lecture is open to the public without charge. Advance registration is required.

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