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To

Dr. John Russin, Chair; Outstanding Scholar Award Committee;
c/o Sue Wirth, Of. Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Dean
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Lima 21 of December 2006

Dear Dr. Russin,

I am honored to have been considered to write in support of Dr. Izumi Shimada's candidacy for **2007 Outstanding Scholar Award**, at the University of Illinois, Carbondale. I support his candidacy sincerely since he fully merits it.

In 1982 I started to pay attention to the contribution of Dr. Izumi Shimada on Moche society, I was a specialist of Moche Iconography of the CNRS, National Center for Scientific Research in Paris. I realize that we shared the same research interest in complex societies of the Andes. In 1985, when I was organizing an interdisciplinary project on the evolution of the societies of the extreme north coast of Peru, the valleys of Piura, Chira and Tumbes, I meet Dr. Izumi Shimada. He was doing field work in the neighboring southern valleys of Lambayeque, in Batan Grande, studying metallurgy. Technology and organization of craft production have always been of special interest to me and I was astonished by his findings, impressed by his reconstruction of Sicán production of arsenical copper, amazed by the amount of information he collected, and struck by the accuracy of his interpretations.

A careful perusal of Dr. Shimada's impressive curriculum is enough to immediately recognize the importance of his archaeological discoveries and analysis of cultural processes in Andean prehistory, in particular in coastal societies, Moche and Sicán during the end of the Early Intermediate Period, the Middle Horizon and Late Intermediate Period (# 550 -1300 A.C.)

The work of Dr. Shimada is of extreme importance for a number of constituencies, academics, researchers, students, the Peruvian public and foreign visitors who come to the North Coast to see the results of his excavations. They appreciate also the splendid conservation efforts of the archeological monuments excavated and their environment of dry forest restored. They admire as well the cultural patrimony displayed in the wonderfully didactic **Sicán Museum** of Ferreñafe in Lambayeque. All this represents four decades of strenuous and dedicated scholarly effort.

His intellectual trajectory is remarkable. Beginning as a student of John Murra he did Doctoral work in 1973, as a member of Kent. C. Day's **Royal Ontario Museum Project** in Pampa Grande, Lambayeque, a late Moche site. In 1976 his Ph.D. in Anthropology "**Socioeconomic Organization at Moche V Pampa Grande, Peru**", was tremendously useful for me, as for all the Moche specialists and Andean archaeologists. His reconstruction of the evolution of this site and of its socio-economic and cultural context is amazing, especially because, he has considered Pampa Grande in a broad temporal and spatial perspective and from an interdisciplinary point of view. It must be acknowledge that he was, then, the first to apply so well in a costal context Murra's conceptions of the relation between Andean societies and their territories.

The career of Dr. Shimada continued to develop in a methodical and thorough examination, at a local, regional and supra-regional scale, and from a Lambayeque standpoint the evolution of the north coast valleys societies, with special attention to the Moche and Sicán societies. In 1978 he became the director of the **Sicán Archaeological Project** in Batan Grande where there are evidences of a long time occupation.

As one particularly important example of Dr. Shimada's scholarship, and that of his international and interdisciplinary scientific team, I will mention the astounding discovery and excavation of the famous Lords of Sicán graves, in Batan Grande, whose treasures impressed the whole world in 1991 and 1992. Captivating the attention of all the Andean archaeologists, this year, in July 2006, he was again excavating in Batan Grande, a Sicán cemetery at Huaca Loro. In November the leading Peruvian newspaper **El Comercio** has published a series of articles describing his amazing new findings.

Perhaps more important than the gold, the precious stones and the exotic products, is the fact that Dr. Shimada has demonstrated that the Sicán were able to mass produce arsenical copper, a bronze. His data allows us to understand that the power that sustained the Sicán lords since 900 A.C. was based on the production and the control of the distribution of bronze. In short, he offers us the evidence of the beginnings of the Bronze Age in the Americas. To this day, no – one, to my knowledge, has fully explored the implications of Dr. Shimada's crucially important insight in the history of prehispanic American societies.

His contribution does not end with this, of course. Dr. Shimada continues to apply his broad intellectual and methodological approach to explore the relationships between the North and Central Coast, excavating, in Pachacamac, as co-director of the long term **Pachacamac International Archaeological Project**. Actually he is realizing his life-long comparative study of Andean ceremonial centers, Pampa Grande, Sicán, and Pachacamac.

Dr. Shimada is a true archaeologist by avocation and passion. More than others he has published in different languages and academic circles, as well as shared the results of his research in his classes in the United States and in Peru, and in personal communications. I can personally vouch for his generosity when I invited him, in June 1997, to visit the sites and monuments of the Alto Piura Valley to take advantage of his vast expertise in the neighboring southern valleys of Lambayeque. All his communications, articles and books are interesting and helpful for the investigators of Ancient Peru and for teachers in archaeology. I just like to mention one of his articles that was very interesting to me, "**Horizontal Archipelago and Coast-Highland**

interaction in North Peru: Archeological Models”, and two very important books, **“Pampa Grande and the Mochica Culture”** published in 1994 and **“Cultura Sicán”** that has been considered by **El Comercio** in 1995 the **Best Archaeology Book of the Year**.

During the 2003-2004 academic year Dr. Shimada was invited as a **Fellow in Pre-Columbian Studies at Dumbarton Oaks**. In this most prominent institution for the New World archaeologists he wrote a book to be published by Cambridge University Press: **“Coastal Kingdoms of the Andes: The Archaeology of Pre-Hispanic North Peru”**. I am sure that it will be of great interest:

It must also be recognized that Shimada has always inform the public of his projects and results, via articles in the press, and popular publications. He served as scientific adviser to exhibits in Japan and Canada and was the editor of catalogues. Even more remarkable is his essential contribution to the conception and realization of the above mentioned **Sicán Museum** whose successful exhibits are open to a grateful public that can appreciate as well the achievements of the Sicán society than the work of one of the most respectable Andean archeologist.

Dr. Shimada is a scholar of international standing. He is recognized by colleagues, by academic and granting institutions, and by the general public. For all his achievements, the 9th of October 1993, the **Government of Peru** gave Dr. Shimada the **Medal of Merit for Distinguished Service, Order of “Comendador”** a prestigious acknowledgment of his scientific contribution to the Peruvian archaeology. Just recently, the 12th of December 2006, the **Congress of the Peruvian Republic** has decorated him with the **Medal of Honor in the grade of Great Official**, another outstanding distinction.

This acclaim result, I am convinced, from Dr. Shimada tireless work, his infinite patience, his unbending tenaciousness, his obsessive accuracy, and his exemplary scientific rigor. These qualities are complimented also thanks to his very special sense of humor, his generosity and loyalty to his students, colleagues and friends, which has as a consequence his great capacity to build, consolidate, fund, and maintain top notch international and interdisciplinary research teams.

For all these reasons, I can very enthusiastically recommend this award, since Dr. Izumi Shimada fully deserves this honor.

Dr. Anne Marie Hocquenghem