Notice of the Final Oral Examination for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

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BA (Simon Fraser University, 2015)

“Cows in the Galápagos: A Study of Cattle Production at Hacienda El Progreso”

Department of Anthropology

Friday, April 20, 2018
10:00 A.M.
Cornett Building
Room A319

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Peter Stahl, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Iain McKechnie, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Gay Frederick, Department of Anthropology, Vancouver Island University

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. John Dower, Department of Biology, UVic

Dr. Stephen Evans, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

This thesis explores the zooarchaeology of cattle management and production at the 19th-century Hacienda El Progreso, on San Cristóbal Island, Galápagos, Ecuador. Many cattle products were exported, including salted meat, leather, and fat. In order to examine cattle commodification, comparative literature was reviewed, and the sequential steps that were undertaken to turn cattle into a product were assessed. The results were then compared to the faunal analysis of the Carpintero assemblage from El Progreso using the chaîne opératoire framework in order to examine the possibility of interpreting the sequential production of cattle commodification from zooarchaeological specimens. Historical cattle from Hacienda El Progreso were a likely small bodied Criollo variety. While there was evidence of cattle management and production, there was limited opportunity to identify the hacienda’s operational sequence of cattle production for export as the Carpintero assemblage likely represented locally consumed animals.