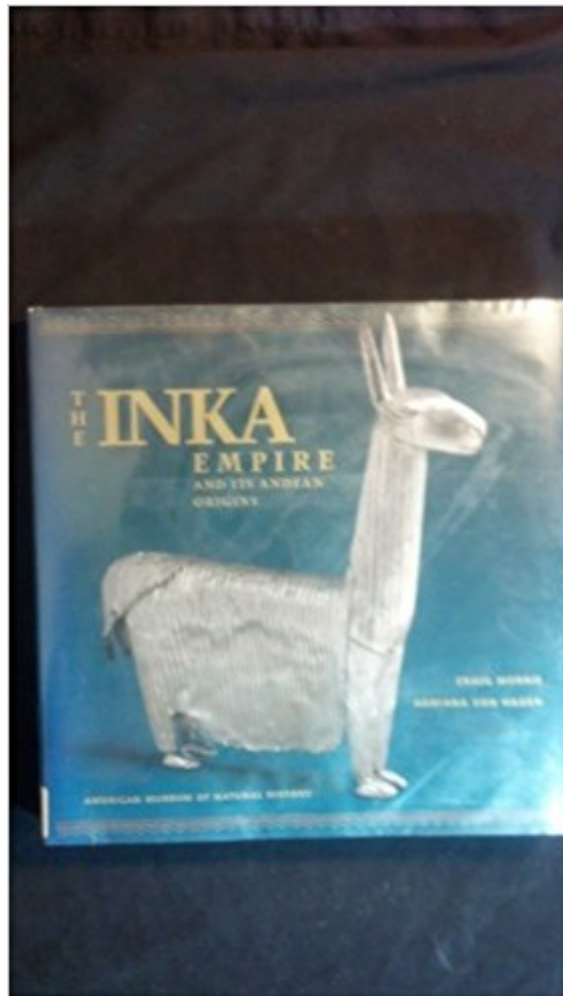


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The Inka Empire And Its Andean Origins



Synopsis

Sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History, this illustrated history of the Inkas and their predecessors offers a fresh appraisal of a remarkable civilization.

Book Information

Hardcover: 252 pages

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Customer Reviews

Centered in Peru but stretching from Ecuador to Chile, the Inka (or Inca) empire, destroyed by Spaniards in 1533, was the culmination of many indigenous civilizations. This enjoyable, stunningly illustrated survey investigates those cultures, beginning with the earliest peoples believed to have crossed the land bridge over the Bering Strait 11,000 years ago. The Chinchorro people of Chile mummified their dead using techniques contemporary with ancient Egypt's similar burials. The coastal Moche built large adobe pyramids, road networks and complex irrigation systems. The Nazca invented underground aqueducts and made vast drawings of animals and geometric shapes criss-crossing the desert. Featuring 200 illustrations of extraordinary objects from Manhattan's Museum of Natural History, this chronicle explains how the Inka absorbed a set of symbols from many earlier Andean cultures and incorporated them in ceramics, architecture, textiles, metalwork and dance. Morris is a curator at the Museum, von Hagan a freelance journalist. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This work embraces a period of some 11,000 years, ranging from the ancient cultures of the Andean peoples to the zenith of Incan civilization in the 16th century, before its subsequent, rapid demise at the hands of the Spaniards. The objects chosen to illustrate the volume (ceramics, fabric,

and metalwork tend to dominate) were provided by the American Museum of Natural History, and the color photography is splendid. Presenting up-to-date archaeological and anthropological scholarship, the text offers a detailed and thoroughly readable account, which, complemented by the rich illustrative work, makes for an attractive book. Highly recommended for collections emphasizing archaeology, anthropology, and Latin American studies.- Charles E. Perry, East Central Univ., Ada, Okla. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Wonderful photos of artifacts from the Incas and the various Andean people who preceded them. The text was quite good as well. I was impressed by the various weaving techniques and the fact that the people had developed dyes that produced more vivid colors than those of Europe at the time. I do wish the authors had provided more information about the foods of the people. They mention a few items I'd never heard of, such as tubers other than potatoes, that I'd have liked to have heard more about. Even corn could have been compared with the plants we're familiar with today.

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