

**A GUIDE TO MODERN  
PERU: ITS GREAT  
ADVANTAGES AND  
VAST OPPORTUNITIES**

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# A Guide To Modern Peru

Its Great Advantages and  
Vast Opportunities



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TOLEDO, OHIO

1908

## ANCIENT HISTORY.

I do not intend to give more than a very brief resume of the old and hoary history of Peru. There are ruins now existing in the country which go back to the unknown and dark ages. There are no traces of legends, no hieroglyphics, with the exception of Chinese characters which can be disfigured and the probable age of the ruins arrived at. It is now believed by the scientist that the immigration came from China. Whatever civilizations have lived and died throughout Peru—some of them far antedate those of Egypt.

The country is full of the work of ancient man and civilization has advanced by waves by different periods in the unknown past and extended as far south as Chile and on the north as far as Columbia. The only civilization that we can arrive at with any degree of certainty is that of the Incas, and the Incas themselves migrated to the country from the north and overthrew the peaceful civilization that existed in those days.

The writer has in his valuable collection, pottery of at least six different epochs in the history of the country, some covered by ordinary lines, dots and dashes of the most primitive form figures. Cloth that is woven from llama wool. He has also implements dating from the stone age and traces from the bronze age. Then there are articles, such as spoons, knives made practically of silver and copper of the Inca age. The ancient people before the regime of the Incas were a marvelous race. For instance, they worked silver and gold solder, dyed clothes with permanent colors, colors which exist today as fresh as when put on thousands of years ago.

One part of the civilization of Peru, probably dating back two thousand years, resembles the

work of the Mayes, of the Peninsula of Yucatan, which antedates by thousands of years a civilization of the Aztecs in Mexico. The writer, some years ago, having thoroughly explored the interior of Yucatan—there is one habit or custom to which I will refer here, and that is of a festival that has taken place in China for thousands of years and which is the annual plowing of a sacred piece of land. This has been done in the old time up to the times of the Inca in Peru with a silver plow. The custom, undoubtedly, being imported from the East in the long past. European Scientists are at present, studying the successive emigrations of Peru as shown by the ruins and monuments of different periods scattered throughout the country, but few instruments have survived of the language of these ancient people today to throw light and to furnish data on them.

Dr. Hoel, the noted German Scientist, now in charge of the museum at Lima, states that there was a form of writing, which existed in the times past, and of which a few samples are now to be seen.

All along Peru, in the interior on the summit of the Andes Mountains are to be seen ruins and even in the depths of the forests are found huge boulders that with pre-historic hieroglyphics and figures of animals rudely carved. Some time ago, in the year 1874, there was found in the nitrate beds of Tarapaca, buried away underground, the remains of a hut, and in it were two fish hooks made of fish bones, a small straw hat and a cap of a yellow color spun from llama wool and decorated with bird feathers. There was also found in a wool spun purse, some corn. The remains of the house is one of the most ancient ever discovered, and consists of a circle of ruins joined together



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by means of clay. It was about eight feet in diameter, and was covered with straw. The age of this discovery is entirely beyond calculation.

**Rule of the Incas.**—This civilization which was conquered by Pizarro, shows us a very wonderful government. Under the Incas the mines were worked in a rough manner, the metal was melted in furnaces built on high mountains. Iron, though obtained in Peru, was never used, and was really replaced by copper and tin. The writer has bronze instruments of this date, containing 93 per cent. copper, 6 per cent. of tin and 1 per cent. of silver. On account of the primitive instruments used, the race never reached the state of development that may be acquired by agriculture. These people melted their gold and silver in furnaces, made figures from molds and soldered them in such a manner as to be invisible. Effigies of men were drawn with gold, silver and copper plates, a great many of which are now in existence in the museum. Cloth was woven of wonderful texture of a fineness of silk and so interwoven with gold and silver and dyed with beautiful indelible colors. The embroidery, too, of that period was very fine. Emeralds, amethysts and other stones of equal hardness were beautifully polished and burnished. The greatest mystery in our days and to myself as a physician is how the ancient embalmed their dead. After hundreds and hundreds of years, the bodies retained their exact features, softness of skin, eyes and hair intact. In a private collection of the writer such mummies may be seen.

**History.**—It is well known how Pizarro conquered the country, and, imitating the case of Cortez, sur-

rounded the Emperor of Peru, forced him to pay an immense ransom in gold and silver, amounting to three million dollars, which in these days represents an immense fortune, and then put the Emperor to death in the city of Cajamarca, on August 29th, 1533. With the death of the Emperor, Atahualpa, the conquest of the whole empire was an accomplished fact. All the strength of a great nation was doomed and the empire rapidly fell to pieces, and was destroyed under the rule of the avaricious Spaniard, Pizarro, with no trouble conquered and occupied the very ancient capital of Cuzco and obtained in booty from that city over ten million dollars, a sum which represents an immense amount of money, for the gold and silver of Mexico and Peru have not yet flooded Spain. On January 18, 1535, the city of Lima, was founded by Pizarro, which he made the capital of the kingdom, and ruled the title of the Governor of Peru, in which city he was finally assassinated in his own palace, June 26, 1541, and his body now rests in the cathedral which he founded.

Sailing out into the Pacific from Panama, the Isthmus lies behind, so low and narrow, and understandable, that as you watch the jagged backbone of the continent disappear into the mists on either horizon, toward Honduras and Columbia, it seems almost as though you were looking at a relief map, and that if you should climb to the top of the mast, for instance, you could view both continents from Alaska down to the Horn. This is the beginning of the real South America. And, after the third day out, when the ship crosses the Line, the rest of the world seems very far away. One is aware of stepping into new pastures as soon as one boards the steamship at La Boca.