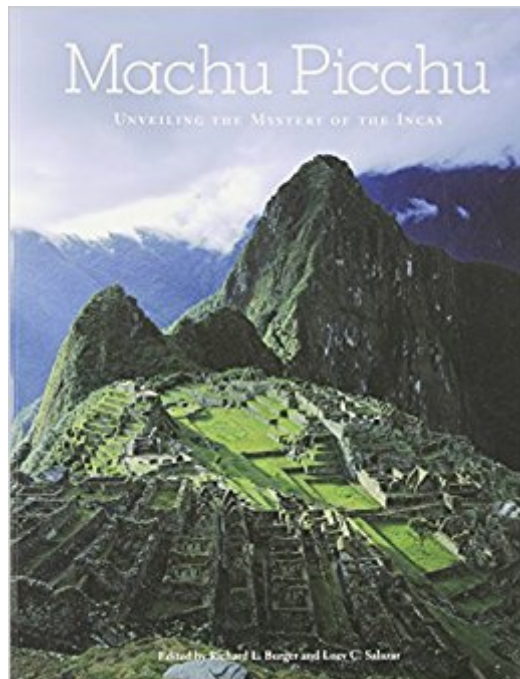


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# Machu Picchu: Unveiling The Mystery Of The Incas



## Synopsis

Situated high in the Peruvian Andes, the fifteenth-century Inca palace complex at Machu Picchu is one of the most spectacular archaeological sites in the world. In this beautifully illustrated book, leading American and Peruvian scholars provide an unprecedented overview of the site, its place within the Inca empire, the mysteries surrounding its establishment and abandonment, and the discoveries made there since the excavations by archaeologist Hiram Bingham III in the early twentieth century. Drawing upon the most recent scientific findings, the authors vividly describe the royal estate in the cloud forest where the Inca emperor and his guests went to escape the pressures of the capital. In addition to Bingham's exciting account of his first expedition in 1911, the book includes new and archival photographs of the site as well as color illustrations and explanations of some 120 gold, silver, ceramic, bone, and textile works recovered at Machu Picchu.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tied to a Yale-sponsored exhibition of Incan artifacts now traveling to several museums in America, this illustrated volume sheds new light on Machu Picchu, the mysterious Peruvian ruins that were rediscovered by the Yale Expedition of 1911. No "lost city" of myth, Machu Picchu was actually a "kind of Inca 'Camp David';" a royal country estate that was probably occupied by an Incan king briefly during the 15th century. In addition to reprinting Hiram Bingham's original 1913 account of the Expedition's journey, Burger and Salazar's volume presents several chapters in which modern archeologists describe the astounding scientific advances, the religious rituals and the daily life of Incas at Machu Picchu. (The book also includes a

catalogue of the artifacts shown in the traveling exhibition.) Particularly fascinating is Susan Niles's overview of the many practices that Inca royal families used to conserve their status and resources, including the worship of mummified ancestors and the intermarriage of brothers and sisters. A final chapter by Jorge Flores Ochoa discusses modern-day issues in Peru'such as the successful attempt to make Machu Picchu a center for mystic tourism'sand argues that President Fujimori's plan to build a cable car to the ruins "was designed to satisfy the interests of business managers" while ignoring the interests of the local population. Although the writing in this volume can be dense with scientific terms, most of it is also quite engrossing, and readers who are interested in Machu Picchu will be enchanted by the book's many lovely photographs. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Yale anthropology professor Burger and Salazar, curator of the Machu Picchu collection at Yale's Peabody Museum, present not only an outstanding catalog, but also a welcome, in-depth resource for anyone interested in pre-Columbian archaeology and the anthropology of sacred sites. The fifteenth-century Inca palace complex in the Peruvian Andes is one of the world's most splendid and culturally important archaeological sites, explored by archaeologist Hiram Bingham III, whose accounts, photographs, and illustrations detail the significance of his 1911 discovery of wonders long shrouded in dense vegetation. Still shrouded in mystery are explanations of the site's construction and abandonment. This amply illustrated volume includes essays reflecting a broad understanding of the Bingham collection that has emerged only in the last 20 years, including Susan Niles' overview of Inca royal estates (Machu Picchu is considered a palatial country estate) and Burger's piece on everyday lives in this center of elite activity and ritual. Whitney ScottCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

very interesting with a lot of information about history, culture, sociological information. easy to read.easy to follow. has kept my interest in reading it. i feel it helped prepare me for my visit...

I tend to purchase books to learn more about what guides have told me as I visit places. This book has a decent history, some photos of the Bingham investigation/archeological dig, and a catalogue of items found at Machu Picchu. In fact, half the book is a catalogue of items found in the digs.

Good book about Machu Picchu site but talks very little about the actual Incas

Read this before you go and you will startle the guide by your knowledge. Read this after you come home to better understand what the guide told you. This is a lovely book that I wish I would have written.

I was especially interested in Hiram's discovery of the site. I will be visiting in person and will benefit from the careful description of the site. Well done. Easy to read.

Terrific book and received it quickly. I can recommend this seller!!

A wonderful volume describing Machu Picchu --- the last mountainous holdout in Peru which was never conquered. Required reading for anyone interested in South American archaeology.

Having recently visited Machu Picchu via the Inca Trail I wanted to obtain a first-rate "coffee-table" style book to commemorate my experience and to render handy various names for various sights I saw along the way. When in Peru I saw several marvelous, fat volumes which contained all the information, photographs and poetic insight about the awesome Inca people and their accomplishments that I would ever desire. I figured I could score one off of once I returned home. Alas, I saw none of those titles listed as currently available. This book appeared to be the best available, but it falls way short of those that I had seen in Peruvian bookstores. Slender, with only a handful of small color photos, and several older, blurry photos taken by or of Bingham (all of which I've seen countless times before), this book was really close to being sent right back to . However, there is a section in the back which contains some nice photos of various Inca artifacts which (coupled with the hassle of sending stuff back) inspired me to keep the book. I learned the sharp, bronze item I bought in Cusco is called a "knife." (I'd been incorrectly calling it a "ceremonial knife-like thing with which I think they sacrificed alpacas.") Anyway, don't be too impressed by the publisher, "Yale Press." The name perhaps sounds compelling, but scrounge around at your local used bookstore and I'm sure you can do way better for your library.

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