

the color plates is particularly noteworthy for the polychrome vessels, textiles, and gold objects. Peru inevitably receives a certain emphasis, but a notable feature is the inclusion of items from Venezuela, Chile, Brazil, and other areas. Most of the originals are in the collection of the Museum of the American Indian in New York, and the book may serve in part as a magnificent catalogue of this portion of the Museum's holdings.

Historians who deal with native civilizations in their lecture courses, but whose primary attention is devoted to other matters, may profit equally from the concise and informative text. This treats the Indian primarily as an artist, but in the process it confronts the related historical questions of chronology, origins, tribal relations, native empires, and quantitative populations. The colonial period and the nineteenth century are almost wholly omitted from this work, which concentrates on precolonial and modern materials, and it thus neatly supplements the historian's usual concerns. There is an unannotated but extensive and well-chosen bibliography.

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*Peru before the Incas.* By EDWARD P. LANNING. Englewood Cliffs, 1967. Prentice-Hall. Illustrations. Maps. Tables. Figures. Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 216. \$2.95.

In *Peru before the Incas*, Lanning has given us a concise survey of Peruvian prehistory beginning with the hunting and gathering peoples of the central coast—about 12,000 years ago—through the Spanish conquest of the Inca empire. He examines culture change through the centuries as revealed in the archaeological remains in an effort to isolate the factors leading to the development of civilization, which he views as “an adaptive mechanism that serves to insure the survival and prosperity of a human population” (p. 3).

Following John H. Rowe, he divides Peruvian culture history into two stages (preceramic and ceramic), which are further subdivided into periods. Each period “is a discrete unit of time with a definite beginning and ending date” (p. 24). The preceramic periods are: I, ? to 9500 B.C.; II, 9500 to 8000 B.C.; III, 8000 to 6000 B.C.; IV, 6000 to 4200 B.C.; V, 4200 to 2500 B.C.; and VI, from 2500 to 1500 or 1800 depending on the area. The ceramic stage is divided into the Initial Period, 1800/1500 to 900 B.C.; Early Horizon, 900 to 200 B.C.; Early Intermediate, 200 B.C. to 600 A.D.; Middle Horizon, 600

to 1000 A.D.; Late Intermediate, 1000 to 1476 A.D.; and the Late Horizon, 1476 to 1543 A.D.

After summarizing preceramic periods I to V, Lanning devotes a chapter to each of the following periods. He reviews the archaeological data for each period in terms of general developmental trends throughout Peru and specific development within cultural and/or regional areas. In a concluding chapter he examines some of the factors which contributed to the development of civilization. The underlying theoretical model appears to be Julian Steward-cultural ecology, emphasizing the intricate interplay between environmental conditions, technology, and social arrangements.

This is a very up-to-date book. Lanning draws heavily on the results of the extensive archaeological work of the past decade, much of which yet remains to be published in full detail. *Peru before the Incas* most certainly will replace Bennett and Bird's *Andean Culture History*, Bushnell's *Peru in the Ancient Peoples and Places* series, and Mason's *The Ancient Civilizations of Peru* as the textbook for courses on Peruvian prehistory.

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*The Desert Kingdoms of Peru.* By VICTOR W. VON HAGEN. New York, 1965. New York Graphic Society Publishers. Illustrations. Maps. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 191. \$10.00.

Any judgment of *The Desert Kingdoms of Peru* depends on whether the book is to be classified as fiction or nonfiction. If fiction, its only flaw is that it is badly written. If nonfiction, its only virtue is that it is well illustrated. The following remarks are offered with some trepidation, on the grounds that the book should be reviewed as the factual work which the publisher apparently intended to produce, rather than as a work largely of imagination, which it obviously is. There is scarcely a paragraph—certainly not a page—that does not flaunt distortions, misinformation, and disregard for the findings of research, all served up in an abominable style that at times scarcely resembles the English language.

The author's ignorance of his subject is evident in Chapter I, "The Rediscovery of the Kingdoms." Reading it, one would assume that most of Moche-Chimú archaeology had been done by Charles III of Spain and the rest by Humboldt, Markham, Squier, and Wiener, with only Larco Hoyle representing the twentieth century. While Larco is certainly a prominent figure in north coastal studies, oblivion