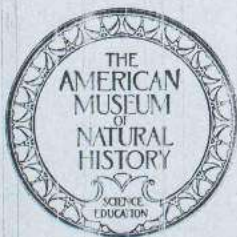




THE ANCIENT QUIPU  
OR  
PERUVIAN KNOT RECORD

BY  
L. LELAND LOCKE



THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
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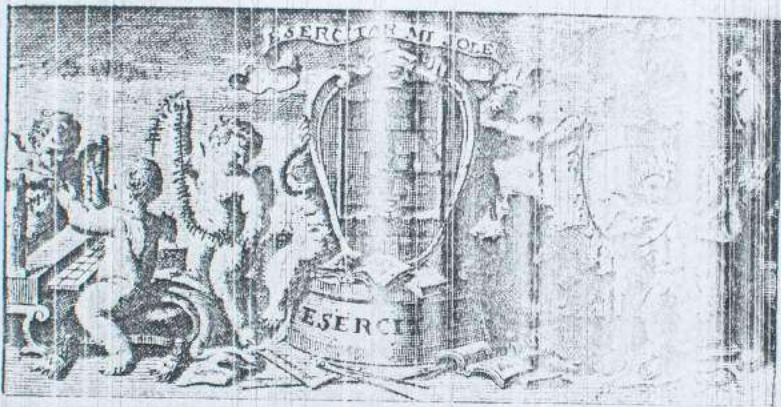
#### FOREWORD

Twenty years ago the quipu was one of the many Peruvian puzzles, but since that time several explorers have found them still in use by shepherds in keeping account of their flocks. These modern quipus are easily understood and can be used by anybody. The author's paper "The Ancient Quipu, A Peruvian Knot Record," which appeared in the *American Anthropologist* (N. S. vol. 14, no. 2, 1912), was the first attempt of any importance to unravel the mystery connected with the prehistoric quipu. That this attempt by Professor Locke was successful, all students of Peruvian archaeology are agreed. The mystery has been dispelled and we now know the quipu for just what it was in prehistoric times, and what it is, in its limited use today; simply an instrument for recording numbers.

The Conquest occurred in an age fond of the marvelous, and the quipu furnished a fertile field for the imagination. The chroniclers of that period relate that the keepers of the quipu recorded history, folklore, and poems. These statements have been widely quoted and doubtless are responsible for the exaggerated notions of the possibilities of the quipu that have generally obtained. Several times during the progress of this work Professor Locke has expressed to me regret that he felt obliged to include so much of "this bizarre stuff" in the different quotations he has made. But as these statements are essential to the comprehension of the subject and do contain important data for the understanding of the quipu, the author is fully justified in including them. At least, the reader now has before him all the essential information available.

CHARLES W. MEAD.

REGISTROS DE RAMALES



*Lettere Apologetiche, 1750*

"If Cadmus is in Elysium, the inventor of knot-writing must have some place of honor in the land of souls; and if the spirits in that dreamy country are capable of satisfaction from what passes in this grosser world, some feather-cinctured sage may be rejoicing in the chain of accidents which at this distant period brings his creations once more before the thoughts of living men."—GEN. T. P. THOMPSON.

#### PREFACE

The extensive literature of the quipu is of varying value. Some of it is based on actual knowledge, some on inference, some on casual examination of specimens, a great deal on conjecture, and some on pure fabrication.

The purpose of this study is to examine with considerable care the available authentic specimens. Of the forty-nine specimens of ancient quipu located, the American Museum of Natural History possesses forty-two. In addition, the aim has been to collate what has been written about the quipu from the time of the Conquest to the present, and by a cross-referenced bibliography, to determine as nearly as possible the origin of the various statements. Such a procedure enables one to evaluate such statements with a considerable degree of accuracy, and also to compare the actual quipu with the given descriptions.

With the exception of the first chapter, which is substantially the material of a paper under date of April, 1912, in the *American Anthropologist*, the material here presented is a compilation of other writers. Under such circumstances, no attempt has been made to reconcile differences in spelling and textual discrepancies.

The photographs, with the exceptions noted, were made by the writer. To secure satisfactory color values, the ray filter, with a long exposure and black field, gave the best results. It is hoped that the plan of spreading the quibus, while detracting from the attractiveness of the plate, will contribute to a satisfactory idea of the specimens.

The writer wishes to acknowledge personal obligations to Professor David Eugene Smith, to Professor Marshall H. Saville, to Professor Thomas A. Joyce, to Dr. G. B. Gordon, to Mr. Stewart Culin, and to the late Mr. Adolf F. Bandelier.

Without the assistance and advice so generously given by Mr. C. W. Mead and Dr. Clark Wissler, this study would not have been possible. No responsibility attaches to any of these for opinions offered herein.

J. LELAND LOCKY.

April 22, 1920.

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LIST OF QUIPU

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AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY			UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM		
No.	Museum number	Location	No.	Museum Number	Location
1	B-8713	Chancay	16	B-3453h	Cajamarquilla
2	B-8715	Chancay	17	B-3453f	Cajamarquilla
3	B-8707	Huando	18	B-3453k	Cajamarquilla
4	B-8705	Chancay	19	B-3453j	Cajamarquilla
5	B-8703	Medialima	20	B-3453i	Cajamarquilla
6	B-8704	Chuquitanta	21	B-3453d	Cajamarquilla
7	B-8709	Chancay	22	B-3453g	Cajamarquilla
8	B-8716	Chancay	23	B-3453c	Cajamarquilla
9	B-8711	Chancay	24	B-2470	Cajamarquilla
10	B-8714	Chuquitanta	25		Cajamarquilla
11	B-3465a	Cajamarquilla	26	D-N65-12	Douglas Collection
12	B-3465b	Cajamarquilla	27	D-N65-11	Douglas Collection
13	B-3473	Cajamarquilla	28	40.1-1550	Ica
14	B-3453a	Cajamarquilla	29	40.1-1551	Ica
15	B-3465d	Cajamarquilla	30	40.1-1543	Ica
BRITISH MUSEUM			UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM		
31		Pacasmayo de Bolivar	32		Pachacamac
PARIS					
33		Galerie de Trocadéro, Ancón	37		von Tschudi
34		Princess Theresa von Bayern	38		Philadelphia Exposition
35		Macedo	39		Giglioli, Ancón
36		Berlin			
45		Davenport Academy of Sciences			
MODERN QUIPU			APOCRYPHAL QUIPU		
40		Uchic, U. of P. Museum	42		Strong
41		Rosario, Berlin	43		Letourneau Apotegues
			44		Berger