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Thomas Athol Joyce

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South American Archaeology

An anthropologist and archaeologist working for much of his life in the British Museum, Thomas Athol Joyce (1878–1942) succeeded in making American archaeology more accessible to non-specialists. Through careful analysis and presentation of the available evidence from South and Central America, he secured his reputation as an authority in this field, especially with regard to Mayan civilisation. Drawing on his wide reading of the published literature, he produced three pioneering and highly illustrated textbooks. The present work appeared in 1912 and confined itself to South America, beginning its coverage with Colombia in the north. Given the better preservation of the material culture, there is a particular focus on Peru and the Incas. The topics discussed range from burials, mummies and shrunken heads to nose ornaments, musical instruments, tattoos and weaving. Joyce's *Mexican Archaeology* (1914) and *Central American and West Indian Archaeology* (1916) are also reissued in this series.

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THOMAS ATHOL JOYCE



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SOUTH AMERICAN
ARCHÆOLOGY

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PLATE 1



PERU
POTTERY FROM NASCA



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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHÆ-
OLOGY OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN
CONTINENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO THE EARLY HISTORY OF PERU. BY
THOMAS A. JOYCE, M.A. WITH NUMEROUS
ILLUSTRATIONS AND A MAP



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PREFACE

IT is not without great diffidence that I have ventured to compile the following chapters on the archæology of South America. The subject is one of great magnitude, and the literature dealing with it is vast. Besides this, there exist so many gaps in our knowledge, gaps which can only be filled by years of patient excavation, that the formation of theories is still a precarious task. At the same time it is useful to pass in review the work which has already been completed, with the object both of pointing out the missing links in the chain of evidence, and of stimulating further research by calling attention to the results already achieved. Again, much of the literature is scattered broadcast in the pages of scientific journals, and therefore escapes the notice of the general reader; while the fact that a large proportion of it is in German, Spanish or Portuguese, renders it inaccessible to many would-be students. Thanks to the labours of Sir Clements Markham, backed by the Hakluyt Society, many of the early chroniclers have now been translated into English, but there exist numbers of more recent treatises, all of great value, written by investigators in South America, which are not likely to find a translator. This country has taken little part, in recent years, in the scientific exploration of the South American continent. Expeditions from Germany, France, Sweden and the United States have been productive of the most valuable results, but this rich field for archæological enterprise has been strangely neglected by England. The national collection con-

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tains a fairly representative series of objects illustrating the archaeology of South America, including many specimens of great value ; but the collection is small, and some regions, such as the Argentine Republic and Brazil, are poorly represented, while certain classes of Peruvian pottery are entirely lacking. If this book can in the smallest degree help to stimulate interest in the early remains of South America, some of which are among the most remarkable in the world, the purpose of the author will be achieved. As for the book itself, no claim for completeness can be put forward ; I have conscientiously tried to neglect no important source of information, and if I have omitted any such I apologize, not so much to the reader, as to the worker whose researches have thus passed unnoticed by me.

To Dr. Uhle, the Director of the Museum at Lima, I owe a great debt of gratitude, not only for permission to publish certain of the illustrations, notably the frontispiece, but also for his kindness in discussing by correspondence a number of questions relative to the early period in Peru, and in generously contributing some essential information. To Miss Breton I must also express my thanks, for permitting me to select from her sketches the fine water-colour which appears as Plate I ; and again to Col. F. H. Ward, for placing at my disposal his collection of South American photographs. To Dr. C. H. Read, P.S.A., of the British Museum I owe much, not only for his permission to photograph many of the objects in the national collection, but for his advice and instruction on innumerable points connected with this subject ; and to Mr. Henry Balfour, Curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford, I am indebted for the photograph of Peruvian skulls on Plate IX. I wish also to thank Dr. E. A. Wallis Budge of the British Museum for the interest which he has taken in the book, which, in fact, owes its inception to him. My acknowledgments are due also to the Editor

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of *The Times* for permission to republish part of an article which appeared in the South American supplement of September 27th, 1910. Finally I would thank Messrs. C. J. Praetorius and Norman H. Hardy, and also my wife, for the care they have expended on the pen-and-ink drawings which constitute not the least attractive feature of the volume.

T. A. JOYCE.

LONDON,

March, 1912

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