

Preface

Anyone who sees an Inka state settlement rarely forgets the experience. This book explores the design of such settlements. It may be of interest to the tourist visiting Machu Picchu, to the archaeologist studying an Inka fort or administrative center, and to those with a general interest in pre-Columbian architecture and native American civilization.

Why is the design of Inka settlements important? First, they are a major archaeological phenomenon spread over an area larger than that of any other pre-Columbian civilization. Second, their design informs us about how Inkas thought, and about ideas purveyed to their subjects. Third, the planning of Inka state installations tells us something about how the empire was organized, managed, and defended. Finally, the settlements are so complex that information from them influences the interpretation of most other Inka physical remains.

My research on Inka settlements began in 1974, when I surveyed the site Chucuito on the shore of Lake Titicaca during doctoral dissertation fieldwork. That interest expanded between 1978 and 1981, when I surveyed a number of segments of the Inka road system throughout the Andes (Hyslop 1984) and had the opportunity to visit a number of large Inka installations distant from Cuzco, the Inka capital in southern Peru.

In 1979 I began research at Inkawasi, an Inka garrison in Peru (Hyslop 1985). Mapping and interpreting Inkawasi raised many questions about Inka site planning. I decided then that knowledge about Inka site design could be advanced by a comparative study. My realization that most Inka state settlements were not in the Cuzco area, but spread throughout the Andes, led me in 1986 and 1987 to carry out survey and mapping at more than a dozen Inka settlements from Ecuador to Chile. Meanwhile, frequent visits to Cuzco and environs from 1973 on familiarized me with many of the sites in the Inka heartland.

This book discusses a range of Inka settlements in the Cuzco area and throughout Tawantinsuyu. It includes more aerial photographs and

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detailed site plans than any previous Inka study. It includes new and ignored information, particularly from state settlements in Argentina and Ecuador. The site descriptions here are nearly always based on my field notes as well as on the published works of others.

This book is a companion for my *The Inka Road System*, published in 1984. Both books deal with the physical infrastructure of the Inka state. Both compare evidence within a pan-Andean perspective. Each has greater relevance when accompanied by the other. This book is, however, potentially more controversial because it attempts to ascribe Andean meaning to archaeological features and patterns. The emphasis here on the symbolic aspects of Inka archaeological remains is only touched on in *The Inka Road System*.

The words *city* and *urban* are usually avoided in this book because of the diverse meanings that have accrued to them in specialized literature. Instead, I most often used the more general terms "state settlement" and "state installation," meaning a group of buildings and associated features where people lived or worked while engaged in activities related to the Inka Empire.

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