



Handbook of Inca Mythology (World Mythology)

By Paul Richard Steele

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The first introduction to the Incas and their myths aimed at students and general readers, bringing together a wealth of information into one convenient resource.

- A detailed timeline places all key mythological tales and historical developments in chronological order, from the beginnings of the world to the Spanish conquest
- A vividly illustrated A–Z dictionary section gives entries for key deities, creatures, characters, rituals, sacred objects, running themes, and beliefs in Inca mythology, as well as important cultural and historical terms, people, and places

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Editorial Review

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Another entry in ABC-CLIO's Handbooks of World Mythology series, with an introduction and overview followed by an A-Z "Encyclopedia of Mythic Narratives, Themes, and Concepts." Despite a note on orthography--modern spellings versus older spellings--both varieties are used within articles (e.g., Tiahuanaco and Tiwanaku), not always consistently. Andean myths, rather than exclusively Inca myths, are included, since the Incas co-opted the mythology of conquered peoples into their own. The nearly 70 encyclopedia entries mostly cover individual gods, demons, and heroes, but there are also entries for *Coca*, *Colors*, *Felines*, *Mountains*, and other topics that are an important part of Andean tradition.

Illustrations include black-and-white photographs and reproductions of title pages of early printed books and manuscripts. Each article has cross-references and readings. There are an annotated list of print and nonprint resources and a separate bibliography as well as a glossary and a separate pronunciation guide and index. The index does not include both older and modern spellings.

This work would probably be most useful in academic libraries with Andean studies or folklore and mythology collections. Larger public libraries with extensive folklore and mythology collections may also want to consider it. The Handbooks of World Mythology series also includes titles on Arab, Celtic, classical, Egyptian, Hindu, Japanese, Mesoamerican, Native American, Norse, and Polynesian mythology. *Kathleen Stipek*

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Review

"Written by credible scholars in the field, the reader can have reasonable confidence in the reliability of the information provided. . . . Students will particularly appreciate the summary of relevant literature, the guide to best available videos, suggested Websites, the extensive section of reference, and a glossary." - **American Reference Books Annual**

"Highly recommended. Public, academic, art, anthropology, and Latin American studies libraries." - **Choice**

About the Author

Paul Steele, PhD, is an archivist for a commercial archaeological unit in London, England.

Catherine J. Allen, professor of anthropology and international affairs in the Department of Anthropology at George Washington University, Washington, DC, provided assistance with this book.

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