

INCA NEWS

Editors' Preface

“Inca News” was born in 2015 when two of its original editors, Dr. Barak Afik and Dr. Viviana R. Moscovich, got the idea to present a collection of investigations in English that do not belong to mainstream research on the Inca and central Andean cultures and societies.

We liked to call these heretical or unorthodox and insisted that every author explain why the proposed ideas better explain the known or discovered sources of any kind. We had the good luck of enlisting both “old and respected heretics” like Carmen Escalante/Ricardo Valderrama and Nathan Wachtel, as well as researchers of the next generations.

Since the rule was to include texts from any branch of research on Andean societies and cultures, the book contains texts written by historians, archeologists, linguists, and anthropologists but never “pure.” Each of us combined methods from different branches of research; the only undoubtful common trait in research methods is interdisciplinarity, and never mainstream. Readers should not expect a single ideology, methodology, and list of sources. They can, however, check if a particular text really brings new ideas and interpretations. This is why, contrary to the custom, we did not include an introduction to present each study and explain its links with other studies contained in the same volume since, for writing such a text, all the authors should belong to the same heresy and be heretics according to the same heterodoxy, and not belong, as each of us does, to a different heresy.

The book's second goal was to show the research methods and scholars presented here to the English-speaking community. In fact, one of the hardest challenges in Andean research for researchers publishing in languages other than English and working outside English-speaking countries is to become cited by this vast and reputed research community, which includes University and College students and researchers, and top-ranked academic journals and editorials houses. Thus, the publication of the papers from Inca News in English aims to open a door

into the English-speaking academic world to this very valued group of researchers in Andean Studies outside or on the fringes of mainstream research.

Unfortunately, due to financial and other constraints and the fact that one of the initial editors of the book, Dr. Barak Afik, left research and stopped the financing, the remaining two editors could not make the time to bring the book to publication. Thus, the volume, almost at its final stage, had to be canceled. In the meantime, from the beginning to the end of this endeavor, two dear colleagues passed away: Ricardo Valderrama and Antoinette Molinie. We mourn their departure both personally and academically. In honor of their work, the articles they sent for publication in "Inca News" are published in this compilation. May they rest and peace.

We wish to express our utmost gratitude to Michał Gilewski, the editor of *Estudios Latinoamericanos*, who offered to publish the available articles from this book in two journal issues under the name „Inca News.”

We also extend our deep gratitude to each scholar participating in this publication for their patience, collaboration, and support and for standing with us during the long time it took to publish their papers.

We are grateful to everyone and all.

Viviana R. Moscovich and Jan Szemiński
Editors of "Inca News"