

## IAIN MACKAY

I was born in St. Andrews, Fife, and shortly afterwards went to Peru with my parents. I spent my formative years in Lima, leaving Peru in 1978 with my family. During that time I attended a non-profit school for Peruvians founded by Dr John A. Mackay in 1917. A series of Mackays served in Peru at the school, lectured at San Marcos University (Latin America's oldest university) and some worked in the Scottish missions in the Northern Peruvian Andes being much liked and respected, and as a result affectionately became known as 'Los Mackays'. My great uncle, Dr Kenneth Mackay, was a medical missionary in Moyobamba in the Peruvian jungle. He wrote several journals of his trips to (and around) Moyobamba which were overland or via the Amazon and Brazil. Some years later, but in much greater comfort, I have followed both routes. We were privileged in that as a family we travelled all over Peru which is where my interest in archaeology, travel and culture commenced, always encouraged by my parents.



The fact that we travelled widely within Peru, and I was fluent in Spanish, keen on Andean art, prehistory and history prompted me to follow on with these interests when as a family we returned to Scotland. Edinburgh University, Archaeology Department, failed to indulge my interest in Andean archaeology (but did get me involved in the Caithness Field Surveys and close to Mackay Country). St. Andrews came to my rescue when I enrolled in a course for Quechua and Amerindian Studies and carried out fieldwork – in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru, of course – for my doctoral thesis. This eventually led to work with Edinburgh International Festival exhibitions on pre-Columbian cultures, as an area editor (Americas) for MacMillans Dictionary of Art and as an Assistant Curator (Americas) at the Museum of Mankind, British Museum. Part of the story includes participation on a number of excavations and field surveys in London, Edinburgh Castle and Douglasmuir in the UK, Bolivia, Cyprus, Peru, Portugal, Spain, and, of course, in the Caithness Field Surveys around Bettyhill and Dounreay. Whilst in London, my interest in Peru earned me the title of 'gringo-cholo' from one of Peru's foremost writers, at that point the Cultural Attaché at the Peruvian Embassy in London, and led to a series of talks, exhibitions of photographs and paintings.

Recent years involved a change of direction, and I joined HMC&E. This led to five years at the British Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil, and lots more travel. I improved my Portuguese at this point and engaged in further studies at the University of Brasilia (again, of course, fieldwork in Peru for a thesis, this time in Portuguese and a number of articles on Inca architecture).

Travel over the years has taken my wife and myself to a range of places with a Mackay association: Mackay, Queensland; Mackay Falls, New Zealand; Mackay St., Montreal, Canada; McKay Bakeries, Valleta, Malta; and links with the Mackay diaspora in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Peru. The good thing is that there are other places still to visit; Cerro Mackay, in southern Chile will be one. And, so the story goes on ... and, of course the Mackay-Latin America link continues, as the McKay biscuits in Chile state: "Galletas McKay, más ricas no hay", untranslatable as it does not rhyme in English, but the gist is "McKay are unbeatable and the best"!