

ASMP BULLETIN

STONE OFFERINGS: MACHU PICCHU'S TERRACES OF ENLIGHTENMENT PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE TORREY, INTRODUCTION BY MARIE ARANA

There is a profound stillness and extraordinary beauty to Mike Torrey's images of Machu Picchu's famed Incan ruins. Torrey photographed Machu Picchu twice over several days on the occasion of the summer and winter solstices. The results are now gathered in an exceptional first book, which provides a calm and dignified portrait of the historical site and the mountaintop surroundings that cradle the ruins at an elevation of 8,000 feet.


Torrey's images have an air of solitude and isolation in common—a feeling the viewer has been taken to a secret place, unknown and untrammelled by modern man. Pictured early in the morning and late in the day, the images show the delicate and beautiful interrelation of the Incan buildings, their mountaintop location and the fog and clouds that swirl around them.

The photographs also portray the intricacy of Incan architecture. The builders of Machu Picchu did not use mortar, but instead care-

fully carved and polished the large granite stones to fit flush together without gaps or the need for cement. This made the structures very strong, yet with enough flexibility to withstand the region's frequent earthquakes.

Of particular note are Torrey's images of the Temple of the Sun, a focal point of Machu Picchu life. Besides showing this building's elegant serpentine design, his pictures made during solstice sunrises visually illustrate how the temple was set to catch the first rays of light on these ceremonially important days.

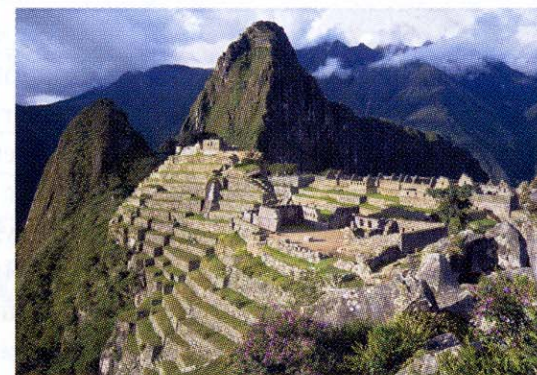
Photographing the site as both architecture and artifact of a vanished people, Torrey has imbued *Stone Offerings* with his vision as an artist and his passion for the beautiful mystery that is Machu Picchu.

At 7 p.m. on Monday, November 16, Torrey will present a program about the book at Washington, D.C.'s Smithsonian Institute, along with Peruvian writer Marie Arana. 

—HS

STONE OFFERINGS

Machu Picchu's Terraces of Enlightenment



MIKE TORREY

Introduction by Marie Arana, author of *Line Night*

Stone Offerings: Machu Picchu's Terraces of Enlightenment

Photographs by Mike Torrey,

Introduction by Marie Arana

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