Hiram Bingham

Born, Hawaii, 1875
His parents were religious fundamentalists, grandfather converted Hawaii
Wife, Alfreda Mitchell, was from a wealthy family.
He sought to find Vitcos (Incan flight from conquistadores)
1906– His first expedition was to rediscover Simón Bolivar’s route.
While on this journey was invited to treasure hunt in Choquequirao.
He liked to obsessively pre-plan everything and took very accurate sketches Machu Picchu when there.准确 even in 80's and 90's.
1931—He discovered Machu Picchu
His team of explorers were an ad hoc alliance of college.
Rubber industry allowed him access to the area.
A local farmer, Melchor Arteaga, told him about the ruins and none of his team accompanied him.
Another discoverer’s name, ‘Agustín Lizárraga’ was written on the ruins when he got there. He arrived in 1902. The main area of the plaza was being cultivated by farmers.
1913—Bingham published a specialist book on Machu Picchu
1913—National Geographic devotes April issue to Machu Picchu.
Bingham become the first “tomb raider”
1916—General Pershing, Bingham, and 4800 men chase Pancho Villa
Cerca 1916, Bingham becomes Air Force Commander in WWI
1922—Bingham Published a tourist book, Inca Land, about the site.
1925—Bingham becomes a senator.
1930—Published a specialists book, Machu Picchu a Citadel of the Incans
Cerca 1933—New Deal and Lobbyist bribing ends his political career.
1948– Lost City of the Incans was written in hindsight (37 years later). It is a literary “re-invention”. Thus it has literary and archeological value.

Lost City of the Incans has some literary exaggeration (hyperbole) and some archeological exaggeration (birthplace of the Incas)

Bingham’s discovery of it was a model of the conscientious use of source material.

Sources for Expedition
Titu Cusi (1529-71), Antonio de la Calancha (1584–1684), Comte de Sartiges (?)

The purpose of the introduction is give the reader some historical perspective. Hugh Thomson wants to let the reader know that Lost City of the Incans is not a completely scientific work nor was Hiram Bingham exactly an ordinary scientist. Nevertheless, the intent is not to discredit his work. In fact, he values Bingham’s discovery in two senses. He very accurately describes the site and also successfully situates the site in academic and public discourse. He give is the importance that had been overlooked. If Peru was conquered in 1532 and Machu Picchu rediscovered in 1901 or 1911, be it as it may, then it had been overlooked by Western Culture for about 370 years.

Choquequirao was built by Tupac Inca Yupanqui (1471-1493) and Huayna Capac (1493-1527)
See article on Lizárraga
See cartoon
Mexican Expedition
March 14, 1916 – February 7, 1917
WWI-1914-1918 to defend Incas from the conquistadores.
New Deal 1933-36
Titu Cusi, 2nd to last Incan ruler.
Calancha, monk and anthropologist