

Chapter 5: Search for Vitcos

Composition of expedition group

Edward S. Harkness invites Bingham to go on another expedition; nevertheless, it was the possibility of climbing Coropuna and confirming Raimondi and Bandelier's observations about the mountains height that drew him. Dr. Herbert Scheftel sealed the deal by offering to provide a topographer (Scheftel was the husband of Vivian Strauss, daughter of Ida Straus, the co-owner of Macy's who died on the Titanic).

"At my invitation Professor Isaiah Bowman became our geologist-geographer; Professor Harry W. Foote our naturalist; Dr William G. Erving our surgeon; Kai Hendrikson our topographer; H. L. Tucker our engineer; and Paul B. Lanius our assistant." (Kindle Locations 2316-2318).

"One looks in vain for Vitcos on modern maps of Peru, although several of the ancient maps give it." (Kindle Locations 2332-2333).

Route

The expedition first stops in Urubamba and Ollantaytambo. (3D images [1,2,3,4](#))



Yale U graduate, heavy investor in Standard Oil, 6<sup>th</sup> richest man behind John Rockefeller, William Rockefeller, Henry Clay Frick, Andrew Carnegie, and George Fisher Baker, well known philanthropist.



Italian born Peruvian

Geographer and natural historian (1826-1890) that founded the chemistry department in the U Nacional San Marcos.



Adolph Francis Alphonse Bandelier (1840-1914) A Swiss immigrant to the US who first studied the Native Americans and then began studying the Incan civilization as an ethnologist working for the American Museum of Natural History.

The Vitcos expedition was funded by Yale philanthopists, motivated by the desire to hike mountains, and grounded in historical and geographical research.

<p>Difficult Terrain</p> <p>Route of expedition</p> <p>Historic Importance</p> <p>Geopolitical Value</p> <p>Logistics of Expedition</p>	<p>Ollantaytambo was already reachable by train and car in 1947.</p> <p>“The Urubamba river, in cutting its way through the granite range, forms rapids too dangerous to be passable and precipices which can be scaled only with great effort and considerable peril, if at all.” (Kindle Locations 2375-2376).</p> <p>p</p> <p><a href="#">Cuzco</a> &gt; <a href="#">Ollantaytambo</a> &gt; Qquente &gt; sends Herman Tucker to scout <a href="#">Patallacta</a> (Paucarcancha, <a href="#">Huayllabamba</a>, Incasamana, or Ccolpa Mocco, and Hoccollopampa) &gt; <a href="#">Torontoy</a> &gt; Ccorihuayrachina &gt; “La maquina” &gt; <a href="#">Mandor pampa</a> (meets Melchor Arteaga) &gt; <a href="#">huadquiña</a> (1) (talked about Ccollumayu, <a href="#">Yurak Rumi</a> (white stone of the sun house, last place of Incan worship)) &gt; Colpani &gt; <a href="#">Chauillay</a> (<a href="#">Chuquichaca</a> bridge), Santa Ana &gt; <a href="#">Paltaybamba</a> &gt; Lucma &gt; Incahuaracana &gt; Puquiura (Marocnyoc ruins) &gt; Uncapampa &gt; Tincochaca &gt; Vitcos (1,2,3) &gt; ñusta isppana (1,2,3) &gt; <a href="#">rosaspatas</a> (See <a href="#">1912 expedition map</a>)</p> <p>“...the Indians who live hereabouts are ignorant, or silent, as to their history.”(Kindle Location 2394).</p> <p>“Father Calancha’s Chronicle gives a story of mass slaughter which followed the martyrdom of Friar Diego and the death of the Viceroy’s ambassador. Toledo was led to take fearful revenge on the hapless Indians.” (Kindle Locations 2402-2403).</p> <p>“In the different regions of his domain he has wool, hides, horsehair, potatoes, wheat, corn, sugar, coffee, chocolate, coca, many mines of silver-bearing lead, and placers of gold’.” (Kindle Locations 2440-2441).</p> <p>“Finally the trail to Yurak Rumi was reported finished.” (Kindle Location 2457).</p> <p>“It seems incredible that anybody having actually seen both places could have thought for a moment that one was ‘as good as the other’.” (Kindle Locations 2466-2467). (<b>Bingham placed value on archeological sites according to size and complexity, whereas the local people did not.</b>)</p> <p>“...Pio Mogrovejo, had been a member of the party of energetic Peruvians who, in 1884, had searched for buried treasure at Choquequirau.” (Kindle Locations 2488-2489).. (<b>Bingham used local contacts to further his expedition in situ</b>).</p> <p>“My <b>gendarme</b> missed this road and took the steep old trail over the cliffs.” (Kindle Locations 2501-2502). (<b>Police escort</b>) He paid 1 sol per archeological discovery.</p>	<p>See Incan Trail (1,2, <a href="#">Google Earth</a>)</p> <p>See Vilcabamba <a href="#">map</a>. <a href="#">Composite Map *</a></p> <p>History since Epic poetry narrates the deeds and events that embody a nation. The Incan nation was destroyed by the Spaniards. One can only imagine their oral history was prohibited, too.</p> <p>Bingham travels and identifies places by historical context. Recall: 1565 y 1572 period of armed Incan resistance. Titu Cusy Yupanqui poisoned. During peace negotiations the Spanish conquistador Atilano de Anaya is killed. Toledo captures Tupac Amaru, who is publically executed in 1572.</p> <p>Stones are sacred sites: La intihuatana (1,2,3), la piedra de Saywite (1,2), Kenko (1,2,3,4).</p> <p>Like an administrator, the trails were cleared for him.</p>
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Although expedition was trecherous and the destination unknown, Bingham relied on historical readings and maps to guide him. During the expedition he sent his team in different directions to map out the terrain and archeological sites and also used laborers to clear the trail, was guided by local police, and paid locals money to show him archeological sites.

	<p>“It is easy to understand that simple-minded Indian worshippers in this secluded spot could believe that they actually saw the devil appearing ‘as a visible manifestation’ in the water, and that Indians came from the most sequestered villages of the dense forests to worship here and offer gifts and sacrifices.” (Kindle Locations 2593-2595).</p> <p>“That no such array of European artifacts has been turned up in the excavations of any other important sites in the province of Vilcapampa would seem to indicate that they were abandoned before the Spanish Conquest or else were occupied by natives who had no means of accumulating such treasures.” (Kindle Locations 2626-2628).</p>	Bingham seems to subscribe to the Spanaird’s version of Incan faith.