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Looking Back at Ancient America III

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Abstract: A presentation of photographs of ancient American ruins, accompanied by brief descriptions and comments.

LOOKING BACK

at Ancient America

By WILLIAM and DEWEY FARNSWORTH
Publishers of "Buried Empires of South America"
and "Grandeurs of Ancient America"



Courtesy of Pan-American Airlines.

THE GREAT WALL OF PERU

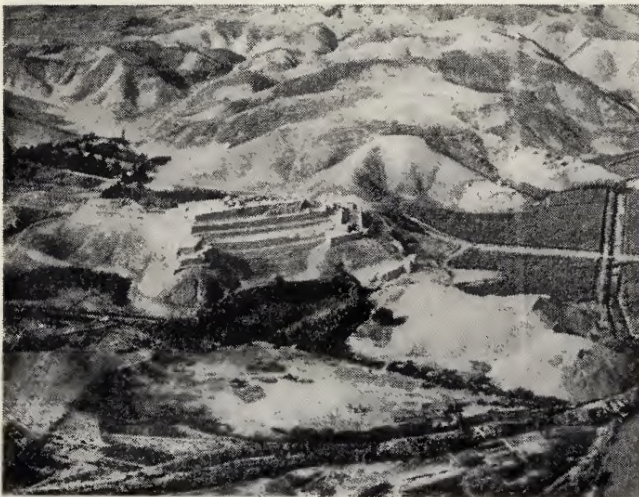
From a ruined village five or six miles from the coast the great wall of Peru leads inland on the north side of the Santa River. Like some huge prehistoric snake, it writhes first across the level, sandy plain of the river delta and then, as the valley narrows, over the edge of the bordering foothills of the Andes. It is only from the air that one can grasp its great magnitude. The present natives of the region do not seem to know much about the wall, though they have heard of it from their fathers and are sure it is of pre-Inca construction. It seems to have marked the southern boundary of the Chimu kingdom and undoubtedly was erected as a defense barrier against the Inca invaders, who, marching through the Andes, laid direct siege to the ancient city within the wall and conquered it.



Courtesy of Pan-American Airlines.

RUINS OF A PRE-INCA CITY INSIDE THE GREAT WALL OF PERU

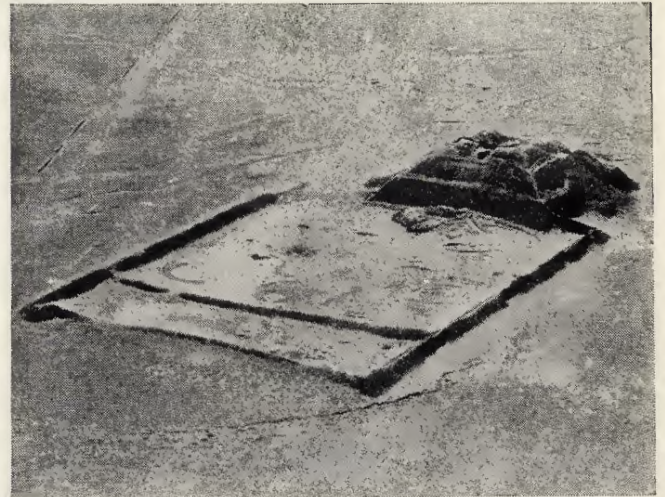
Here are found the remains of one of the central palaces and the sunken gardens, homes, and temple pyramids that surround it. These ancient ruins stand on low hills close to the sea, while all around them are depressions in the earth which upon examination have proved to be open graves, from which the disinterred skeletons lie scattered everywhere on the plain. In the upper background is the tree-bordered river that waters the valley, while enclosing all may be seen the great wall serpentine its way across the adjoining foothills. On one of these in the right foreground of the picture, behind the wall, stands one of the many forts that guarded it.



Courtesy of Pan-American Airlines.

PRE-INCA FORTRESS

Forts at irregular intervals line both sides of the wall. Some of these forts, fourteen in number, are circular, others rectangular. Set in the tops of small hills, they are invisible from the valley floor. The largest one, rectangular in shape, seems to be about two hundred by three hundred feet with walls fifteen feet high and perhaps five feet thick. This particular fort was built of piled stone, although some appear to be of adobe. Without doubt this double line of forts was constructed for defense purposes by a white, Paleo-Aryan people which has left traces of its physical type and language in Peru even to this day.



Courtesy of Pan-American Airlines.

RUINS OF A GREAT PRE-INCA FORTRESS

A study of the upper left-hand corner of the photograph will also disclose the remains of what was once an immense highway. The construction of this pre-Inca fortress is so similar to the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan, Mexico, that it is very likely that the same race built both. The pyramid structures are almost identical in material and shape, and these three stories are identical with the two pyramids found in the Mexico City Valley.