



Note on Orthography

From the time the first Spaniards recorded the word *Pirú* (later Perú), not comprehending what indigenous Andeans said to them, spelling native words has been nothing if not difficult. Quechua (Keshwa, Quichua), the language of the Inka as well as many other Andean peoples, has had an especially vexed orthographic history. What started as *Inga* became *Inca* and then *Inka*. The latter orthography reflects modern efforts to introduce consistency, as well as to spell words in Quechua, a language unaccompanied by its own writing scheme, without reliance on the particulars of Spanish pronunciation. However, the pronunciation of Quechua was not consistent throughout the Andes in pre-Hispanic times, nor is it constant today. Rather than a note on orthography, this might better be characterized as an explanation of unavoidable *heterography*.

I have elected to spell most Quechua words following Rodolfo Cerrón-Palomino's dictionary of southern Quechua (1994). Where alternate spellings might be more familiar to some readers, I have listed them in parentheses upon the first usage. When reference is made to a particular historical source, the original spelling is retained with alternate spellings provided in parentheses. Site names are spelled according to common practice. In cases where there appears to be no agreement (as in Pisac/Pisac or Sacsahuaman/Saqsaywaman), I have selected the spelling that seems to be most commonly used at present; again, alternate spellings are provided in parentheses in an effort to minimize confusion. In particular, Cuzco, the Inka capital, was spelled both Cusco and Cuzco by early

Spaniards. In 1990, *Q'osq'o* became the city's official spelling, but many residents prefer *Cusco*. Because *Cuzco* is the standard spelling in English, I will follow the convention likely to be more familiar to readers.

Finally, the plural case of Quechua nouns is indicated by the suffix *-kuna*. Unfortunately, using the Quechua plural proves confusing for many readers. Rather than adding an *s* at the end of a Quechua word, thereby creating an awkward bilingualism, I have elected to maintain Quechua words in their singular form regardless of whether they are singular or plural.