



The History of the Conquest of Peru (Annotated)

William H. Prescott

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- Biography of Pizarro, by the author
- An introduction to Peruvian civilization.
- Footnotes with active links.

William Hickling Prescott (Boston, May 4, 1796 – January 28, 1859) was an American historian and Hispanist, who is widely recognized by historiographers to have been the first American scientific historian. His works "The History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella the Catholic" (1837), "The History of the Conquest of Mexico" (1843), "A History of the Conquest of Peru" (1847) and the unfinished "History of the Reign of Phillip II" (1856–1858) have become classic works in the field, and have had a great impact on the study of both Spain and Mesoamerica. Prescott has become one of the most widely translated American historians, and was an important figure in the development of history as a rigorous academic discipline. Historians admire Prescott for his exhaustive, careful, and systematic use of archives, his accurate recreation of sequences of events, his balanced judgments and his lively writing style. Prescott was writing 12 pages of "Conquest of Peru" per day in the summer of 1845. He used the inheritance from his father to buy a house on Beacon Street in Boston, moved into the house during December 1845 and set himself a year to finish the "Conquest of Peru". In March, his eyesight, which had recovered significantly, suddenly deteriorated. Prescott was also suffering from acute dyspepsia and rheumatism, and he travelled to Nahant to "benefit from the sea-air". The "Conquest of Peru" was completed in March 1847. As with previous works, it was published by Harper & Brothers in the United States and Bentley in Britain. It was translated into Spanish, French, German and Dutch. (From Wikipedia)

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