

# Smith Museum Plans Virtual Tour Of Mystic Inca City

By **Monica Simmons**  
Staff Writer

A virtual tour of the ancient Peruvian site of Machu Picchu will open in Cal State Hayward's C. E. Smith Museum of Anthropology Feb. 21.

The tour is titled "In the Shadow of Machu Picchu: Andean Life Past and Present." The free opening reception on the fourth floor of Meiklejohn Hall will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 21.

The tour started as a joint venture between Yale University and CSUH. CSUH Professor George Miller was a visiting professor at Yale while it was planning its 300th anniversary celebration.

The Connecticut institution had planned an exhibit on Machu Picchu in honor of Yale Professor Hiram Bingham, who discovered the ruins of the Inca in 1911.

Miller suggested the exhibit would be enhanced by panoramic views of the site. He and Terry Smith, multimedia support coordinator, student Michael Bortner and three Yale archeology graduates made several trips to Peru to photograph Machu Picchu for the virtual tour element of the exhibit.

The tour of Machu Picchu at CSUH has no artifacts but Miller said "Whatever form our Cal

State Hayward exhibit takes, it's a guarantee that the visitor will have the chance to take a virtual tour of one of the world's most mysterious and majestic sites."

On their trips to Peru Miller and his team took about 290 panoramic images of Machu Picchu, using two Olympus panoramic digital cameras and special, virtual reality equip-

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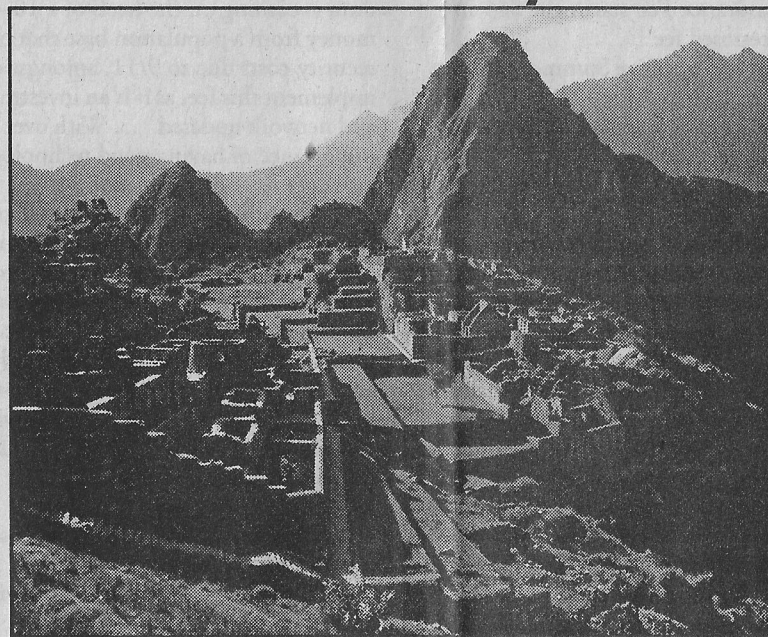
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Panoramic images provide 360-degree views of the area. Miller also has included some original photography by Bingham, also set up in panoramic view.

It's believed Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui, an Incan ruler, built Machu Picchu between 1460 and 1470 as a royal residence and spiritual retreat. It is at an elevation of 8000 feet in the Andes Mountains.

The city encompasses five square miles, and over 3000 steps connect its approximately 200 buildings.

The city has polygonal masonry, characteristic of the late Inca period. Most of the structures are built of granite blocks, fitted together with such precision that no mortar is needed. Many of the terraced steps that are characteristic of Machu Picchu are the result of their ad-



**Peak Viewing:** arial view of Machu Picchu

vanced terracing and irrigation methods, which made most efficient use of available land and soil.

The city was not found by the Spanish conquistadors and was untouched when found by Yale Professor Bingham in 1911. It has the only known intihuatana, a column of stone that was used in the ritual "tying the sun" during winter solstice.

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