

The Inca Chess Player

Ricardo Palma is one of the most important Peruvian writers who in 1872 published a series of short stories based on historical facts called "Peruvian Traditions", one of those stories has the title "The Inca Chess Players"

"The Inca Chess Players" is a story that tells how the game of chess arrived in America with Christopher Columbus, in the year 1492, and how the chess judge arrived in Peru with Francisco Pizarro in the year 1532.



Before the arrival of the Spanish in the Inca Empire, there was a war that lasted 3 years between Huascar and Atahualpa, who were sons of the Inca Huayna Capac, and wanted to inherit his empire. Atahualpa was the victorious result. So the Spanish found a divided empire, a weakened army and not prepared to face the technological superiority of the Spanish, so it was easy to capture the new Inca Atahualpa on November 16, 1532.



The new Inca Atahualpa was captured for several months, during the capture of the Inca the Spaniards who were guarding him played various board games, including chess, which the Inca Atahualpa learned the game and its movements by watching the Spanish play it.

Ricardo Palma tells that during a game of chess between two Spaniards, the Inca told one of them not to move the knight but the rook, which gave him victory. Shortly after the losing Spaniard was one of those who voted for the death of the Inca.

