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Located in the Supe Valley of Peru and dating to 2627 BC, Caral is the earliest civilization in the Americas. Although Caral predates the Incas and Zapotecs, it remains less well known than other archaeological sites like Machu Picchu. Discovered in 1905, Caral was initially considered a curiosity and largely forgotten. But in 1994, Peruvian anthropologist and archaeologist Ruth Shady began comprehensive excavations, bringing light to the full import of Caral.

This book of breathtaking photographs by Christopher Kleihege and illuminating text in English and Spanish by Ruth Shady captures the mystery and beauty of one of the world's oldest cities. Nearly 200 color photographs document Caral's many impressive pyramids, plazas, and other constructions. These photographs portray the intricate layout of this city in the context of the stunning landscape of the Andes. Caral presents a fascinating and dramatic window into the ancient world and will prove essential to anyone curious to the earliest origins of civilization in the Americas.

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## Features

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- Archaeology Ancient History
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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful photography and description about an under-appreciated archaeological site.

By J. A. Mine

Beautiful photography and description about an under-appreciated archaeological site. Compared to the Inca sites (e.g. Machu Picchu) in Peru, Caral is a relative unknown, except to specialists in American archaeology. Thanks to the book "Lives in Ruins," by Marilyn Johnson (which I also heard about through Amazon) I read about Ruth Shady, her important work, and this very important site and bought this book, as recommended in Ms Johnson's bibliography. I was not disappointed. The book is bi-lingual, so you can practice your Spanish translation skills too, as you wish. Seriously, any student of American archaeology and

history will be very pleased despite the extra expense.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Great photos but...

By George

I have been to the Caral site and will go again. At least for the present it is recognized as the oldest city in the Americas and it is worth the trip on 14 miles of bumpy narrow dirt roads to see it. My expectation for the book was perhaps greater than perhaps it should have been. It was clear from the authors that Caral had significant archaeoastronomical significance yet too little information was provided. Apparently the entire city was laid out with astronomical observation and orientation in mind but no further explanation was forthcoming. The pictures are wonderful and I would recommend buying the book for the photos but a little more explanation would have been helpful.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Best photographer award - A must-buy

By Carl Taibl

This book is a must-buy and a great gift for anyone. It is a bargain at Amazon's pricing and an excellent piece for the coffee table. Photographs are from different angles and lighting so it's not just your static head-on shot in the middle of the day. Whether you have never been to Peru or are a native you will find this book interesting.

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