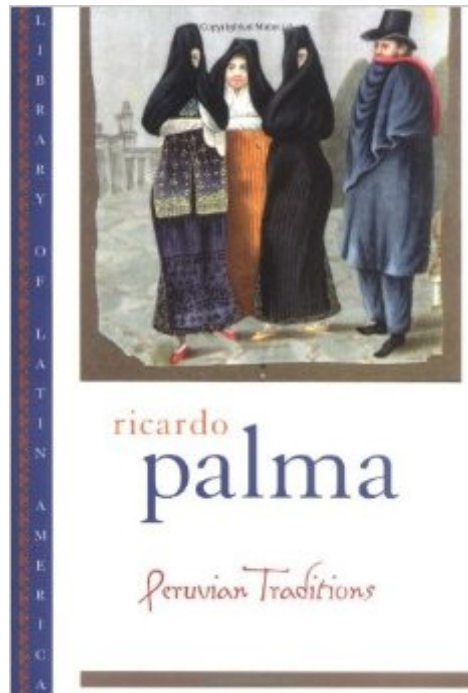


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Peruvian Traditions (Library Of Latin America)



Synopsis

Peruvian author Ricardo Palma (1838-1919) was one of the most popular and imitated writers in Latin America during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As head of the National Library in Lima, Palma had access to a rich source of historical books and manuscripts. His historical miscellanies, which he called "traditions," are witty anecdotes about conquerors, viceroys, corrupt and lovelorn friars, tragic loves and notorious characters. Humor, irony and word play characterize his collection of over five hundred traditions written between 1872 and 1906, whether describing violent deeds or amorous misadventures. Unlike many of his contemporaries in the second half of the nineteenth century, Palma did not write transparent didactic fictions and defend elite cultural forms. Rather, he reveled in ironic approaches to written sources, political authorities and church institutions as well as popular speech and knowledge. Both fiction and history, Palma's delightful Peruvian Traditions represents a hybrid literary form that constructs historical memory distinct from the dominant literary trends of the time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Oxford edition of "Peruvian Traditions" serves as an excellent introduction to the works of Ricardo Palma. Besides containing a very good introduction and short biography, this book contains some of Palma's best known sketches covering centuries of South American history. Palma is, as always, an excellent story teller with a flair for dramatic scenes and characters: insane artists,

hapless officials of the crown, conquistadors and hidalgos ready to draw their swords at a moment's notice, noble Incas. It is not a scholarly work by any means but it is a fun romp through history. For a wonderful introduction to one of the leading Romantic historians of 19th century South America, take a look at this edition of "Peruvian Traditions."

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