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Bookkeeper (right) rendering accounts to the Inca ruler Topa Inca Yupanqui. The contents of the storehouses (foreground and background) are recorded on the bookkeeper's quipu of knotted strings. Drawing by Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala from *El primer nueva coronica y buen gobierno*.

Courtesy, Library Services Department, American Museum of Natural History, New York City (Neg. No. 321546)

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The area presently known as Ecuador had a long history before the arrival of Europeans. Pottery figurines and containers have been discovered that date from 3000 to 2500 BCE, ranking them among the earliest ceramics in the New World. Ecuadoran ceramic styles probably influenced cultures from Peru ...

[Guáman Poma de Ayala, Felipe](#) (Encyclopædia Britannica)

native Peruvian author and illustrator of *El primer nueva coronica y buen gobierno* (1612-15; "The First New Chronicle and Good Government").

[pre-Columbian civilizations : The nature of the sources](#) (Encyclopædia Britannica)

The Inca kept detailed accounts of their dynastic history, knotted onto the quipu records kept by professional accountants. The major local ethnic lords also kept records. As mentioned above, Don Francisco Cusichaq kept records of Spanish exactions, which were offered to and accepted in evidence by ...

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