

Mr. Rives

Name: _____

Photography

Date: _____ Block _____

Martín Chambi



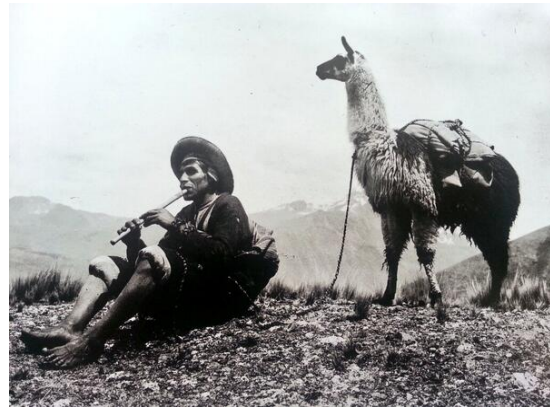
Martín Chambi Jiménez, (Puno, Peru November 5, 1891 – Cuzco, September 13, 1973) was a photographer, originally from southern Peru. He was one of the first major indigenous Latin American photographers.

Recognized for the profound historic and ethnic documentary value of his photographs, he was a prolific portrait photographer in the towns and countryside of the Peruvian Andes. As well as being the leading portrait photographer in Cuzco, Chambi made many landscape photographs, which he sold mainly in the form of postcards, a format he pioneered in Peru.





Chambi was a master of group portraiture. Any working photographer knows how challenging photographing groups can be.



There are books and courses that focus on this area of photography that does not usually seem to be intuitively developed in most photographers. Chambi was a natural and years ahead of his time in this area.



Another interesting sidebar that helped put Chambi in the history books is that he was the first photographer to photograph Machu Picchu.

Above is a modern photo taken by Mr. Frazier and then a photo taken from the same location by Chambi from 1911. Machu Picchu is an Incan citadel set high in the Andes Mountains in Peru, above the Urubamba River valley. It was built in the 15th century and later abandoned, it's renowned for its sophisticated dry-stone walls that fuse huge blocks without the use of mortar, intriguing buildings that play on astronomical alignments and panoramic views. Its exact former use remains a mystery. Chambi's landscape portraiture reveals his love for the Andes Mountains but his main passion was reserved for people and their natural surroundings. Here is a typical image where he has captured both a portrait and the splendor of the natural environment. The image captures an immense silence and peace.

Chambi was a devote and committed follower of Indigenismo which was a political movement that attempted to bridge the gap between Indigenous people and the modern new governments in Mexico, Central, and South America. The movement grappled with the

desire to improve education, and quality of life through modern medicine and technological advancements while still keeping intact valuable cultural identity.



Chambi not only took photos of his subjects strictly outdoors, he also used a studio where he made thousands of images that are still archived today. He wanted to record people and tell their stories through their photos. Not only who they were as individuals but also collectively.

In 1979, New York's MOMA held a Chambi retrospective, which later traveled to various locations and inspired other

international expositions of his work. It is unfortunate that he is much less known outside of Latin America. In his country, remote from the great cities of the world, he created in isolation a legacy of timeless quality. He not only cared for the image he was creating but the identity of the people and the great landscape, which they were apart of. His images have a great sense of time and place.



1. What is Martin Chambi's Photographs recognized for?
2. What region did were most of Martin Chambi's photos taken in?
3. What type of portraits was Chambi oddly very good at?
4. How do you think Chambi developed this natural ability to take these type portraits with little to no influence?

5. What archeological discovery was Chambi the first to photograph?

6. The image of a traveler playing a flute with his Llama taking a break is a well known image of Chambi's. Do you think this photo was arranged or do you think he found the moment just as it was? What are the strengths and weaknesses of arranging moments for the camera?

7. Chambi was a follower of Indigenismo, he was a champion for igneous people. He felt the strong connection they had to their ancestral lands. He went to great lengths to highlight the relationship they had with the earth in his images. What do you think was his goal in making these images? Did his art have a goal beyond just making beautiful images?

8. It has been said that his images have a great sense of time and place. How can an image have a sense of time?

9. Why do you feel Martin Chambi is important to the history of Photography?

10. What other cultures would you like to see early photographs from and why?