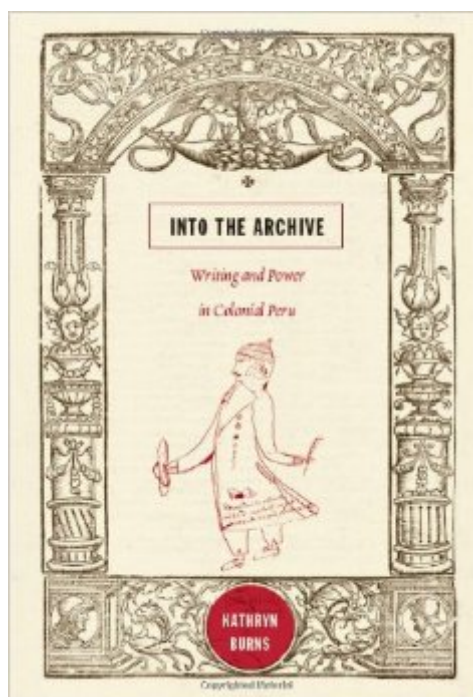


The book was found

# Into The Archive: Writing And Power In Colonial Peru



## Synopsis

Writing has long been linked to power. For early modern people on both sides of the Atlantic, writing was also the province of notaries, men trained to cast other people's words in official forms and make them legally true. Thus the first thing Columbus did on American shores in October 1492 was have a notary record his claim of territorial possession. It was the written, notarial word "backed by all the power of Castilian enforcement" that first constituted Spanish American empire. Even so, the Spaniards who invaded America in 1492 were not fond of their notaries, who had a dismal reputation for falsehood and greed. Yet Spaniards could not do without these men. Contemporary scholars also rely on the vast paper trail left by notaries to make sense of the Latin American past. How then to approach the question of notarial truth? Kathryn Burns argues that the archive itself must be historicized. Using the case of colonial Cuzco, she examines the practices that shaped document-making. Notaries were businessmen, selling clients a product that conformed to local custom as well as Spanish templates. Clients, for their part, were knowledgeable consumers, with strategies of their own for getting what they wanted. In this inside story of the early modern archive, Burns offers a wealth of possibilities for seeing sources in fresh perspective.

## Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: Duke University Press Books (September 27, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0822348683

ISBN-13: 978-0822348689

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #409,889 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in Books > History >

Americas > South America > Peru #2672 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Anthropology > Cultural #3375 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > History

## Customer Reviews

Into the Archive is a study of the work that notaries (scribes acquainted with legal conventions) did in colonial Peru, with a special emphasis on sixteenth-century Cuzco. Individual chapters explore notaries' work and reputation in medieval and Renaissance Spain, their role in Spanish America, the day-to-day dynamics of their work, how Spanish colonists could manipulate the written record, and

how historians might read the sometimes opaque or misleading documents that notaries created. "The point of these readings, and this book," writes Kathryn Burns, "is to enrich the way we read our sources. If we know how archives were made, and the ways people might use them to further their own ends, then our interpretations can go further" (p. 143). Anyone who plans to do original research in colonial Spanish American archives will find this book invaluable. Others may find it interesting as a work of social and cultural history: it illuminates aspects of literacy, the law, apprenticeship, and Spanish-Indian relations in colonial Peru. Well-written, crisp, and focused, technical yet also full of human interest, it is a model of historical scholarship.

This book is a great approach to the archives as history and a research question separate from the material housed within them. I recommend this book if you are student of history and researching in any type of Spanish archive.

Brilliant research

Extremely readable account that opens up insights into the relationship between records and power. Turns out history isn't always written by the winners. Most often, it's written -- and shaped -- by their notaries and clerks.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Into the Archive: Writing and Power in Colonial Peru  
The Black Doctors of Colonial Lima: Science, Race, and Writing in Colonial and Early Republican Peru (McGill-Queen's/Associated Medical Services Studies in the History of Medicine, H)  
Guaman Poma : Writing and Resistance in Colonial Peru: Second Edition (ILAS Special Publication)  
Writing : Novel Writing Mastery, Proven And Simple Techniques To Outline-, Structure- And Write A Successful Novel ! - novel writing, writing fiction, writing skills - History of How the Spaniards Arrived in Peru (Relasñ ñ ion de como los Españ ñ oles Entraron en el Peru), Dual-Language Edition (English and Spanish Edition)  
Peru: Travel Guide Food - How To Get The Most Delicious Peruvian Food (Peru Adventure Book 3)  
Colonial Habits: Convents and the Spiritual Economy of Cuzco, Peru  
Inka Bodies and the Body of Christ: Corpus Christi in Colonial Cuzco, Peru  
Power Training: For Combat, MMA, Boxing, Wrestling, Martial Arts, and Self-Defense: How to Develop Knockout Punching Power, Kicking Power, Grappling Power, and Ground Fighting Power  
Youdunit Whodunit!: How To Write Mystery, Thriller and Suspense Books (Writing Skills, Writing Fiction, Writing Instruction, Writing a Book)  
Islands, Islanders and the World: The Colonial and Post-colonial Experience of Eastern Fiji

(Cambridge Human Geography) Upside Down: How the Left Turned Right into Wrong, Truth into Lies, and Good into Bad Essays That Will Get You into Medical School (Essays That Will Get You Into...Series) [Second Edition] (Barron's Essays That Will Get You Into Medical School) Longman Guide to Revising Prose: A Quick and Easy Method for Turning Good Writing into Great Writing Non Fiction Writing Templates: 44 Tips to Create Your Own Non Fiction Book (Writing Templates, Writing Non Fiction, Kindle Publishing) Fiction Writing Templates: 30 Tips to Create Your Own Fiction Book (Writing Templates, Fiction Writing, Kindle Publishing) Love Writing - How to Make Money Writing Romantic or Erotic Fiction (Secrets to Success Writing Series Book 5) Africans into Creoles: Slavery, Ethnicity, and Identity in Colonial Costa Rica (DiÁlogos Series) Writing Displacement: Home and Identity in Contemporary Post-Colonial English Fiction The Sword And The Shield: The Mitrokhin Archive And The Secret History Of The KGB

[Dmca](#)