

# THRUMS<sup>LLC</sup>

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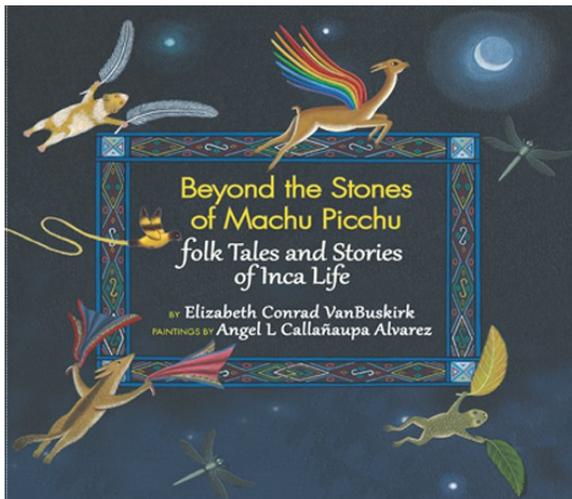
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## **NEW THRUMS BOOK OFFERS STUNNING VIEW OF LIFE “BEYOND THE STONES” OF MACHU PICCHU**

### **Andean Folk Tales, Stories and Paintings Showcased in Book Coming in December 2013**

**Loveland, CO** – An intimate look at the intriguing and environmentally attuned Inca people in the high Andean villages near Machu Picchu and Cusco comes to life in **Beyond the Stones of Machu Picchu: Folk Tales and Stories of Inca Life**, a new book to be published by [Thrums Books](http://ThrumsBooks.com) December of 2013.



Written by Elizabeth Conrad VanBuskirk and featuring paintings by Inca artist, Angel Callañaupa Alvarez, **Beyond the Stones of Machu Picchu: Folk Tales and Stories of Inca Life** vibrantly depicts Andean village life through folk tales, stories and art. The subject matter brings forth Inca rituals and beliefs about the living earth (*Pacha Mama*), the majestic mountains worshipped as *Apus*, the sky and its “black constellations,” the meanings attached to sacred water, the events of nature and ever-changing climate, the stages of life and growth, courage and transformation.

The book is written for both adults and children, introducing an in-depth look into South American Native People, their customs, everyday lives, incidents of change, and profound appreciation and celebration of the natural world. The paintings and stories provide a rare glimpse into Inca peoples’ creative work, especially the famous Andean practice of weaving and other textile arts.

“The primary intent of **Beyond the Stones of Machu Picchu: Folks Tales and Stories of Inca Life** is to introduce readers to a rich culture overlooked in the education of most of us, and to provide new ways of looking at our world. I hope to deepen the experience of the many travelers who visit Machu Picchu and Cusco, by vicariously placing them inside Inca villages to experience life in the high-elevations of the mountains,” says author Elizabeth Conrad VanBuskirk. “I have included authentic and little-known Inca traditions and hope that readers will feel enlightened by tales and stories like *The Gift of Quinoa*, *The Bear Prince*, *The First Haircutting* and respond with delight in Angel’s stunning art.”

The paintings of Angel Callañaupa Alvarez are distinguished by his expansive imagination, delightful humor, sense of space and composition, and story-telling skills. His art shares a wide perspective, vividly illustrating scenes from little-known but time-honored traditions like the annual Pilgrimage to the Ice Mountain -- the ceremony of *Qoyllu Riti*, *Star of the Snow*, and other events that mark the life of Inca people in the past and today.

Elizabeth Conrad VanBuskirk spent many years making frequent trips to Peru and Bolivia to research Andean textiles, especially to observe how the Andean weaving traditions relate to contemporary Inca people’s lives and beliefs. She found herself wanting to spread the word that Inca people are very much alive today, they still make glorious weavings and practice the vital traditions of their ancestors related to the closeness and celebration of the natural world.

“I believe that this book has been much needed in our schools and libraries. When I give Inca school presentations for children, teachers ask if I know of a book of stories for children,” continued Conrad VanBuskirk. “**Beyond the Stones of Machu Picchu: Folk Tales and Stories of Inca Life** fills this need, and can also be used for family and group read-alouds. Often, the Inca world comes as a fresh new experience to most children, and I am passionate about working with teachers and educators to come up with creative ways to introduce these cultures into school curriculums and library programs.” As an educator, VanBuskirk has given lectures and presentations about Inca art and culture throughout the United States at universities, museums, libraries and other venues where she shows examples of Inca weavings and other Inca items of interest.

**Beyond the Stones of Machu Picchu: Folk Tales and Stories of Inca Life** will be published by Thrums in conjunction with **Faces of Tradition: Weaving Elders of the Andes** in December. Thrums Books are distributed to the book and library trade by [Small Press United](http://SmallPressUnited.com) a subsidiary of Independent Publisher's Group, Chicago IL.. Individuals can purchase Thrums books at their favorite bookstore, amazon.com or at [ClothRoads.com](http://ClothRoads.com).

Thrums also plans a special launch celebration for the books at [Tinkuy de Tejedores: A Gathering of Weavers in Cusco](#), Peru, November 12-15, 2013. Tinkuy is sponsored by the [Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco \(CTTC\)](#) and brings together indigenous weavers and textile enthusiasts from the Americas and beyond.

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Review copies available upon request. Visit [www.thrumsbooks.com](http://www.thrumsbooks.com)

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**Beyond the Stones of Machu Picchu: Folk Tales and Stories of Inca Life**

Elizabeth Conrad VanBuskirk, Paintings by Angel L Callañaupa Alvarez

\$19.95, trade paperback, 8.5" x 9", 114 pages, 86 color illustrations,

ISBN: 978-0-9838860-5-1

Publication: December 2013

## Author and Artist Bios



**Elizabeth Conrad VanBuskirk** a writer from Charlotte, Vermont won the Barbara Karlin grant award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators for her story about a modern Inca girl's struggles to let change into her life. She won other national writing awards for her short stories. She studied the art and archaeology of Peru, of Mesoamerica, as well as Native American textiles of North and South American at the Radcliffe Institute and holds a degree from Wheaton College in Norton, MA.

At the University of Vermont, VanBuskirk co-taught courses on Inca history and culture for teachers at the University's College of Education. She served as guest curator of the exhibition, *Weaving the Patterns of the Land* at the University of Vermont's Robert Hull Fleming Museum.

One of the author's major accomplishments was that she and her husband, David VanBuskirk supported the talented Inca weaver Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez to found The Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco. The couple chose a United States Board of Directors and served as co-chairs for ten years while working to help Nilda in her intense work of saving the thousands-of-years-old Peruvian textile traditions from extinction.

VanBuskirk's work as a fiber artist has been shown in exhibitions around the country. She was selected as one of seventeen national fiber artists to present a selection of her work in a museum-wide exhibition at the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, MA. Currently she lives Charlotte, Vermont.

**Angel Callañaupa Alvarez** was inspired as a child by viewing the historic paintings in the church of his home community, Chinchero, Peru. He won his first prize for painting at the age of eight, and took first prize in art at his secondary school, Inca Garcilaso de la Varga. In 1970, he created landscape paintings for Dennis Hopper's *The Last Movie*, which was being filmed in Chinchero. In 1992 his paintings were awarded a prize in the exhibition commemorating 500 years since the discovery of Peru by Europeans. Angel's paintings are inspired by history, tradition, legends, superstitions, and the Andean vision of the cosmos. In all his work, he shows his respect for Mother Earth and the great Mountain *Apus*.

