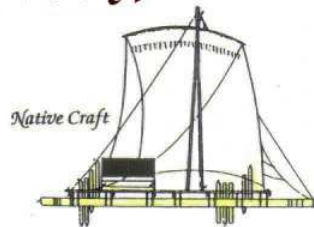


Atlantis:

Lost Kingdom of the Andes



"In the first place then, according to the account, the whole region rose sheer out of the sea to a great height, but the part about the city was all a smooth plain, enclosing it round about, and being itself encircled by mountains, which stretched as far as to the sea; and this plain had a level surface and was as a whole rectangular in shape, being 3,000 stades long on either side and 2,000 stades wide at its centre, reckoning upwards from the sea..."

"Now as a result of natural forces, together with the labours of many kings which extended over many ages, the condition of the plain was this. It was originally a quadrangle, rectangular for the most part, and elongated; and what it lacked of this shape they made right by means of a trench dug round about it. It received the streams which came down from the mountains and after circling round the plain and coming towards the city on this side and on that, it discharged them thereabouts into the sea. And on the inland side of the city channels were cut in straight lines across the plain, and these discharged themselves into the trench on the seaward side. It was in this way that they conveyed to the city the timber from the mountains and transported also on boats the seasons' products by cutting transverse passages from one channel to the next and also to the city. And they cropped the land twice a year, making use of the rains from heaven in the winter, and the waters that issue from the earth in summer, by conducting the streams from the trenches."

"They bridged over the circles of sea which surrounded the ancient metropolis, and through the circles of land, which divided those of sea, they opened out a channel leading from circle to circle, large enough to give passage to a single trireme. And after crossing the three outer harbours, one found a wall which began at the sea and ran round in a circle, at a uniform distance of fifty stades from the largest circle and harbour. And the shipyards were full of vessels and all the tackling that belongs to vessels; while the sea-way and the largest harbour were filled with ships and merchants coming from all quarters."



"And they covered with brass all the circumference of the wall which surrounded the outermost circle; and that of the inner one they coated with tin; and that which encompassed the acropolis itself with orichalcum which sparkled like fire. The royal palace was arranged in this manner. In the centre there stood a temple encircled with a wall of gold. All the exterior of the temple they covered with silver, save only the pinnacles, and these they coated with gold. As to the interior, the roof was varied with gold and silver and orichalcum and all the rest of the walls and pillars and floors they covered with orichalcum (gold alloy). And they placed therein golden statues, and outside, round about the temple, there stood images in gold of all the princes..."

"But at a later time there occurred violent earthquakes and floods, and in a single day and night of rain the island of Atlantis was swallowed up by the sea and vanished."



PACIFIC OCEAN

J. M. Allen