Updating the seven wonders of world

The world wonders short list

The Colosseum of Rome, the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal, the moai statues of Easter Island and the Incan city of Machu Picchu were in the top seven when early results were posted online last month.

1. The Acropolis, Athens, Greece
2. Alhambra, Granada, Spain
3. Angkor, Cambodia
4. Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico
5. Great Wall, China
6. Christ Redeemer, Rio Janeiro, Brazil
7. Easter Island statues, Chile
8. Effel Tower, Paris, France
9. The Colosseum, Rome, Italy
10. Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey
11. Bhuvneshwar Temple, Bhubaneshwar, India
12. Kremlin, Moscow, Russia
13. Machu Picchu, Peru
14. Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany
15. Petra, Jordan
16. Statue of Liberty, New York City
17. Stonehenge, Salisbury, England
18. Sydney Opera House, Australia
19. Taj Mahal, Agra, India
20. Uluru, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Australia
21. The Great Barrier Reef, Australia

The original seven

The Seven Wonders of the World were all man-made monuments, selected by Philon of Byzantium in 200 BC as a travel guide for fellow Athenians to stunning sites around the Mediterranean world. All were built between 2,400 BC and 200 BC, but only the pyramids at Giza remain.

1. The Great Pyramid of Giza, Egypt
2. Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, Turkey
3. Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, Turkey
4. Statue of Zeus at Olympia, Greece
5. Colosseum of Rome, Italy
6. Parthenon, Athens, Greece
7. Temple of Artemis at Sardis, Turkey

Before: travel was hard, many tourists coming to Petra — Americans, Canadians the whole world. Today: because the passenger is in the world, the world, people are afraid to come now" said Hashem Obaid, who is running a bed-and-breakfast checked. Bed סוגי head staff. Before Sept. 11, he said, he was often a one-man show, a weak from America to Petra, and...
The ancient empire that beer built

Women's status raised by role in brewing chicha, research into pre-Incan city finds

BY ANNE McILROY SCIENCE REPORTER

Women had more status in Incan and pre-Incan society than they have been given credit for, archaeologists say, and not because they were soldiers or political leaders. They brewed the beer.

This is one of several findings in an intriguing new research paper about the mysterious last days of the Wari, who lived in the central Andes from 600 to 1000 AD, and predated the Incas. They built an elaborate city on a remote peak in southern Peru that included an industrial-sized brewery, a palace and a temple.

The Wari traded and drank copious amounts of a beer-like drink called chicha, which was concocted by fermenting corn and Peruvian pepper-tree berries in ceramic vessels.

But back then, beer was as important to the Wari's way of life as it is to Homer Simpson — but for different reasons.

"There was much more to it than drinking and getting drunk," said University of Florida anthropologist Susan DeFrance, part of the team that has spent more than a decade excavating the site.

Beer was an economic tool and the Wari would have used it to keep workers who built the mountain-top city happy, she said. "Kind of like the weekend party for people who help you move or paint your house."

Evidence suggests beer was also used to get upper-class men to commit their workers to communal jobs, like building canals or temples. It would have been an honor to be invited to the hill for a drink of high-class beer out of ceramic vessels, Dr. DeFrance said.

Making the beer was so important to the Wari that researchers aren't sure the ancient empire could have functioned without it. When they built their cities, the Wari erected a sophisticated brewery that could make 1,800 litres of beer at a time. It had separate compartments for milling, boiling and fermentation.

The researchers found at least 10 elegant shawl pins on the floor of the brewery, hooks used to keep warm wraps around the shoulders. The metal pins, which were worn by noble women as a sign of status, were not found in other areas of the ruins.

"The brewers were not only women, but elite women," said Donna Nash, an anthropologist with the Field Museum in Chicago who was part of the team working on the Wari site.

"The discovery of the shawl pins adds a growing body of evidence that suggests women in Incan and pre-Incan Andean societies had more authority than has previously been acknowledged, the researchers say.

"Beer also played an important role in the final days of the outpost, which was the most southern of several Wari settlements. The flat-topped hill, or mesa, wasn't a practical place to live. Food, water and construction materials had to be hauled up 500 metres, a climb that takes a good hour today. Researchers believe it built it to impress their neighbours, the Tiwanaku, who reigned to the south in what is now Bolivia. It was first settled around 600 AD, and then abruptly abandoned around 400 years later. No one is sure why.

"Today, it is still a sacred site for the local indigenous people, and is known to researchers as the ancient imperial colony at Cerro Ballu."

Remnants found at the site indicate that before the Wari left the town, they held a farewell ceremony that began with the brewing of a final batch of chicha. A week later, they drank it, and then as a sacrifice to the gods, torched the brewery and smashed ceramic drinking vessels.

They also burned the palace, after a banquet of deer, llama and seven types of ocean fish. It also appears they sacrificed a condor and a pica monkey before moving out.

"The Wari seemed to disappear after they left their mountain city. Their society fragmented, and eventually the Incas colonized the area. Research suggests beer was also important to the Inca culture and economy, and the upper-class Incan women were the brew masters.

Today, in the Andes, men and women drink chicha and other alcoholic drinks together, Dr. DeFrance said.

"There's a lot of equality in terms of how men and women drink in the highlands of the Andes," said the anthropologist, a co-author of a paper published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "Women will get as drunk as the men, and if not more so, than the men, and it is not frowned upon."

It was probably the same when the Wari ruled that part of the world, Dr. DeFrance said. Not only did women make the beer, they probably got as stinking drunk as the men.