

INCA – A 3000-YEAR-OLD JOURNEY

*Like human beings metals fall ill (oxidation) and die (lose brilliancy),
yet they can transform the same way the dying man passes to
“another world, which is the home of the ancestors”.*

(Paloma Carcedo Muro de Mufarech – Curator of the exhibition)

On 9th February 2010 we (3rd year students at Prešeren) went on a daily school trip to Brescia. When we arrived there, we first took a stroll along the old city streets around the ancient Roman theatre and then we went to a guided visit of the Inca exhibition. We split into two groups. Our visit was very interesting also because our guide was very friendly and talkative. She explained to us the sacred vision of the world typical of the old cultures of ancient Peru and in particular focused on the meaning of gold to the Incas.

For us nowadays gold is a very expensive metal and it is just something valuable, something associated with status symbol and devoid of any spiritual meaning. Unlike us the Inca lived in very close contact with nature, which was consequently respected and venerated by them. They believed that gold was the tears of the god Sun and silver was the tears of the goddess Moon and brass was the tears of the Earth. They had a very big quantity of gold but only the Inca, their king, had the possibility of distributing it to some important people like his sons, brave warriors, or priests shamans. They used to wear gold so that the sunlight could hit the items made of gold and they could be as bright and glittering as the Sun, thus being closer or similar to Him. The items were made thin and very light so that humans could wear them without any problem.

The guide told us that they also used to venerate the jaguar /the panther and the condor. In fact they used to draw them on their items and also on their skin. In my opinion the Incas were a wonderful and admirable civilization.

After the exhibition we went to the castle of Brescia where we had a magnificent view of the city, but unluckily it was foggy so we didn't see far. Some of us visited the castle exhibition of ancient weapons and they said it was really worth seeing.

We were very happy about this visit because we had a great time with our schoolmates and teachers (prof. Erika Fornazarič, Boris Grgič and Melita Valič). We learnt a lot also about the city of Brescia, which is hosting a really splendid display of more than 270 works of art representing the fabulous world of the Incas.

by Dennis Riosa, 3.c

