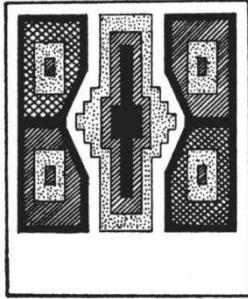


**On the origins of  
the motif and motto  
on the Institute of Andean Studies letterhead  
and the cover of Ñawpa Pacha**

Bruce Owen 8/1/2015



TAKYAQ SONQO

This motif appeared on the first issue of Ñawpa Pacha.

Ann Rowe (one of John Rowe's two daughters) recalls that John Rowe had said that it was from the all-tocapu tunic in the Dumbarton Oaks Robert Woods Bliss Collection, B-518:

<http://tocapu.org/objects/object.php?o=1>

or

<https://classconnection.s3.amazonaws.com/404/flashcards/4945404/jpg/picture6-1446C5A66565EA48085.jpg>

which John Rowe discussed years later in

Rowe, John

1979 (or 1980?) Standardization in Inca tapestry tunics. In *The Junius B. Bird Pre-Columbian Textile Conference, May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 1973*, edited by Ann Pollard Rowe, Elizabeth P. Benson, and Anne-Louise Schaffer, pp. 239-264. The Textile Museum and Dumbarton Oaks, Washington.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=RF15hBArfXIC&pg=PA259&lpg=PA259&dq=standardization+in+inca+tapestry+tunics&source=bl&ots=Yd1-ib1qUf&sig=tGM9hDfjLDvITMBespwLMjE901k&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CB8Q6AEwAGoVChMIqqSw9NGIwxIViCmICh3IxAcF#v=onepage&q=standardization%20in%20inca%20tapestry%20tunics&f=false>

It clearly does appear on this tunic several times – providing the colors indicated by the hatching in the Ñawpa Pacha version. It would not be surprising if the motif recurs in other textiles or media.

Neither Pat Lyon (John's wife) nor Ann could recall what "Takyaq Sonqo" meant. Ann offered to consult Bruce Mannheim, a linguist familiar with 16<sup>th</sup>-century Cuzco Quechua. She responded:

I heard from Bruce Mannheim, but I also looked more carefully in Gonzalez Holugin's 1608 dictionary, of which I have a cheap Ecuadorian edition. Dad was of course the one who introduced me to this dictionary.

Gonzalez Holguin says that takyak soncco means "perseuerante constante firme, o fixo". So something like persevering firmly or persevering with resolve...

He also says that pacha is "tiempo suelo lugar", so time is the first meaning, at least in 1608. Ñaupa ñaupa pacha is "antiguamente en tiempos pasados" (maybe the repeat makes it an adverb?). So Kathe's translation of "antiquity" is fine. Old dirt is not necessarily inappropriate for archaeology though... Maybe Dad liked the ambiguity.

In a later message, she wrote:

I heard again from Bruce Mannheim, who says that the difference between GH and his own translation is that between translating into Spanish or English. He translates takyaq as "firm" and sonqo as the essence of a person (or another being), so it would mean "firm of being" or some such. But it is of course possible that Dad got the phrase directly from GH, along with its translated meaning. It fits him either way. I will also try to ask Dolly sometime soon if she remembers what Dad had in mind.

In a yet later message, she wrote:

Dolly didn't remember about takyak sonqo but she said that Nawpa Pacha was "ancient times".

I summarized these findings in the Secretary's report at the 2016 annual meeting. Two days later, Kathe Schreiber and John Rick sorted through boxes of old IAS records. Kathe found more about the logo and motto:

From: Katharina Schreiber [mailto:kschreiber@anth.ucsb.edu]  
Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2016 6:47 PM  
To: ias-board@andeanstudies.org  
Subject: [IAS-Board] something interesting...

In our adventures wandering through the past today, I came across a letter written from Pat to Ed Franquemont, who had apparently asked about the origin of the Institute logo and slogan. I found this especially interesting given Bruce's presentation at the business meeting on Friday, so I thought you all would be interested in her response, since she is quoting John directly:

Letter from PJJ to Ed M. Franquemont, dated October 24, 1984, quoting a letter from John Rowe (dated July 4, 1984—Cuzco):

"The design for the Institute logo is from one of the squares of the fancy uncu at Dumbarton Oaks. I thought it looked a little bit like a sun appearing through a cleft. The

motto, Takyaq sonqo, is from an entry in González Holguín's dictionary; he said it meant 'steadfast,' and I figures [sic] that was what we needed to be. By the way, I put the toqapu design into an Inca shield frame, I meant it to be heraldic." The phrase is on p. 336 of the 1952 edition of González Holguín, and the definition, in Spanish, is "Perseuerante constante firme, o fixe." It is contrasted with Ynconstante.

(The sentences in quotes are John's words, and the quotation marks appear exactly as they are in Pat's letter. The [sic] is mine. The remaining sentences are Pat's words.)