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Books about Ecuador—Annotated List

Dyes and Dyeing

- *A Perfect Red*. Greenfield, Amy Butler. Harper Perennial, New York, 2005.
 - *This book is an engaging read through an interpreted history of cochineal including the politics and various discoveries over time, along with the beautiful textiles created by the dye. Some information is given on Pizarro's conquest of Peru in 1533 and its contribution to the culture and art of cochineal.*
- *A Red Like No Other: How Cochineal Colored the World*. Carmella Padilla and Barbara Anderson. Skira Rizzoli, 2015.
 - *A Red Like No Other translates the cochineal story into three dimensions, following the precious bug juice from Mexico to Europe and beyond as it insinuated itself into all forms of art, politics, and commerce. More than 20 scholars and other experts contributed essays in art, history, economics, and conservation.* Publisher
- *Cochineal and The Insect Dyes*. Gerber, Frederick. Ormond Beach, FL, 1978. .
 - *This pamphlet-style book is for craft dyers interested in working with natural sources of pigment and includes a historical background, descriptions of studies, and for complete copies, an insert with samples dyed with various modifiers.*
- *Cochineal Red: The Art History of a Color*. Phipps, Elena. Metropolitan Museum of Art, Yale University Press, 2010.
 - *Phipps, former conservator and textile scholar at the Metropolitan Museum of New York, describes cochineal's earliest origins in South America and Mexico and then travels in time using existing textiles present in the Met collection while tracing cochineal's journey into western Europe and around the world into the 20th century.*
- *Natural Dyes: Sources, Tradition, Technology and Science*. Cardon, Dominique. Archetype Publications, London, 2007.
 - *This book sets out to record sources of colorants discovered and used on all the continents from antiquity until the present day. Some 300 plants and 30 animals (marine molluscs and scale insects) are illustrated and discussed by the author, whose passion for natural dyes, with their colors of unequalled richness and subtlety, has taken her across the globe in search of dye sources and dyers.*
Google Books

- *True Colors: World Masters of Natural Dyes & Pigments*. Schiffer Books, 2019. Recker, Keith.
 - *True Colors shares in depth conversations with 28 artisans from across the globe focusing on the creation of color from natural materials and the historical and environmental aspects of natural dyeing.* Thrumming.net

Fiction and Poetry

- *Fire from the Andes: Short Fiction by Women from Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru*. Benner, Susan and Kathy S. Leonard, editors. University of New Mexico Press. 1998
 - *A collection of short stories from 24 authors, showcasing the experiences of South American women struggling against various forms of social injustice. The biographies of each author provide a fuller understanding of and context for the experiences of the women, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups that provided the foundation of these works of fiction.*
- *The Inheritance of Orquídea Divina*. Córdova, Zoraida. Simon and Schuster, 2022. Novel
 - *The perfect blend of magical realism and fantasy, Orquídea Divina informs her mostly estranged family members that she is dying and invites them to visit her in Ecuador to collect their inheritance and learn family secrets. Fans of Isabel Allende might equally enjoy Córdova who utilizes more modern diction and circumstances.*
- *The Villagers*. Translated by Bernard Dulsey. Icaza, Jorge. Southern Illinois Press, 1934. Novel
 - *When it was originally published in 1934, readers greeted Jorge Icaza's first novel with a mixture of shock, horror, and acclaim. This brutal story of human suffering, oppression, and exploitation follows the consequences of a landowner's choice to open his land for oil exploration. Described as an "Ecuadorian Grapes of Wrath," both books are works of social protest for marginalized peoples.*

Techniques/Learning

- *Finishes in the Ethnic Tradition*. Baizerman, Suzanne and Searle, Karen. DOS Tejedoras Fiber Arts Publications, 1978.
 - *"We have entitled this book FINISHES IN THE ETHNIC TRADITION because we hope to establish the same kind of high standards for completing hand woven goods as those that are used in the fine ethnic textiles we have studied in museums, in our travels and in private collections".* From the introduction
- *Latin American Brocades: Explorations in Supplementary Weft Techniques*. Baizerman, Suzanne and Searle, Karen. DOS Tejedoras Fiber Arts Publications, 1976.
 - *The authors describe the weaves found in ancient and modern fabrics from the textile centers of Latin America. The publication is divided into two parts; Part I is a description of supplementary weft patterns, and Part II offers instructions for executing the techniques on two-harness, rigid heddle, backstrap and multi-harness looms.*

Textiles

- *Costume and Identity in Highland Ecuador*. Rowe, Ann Pollard, Editor and Lynn Meisch. Duke University Press, 1998.
 - *This compilation represents a major attempt to present the costume and textiles of a broad region. Although Ann Pollard Rowe edited the volume, most of the text was written by Lynn A. Meisch, an anthropologist and textile specialist, and Laura Miller and Rebecca Tolen who wrote substantial portions from their fieldwork in the central highland province of Cañar. The result is an invaluable resource for anyone doing research on the Andes, whether on textiles and costume or ethnohistory. Llavish illustrations of textiles, mainly in the collections of the Textile Museum of Washington, DC, are shown in excellent photographs with instructive captions.*
- *Textile Traditions of Mesoamerica and the Andes: An Anthology*. Schevill, Margot Blum, Berlo, Janet Catherine, and Dwyer, Edward, editors. University of Texas Press, 1996/2010.
 - *In this volume, anthropologists, art historians, fiber artists, and technologists come together to explore the meanings, uses, and fabrication of textiles in Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia from Precolumbian times to the present. Originally published in 1991 by Garland Publishing, the book grew out of a 1987 symposium held in conjunction with the exhibit "Costume as Communication: Ethnographic Costumes and Textiles from Middle America and the Central Andes of South America" at the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Brown University. Google Books*
- *The Ecuador Reader: History, Culture, and Politics*. de la Torre, Carlos and Steve Striffler, editors. Duke University, Latin America Readers Series, 2009.
 - *Spanning the years before the arrival of the Spanish in the early 1500s to the present, this rich anthology addresses colonialism, independence, and Ecuador's integration into the world economy, politics, the environment, and tumultuous twentieth century. Dense with facts, it is a gateway for understanding the volatile and intriguing history of this complex, multicultural land.*