

# Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter November, 2015

## The Sun People of Chankillo

Winter is closing in and the evenings are getting shorter. Over the past few weeks, the Sun has been setting earlier and earlier in Matsuyama. If you pay attention to these things, you don't need a watch to know what time it is in the early evening. But can you track the Sun's position in the sky month by month as well as the ancients did?

In the Ancash region of northwestern Peru, one of the most amazing discoveries of our time has been made by archaeologist Ivan Ghezzi. The place is called Chankillo and consists of 13 large stone towers approximately 2,300 years old. Predating the Incan civilization by 1,200 years, Ghezzi believes he has found the oldest solar observatory in the Americas.

Though the site had been known to travelers for centuries, Ghezzi realized that the Thirteen Towers of Chankillo were used for marking the Sun's position throughout the year. This type of activity was part of the Sun-worshipping culture of the Inca. Writings by Spanish conquerors describe the Inca's methods of tracking the Sun using rows of pillars, but nearly all of these were destroyed. However, the Chankillo site was used only from about 300 B.C. to 1 A.D., which means it was constructed by an unknown pre-Inca culture.

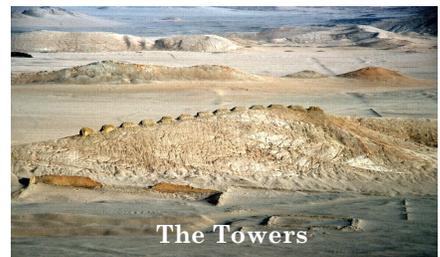


Temple Fortress at Chankillo

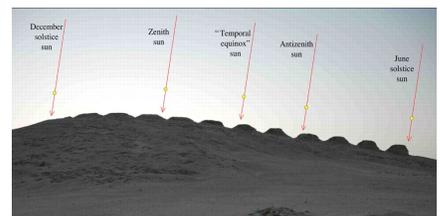
The towers vary in height from two meters to six meters, but they are precisely spaced at approximately five meters apart. It appears they are marking regular divisions of the year for a solar calendar. Furthermore,

Ghezzi found a nearby building with a 40-meter long corridor ending in observation points to the east and the west. From these points, people would have been able to observe the 13 towers along the horizon, showing the rising and setting positions of the Sun over the year. In Peru, the Sun rises and sets farthest north on the winter solstice, the longest day of the year, and farthest south on the summer solstice, the shortest day.

Individuals with the status to view from these observatories would have had the power to regulate time, beliefs and the practices that tied the society together. And because the members of this society believed the Sun to be a god, their leaders could demonstrate their authority to the people. But there's still one mystery about Chankillo to be solved. Why, within a couple of centuries, did the members of this Sun cult completely vanish?



The Towers



## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

You can find more on Chankillo here:

<http://mikeruggerisnazcaera.tumblr.com/post/128358067548/chankillo-300-bc>

*Article by Colm*

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** For a few years now, I have worked on preparing TOEIC courses regularly for one of our corporate clients. Next month, I will start preparing yet another course. I have always questioned the value of this test in helping to develop good *speakers* of English, but after working on TOEIC test materials for so long, I am beginning to appreciate some of the more “subtle” elements associated with this study program. I find that the tricky parts which challenge comprehension particularly interesting, possibly even useful!

**Junko Says:** Last month, I installed Windows 10 on my laptop. As you know, Microsoft is offering Windows 10 free to users of Windows 7 and 8 and vigorously encouraging users to make the up-grade. Disappointingly, and contrary to my expectations, I have been having a problem with my laptop ever since. It makes a funny noise whenever I use it! I've looked up many Q & A's about this problem on the Internet, but I have not found a solution, I would be very happy if anyone could come up with an answer for me.....



**Mark Says** Unlike the majority of Kiwis I have never shown much interest in the game of rugby union. However, along with many Japanese, my interest was piqued by Japan's unexpected successes at the recent Rugby World Cup. The timing for their success could not have been more perfect with the 2019 RWC scheduled to be held in Japan. I'm sure the organisers of that event will be hoping to cash in on the game's new found popularity.

**Colm Says:** First it was Matsuyama, then Niihama and last week it was Halloween. Festival season is in full swing in Shikoku. And there are many similar festivals worldwide celebrating the autumn harvest and the dark spirits, many of which have even wilder costumes than Halloween. Check out Mexico's Day of the Dead. Or if you want to concentrate on eating, try Thanksgiving. And don't forget - the countdown to Christmas has already begun.



**Danielle dit;** Le 1<sup>er</sup> novembre en France, c'est la Toussaint. A l'origine une célébration chrétienne, elle est aujourd'hui plus considérée comme la « fête des morts ». On apporte généralement des fleurs sur les tombes des défunts, la fleur emblématique de la Toussaint étant le chrysanthème. Malheureusement, comme beaucoup de traditions, celle-ci se perd et de moins en moins de gens visitent les cimetières.

## ACROSS

- 12 one who studies prehistoric peoples cultures
- 13 disappear without trace
- 14 a building used to study the stars
- 16 in some way different

## DOWN

- 1 going back to an earlier time
- 2 close to correct
- 3 exactly
- 4 all the way through
- 5 people who lived in times past
- 6 relative position or rank
- 7 fix or adjust
- 8 the sun's farthest distance from the equator
- 9 provide evidence by example
- 10 the greatest distance
- 11 the power to order or control others
- 15 becoming greater in height

## Play A Game!

(print version [here](#))

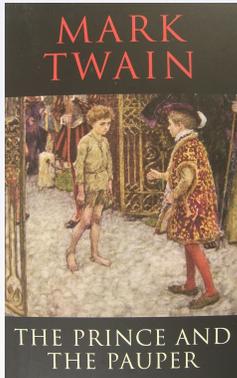
# NOTICE BOARD



## Critic's corner with S(a)3's Taro:

### On Becoming Another Person:

Have you dreamed of being another person? What would you do if you suddenly became a prince or princess? Last month I read a book in English, "The Prince and the Pauper", by Mark Twain. (He is also known as the author of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer".) This novel is useful to study English with because many unique words and expressions are used in it, such as "Where dost thou live?" ("dost thou" is an old form of "do you"), or "long live the King!" (Even nowadays, British people say "Long live the Queen" to show respect for their monarch.)



There are two main characters in this story. Edward Tudor, the prince of England, and Tom Canty, a pauper in London. They were not related, but they were very similar in appearance, like twins. One day, Tom met Prince Edward in front of the palace. Edward invited Tom to his room and gave him some food and drink. Edward asked Tom about the lives of the common people in London. He was tired of the formal lifestyle of the palace and wanted to enjoy a more free life. In contrast, Tom had dreamed of being rich. Therefore they exchanged clothes in order to experience each others lifestyle.

However, Edward was shocked by the severe living standards of low class people. On the other hand, Tom was disillusioned by the superficial manners of the palace lifestyle. They both wanted to go back to their former lives, but nobody believed that Edward was the real prince. Finally, with Tom's help, Edward proved his identity.

Edward didn't forget the oppression he had experienced as a pauper. Later, as the king of England, he led a merciful and generous government. He was respected by many people. He said, "What dost thou know of suffering and oppression? I and my people know."

This story has two lessons. One is that the grass always seems to be greener on the other side of the fence. We should learn to be satisfied with our own lot in life.

The other lesson is that we tend to judge others only by their appearance. Others will not notice if you are substituted for another person. At the next Crossroads lesson, please look at your teachers and classmates carefully. Are they imposters?

## Ren's "My stay in China" - Part 10

We were studying business Chinese in class. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, I went on a small school trip to a Chinese beer company. The company produces Yanjing Beer which is quite famous in China. To be honest, I'm not very interested in beer. I didn't even visit any of the famous beer factories in Qingdao when I was there. At the Yanjing beer company I was served with cold beer samples. They were so delicious! We enjoyed that activity.



One week later, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, our university held a sports festival. Each of us was asked to attend the opening ceremony wearing our country's traditional clothes. Unfortunately, I didn't have any traditional Japanese clothes to wear. But my teacher said it was OK because my face itself expresses Japanese traditions. So, I decided to join. The ceremony was exciting. Many students wore traditional clothes; Russian, Indian, Kazakhstan, and so on. I was so busy on the day. Right after the opening ceremony I departed for Dalian which was a 3 day journey away. (to be continued)



## Last Month's puzzle Solution

### ACROSS

- 3 a successful outcome after a contest
- 5 something that can be discarded after using
- 7 unchanging, steadfast
- 8 a photo of oneself
- 9 move in large numbers
- 13 educating for a future role or function
- 14 giving complete attention to
- 15 the negative aspect of something

### DOWN

- 1 excessive admiration of oneself
- 2 relating to or belonging to a city
- 4 being greatly satisfied
- 6 an expression of support
- 7 now
- 10 taking over or surpassed
- 11 giving importance or significance to
- 12 excessively preoccupied with something



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