



*Drawing of a bundle / Pedro Rojas Ponce*  
Courtesy: Dorothee Rivka Rago



*Mummy bundle*  
200 a.C.- 200 d.C.

## SITE MUSEUM JULIO C. TELLO OF PARACAS

ICA



### THE DESERT AFTER THE PARACAS CULTURE

All the later pre-Hispanic cultures, and heirs of the Paracas culture, inhabited this region from Nasca, immediately after, to the Inca Empire, before the arrival of the Spaniards.

The actual Paracas National Reserve is a protected space in which fishing and mollusc gathering still takes place in a very similar fashion to the one used by the Paracas thousands of years ago. It is in those activities where the legacy of those people from more than two thousand years ago still perdures.



#### Museo de Sitio Julio C. Tello de Paracas

Km. 27 Carretera Pisco-Puerto San Martín  
Reserva Nacional de Paracas  
Ica-Perú

#### Opening time:

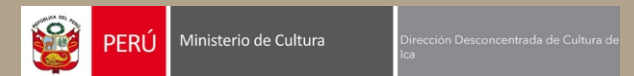
Tuesday to Sunday and  
holidays: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### Tickets:

Adults: S/. 7.50  
Students, teachers and seniors: S/. 4.00  
Children: S/. 1.00

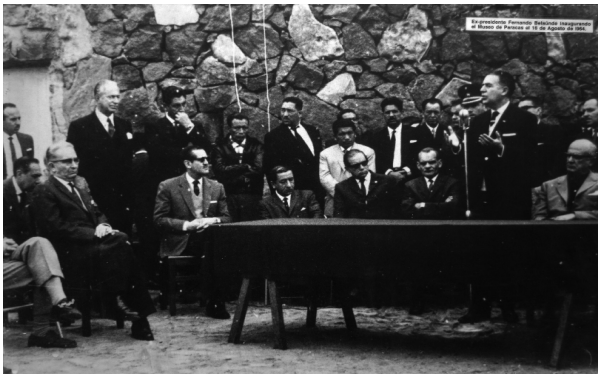
[museojuliotello@cultura.gob.pe](mailto:museojuliotello@cultura.gob.pe)  
[www.cultura.gob.pe](http://www.cultura.gob.pe)

 @museoparacas  
 @museoparacas  
 @MParacas



## THE SITE MUSEUM JULIO C. TELLO

This museum was created as a project of the Swiss researcher Frédéric Engel, who wanted to show to the public the results of his excavations in different sites on the Paracas Bay and to pay tribute to his predecessor in the excavations in the area, Julio C. Tello. It was inaugurated on August 16th 1964, by the president of Peru, Fernando Belaunde Terry. Nowadays, the museum has been modernized, after the damages it suffered on the 2007 earthquake, thanks to AECID through the "Fondo de Cooperación Hispano Peruano" the Gobierno Regional de Ica and the Ministry of Culture. The building and the exhibition are the result of the cooperative work that has been done in the last years trying to display the pre-Hispanic cultural heritage of the area.



August 16th 1964, president Belaunde inaugurates the site museum Julio C. Tello of Paracas.

## PARACAS CULTURE ANTECEDENTS AROUND THE AREA

The first known settlers came around 7000 BC. Their remains were found in the Pampa de Santo Domingo, which is east of the present city of Paracas. Later, the first villages appeared. These have been dated between 4000 and 3000 BC in Santo Domingo and Cabezas Largas. With the growth of the population, the settlements of Disco Verde and Puerto Nuevo came to be. In these two sites the styles identified as the predecessors of the Paracas one were discovered.

## THE PARACAS CULTURE

The Paracas culture developed around 400 years (600 - 200 BC). In its early stages (Puerto Nuevo and Karwas phases) it was in contact with cultures from distant regions such as Chavín and Cupisnique. Among the first settlements that were inhabited by the Paracas are Disco Verde, Puerto Nuevo, Karwas, Callango, Cerrillos. There we have the earliest evidence of the Paracas style that is easily identifiable on two type of artefacts: the textiles and pottery; with representations of anthropomorphic beings with masks, geometric figures, among others. On a later stage, during the Cavenas phase, named after the shape of the subterranean tombs, had a local development, with centres such as Wari Kayán in the Paracas Peninsula, and Chucchio, Karwas and Morro Quemado in the Independence Bay. Its ceramic style is known for its designs shaped with incisions and painted with resinous pigments of lively colours and mineral pigments, which were applied after the burning of the vessels.



Bowl with zoomorphic representations.  
600 BC - 200 AD

The best examples of the Paracas culture development are the great textiles that conformed the bundles of the Necropolis phase, such as the ones found in the abandoned households of Wari Kayán, Cerro Colorado. The creation of the bundle consisted in a big logistical complex that involved different activities that ranged from the farming of the cotton, in the nearest valleys, for the making of the textiles to the long distance exchange of raw materials, like the obsidian. In other words, all technological advancements of the culture were used in the making of the bundle and in the offerings that were laid with it. As an example of this great effort, the researcher Anne Paul calculated that a single bundle took almost 30 thousand man-hours for its completion.