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History of Science in Latin America

## Introduction:

- 1. The social history of Latin America with respect to science is intertwined with the culture and identity of the region.
- 2. The idea that science was introduced thanks to capitalism, however this supposed relation between science and industry was hardly witnessed. This also assumes there was no science in the area prior to European influences.
- 3. The Society was founded in 1982 and its job was to bring to the spotlight to science in Latin America and introduced the sometimes "amateur" methods. It publishes a journal with the shortened title *Quipu*.
- 4. Given the eurocentricity of the scientific world, Latin American sciences have been left on the periphery, this was often a result of the different forms science took in Latin America. Past notable scientific achievements from latin America include Granadan botany, Mexican Herbalism, Peruvian maths, and works from people like Carlos Siguenza.

## Chapter 1

There is the view that Latin America was always on par with the rest of the world and the
enlightenment it was experiencing, judged through the lens of modern science. The second
view point begins with indigenous ideas and findings as a base for scientific knowledge. In
1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue, and called the natives Indian thinking he had landed in

- India. Indigenous history has and will be recorded by the Western world as it is seen more reliable compared to oral tradition.
- Ethnohistory is the history concerning particular indigenous cultures/non western peoples.
   As globalization led to the merging of cultures this ethnohistory can be lost or forgotten.
- 3. Unlike in North America, Latin America has its cities razed and informational sources destroyed or ignores.
- 4. The legend of the Fountain of Youth finds its roosting Ethiopia. It was used to recruit soldiers for the third crusaded in the twelfth century as a promise in the countries they would be invading. The myth was also used by Ponce de Leon who search the American peninsula in search of the fountain. When people hear about the new discoveries in a new unknown foreign land their imagination goes wild, and forget we'll all be standing on the same dirt no matter where we go.
- 5. A griffin, this from soldier gossip about how there are birds who can snatch away whole people and encrusted with gold.