



Gold earflare ornament depicting a mythical scene with character on litter and two companions (Chimú, AD 900-1470).



Gold earflare composed of a disc decorated with an assembled figure in the form of a bird (Chimú, AD 900-1470).



Silver alloy vase-portrait depicting contrasting faces (Inca, 1200-1532 AD).



Silver sandals (Inca, AD 1200-1532).



Copper calero palette depicting a bird; eyes composed of Spondylus shell beads.



Silver sculpture. Depicts a female figure holding a child (Inca, AD 1200-1532).

Even before the Spanish conquest, the prevalence of Inca gold was undoubtedly one of the most notable. It is worth remembering that the symbol of Inca nobility, called mascaipaccha, was part of the elite's trousseau, along with bracelets, pectorals and earrings made of the precious metal.

At the height of the Inca period (ca. 1200-1532 AD), many societies were influenced by their culture and beliefs, and this was reflected in the materials made of metal. It is likely that goldsmiths serving the Empire played a leading role and that some specialists moved under imperial command.