LECTURE
Thursday, December 5, 5:30 p.m.

To Write or Knot? Recent Advances in the Study of Andean Knotted Cord Records

Gary Urton
Reservations required: pre-columbian@doaks.org
Lecture is followed by light refreshments

The *khipu* (*quipu*) was the main device used for administrative record-keeping in the Inka empire of Pre-Columbian South America. Researchers have gained a good understanding of the principles of khipu recording and accounting for administrative purposes. However, Spanish observers of Inka record keeping at the time of the conquest stated that this knotted-cord device was also used for recording narrative events of the past. This talk reviews what we have learned to date regarding khipu record keeping and speculates on how we may go about investigating the still undeciphered narrative contents of these extraordinary records.

Gary Urton is the Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Pre-Columbian Studies and Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University. He is the Founder/Director of the Khipu Database Project at Harvard University and author of numerous articles and books, including *Inca Myths* and *Signs of the Inka Khipu.*