

The Mummy Finder

Johan Reinhard will go anywhere to dig up secrets of the past.

She's called Juanita. But nobody knows her real name. She's been dead for more than 500 years. Juanita was a young **Inca** girl. She lived in a South American **empire** that stretched from Colombia to Chile.

Here's what experts think happened to her. One day around 1470, she was led to the top of Mount Ampato. The 20,000-foot mountain rises over southern Peru. There, she was killed by a blow to the head.

Juanita was a human **sacrifice**. It sounds horrible. But it was probably a great honor in her time. Families offered their teenage girls to the gods. It was believed that such sacrifices protected the people from disaster.

Juanita's body might have stayed on that mountain forever. That is if Johan Reinhard hadn't come along. He's one of the world's top archaeologists. He learns about ancient people by studying the things they left behind.

"Every time you find something—whether it's clothes or a statue or a Juanita—it's like looking into a window to the past," says Johan. He works as an explorer with the National Geographic Society. But mummies are his passion.

Many Kinds of Mummies

But wait, you might think. Aren't mummies those Egyptian bodies that look like they're wrapped in bandages from head to toe? Actually, a mummy is any dead body that's been **preserved** for a long time.

Juanita was preserved by the cold mountain air. Then centuries of snow and ice buried her. But Mount Ampato is near a volcano. Over time, the gray ash from the volcano melted the ice around Juanita. That's when Johan found her.

Johan has a knack for finding buried stuff. When he was a child, he dug holes in his Illinois

backyard looking for arrowheads and fossils. And in his attic, he found dust-covered Hardy Boys books. Those are mysteries that star two teenage brothers. Flipping through their yellowed pages, he fell in love with mystery and adventure.

Mystery and adventure are what Johan loves about archaeology. One project took him into underwater caves in the Mediterranean Sea. That's where he uncovered ancient Roman works of art.

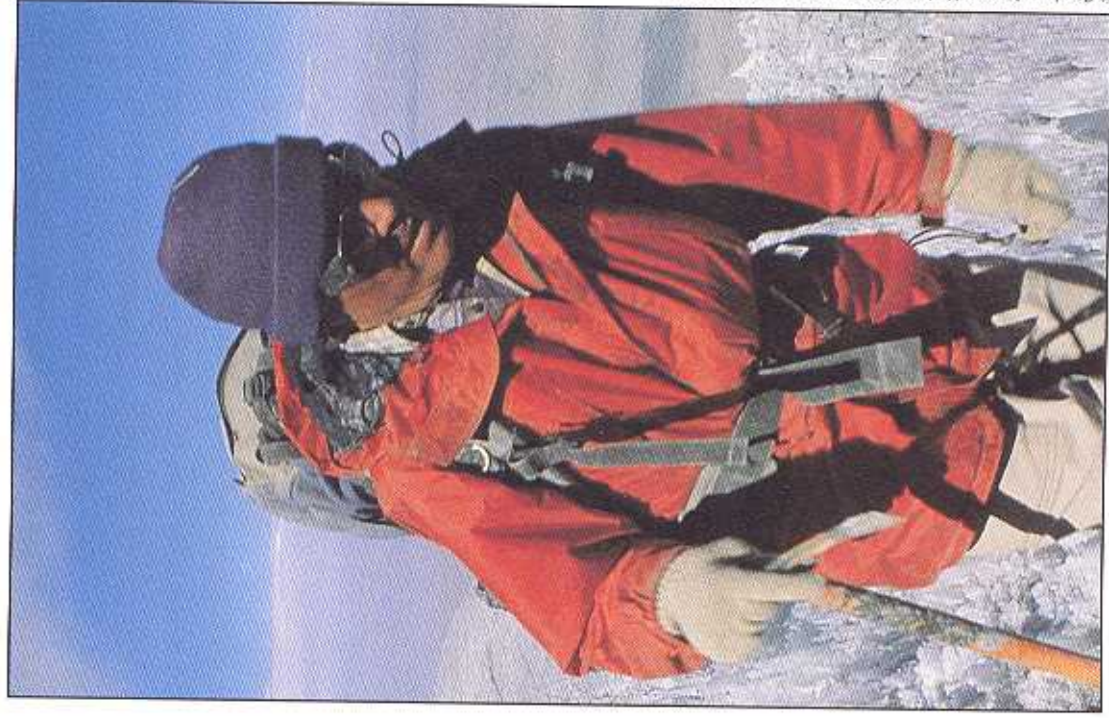
Johan has also lived with camel herders in the Great Indian Desert. And he's hung out with fishermen on the Maldives Islands in the Indian Ocean. Johan will search anywhere to dig up clues to the past.

Meeting Juanita

Johan wasn't looking for mummies when he climbed Mount Ampato. He was actually there to take pictures of the neighboring volcano.

Heads Up!

Johan says he loves the mystery and adventure of his job. Is that a fact or an opinion?



© Stephen Alvarez/National Geographic Image Collection

Johan's job has taken him to icy peaks, deserts, and even caves under the sea.

But as he got near the peak, he saw red feathers sticking out of the ground. He recognized them. They were part of an Incan headdress.

As he got closer, Johan saw a large bundle. At first, he thought it was a backpack. Then his heart began to race. That was no backpack. It was a person.

Juanita's face was frozen in what Johan called a "peaceful" expression. She was wearing a fancy chocolate-colored gown with red and white stripes. Her long black hair was frozen as if it were still waving in the mountain wind.

Johan knew the importance of his discovery. No well-preserved Incan mummies had ever been found before. But how could he get a ninety-pound dead girl down a 20,000 foot mountain? He couldn't leave her up there. She might be attacked by birds. Or she might be raided by treasure-seeking looters.

Johan wrapped Juanita in a sleeping bag. He strapped her to his back and carefully climbed down the icy mountain path. Then, he tied her to a mule and went into town. She finally made it to Johan's lab in the baggage hold of a bus.

How did Johan figure out what happened to Juanita? Near her body, he found items left as presents, or offerings, to the gods. Later, X-rays showed that Juanita's skull had been crushed. She was killed by a blow above her right eye. These clues matched old stories about Incan child sacrifices. A Spanish priest had witnessed these events in the 1600s and written about them.

Today, Juanita is a celebrity. When she's not at home at a university in Peru, she's on a world tour. Like a rock star, she's visited the United States and Japan. "In a way, I guess she will live forever," Johan says. "But we'll never know who she really was. Some of the past always remains a mystery."

—Heads Up!

Johan says that, in a way, Juanita "will live forever." What does he mean by this?

How to Make a Mummy

Juanita's body was preserved by the cold. But the ancient Egyptians came up with a way to make mummies themselves. Here's how.

- Step 1** Embalmers washed the body. They rinsed it with water from the Nile river.
- Step 2** They removed the liver, lungs, stomach, and intestines. They dried them in salt and stored them in jars, which were later buried with the mummy.
- Step 3** Egyptians believed that the heart was the center of intelligence and feeling. So they cut it out, dried it, and returned it to the body.
- Step 4** They pulled out the brain through the nose. They thought it was worthless.
- Step 5** They replaced the eyes with glass eyeballs.
- Step 6** They stuffed the body with salt, which they left in for 40 days.
- Step 7** After removing the salt, the embalmers washed the body and wrapped it with long strips of linen cloth.



Johan Reinhard

Johan's assistant, Miguel Zarate, is holding Juanita.

SCHOLASTIC

ACTION™

*They hike up erupting volcanoes.
They dive to the bottom of the sea.
They climb 200-foot-tall trees.*

*Are these extreme athletes? No,
they're scientists with extreme jobs.*

*These scientists go from the tallest
mountains to the deepest oceans.
They explore the rain forests and
jungles. They face deadly viruses
and discover dead bodies from
long ago.*

*Why? They are on a search for
knowledge. And what they learn
may one day save your life!
So meet the scientists who
go to extremes!*

SCIENCE

ISBN 0-437-5905-2



9 00000

This edition is only available for
distribution through the school market.

SCHOLASTIC

WWW.SCHOLASTIC.COM

LEVEL 2

LEXILE® 550

EXTREME SCIENCE JOBS

John DiConsiglio

SCHOLASTIC