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A Contemporary Tribute to the Rich Textile Heritage of Peru

**ANDEAN INSPIRED KNITS:
DESIGNS IN LUXURIOUS ALPACA
Helen Hamann**

Loveland, Colo: Author Helen Hamann draws inspiration from historic fabrics and motifs of pre-Columbian textiles, dating from about 500 B.C. to A.D.1540 that were produced in part of South America that is now Peru, in her new book **ANDEAN INSPIRED KNITS: DESIGNS IN LUXURIOUS ALPACA** (Interweave Press, September 2006). Hamann is an internationally-known knitwear designer and alpaca enthusiast whose clothing is a contemporary tribute to the rich textile heritage of her native country.

Even by today's standards, the craftsmanship of the men and women who produced these pre-Columbian textiles demonstrated skillful execution of intricate patterns. Hamann mimics the superb concept of color and design to create this modern collection of wearables.

Part knitting book, part travelogue and historical guide **Andean Inspired Knits** demonstrates that one of the best ways to learn about the identity of a culture is to use their designs. Throughout the book Hamann takes us on a journey of the Andean landscape by interspersing her patterns with information and photos of the environments that inspired her work.

She also includes rich narratives about the evolution of alpacas and how they have influenced Peruvian culture and textiles: alpacas and their fleece played a central role in the development of pre-Columbian cultures. Hamann is deliberate in her choice of fibers for these designs, using only soft alpaca, a fiber that boasts unique luster, warmth, and durability.

Skilled knitters will love the eye-catching projects that incorporate geometric forms and unique silhouettes with a modern twist, all while being comfortable and extremely wearable. Helen's fresh approach to form and fit will appeal to knitters looking to learn new techniques while being challenged by ambitious designs.

Projects range from a geometric scarf based on a bold striped stepped pattern, an intricate Fair Isle bolero with mitered corners, a patchwork kimono with matching beaded cap, a lacy crocheted poncho/top with flowery beading, a colorfully embroidered wrap, and a showy lace cardigan with ruffle trim.

The knitting techniques used in the book include short-rows, mitered corners, intarsia, Fair Isle, and embroidery—creating interest and stimulation for knitters looking to move beyond the basic garter stitch scarf. Yet these patterns are not difficult to follow. Hamann’s meticulous step-by-step instructions, charts, and illustrations guide the knitter through each project with ease. The superb photographs of the finished garments on models—displayed both front and back of each design—are also extremely helpful while being gorgeous. Knitters might spend hours staring at the designs and sighing longingly.

Knitters will love seeing original textiles and the sophisticated, updated patterns in **ANDEAN INSPIRED KNITS**. These designs represent thousands of years of Andean textile history and celebrate the luxury of the native alpaca.

**ANDEAN INSPIRED KNITS:
DESIGNS IN LUXURIOUS ALPACA
by Helen Hamann**

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8¾ x 11¼ • Paperback • 144 pages

75 photographs • 31 illustrations • 80 charts

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Helen Hamann, a native of Peru, is an internationally known knitwear designer and alpaca enthusiast whose designs have been featured in fashion magazines, mail-order catalogs, on television, and also in Saks Fifth Avenue and Bloomingdale’s. Helen is a founding member of the International Alpaca Association. She lived in Peru until 1998 and currently lives on her alpaca farm in Decatur, Tennessee. Website: www.helenhamann.com

ALPACA ADVENTURES IN PERU

Join Helen Hamann, knitwear designer extraordinaire and a native of Peru, on this fabulous 13-day adventure. Cost: approx.

\$3,400.00. Contact: Helen Hamann, (423) 334-8033, triptoperu@bellsouth.net.

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About Interweave Press: In business since 1975, Interweave Press publishes magazines and books related to fiber, thread, needlework, and beads. Throughout Interweave’s evolution, its publications have focused on natural materials and processes, a respect for doing, and an appreciation of the fine, simple things in life. Interweave publishes six magazines including *Beadwork*, *Handwoven*, *Interweave Knits*, *PieceWork*, *Spin-Off*, and *Fiberarts*. Interweave is dedicated to creating a resource for its readers to find the best information in the field of interest, the latest news, the best products, the newest techniques, and the history behind the techniques.

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