

## PREFACE

We present here the world's first comprehensive language instruction method for the Inga language, the northernmost branch of the great tree of Quechua varieties. We have raised this language instruction method on the foundations of *Una Gramática Pedagógica del "Inga"* (An Instructional Grammar of Inga), by Stephen Levinsohn and Francisco Tandioy, itself an adaptation of a prototype created by Ellen Ross for Ecuadorian Quichua and translated into Spanish by Raul Mongui. The present text bears little resemblance to its predecessors, as the co-authors of this volume have worked closely with several Inga students at Indiana University to provide a pathway into the Inga language via the route of Inga cultural expressions and institutions.

Herewith our sincere thanks to those who have assisted in the fashioning of this product, for the most part, students of Francisco Tandioy at Indiana University: Mariella Arredondo, Eric Carbajal, Valerie Cross, Linda D'Amico, Robert Dover, Bryan Rupert, Megan Solon, Tara Sullivan-Boivin, Caroline "Olivia" Wolf, and Tara Zahler. For their many contributions to the cause, we are most grateful to them. We hope that the product of all our labors will enable new generations of learners to gain competence in the Inga language while delving into the rich fabric of Inga culture.

Francisco in particular wishes to thank: the elders, the ex-governors, the Inga native doctors, all members of the Inga community, the Committee for Bilingual Education of Musu Runakuna, and the Hermanas Lauras of San Andrés.

In closing, we want to recognize those who have contributed the excellent images included in this text – Edgar Jacanamijoy, fine artist that he is, is the author of all the drawings; and the photos come from the collection of Francisco Tandioy, primarily, with a few from the collections of John McDowell and Patricia Glushko.

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