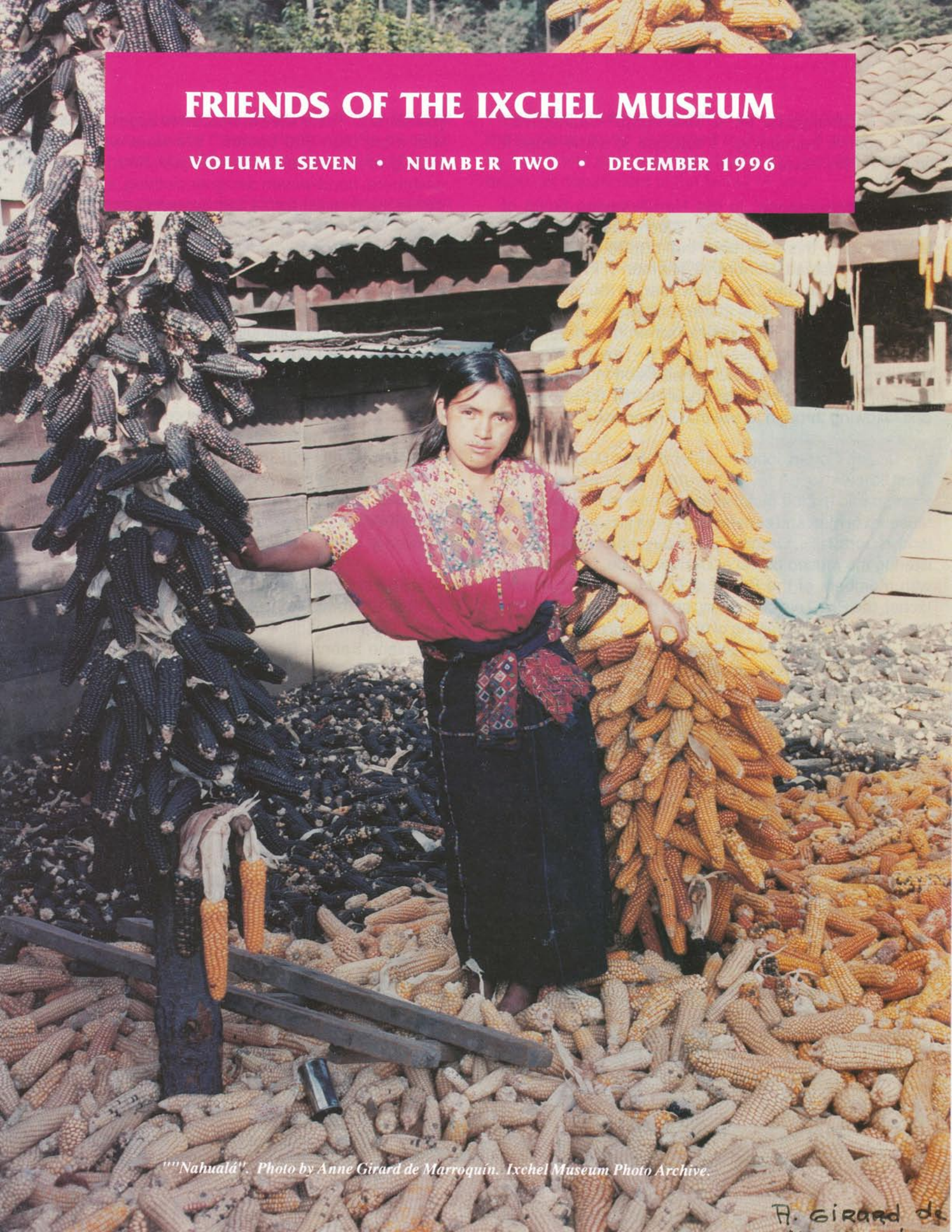


FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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"Nahualá". Photo by Anne Girard de Marroquín. Ixchel Museum Photo Archive.

A. Girard de

CONVERGENCE ' 96

By Jill Ashman

"Convergence '96--a Time Warp." Sounds a bit like a cosmic happening. I suppose in some ways it was. And the Museo Ixchel was there.

"Convergence" is the Handweaving Guild of America's biennial conference, which was held in Portland, Oregon, this year from the 17th to 21st of July. Baysis Hempstead, Honorary Chairman of Friends, had heard about it in San Diego last year, at the opening of the Cofradia exhibit. She immediately saw the possibilities: exposure for the Museo Ixchel in general, and Friends of the Ixchel Museum and Pro-Teje in particular. True to form, Baysis pursued her vision in unrelenting fashion, spreading her infectious energy far and wide, and following through to see that it happened.

Jeri Corbin, long-time friend of the Museo Ixchel, (best known to us for her murals and help with the Prehispanic exhibit installation) is now retired from the Museum of Man and conveniently lives just south of Portland in Corvallis, Oregon. Jeri was responsible for registering the Museo Ixchel at Convergence, coordinating with members of the Board of Directors of the Museo Ixchel, the Pro-Teje committee, and the museum staff for the shipping and receiving of textiles, for creating the display, setting up the Museo Ixchel booth (even building the shelves and display cabinets herself), and mustering volunteer forces to help with the booth.

The Portland Convention Center is a splendid venue, in the heart of downtown Portland. The place was teeming with weavers and spinners, upright looms, computerized looms, spinning wheels, treddles, heddles,

you name it. There were at least three large halls packed with more than 300 booths. We were well situated among other vendors of hand-dyed silks, hand-spun cashmere, hand-woven designer clothing, and slap opposite the snacks, coffee and beverage tent!

Each booth was limited to 10' x 10' area curtained off from the one next to it, and Jeri did a terrific job making the Museo Ixchel booth look inviting and displaying the Pro-Teje weavings to advantage. The videos were showing continuously and visitors to our booth were fascinated and would stay to watch the videos, examine the weavings, and ask many questions. There was definite interest in the Pro-Teje project and the Museo Ixchel, many people having spent time in Guatemala and visited the Museo, others planning a visit.

Sales were slow the first and last day, on days 2 and 3 things were hopping and we cleared over US\$1,000 daily, for a total sale of \$4,097. Everyone felt the items were very fairly priced.

Past-President of Friends, Leslie Claxton, flew in from California to help out for a day and a half and show support. Jeri's friend Marci Maple from Portland, her niece Sandra Swarbrick, and Jill Ashman helped set up and take down the booth, and with daily sales, Marci modelling huipiles in novel ways, Jill convincing people they needed a table runner, or two, or three... Baysis Hempstead was there all day, everyday, lending her support, making new friends, and promoting the Museo Ixchel and the Guatemalan Weavers.

*This page and next:
The booth of the
Ixchel Museum store
and Pro-Teje at Convergence ' 96.*



IN THE MUSEUM

A collection of 34 carved masks used in Coban folkloric dances was donated by Patricia Shelton to the museum in honor of her mother Florence Hempstead Shelton.

Pro-Teje has been nominated for a prize as best exporter in the category of handicrafts by the Association of Exporters of Non-traditional Products.

A course for tourist guides is being given by the curatorial staff now that all four permanent exhibits have been mounted.

Soledad Icu, Ixchel Museum Registrar, spoke on the conservation of indigenous textiles and attended seminars on conservation and restoration of paintings, given by the Academy of Geography and History of Guatemala in conjunction with the British Executive Services Overseas. The guest speaker was Mr. Robert Child, head of the National Museum and Gallery of Wales, who spoke on "The care of collections in archives, libraries, and museums."

Anne Girard de Marroquín, a Swiss photographer, donated 42 photographs to the Ixchel Museum photo archive. The front and back pages of the bulletin show her photographs.



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

The Zunil research monograph is now available in English at the museum store. Published by Friends, it was translated by Ava Navin and revised by Marianne de Kreiger and the technical department of the Ixchel Museum.

The translation of "Mayan Clothing and Weaving through the Ages" into English by Jennifer de Keller is being funded by Friends and its publication will be a future project.

Funds to defray expenses at "Convergence '96" were donated to Pro-Teje by Friends.

A video of the weaving villages around Lake Atitlan is in production and has been funded by Friends of the Ixchel Museum.

MUSEUM ADDRESS

Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena
6a. Calle final, Zona 10, Campus Universidad
Francisco Marroquín, Guatemala Ciudad, Guatemala

DONATIONS TO FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

Please help Friends of the Ixchel Museum sponsor weaving projects, bring textile exhibits to the U.S., translate textile research, and fund videos that bring to life the tradition and artistry of Guatemalan textiles.

Friends of the Ixchel Museum is an American foundation and donations are deductible by the donor for U.S. general income tax purposes. Checks drawn to the name of Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc., may be mailed to:

Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 27283
Los Angeles, CA. 90027

 PRESERVING THE TEXTILE ARTS OF GUATEMALA 



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