



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM



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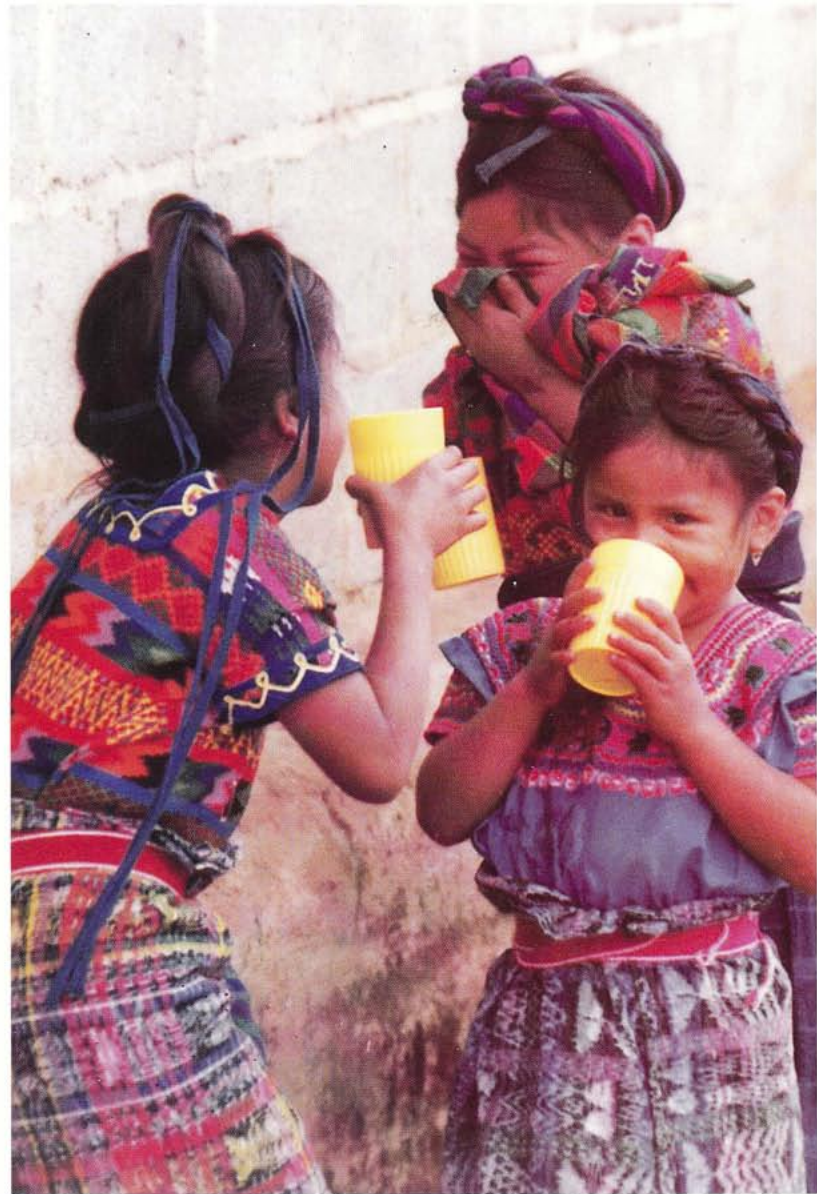
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM -- TOUCHING ENCOURAGED

Activity and fun in the Children's Museum: Children giggling as they try on colorful costumes and braid bright ribbons into the woolen hair of mannequins. Children frowning in concentration as they do puzzles and color drawings. Children touching fabrics and weaving on small looms.

The Children's Museum opened as a distinct part of the Ixchel Museum in 1997 thanks to a generous donation in memory of Alberto Habié. Its first exhibition is a stunning collection of 150 miniature huipiles, created and donated by Olga Arriola de Geng. Each small huipil, an exact copy of the huipiles worn around the country, is linked by a colored ribbon to a giant map to show the part of Guatemala from which it originates.

The Children's Museum is fun for kids because it was designed specifically for them. Jeri Corbin created modules that fairly invite a child to enter, settle down and play. Four of these modules were built (funded by Helados Pops) in combinations of bright red, yellow, green and blue formica.

It was up to Barbara de Arathoon and Rosario Polanco, the Ixchel Museum's exhibit designer and curator, to fill the modules. They knew that third graders are considered to be the ideal age to visit the museum and acted accordingly. One module has 4 costumes for boys and 4 for girls to try on in front of a mirror. Another contains mannequin heads whose long woolen hair can be braided into bright bands from Quetzaltenango and Aguacatán, or into a tupuy from Cobán. In the third module are large puzzles of Mayan children. The last poses a series of questions about fibers, instruments, textile symbols and natural dyes. (Yes, the answers are given.)



*Girls giggling, Santiago Sacatepequez.
Photo by Anne Girard de Marroquín
Ixchel Museum Photo Archive*

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IN THE MUSEUM

"CUYUSCATE: ANCIENT HERITAGE" was inaugurated in the Alfredo S. Clark room on the 27th of October by James Clark, Juan Jose Falla and Cristina Falla de Echeverría. The cases, overhead grid, platforms, and mannequins were donated in memory of Reverendo Carlos Sánchez.

THE NEW EXHIBIT displays weavings made of the natural brown cotton--cuyuscate. The oldest, most fragile pieces are protected in cases and other cuyuscate pieces are worn by mannequins posed in village scenes and in a procession. Behind the procession is a large wall painting of the facade of the church of Tecpan, done by artist Karen Ness.

THE ORDER OF THE RUPAN PLATO was bestowed posthumously on Leon Lind Pettersen and Carmen de Pettersen for their extraordinary contributions to the Ixchel Museum. The sash is woven with cuyuscate, native brown cotton, with the design of the *rupan plato* from the Comalapa ceremonial huipil --the symbol of the Ixchel Museum.

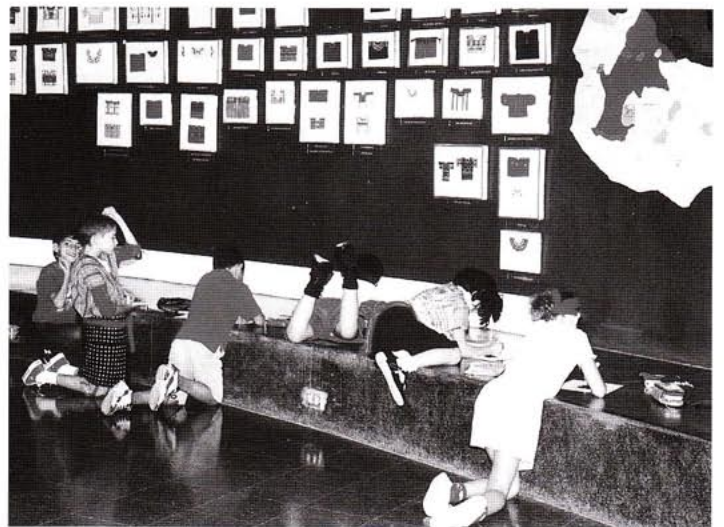
20 BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS were donated to the Ixchel Museum by Jorge Aramburu and are on display in the Mini Gallery.

160 COLOR NEGATIVES were donated to the Ixchel Museum by Swiss photographer, Anne Girard de Marroquin.

LA UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS PALMAS of the Grand Canary Islands presented an award to the Ixchel Museum on November 11th, in recognition of the Ixchel Museum's contribution to the national identity.



Boy from San Juan Comalapa trying on the costume from San Antonio Palopo in the Children's Museum.



Children from Colegio Jules Verne coloring in the Children's Museum.



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Outside the modules, the Children's Museum offers kids the opportunity to weave on simple backstrap looms or to color drawings of native costumes.

Although the Children's Museum is new, its parent institution has always invited public and private school children for scheduled tours. Indeed, a program has been started for donors to sponsor the visit of a public school by paying the bus fee--to and from the museum.

It is the hope of the Ixchel Museum that more and more children will come to the Alberto Habié Children's Museum to touch the fabrics, try on costumes, create headdresses, and learn in myriad ways about the brilliant textile tradition of Guatemala as they play and have fun.



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

PHILADELPHIA BOARD MEMBERS of "Friends" co-sponsored an exhibit at Abington Friends School, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, October 11th to November 13th. Entitled *"Guatemala: Faith, Art and Survival. Honoring the Maya of Guatemala,"* it contained Guatemalan textiles--including a wall of ikat designs--icons and photographs. Board members Ana María Zaugg, Suzanne Davis and Yolanda Alcorta dressed and set up the mannequins and made a box of try-on costumes for the children. Abington Friends School is Pre-K to 12th grade and, writes Yolanda, "this has given us experience in the small show geared for children and the general public."

IN LOS ANGELES, board members Carla Edwards and Rosie Sundeen mounted an exhibit of 15 costumes at Reign Trading Center, a folk art center, and co-sponsored three dinner lectures on Guatemala. The first was "Maya Clothing" in which the video "The History of Mayan Clothing" was shown. The second dinner featured the Guatemalan photographs of travel photographer, Alison Jones. The third evening included a talk by Samuel Franco, who produced the three Ixchel Museum videos.

OVER 500 BOOKS on Guatemalan textiles, anthropology and history were donated to "Friends" by Dr. Edwin Shook. "Friends" will fund the cataloguing of the books which will form part of the Sue Borgatti Library.

Abington Friends School

Presents

Guatemala: Faith, Art and Survival Honoring the Maya of Guatemala

October 11 - November 13, 1998

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



*Postcard / Invitation to Abington Friends Exhibit.
Man weaving. Santiago Atitlan.
Yolanda Alcorta*



VIDEOS AND MONOGRAPHS are for sale from "Friends". The videos are "Cofradia Fiesta," "The History of Mayan Costume," and "The Legacy of Atitlan," and the monographs are on Comalapa, Sololá, Santa María de Jesus, Colotenango and Zunil.

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



Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 27283
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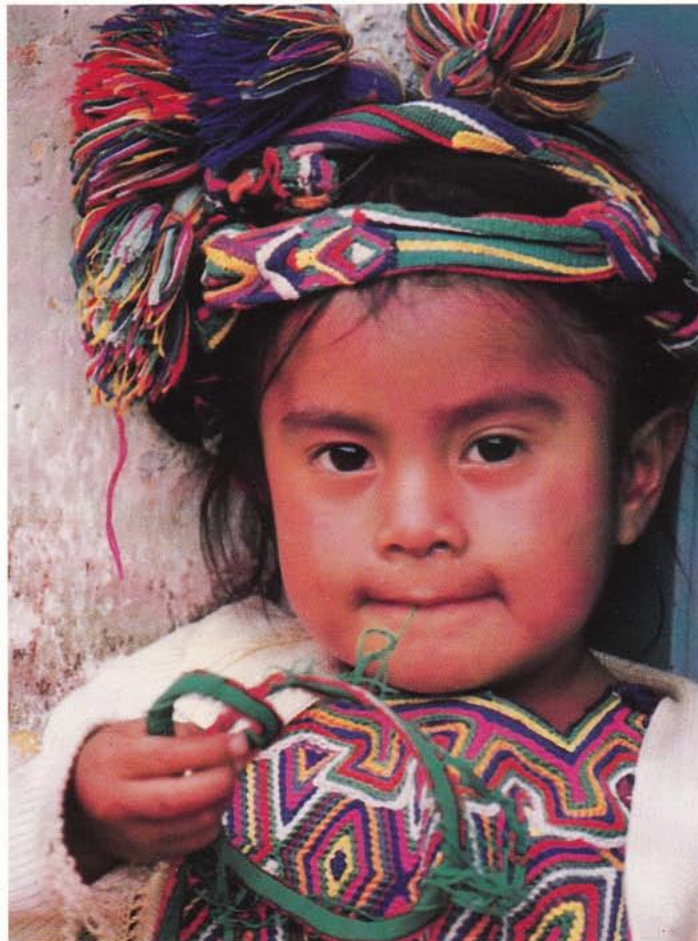
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*Child from Nebaj,
Quiché. Photo by
Anne Girard de Marroquín
Photo Archive
Ixchel Museum.*