



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM



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Photo by John

Willemsen.

Ixchel Museum

Photo Archive.



LEGACY OF LAKE ATITLAN

"Se fue la luz."

We had just arrived, full of enthusiasm, at Samuel Franco's studio in Antigua Guatemala for a preview of the Lake Atitlán video. It was to be the culmination of the annual board meeting of "Friends of the Ixchel Museum"-- after two and a half days of meetings and museum activities. At that moment Antigua had a blackout.

Resourceful as ever, Franco arranged to use the lobby and emergency generator of the Radisson Hotel, piled all of his equipment into his truck, and set off. And so we did see the new, spectacular video funded by "Friends".

Samuel Franco, professional photographer and producer of the film, made twenty trips over more than a year to annual village festivals in San Lucas Toliman, Tzununá, Santa Cruz, Sololá, San Antonio Palopó, San Pablo and San Pedro La Laguna. He filmed Palm Sunday in Sololá and San Antonio Palopó, market days in the lake villages, and the myriad, specific scenes and textiles necessary to illustrate the text. He even climbed nine hours to the top of the volcano Atitlán to film the lake in the early morning light.

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IN THE MUSEUM

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE was up 8.4% this spring from the year before.

AN INTERACTIVE CHILDREN'S EXHIBIT will open in September as phase I of the "Alberto Habie Children's Museum." Miniature huipiles created by Olga Geng will be mounted in plexiglass cases, and colored ribbons, connecting them to a large wall map of Guatemala, will show where each huipil is worn. Ice cream maker HELADOS POPS will sponsor four children's activity modules.

250 BOOKS on textiles and folklore were donated to the "Sue Borgatti Library" by Thelma and John Willemsen.

SCHOLARS visiting the museum to do research this spring included Judy Otland from the Field Museum of Chicago.

"THE MAYA TEXTILE TRADITION" by photographer Jeffrey Foxx and editor Margot Blum Schevill was published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., this June. Dr. Linda Asturias de Barrios, former curator of the Ixchel Museum, wrote an article for the book, and photographs include many textiles from the Ixchel Museum collection.

THE ELEVATOR CAMPAIGN has reached its main fundraising goal and has placed a formal order for a keyed, double door, three level, hydraulic Dover elevator. Only the installation costs remain to be covered.

TWO BOOK-SIGNINGS were held in the museum: "Women of Candelaria" by Mary Richardson Miller and "Ceremonial Hachas of Southern Mesoamerica" by Barbara Goetz Nottebohm and Dr. Ewin M. Shook.



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Linda Asturias de Barrios, Ph.D., former curator of the Ixchel Museum and winner of Fulbright and Wenner-Gren grants, wrote the script that determined Franco's trips. Her objective was to describe not only the extraordinary textile heritage of the Maya lake towns, but also the linguistic and economic diversity of the area.

Lake Atitlán itself, formed hundreds of thousands of years ago in volcanic eruptions, and the Tz'utujiles, K'iche's, and Kaqchikeles who live around its shores, are the cast of the film which opens with a view of the lake from above, a closeup of the waves of the *xocomil*, and ends with a brilliant sunset over the water.

"The lake region is one of the few areas where men and women still conserve their traditional attire", writes Barrios, as the camera focuses on the profusely brocaded trousers of Santa Catarina Palopó and Sololá, the delicate embroidery of birds and butterflies on the pants of the men of Santiago Atitlán and the tie-dyed or ikat designs of San Pedro La Laguna.

The video shows village life around the lake, the daily and ceremonial textiles woven and worn by the villagers, their crafts and their produce, the ceremonies of the *cofradías*, and ends with a passage about the preservation of Lake Atitlán:

"Unfortunately, Lake Atitlán has been affected by environmental contamination. There is hope, however, that ecological efforts will reestablish the harmony with nature that is basic to the Mayan world view. The Creators of the World will provide fish and crops in abundance. The guardian spirits of the hills, volcanoes and the lake will protect the flora and fauna. And, on their looms, weavers will continue to recreate a world of design and symbolism which is the essence of their cultural identity."



*Embroidered
Trousers
Santiago
Atitlán. Photo
by Anderson.
Ixchel Museum
Photo Archive.*



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING was held April 24th-26th in Antigua Guatemala. New board members were elected for a one year term: Louise DeLucas, Charles Gumpel, and Rosemary Sundeen. Straws were drawn to determine 2 and 3 year term limits for other board members.

"LEGACY OF LAKE ATITLAN"--the video of the weaving villages around Lake Atitlán funded by "Friends"--will be available for sale in late summer through "Friends" and at the Ixchel Museum in Guatemala.

PRO-TEJE was voted funds to expand their village weaving project.

THE SUE BORGATTI LIBRARY will be given a computer and its book collection added to thanks to generous donations from the Borgatti family and friends.

JERI CORBIN, former exhibit designer of the Museum of Man in San Diego, will curate the Baysis Hempstead Collection that has been donated to "Friends of the Ixchel Museum."

THE MUSEUM STORES FAIR, May 28-29th in Chicago, will be used by the Ixchel Museum to market textiles and Pro-Teje weaving in the U.S. Matching funds to make this possible will be provided by "Friends."

FUNDS FOR PUBLICATION of "Mayan Clothing and Weaving Through the Ages" have been approved by "Friends."



"Niños"

by Díaz

Santa Catarina

Palopó.

Ixchel Museum

Photo Archive



Girls in Santiago

Atitlán.

Photo by

John Willemsen.

Ixchel Museum

Photo Archive

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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"Muchachitas" by

Thierry Delrue.

San Antonio

Palopó. 1982.

Ixchel Museum

Photo Archive.

