



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM



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*Huipil.
San Andres
Xecul, Solola.
Hand
embroidered
with silk.
Engel
Collection.*



MUSEUM WINS GETTY GRANT

In March, the Ixchel Museum received a piece of very welcome news. We won a \$42,800 grant from the highly respected Getty Grant Program in Los Angeles to support a conservation survey of our huipil collection. The collection includes huipiles from some 150 communities, some of which are recent, others very old and irreplaceable, and some from villages where women have abandoned the tradition of wearing huipiles. The survey is thus central to the museum's work.

What makes the Getty grant doubly important is that it gives the Ixchel Museum international recognition in scholarly and foundation circles. Indeed, the screening process at the Getty Grant Program is widely

recognized as one of the most rigorous anywhere, so demanding that winners tend to be regarded with special favor by other grant-making organizations around the world.

Kennis Kim and Rosario de Polanco wrote the grant proposal and are in charge of the project. Kennis, a Canadian who lives in Guatemala, has one master's degree in Art Conservation and another in Art and Museum Studies with a specialization in collection management. Rosario, Curator of the Ixchel Museum and former Fulbright Scholar, is an expert in conservation, textile fibers and dyes.

The grant will enable them to study each huipil in detail, determine its current state, and apply conservation measures where necessary.

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IN THE MUSEUM

A GETTY CONSERVATION GRANT was awarded to the museum. See front page article.

SCHOOL VISITS are up this year dramatically --973 school children visited the museum in the first three months of the year. The children's museum has added more hands-on activities: small backstrap looms where children can weave together bright strips of plastic and cardboards with punched out designs that can be embroidered in wool.

PRO-TEJE, the Museum's natural cotton weaving project, has grown to include more than 72 families in 14 highland communities and has hired a professional designer to help them add to their product line of placemats, table cloths and trays.

PRENSA LIBRE is publishing museum games and information in its Sunday supplements "Chicos" and "Tino y Tina". "How to Make a Huipil" was the first and "Tino and Tina in the Ixchel Museum" the second.



The 2001 Ixchel Museum Calendar will feature Mayan Children.

A SEMINAR on textile fibers was given in the museum for conservators and students by Kennis Kim.

RADIO CULTURAL held a week long museum exhibit with 11 mannequins and Curator Rosario de Polanco gave a talk on Guatemalan traditions.

WITH GREAT SORROW WE ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF MAYAN ARCHEOLOGIST DR. EDWIN M. SHOOK, MARCH 9TH. A LONG TIME FRIEND OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM, DR. SHOOK DONATED OVER 500 OF HIS BOOKS ON TEXTILES, ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY TO "FRIENDS" FOR THE BORGATTI LIBRARY.



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Part of the grant will go to buy boxes, tissue and shelving made of acid free materials. These will help to offset moderate changes in the air and humidity control systems in the museum's storage area. But most of the award will fund detailed work on the huipil collection. To register and catalog all the data obtained in the survey, the museum has developed a specialized, three-screen program that will rationalize and order all information about every one of its 1,800 huipiles.

Digital photographs will be taken of each piece for the record and also for future use on the internet. This obviously will greatly reduce the amount that the textiles will have to be handled--itself a significant conservation measure. At the same time, weavers, researchers, specialists and the general public from all over the world will be able to study the huipiles in detail. They will have the opportunity to see the beauty, color and mastery of the Mayan textile tradition of Guatemala.



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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THE ANNUAL MEETING of Friends of the Ixchel Museum was held in Guatemala City in April. There was a joint meeting with the Ixchel Museum Board and a luncheon to honor the authors of the articles in "The History of Mayan Dress"--the most recently published English translation funded by Friends.

THE PHOTO ARCHIVE PROJECT: Swiss photographer Anne Girard de Marroquín has reorganized the collection, bought supplies for its preservation, and made a list of towns that need more documentation. Friends will continue to sponsor her work and will fund the photographing of three towns where textile traditions are disappearing.

"CUYUSCATE" by Linda Asturias de Barrios--the book on the brown cotton used by the ancient Maya and used now by Pro-Teje--will be published in English by Friends.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES will be developed to accompany "Un Poco de Todo sobre los Textiles Maya" with funding from Friends.

A LILLY DE JONGH OSBORNE PHOTO ALBUM is in the museum library. Friends will look for funding for its preservation. Osborne wrote about Guatemala's Mayan villages and artisans; her 1936 book, "Four Keys to Guatemala," is considered a classic.



*From the Ixchel Museum Photo Archive:
Cofradia of Nahualá by Tomas Zanotti. 1895.
Weaving--Joyabaj by Marilyn Anderson 1978.
San Pedro Necta by Linda Asturias 1987.*

THE MUSEUM BOOKSTORE will be enlarged and reorganized to increase sales of English videos and research monographs with support from Friends.

DONATIONS TO FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

Please help Friends of the Ixchel Museum sponsor weaving projects, fund traveling textile exhibits, translate textile research, and support projects to enrich the Ixchel Museum. 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 8055, Radnor PA 19087-8055

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Huipiles from the Ixchel Museum collection from upper left:

Huipil. Nebaj, Quiché. 1940-45. Ixil linguistic group. Brocaded in cotton floss. Plocharski collection.

Sobrehuipil. Santa Apolonia, Chimaltenango. 1950. Kaqchikel linguistic group. Woven in cuyuscate, hand embroidered in cotton floss.

Sobrehuipil. San Juan Cotzal, Quiché. 1940. Ixil linguistic group. Rayon and wool brocade on cotton. Plocharski collection.

Huipil. Totoncapán, Totoncapán. 1960. K'iché linguistic group. Dyed with indigo and ikat technique.

