

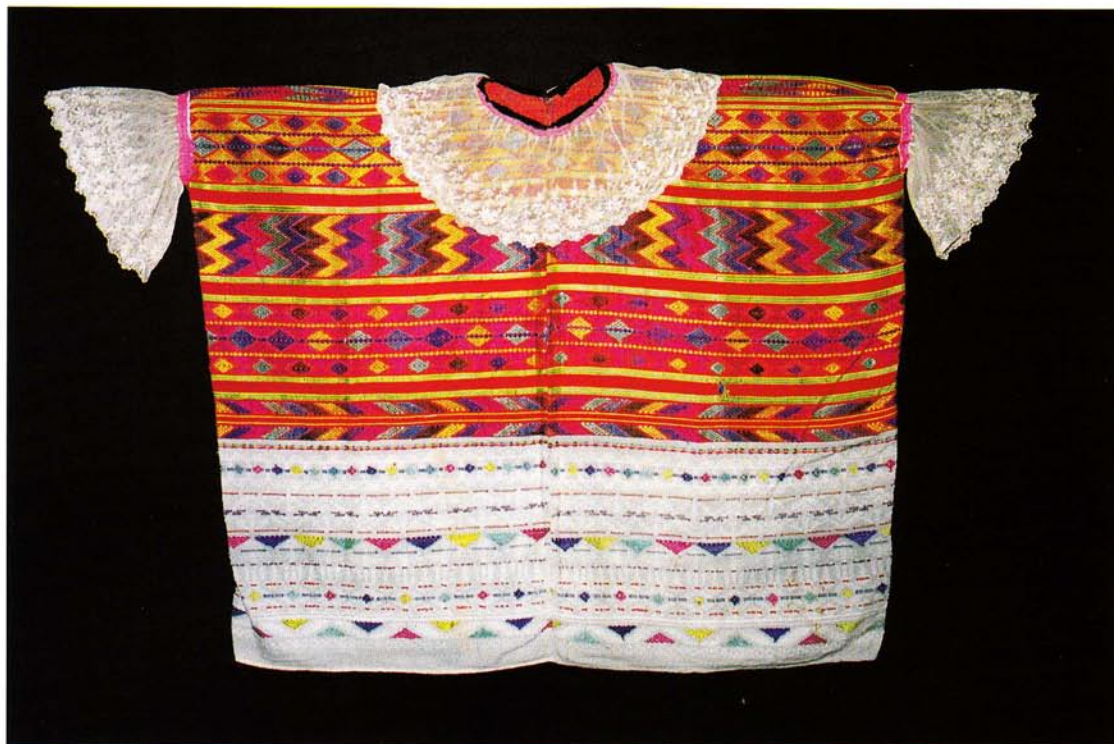
# FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

VOLUME THIRTEEN

NUMBER ONE

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Ceremonial  
*huipil* from  
Santa Lucía  
Utatlan  
woven on a  
treadle loom  
in the late  
1960s.  
Guillermo  
Sánchez  
Collection



## THE SANCHEZ COLLECTION

"On my first trip to Guatemala in 1953, just three months after we were married, I had to wait in Chichicastenango half an hour while Gil bargained for a man's headcloth!" That, says Sylvia Sánchez, was her introduction to Gil's collecting!

Guillermo Sánchez, Guatemalan born and bred, served as an internist for 52 years at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, where he was honored with a special Acknowledgement when he retired. "Gil spoke five languages and lived a full and exciting life," says his wife. "Although he left Guatemala when he was young, he never ever lost his interest in, and great love for, his country. He seized every opportunity to further Guatemalan causes in the U.S. Beloved by family and all the friends he had helped over the years, he died in August 2000, of cancer, at the age of 75.

Over the years, Guillermo collected more than 400 Guatemalan textiles, mostly *huipiles*, and it is his collection that Sylvia has donated to Friends of the Ixchel Museum. "I didn't meet him until his fifth year of residency," says Sylvia. "He had already started collecting when he was in his early 20s. On all our trips he was always going to the market and spotting a wonderful *tzute* or beautiful *huipil*."

"He knew what he was doing," says Rosario Miralbés de Polanco, Ixchel Museum Curator. "His is a very fine collection, full of beautiful pieces." Among them are three unique textiles from the 1960s: a *tzute* and *huipil* from Sololá and a *sobrehuipil* from San Marcos. Even better, in the judgement of Rosario, are a woman's shoulder cloth of blue and sea-green ikat rayon and a ceremonial *huipil* from Santa Lucía Utatlan, dating from the late 1960s with a lace collar and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

web site  
e-mail

[www.ixchelfriends.org](http://www.ixchelfriends.org)  
[foim@ixchelfriends.org](mailto:foim@ixchelfriends.org)

**THE SANCHEZ COLLECTION** of 400 textiles was donated to Friends of the Ixchel Museum by Sylvia Sánchez. See article on page 1.

**CUYUSCATE**, the Ixchel Museum book on natural brown cotton and its use in Maya textiles, was published in English with funds donated in memory of Kathy Williams, Vice-President of Friends of the Ixchel Museum. The volume is dedicated to her.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING** of Friends of the Ixchel Museum, April 7th and 8th, was planned to coincide with the Maya Weekend of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. The Friends Board approved grants for a mask exhibit, for photographic field trips, for upgrading museum computers, and for the endowment fund.

**ENRICHMENT VISITS** with museum curators and educators were arranged by Friends for Barbara and Rosario at four museums: The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Seaport Museum, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and The Please Touch Museum.

# IN THE MUSEUM

**BANCAFE  
CITIBANK  
FUNDACION PANTALEON  
FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM**

**2002 BENEFACTORS of the Ixchel Museum.** The generosity of the Benefactors insures the financial strength of the Ixchel Museum.

**PRO-TEJE**, the natural cotton weaving project of the Ixchel Museum, is selling on the internet. Their web page is:

[www.textilesproteje.com](http://www.textilesproteje.com)

**A CELEBRATION** to honor the weavers of Pro-Teje was held at the museum March 8th, International Women's Day. Weavers from six linguistic groups came: kaqchikeles, poqomames, poqomchi'es, achies, ixiles and tz'utujiles. See photos on page 4.



Guillermo  
and  
Sylvia  
Sánchez



## PRESERVING THE TEXTILE ARTS OF GUATEMALA



*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

cuffs. It was woven on a treadle loom in red, purple, green, yellow and pink rayon.

The boxes of the 400 piece collection arrived in Philadelphia just before the annual Maya Weekend at the University of Pennsylvania and (not coincidentally) the board meetings of Friends of the Ixchel Museum. Both Rosario de Polanco and anthropologist Barbara de Arathoon, Exhibits Director, participated in the Maya Weekend and then stayed on several days to examine and

catalogue the Sánchez pieces.

The remarkable collection will not be stored away in a dusty attic, says Ana María Zaugg, president of Friends of the Ixchel Museum. "This generous donation will make it possible for us to mount much more complete and handsome exhibits in the US and really show off the beauty of Guatemalan textiles."

That's precisely the way Gil Sánchez would have wanted it.





### **Kathy Williams 1957 - 2001**

*It is with great sadness that we write that KATHY WILLIAMS, Vice-President and President-Elect of Friends of the Ixchel Museum, died tragically in a plane crash in October 2001. She is missed terribly by her family, many friends, and by all of us at the Ixchel Museum and in Friends of the Ixchel Museum.*



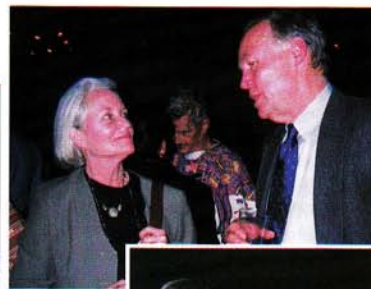
## **THE MAYA WEEKEND**

This year was the twentieth celebration of the Maya Weekend at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. About 150 people from around the country attended, including prominent archaeologists and anthropologists.

Maya Weekend Director Loa Traxler invited Rosario de Polanco, Ixchel Curator, and Barbara de Arathoon, Ixchel Exhibits Director, to give a presentation and run textile workshops. They were warmly received and the Ixchel Museum

was in the spotlight all weekend.

Lucy Williams, Keeper of the American Section at the museum, brought out some of her finest textiles for the workshops. Walter Morris Jr, Maya textile expert, spoke on the rapid change in Mexican weavings. Jerry Sabloff, the Williams Director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, and Ana María Zaugg presented the English translation of *Cuyuscate* at the gala dinner.



#### **Photos from the Maya Weekend.**

Clockwise from upper left:

Ana María Zaugg,  
Museum Director Jerry  
Sabloff.

Chip Morris, Barbara  
Arathoon.

Sylvia Sanchez, Carlos  
Nottebohm.

Lucy Williams, Rosario  
Polanco.

Rosario Polanco, Jerry  
Sabloff, Barbara Arathoon,  
Ian Graham, Eilen Danien,  
Lea Traxler.

## **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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**The Pro-Teje celebration.**  
Clockwise from upper left:

Rosario Polanco,  
Nieves Atz,  
Barbara Arathoon,  
Gloria Chile,  
Marta Gallegos,  
Soledad Icó.

María Luisa  
Curruchich.

Albertina Patunayche,  
Irma Baján,  
Martina Colaj.

María Elena Ramírez,  
Antona Miza,  
Matilde Terraza.

The Pro-Teje weavers.

Marta Gallegos.

