



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

VOLUME TWENTY THREE • NUMBER ONE • JUNE 2012



IMAGES OF INDIGENOUS GUATEMALA

BY RAYMOND SENUK
PHOTOS BY ANNE GIRARD

"...[the photos]
capture the joyous
spirit of everyday
and ritual life in
the Guatemalan
highlands."

Right to left: Two members of the
cofradía in ceremonial dress. San
Andrés Sajcabajá, Quiché; 1982,
Child flirting for the camera. Santa
Catarina Palopó; 2008, Cofrade.
Sololá; 1986.

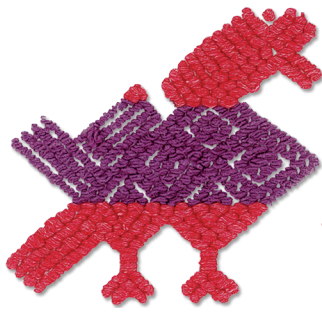
In the summer issue of the Bulletin, Volume 18 number 1 June 2007, our lead article featured the extraordinary skills and accomplishments of Anne Girard who at the time was the Director of the Photographic Archive at the Museo Ixchel. She retired from that position last year after 20 years of service. A project that was always her dream was to produce a photographic testament to the indigenous Maya peoples of Guatemala her adopted home. It is with great pleasure that I present this book to you our members.

Rostros de la Guatemala Idígena, Images of Indigenous Guatemala is the culmination of thirty five years of taking tens of thousands of images and choosing a limited number of them that captures the heart and soul of Guatemala. The three individuals that

contributed essays to the book are Rosario Mirabelés de Polanco, Barbara Knoke de Arathoon and Ingrid Roldán Martínez. They have worked with Anne for many years and capture the spirit of Anne's photographs in their writings. The text of the essays and all the label information for the photos is bilingual: Spanish and English.

Anne's earliest images in black and white dating to the 1980s are part of Barbara Knoke's chapter titled 'Rescuing traditions and customs'. I find them hauntingly beautiful and poignant. There are 20 black and white images included in this chapter. The remainder of the book is presented in eight chapters organized by department. All the photographs, 100 of them, included in these chapters are done in color. As a group, I find

Continued inside



THE MUSEUM



The Museo Ixchel is located on 6a Calle final, zona 10, on the grounds of the Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala City. The museum is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, and from 9am to 1pm on Saturday. Admission is Q35 for adults, Q15 for students and Q8 for schoolchildren. For further information on library access and holiday closings and more, please visit museoixchel.org or telephone 502 2331 3622

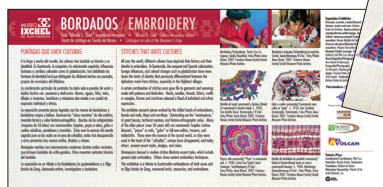
Top: Cotton skeins dyed with natural dyes.

Photo María Fernanda García

Right: The beautiful new Museum Guide designed by Arq. Pilar Cruz

A new guide to the museum was designed by Arq. Pilar Cruz and will be given without charge to all visitors. This project was a logical follow on to the renovation of the permanent exhibition areas. Pilar gathered examples from many US and European museums, to see what other museums were doing. Eventually it was decided to produce a full color version that includes floor plans and descriptions of the exhibit areas. To keep the guide current a flyer about the current changing exhibit areas will be placed inside the permanent brochure. It was decided that trying to get a bilingual guide into one brochure was impractical. So English and Spanish versions were produced. This project was funded by Friends of the Ixchel Museum.

In January, Barbara Knoke de Arathoon, Anne Girard and María Fernanda García visited eight municipalities in Sololá to do research, take photographs, and to buy pieces for the textile collection. During the five day trip funded by Friends of the Ixchel Museum, they visited San Juan la Laguna, Santa Clara la Laguna, San Pablo la Laguna, Santa Lucía Utatlán, Santa María Visitación, San José Chacayá, San Andrés Semetabaj, and Concepción.



The yearly March fundraiser and family excursion to El Zapote, the farm where doña Carmen de Pettersen lived and painted her "Maya de Guatemala" portraits, was a huge success with over 400 people enjoying the swimming, fishing, and the beauty of the grounds.

Anne Girard de Marroquín, Director Emeritus of the Photo Archive, has published a book of photographs of her field trips in Guatemala. The book was funded by the Daniele Agostino Foundation and by Dr. Peter Gerber, Curator at the Ethnographic Museum, University of Zurich. Anne is donating the book to the Ixchel Museum.

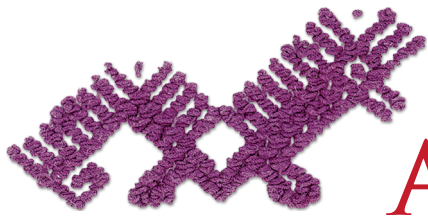
The Fondation Carene of Zermatt, Switzerland, awarded the Ixchel Museum a second grant to conserve, digitize, and store the remaining 500 su't in the museum collection. Curator Emeritus Rosario Miralbés de Polanco is in charge of the project. Her team consists of Registrar Violeta Gutierrez, Photographer Maria Fernandez Garcia, data processor, Leslie Kuckling, and students, Sofia González, Ana Laura Tamayac, and Ana Isabel Chang.

Pro Teje published "*Maya Threads of Guatemala—the language of symbols*" by Nancy Tunche Granados, an indigenous woman from San Pedro Sacatepéquez, who identifies the symbols within the Maya weavings.

Pro Teje is beginning to use natural dyes in their weavings. So far they have used a pale grey from the bark of the sauce tree, a yellow from the flowers of the chilca plant, and an orange from carrots.

Pro Teje honored its weavers on March 7th to coincide with International Women's Day (Día de la Mujer) with a presentation of dances and a talk on natural brown cotton, followed by a festive luncheon on the plaza in front of the museum.

The Photography Club of Guatemala will hold their monthly meetings and exhibits in the Ixchel Museum. The 2013 Ixchel Museum calendar will feature last year's photo contest winners.



ANNE GIRARD CONT.



Woman proudly wearing the distinctive dress that identifies her village of origin. Chuarancho; 2009, Men crocheting morrales, or shoulder bags. San Juan Atitán; 2008, Young woman delightfully wearing her "Miss Congeniality" apparel. San Pedro Sacatepéquez; 2011



that they capture the joyous spirit of everyday and ritual life in the Guatemalan highlands.

Anne is contributing all the proceeds from the sale of the book to the Museo Ixchel. We are grateful for her generosity and know that it will enable the museum to continue its work. The book was made possible through the generosity of the Daniele Agostino Derossi Foundation (Lexington, Massachusetts) and Dr. Peter Gerber, Former Curator of the

American Department of the Ethnographic Museum, University of Zurich, Switzerland. It is currently in press, but the price to our members will be \$35.00 plus postage. Please send order requests to foiminfo@gmail.com

We found it extremely difficult to choose images for this article. They are all powerful images that explore the nature of the Maya peoples of Guatemala. Enjoy!



NEW BROCHURE

The Friends of the Ixchel Museum brochure was redesigned and printed. It includes more current information and especially our new address: P.O. Box 30 Princeton, NJ 08542

In past years the Friends has participated in the Maya Weekend activities at the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia by having an information booth promoting the Ixchel Museum selling museum publications, textiles and Pro Teje merchandise. This

May, Raymond Senuk and Yolanda Alcorta gave a workshop entitled "Continuous Threads of the Maya Weaver." Workshop attendees were invited to bring their textiles for discussion and identification. There was a small exhibit of early twentieth century hupiles from the Friends collection as part the weekend activities.

Work continues on the website, and is expected to launch the site in the fall



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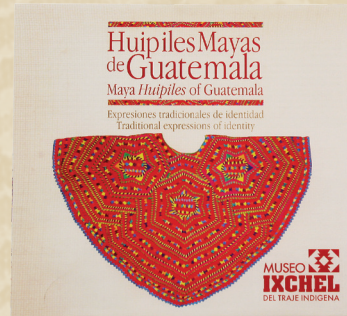
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Would you prefer to receive your newsletter via the Internet? If so, please send us an email at foiminfo@gmail.com, so that we can put you on our internet list.

IXCHEL PUBLICATIONS



Three of the Ixchel's most appealing publications will now be available through the American-based Friends of the Ixchel Museum, eliminating the complications of ordering from the museum itself. *Rostros de la Guatemala Indígena*, *Images of Indigenous Guatemala* by Anne Girard is \$35, *Bordados: Stitches That Unite Cultures*, the lavishly-detailed catalogue for last year's embroidery exhibition is \$30, and the folded version of the new Huipiles map will be \$15, plus shipping and handling. **To order, please send your request to foiminfo@gmail.com**

ERRATA

We regret the numbering of the FOIM bulletins have been incorrect starting with Volume 20 #2 (2009).

Corrections as follows:

Volume 21 #2 (December 2009) should read Volume 20 #2 (December 2009)

Volume 22 #1 (June 2010) should read Volume 21 #1 (June 2010)

Volume 22 #2 (November 2010) should read Volume 21 #2 (November 2010)

Volume 21 #1 (June 2011) should read Volume 22 #1 (June 2011)

Volume 21 #2 (December 2011) should read Volume 22 #2 (December 2011)

The month and year were correct only the Volume # was incorrect.

With this issue of the bulletin the numbering is correct – Volume 23 # 1 (June 2012)

Our growth is only possible through your generosity! Join Us Now!



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

PO Box 30, Princeton, NJ 08542 USA

Members receive free entrance to exhibitions of FOIM in the U.S. and to the Museo Ixchel in Guatemala City and discounts on purchases in the Museum Shop.

Benefactor	\$1,000	Contributor	\$100
Patron	\$500	Family	\$50
Sponsor	\$250	Individual	\$25

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☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Interested in Volunteering

Please indicate your donation amount: \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc.

Please mail this form with your donation.

For more information e-mail foiminfo@gmail.com

Friends of the Ixchel Museum is an American foundation and donations are deductible by the donor for U.S. general income tax purposes.