



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM



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Villagers from San Antonio Palopo.

Ixchel Museum Photo Archive.



VILLAGES OF LAKE ATITLAN

Twelve Mayan villages circle and touch the shores of Lake Atitlán. It is often said, perhaps because the idea is so beautiful, that the towns are named for the twelve apostles.

Actually, only three towns are named after Christ's original twelve apostles—Peter, John and James—and three others for later disciples—Mark, Luke, and Paul. Four towns are named for Catholic saints—St. Clare of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. George; Santa Cruz la Laguna is named for the religious relic, the True Cross.

The intertwining of indigenous beliefs and Spanish Catholicism is seen in the double names of some of the small lake towns—Santiago Atitlán, San Lucas Toliman, San Antonio Palopo, and Santa Catarina Palopo.

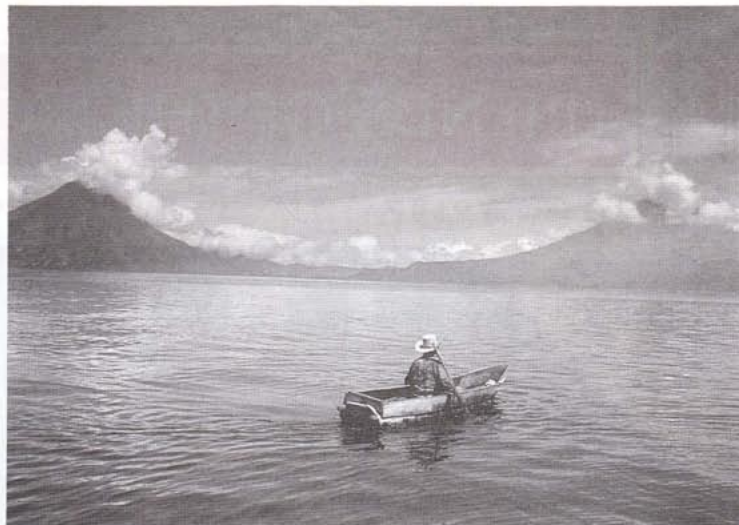
Two languages are spoken in the towns around the lake, Spanish and a Mayan language—Kaqchikel, Tz'utujil, or K'iche'—and the intertwining of two cultures is seen in the village costumes as well. The uncut form of most of the women's *huipiles*, with their lengths of handwoven cloth, is unchanged from
(continued on the back)



IN THE MUSEUM

A REGIONAL EXHIBIT, "Atitlán-Guatemala," Luis Diaz' immense circular work of 96 linear feet of burnished aluminum, was inaugurated in February 1995. It recreates the shoreline of Lake Atitlán and is accompanied by mannequins wearing the costumes of the lake villages.

THE THIRD PERMANENT EXHIBIT, "The Incorporation of European Textile Tradition, 1530 - 1844," will open in July. Clay figures of the Colonial era have been created for the exhibit which is funded by Oriflame, S.A.

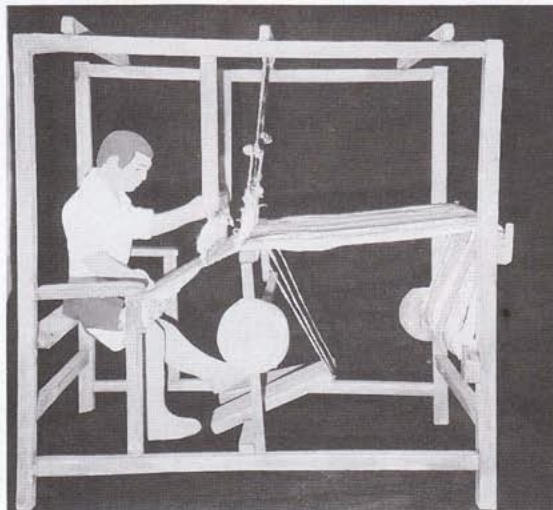


Lake Atitlán

*Photo by John
Willemsen
Ixchel
Museum
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"PRO-TEJE," the textile committee of the museum, has added weavers in two new communities, San Juan Cotzal and San Pedro Carcha. "PRO-TEJE" is already working with weavers in Cerro de Oro, Santiago Atitlán, Rabinal and San Miguel Chicaj.

TELEVISION NETWORK CNN produced two short features on the Museo Ixchel narrated by Harris Witbeck. The Spanish clip was shown in April on Noticiero CNN Internacional. The English language clip is pending.



*Ceramic figure
working foot
loom brought
from Spain.*

*Figures created
by Oscar Rios
for the Colonial
era exhibit.*

THE SPEAKERS' PROGRAM of the museum included: Archeologist Matilde Ivic de Monterroso who spoke on colonial weaving; Professor Didier Borremanse of the Universidad del Valle, who spoke on the Lacandones; and Dr. Linda de Barrios who reported on her research in Tecpan on native brown cotton.



*Ceramic
figures of Don
Pedro de
Alvarado and a
Spanish
courtier.*

MUSEUM ADDRESS

Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena
6a. Calle final, Zona 10
Campus Universidad Francisco Marroquín
Guatemala Ciudad, Guatemala



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

THE TRAVELING EXHIBIT "Cofradia: Mayan Ceremonial Clothing from Guatemala," funded by Friends of the Ixchel Museum, opened at the Museum of Man in San Diego, California, February 10th to May 14th.

A MUSEUM GALA was held on April 8th when the Museum of Man and Friends of the Ixchel Museum honored Gordon Pettit, former President of the San Diego Museum of Man, and Lucia Hempstead, Honorary President of

Friends of the Ixchel Museum. Marimba music, black bean hor d'oevres, the beautifully lighted cofradia exhibit textiles, and the presence of many friends made it a festive evening.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc, was held in Antigua, Guatemala, April 25th to 28th, 1995. New officers were elected.

FUNDING WAS VOTED to expand the work of "PRO-TEJE" to Coban, Alta Verapaz, to publish the English translation of the research monograph "Zunil," and to begin the English translation of "Mayan Clothing and Weavings Through the Ages."

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



Douglas Sharon, Director Museum of Man, Lucia Hempstead, and Gordon Pettit, and Eugene Sapper, Honorary Consul in San Diego.



A PRO-TEJE weaver at the museum for the first sale of her work



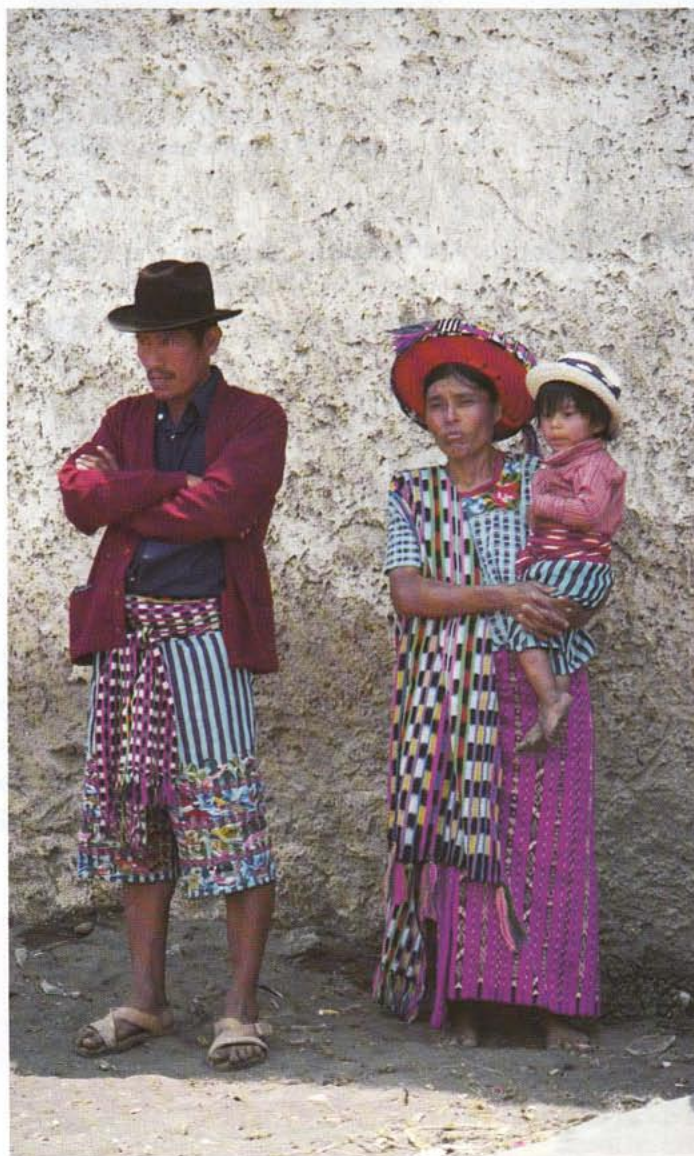
PRESERVING THE TEXTILE ARTS OF GUATEMALA



Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 27283
Los Angeles, CA 90027

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*Villagers from
Santiago
Atitlán

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ATITLAN (continued)



the pre-Columbian era; the men's shirts and pants are cut and tailored in the European manner.

When noting the European influence on men's trousers, it is thought that short pants were adapted from 16th century European fashion, knee length pants from the 17th and 18th centuries, and long pants from the 19th century. As fashion changed, these lengths remained.

Also marking a time in history are the names of three of the lake towns. Although they were venerated in Colonial Guatemala, and continue to be important to the townspeople, the feast days of St. Catherine of Alexandria and the True Cross have been removed from the religious calendar by the Catholic church, and St. George's feast day has been lowered to a mere celebration.

Changing and unchanging, Mayan and Spanish cultures intertwine in the twelve towns circling Lake Atitlán—Santa Clara La Laguna, San Juan La Laguna, San Pedro La Laguna, Santiago Atitlán, San Lucas Toliman, San Antonio Palopo, Santa Catarina Palopo, Panajachel, San Jorge La Laguna, Santa Cruz La Laguna, San Marcos La Laguna, and San Pablo La Laguna.

