



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM



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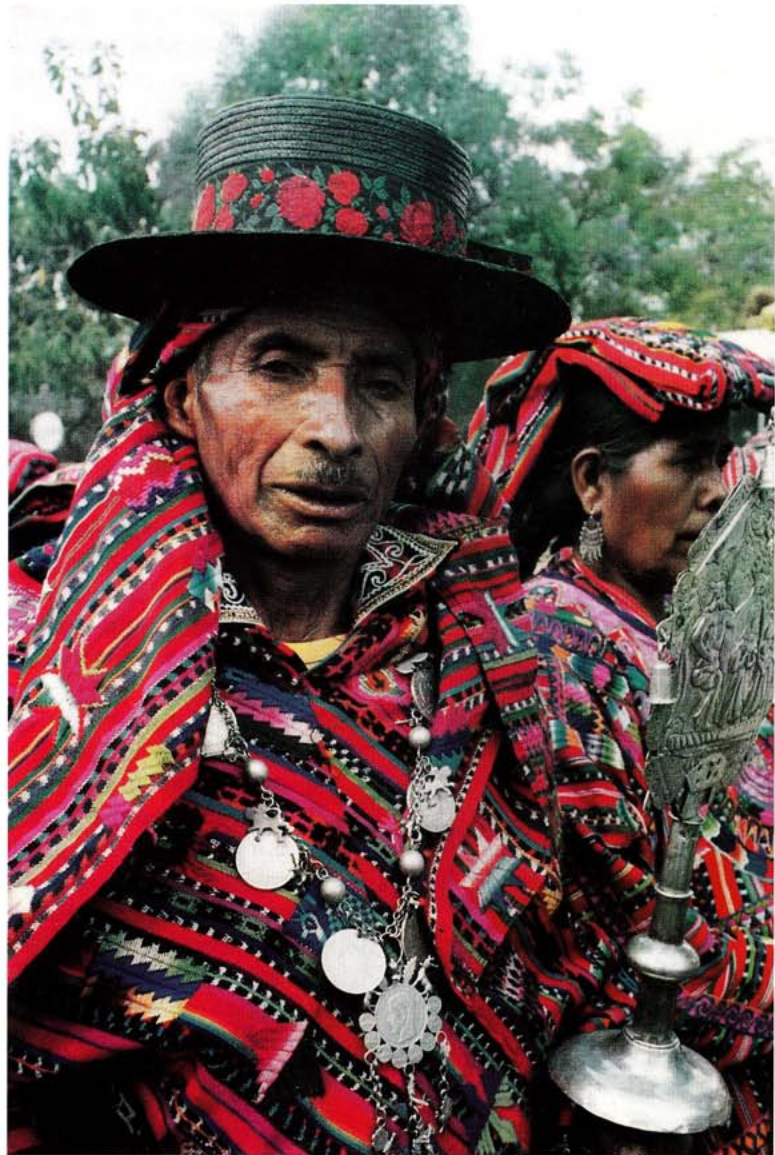
EXHIBIT AT LONGWOOD GARDENS

The East Coast pod of the Friends of the Ixchel Museum is in high gear! We had long talked of gathering Guatemalan textiles for a traveling exhibit, but needed a galvanizing reason to do so.

In July, we received a call from Yolanda Alcorta, a Guatemalan living in the U.S., in response to the letter from the President of Friends of the Ixchel Museum inserted in the June 1997 Bulletin. Yolanda is very involved in Raíces Culturales Latinoamericanas, a group dedicated to promoting and celebrating the diverse folklore of the Latin American culture in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area. She was in the process of negotiating a grant from the very prestigious Longwood Gardens which would enable her group to set up an exhibit for display during their fall Chrysanthemum Festival, October 25th to November 23rd.

Did we think the Friends of the Ixchel would be interested in joining with her group to display textiles? Did we ever! What a stunning opportunity to launch a first phase of our traveling exhibition in the United States.

Longwood Gardens, located in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, is one of the most celebrated gardens and greenhouses in the United States. Founded by Pierre S. duPont in 1907, Longwood attracts over 800,000 visitors every year to view the extraordinary display of seasonal plantings and the magnificent gardens and landscaping covering approximately 425 hectares (1,050 acres). The exhibit will be part of their fall festival designed to celebrate the culture of Latin America.



*A Sololá cofrade. Photo by Anne Girard de Marroquín.
Ixchel Museum Photo Archive
This costume will be on exhibit at Longwood Gardens.*

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IN THE MUSEUM

"THE MAYA TEXTILE TRADITION," with photographs by Jeffrey Foxx and edited by Margot Schevill, was presented at the Ixchel Museum by one of the authors, Dr. Linda Asturias de Barrios, September 18th. Published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., the coffee table book includes photographs of textiles from the Ixchel Museum collection.

"CUYUSCATE," original research into natural brown cotton and the garments woven from it, has been published thanks to an anonymous donation and was presented at a cocktail sponsored by ANACAFE on October 1st. The investigation was funded by the Ixchel Museum and the book is the second in the series of smaller research monographs. Dr. Linda Asturias de Barrios is the editor; other contributors are Idalma Mejía de Rodas, Rosario Miralbés de Polanco, Sergio Francisco Romero and Rebeca Rubio.

A CHANGE OF COSTUMES was made by the technical staff in the parts of the permanent exhibit "Modern Tendencies." The object is to showcase different weavings every few months.

PRO-TEJE has signed a contract with the European Community to be featured on their web site for six months. Sales for the museum's cuyuscate village weaving project are going well and Pro-Teje has added another village--San Cristobal Totonicapán.

A MATCHING GIFT of computers was made anonymously. The computer bought for the Borgatti library by Friends of the Ixchel Museum was matched by a new computer for the Curator. The gift will also match computers bought for the Children's Museum.

THE ALBERTO HABIE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM has received four modules covered in formica--two bright green and blue, two bright blue and yellow--from HELADOS POPS. The technical staff will fill them with costumes for the children to try on, head bands to wind around mannequins, and puzzles.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF JAPAN, Masahito Hitachi and Hanako Hitachi, the younger brother of the emperor and his wife, honored the Ixchel Museum with a visit in September.



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Through the wonders of modern communication, we are putting together an exhibit for display. It has stirred a lot of excitement both in Guatemala and the U.S.--and raised the work load. Somehow, we decided on the themes of the exhibit, sorted through and selected textiles and identified their origins, planned the labels, designed the mannequins, planned the space, selected photographs, slides and maps, and worked with the curators at Longwood--all accomplished with the dedication of those in Guatemala and those of us in the U.S.

In particular, thanks go to the Museo Ixchel staff who have proved so helpful in providing identification and specs for the mannequins, to Friends of the Ixchel Museum board members in Guatemala and here in Philadelphia, to Yolanda Alcorta, and to the many who will be lending a hand in setting up the exhibit as the time approaches.

Our plans include eight full costumes representing as many villages. They will be placed on mannequins much as in the Museo. We will have a unit on ikat and a unit on the progression of weaving through many decades using belts as illustrations. Photographs, oil paintings, and maps will further educate our visitors about the wealth of treasures in Guatemala.

We are particularly excited to be using textiles which belong to members of the Friends of the Ixchel Museum. When we started putting together our collections, we were pleased with the wonderful colors and history that the fabrics represent and that we will be able to share with the visitors to Longwood Gardens. For the Friends, it is an extraordinary opportunity to help realize our mission of bringing the culture and the textiles of Guatemala to the people of the United States and thus increasing the understanding between peoples of this hemisphere.

We hope some of you will have had the opportunity to visit the exhibit. Please feel free to be in touch with us if you have any suggestions of additional sites.

Suzanne M. Davis



*A woman from Tamahu, Alta Verapaz.
Watercolor by Carmen Petersen.
This costume will be on exhibit at
Longwood Gardens.*



*Three women from
Santa María
Chiquimula,
Totonicapán.
Watercolor by
Carmen Petersen.
These costumes will be
on exhibit at
Longwood Gardens.*



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

LONGWOOD GARDENS will be the venue for a textile exhibit mounted by Friends of the Ixchel Museum. The exhibit will take place during the Chrysanthemum Festival. Please see the front page article.

"LEGACY OF ATITLAN," the new video produced by Friends, is available in both Spanish and English, in NTSC for the American market and PAL for the European market.

A FALL MEETING OF FRIENDS is scheduled to coincide with the opening of the Longwood Gardens exhibit.

THE COMPUTER for the Sue Borgatti Library in the Ixchel Museum has been bought, thanks to the donations of the Borgatti family to Friends. The gift of the computer stimulated a matching donation of a new computer for the Ixchel Museum Curator.

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



Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 27283
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*A textel of the
cofradía from
Zacualpa,
El Quiché.
Photo by Anne
Girard de
Marroquín
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Photo Archive.
This costume will be
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