



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Guide to Comisario Faustino, 1979

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Human Studies Film Archives
<b>Title:</b>	<i>Comisario Faustino</i>
<b>Date:</b>	1979
<b>Identifier:</b>	HSFA.2010.05
<b>Creator:</b>	Billipp, Jim
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Videocassettes (U-matic) (29 minutes; color sound)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Transferred by the National Anthropological Archives in 2010. Originally the video tape was given to William Crocker, Department of Anthropology curator, by Jim Billipp, director and producer of the film. Dr. Crocker solicited materials from Billipp for depositing in the National Anthropological Archives.

### Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds Billipp's photographs and notes on the Ica.

### Preferred Citation

Comisario Faustino, Human Studies Film Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Please contact the archives for information on availability of access copies of audiovisual recordings. Original audiovisual material in the Human Studies Film Archives may not be played.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

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## Scope and Contents

Edited video focuses on Comisario Faustino and his family, Arhuaco (Ica) peoples, who live in on Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia. The losely woven story depicts the life of a comisario, Faustino, who is, in effect, an unpaid constable appointed by the Colombian government. Shown is the mountainous terrain, agriculture as practiced separately by men and women; food preparation; homestead with women and children's activities; Faustino setting up the loom to weave (a man's activity); visiting his father, a local well-respected "priest;" and investigation of a murder; and burial of the murdered victim. The murdered person is Faustino's niece, a member of the Villafana clan. Her boyfriend, Antonio, admits to the killing. Faustino decides the course of action for punishment. At the funeral, narration states that according to custom the murderer must prepare the burial site and the body for burial. Antonio

wraps the body in ferns and prepares the grave where the body is interred sitting up. A cord which is wrapped around the body comes up through the grave where it is wound around a short pole above the grave. Narration states that it is believed that when the cord rots, the soul is released. Antonio is sent away for a formal trial. The family appeals to Faustino for immediate retribution against the boyfriend but they are unsuccessful.

Billipp was assisted by Bob Harris, who operated one of the cameras and carried out some of the editing.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Weaving ; Looms ; Criminal justice, Administration of ; Crime ; Murder ; Clans ; Mountains Colombia ; Funeral rites and ceremonies ; Burial ; Subsistence farming ; Clothing and dress

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or Anthropology Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

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## Local Number

HSFA 2010.5.1

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Ika (Ica/Arhuaco)

Cultures:

Ika (Ica/Arhuaco)

Types of Materials:

Video recordings

Places:

Colombia  
South America