



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Guide to the Alan Sandstrom papers, 1968-2014

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Alan Sandstrom papers
<b>Date:</b>	1968-2014
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.2014-17
<b>Creator:</b>	Sandstrom, Alan R.
<b>Extent:</b>	10.75 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received from Alan R. Sandstrom and Pamela Effrein Sandstrom in 2014.

### Preferred Citation

Alan Sandstrom papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The Alan Sandstrom papers are open for research.

Access to the Alan Sandstrom papers requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

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## Biographical Note

Alan R. Sandstrom is a sociocultural anthropologist with interests in cultural ecology, cultural materialism, economic anthropology, history and theory of anthropology, Native peoples of Mesoamerica and North America, and religion, ritual, and symbolism. He has conducted ethnographic field research among Tibetans in exile in the Himalaya region of Himachal Pradesh, northern India, and worked for more than 40 years among Nahuatl speakers of northern Veracruz, Mexico.

Sandstrom began fieldwork among the Nahua in Mexico in the summer of 1970, returning for a 16-month stay in 1972-1973 to collect data for a dissertation in anthropology at Indiana University. From 1974 until the present, the research has been a joint venture with his wife, Pamela Effrein Sandstrom, who earned master's and doctoral degrees in library and information science at Indiana University. Together, the Sandstroms have visited a small community of 600 Nahuatl speakers regularly over the intervening years. In 1985, they returned to the field accompanied by their three-year-old son, Michael Anthony Sandstrom. In addition to numerous shorter visits ranging from a few days to a few weeks, the Sandstroms have been in residence in the village for long periods during 1985-1986, 1990, and 1997-1998. The last extended stay was during joint sabbatical research leaves granted by Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne in 2006-2007.

Sandstrom's long-term ethnographic fieldwork based on participant observation has been conducted in a single community he calls Amatlán (a pseudonym used to protect the privacy of research consultants and community members). The village is located in the municipio of Ixhuatlán de Madero, Veracruz, Mexico, in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Oriental mountains; the community should not be confused with other locales in Veracruz named Amatlán. Research methodologies have included formal and informal interviewing, observation and photography of daily life and rituals, questionnaire research, elicitation of kinship data, compilation of census data, mapping for GIS analysis, and archival research in state and regional archives in Mexico. The Sandstroms' eight-month stay during 1980 among the Tibetans in exile in northern India provided a valuable cross-cultural perspective that has served to clarify the Mesoamerican data on religious ideology.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of Alan Sandstrom's correspondence, files relating to publications, newsletter editing (*Nahua Newsletter*), and biographical materials.

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 National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 4 series: (1) Correspondence, (2) Publishing projects, (3) *Nahua Newsletter*, (4) Biographical files.

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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:

- Aztec (archaeological culture)
- Language and languages -- Documentation
- Nahua

### Cultures:

- Aztec (archaeological culture)
- Nahua

### Places:

- North America
- Veracruz-Llave (Mexico : State)