



Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Guide to *The Autobiography of  
Don Alfredo Vasquez Jara, 1969*

National Anthropological Archives  
Museum Support Center  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	<i>The Autobiography of Don Alfredo Vasquez Jara</i>
<b>Date:</b>	1969
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.2017-06
<b>Creator:</b>	Low, Sam (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.25 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received from Sam Low in 2016.

### Related Materials

The Human Studies Film Archives holds *The Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific*, 1983 by Sam Low.

### Restrictions

*The Autobiography of Don Alfredo Jara Vasquez* is open for research.

Access to *The Autobiography of Don Alfredo Jara Vasquez* requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Sam Low has retained copyright in this collection. Contact the repository for terms of use.

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## Biographical Note

Sam Low received a B.A. in history from Yale in 1964 and an M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from Harvard in 1971 and 1975, respectively. Although he conducted fieldwork in Peru in the late 1960s, he has spent most of his career as a writer, photographer, and filmmaker studying Polynesian sailing and settlement of the Pacific.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of a transcript of a series of interviews of Alfredo Jara Vasquez conducted by Sam Low. The interviews were conducted as part of Low's research for his dissertation, *The Social and Spacial Organization of a Peruvian Barriada*. The interview covers Vasquez Jara's youth in Santa Cruz de Chuca, Peru, his travels in the Sierra, and his migration to the city of Trujillo. Topics discussed include magic, folk medicine, agriculture, family dynamics, love, marriage, life strategies, and education. The collection also includes a short introduction written by Low.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Places:

Peru  
South America