



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Ruth Leah Bunzel photographs of Quiche
peoples of Guatemala, 1930-1932

Sarah Ganderup

2013 February 12

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland 20746
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Local Call Number(s).....	2
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Names and Subjects	2

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Ruth Leah Bunzel photographs of Quiche peoples of Guatemala
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.2007-10
Date:	1930-1932
Extent:	49 Prints (silver gelatin) 110 Negatives (nitrate)
Creator:	Bunzel, Ruth Leah, 1898-1990
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Photographs found in Bunzel's home on Perry Street in Greenwich Village, NY, after her death. Donated by Arnold Finkelstein, 2007.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds the Ruth Lean Bunzel papers and drawings of Kachinas collected by Bunzel (MS 4609).

Location of Other Archival Materials

Correspondence between Bunzel and the BAE held in the National Anthropological Archives in MS 4846 and records of the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Location of Other Archival Materials

A photograph of Bunzel held in National Anthropological Archives Photo Lot 92-35.

Location of Other Archival Materials

A video oral history of Bunzel, created as part of the "History of Anthropology Series" produced by the University of Florida's Department of Anthropology, is held in the Human Studies Film Archive in HSFA 89.10.8.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 2007-10, Ruth Leah Bunzel photographs of Quiche peoples of Guatemala, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Nitrate negatives are in cold storage and require advanced notice for viewing.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Ruth Leah Bunzel (1898-1990) started a career in anthropology after acquiring a secretarial job with Franz Boas at Columbia University in 1922. With support from Boas, Bunzel regularly traveled to the Southwest to study Zuni potters from 1924-1929. Studying under Boas, she earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1929. Her papers on Zuni ceremonialism as well as creation myths, kachinas, and poetry were published in the 47th Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology. From 1930 to 1932 she studied the Highland Mayan village of Chichicastenango and later published *Chichicastenango, A Guatemalan Village* (1952). She also conducted fieldwork in the village of Chamula in Chiapas, Mexico, and published a comparative study of the two villages entitled "The Role of Alcoholism in Two Central American Communities" (1940).

Scope and Contents

Photographs probably made by Ruth Bunzel during her fieldwork among the Quiche in Chichicastenango, Guatemala, in 1930-32. Images include Quiche individuals and families, a church (probably the Church of Santo Tomás), a procession and ceremony, and landscapes.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 2007-10

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Quiché Maya (Quiche)

Cultures:

Quiché Maya (Quiche)

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Geographic Names:

Guatemala

Addl. KW Subj

K'iche'