



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Eber Cole Byam photograph and
pamphlet collection relating to Mexico,
circa 1896, 1903-1906, 1909, 1914-1919

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National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Eber Cole Byam photograph and pamphlet collection relating to Mexico
Date:	circa 1896, 1903-1906, 1909, 1914-1919
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.85-10
Creator:	Byam, Eber Cole (Collector)
Extent:	1 Blueprint map 78 Prints (probably silver gelatin) 7 Pamphlets
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Given by Eber Cole Byam to Father John Steichen, Chancellor of a Catholic seminary in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Donated by Steichen through Robert Laughlin, a curator in the Department of Anthropology, in 1985.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 85-10, Eber Cole Byam photograph and pamphlet collection relating to Mexico, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Eber Cole Byam (1886?-1937) was raised on his parents' rubber plantation in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. He was manager of the Chacamax Land Company, which had large holdings in Chiapas. Much of Byam's property was lost during the socialist revolution (1910-1920) and he became a vocal critic of revolutionary Mexico, accusing the movement of having purely anticlerical motives. He later became a member of the staff of Francis Clement Kelley, helping the Catholic bishop obtain documentation for his book "Blood-Drenched Altars" and other writings.

Scope and Contents

Photographs and pamphlets collected by Eber Cole Byam relating to American-owned rubber plantations and rubber cultivation in Chiapas, Mexico. They also include photographs depicting Mexicans, Lacandon peoples, dwellings, the Palenque Mayan site, religious schools, banana trains, mahogany cutting, and portraits of Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Bishop of Chiapas and Archbishop of Guadalajara; they may include images of Eber Cole Byam and his family. The pamphlets include halftone prints of photographs by C. V. Cooper, published by the Castilloa Rubber Plantation Company, as well as publications by the Chiapas Rubber Plantation Company, Tulija River Plantation Company, and Palenke Rubber Plantation Company. The collection also includes some notes and records from Byam's time with the Chacamas Plantation Company.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 85-10

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Lacandon Maya
- Mexicans
- Rubber -- Mexico
- Rubber plantations
- Steamboats

Cultures:

- Lacandon Maya
- Mexicans

Types of Materials:

- Pamphlets
- Photographs

Names:

- Castilloa Rubber Plantation Company
- Chiapas Rubber Plantation Company
- Cooper, C.V.
- Orozco y Jiménez, Francisco, 1864-1936
- Palenke Rubber Plantation Company
- Tulija River Plantation Company

Places:

- Chiapas (Mexico)
- Mexico
- Palenque Site (Mexico)