Division of Community Life Dissertation Series: Lange, Yvonne: "Santos: The Household Wooden Saints of Puerto Rico"

NMAH.AC.0197
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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ........................................................................................................ 1
Administrative Information .............................................................................................. 1
Scope and Contents note ................................................................................................ 2
Biographical/Historical note ............................................................................................ 2
Names and Subjects ......................................................................................................... 2
Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Division of Community Life Dissertation Series: Lange, Yvonne: "Santos: The Household Wooden Saints of Puerto Rico,"
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0197
Date: 1975
Extent: 0.66 Cubic feet (2 boxes, 4 volumes)
Creator: Community Life, Div. of, NMAH, SI
Lange, Yvonne, 1918-2003 (Director Emerita, Museum of International Folk Art)
Language: English

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Yvonne Lange, Museum of International Folk Art, Museum of New Mexico, gift, 2/21/86

Ownership and Custodial History
Transferred from the Division of Community Life, 3/24/86.

Processing Information
Collection processed by, NMAH Staff, undated

Preferred Citation
Division of Community Life Dissertation Series: Lange, Yvonne, Santos: The Household Wooden Saints of Puerto Rico (1975), AC NMAH

Restrictions
Collection is open for research.

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Biographical Note

"Santos" is a term used in Latin America to describe the locally made wooden sculptured representations of the Roman Catholic celestial hierarchy. In the nineteenth century this form of folk art developed in the central highlands of Puerto Rico. These cheerful images were deeply revered by the peasant farmers as the embodiment of an invisible and powerful presence which brought sympathetic feeling and fellowship to the community.

Scope and Contents

One copy in four volumes (872 pp.) of the typescript of Lange's dissertation "Santos: The Household Wooden Saints of Puerto Rico (1975)" by Yvonne Lange. The dissertation, written for the Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife at the University of Pennsylvania, attempts to analyse the phenomenon of the "santos" by describing its major features and to explain its existence through the historical, socio-economic, and religious factors that influenced it. This work is illustrated with photographic prints, most of which were taken by the author, mounted on text pages. Some of the santos described and illustrated are from Smithsonian collections, including the Teodoro Vidal Collection.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Art -- Collecting and Collectors -- Puerto Rico
- Christian saints
- Folk art
- Idols and images
- Religion -- Puerto Rico
- Santos (Art)

Types of Materials:
- Dissertations
- Religious objects -- Puerto Rico

Names:
- Vidal, Teodoro

Geographic Names:
- Puerto Rico