



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

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

NMAH.AC.0197

NMAH Staff

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## Collection Overview

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

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## Administrative Information

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

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

### Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Community Life (now Division of Cultural and 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.

### Conditions Governing Use

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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.

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## 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.

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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:

- 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

### Places:

- Puerto Rico