



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Donald B. Cordry photographs from Mexico

Rachel Menyuk

2019

National Museum of the American Indian
4220 Silver Hill Rd
Suitland 20746-2863
nmaiarchives@si.edu
<http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/archive/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement note.....	3
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	5
Series 1: Michoacán and Guerro States: Purepecha (Tarasco), Guerro Nahua, 1933, 1935-1936.....	5
Series 2: Nayarit and Sinaloa States: Wixarika (Huichol), 1937.....	10
Series 3: Oaxaca, Chiapas, Sonora, Mexico States: Various communities, circa 1940.....	19

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Donald B. Cordry photographs from Mexico
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.001.008
Date:	1933-1940
Creator:	Cordry, Donald Bush
Source:	Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation
Extent:	93 Photographic prints 9 Negatives (photographic) 24 Copy negatives
Language:	English .
Summary:	Images consist mostly of portraits of the indigenous people in the Mexican states of Michoacán, Guerrero, Nayarit, Sinaloa, Oaxaca, Chiapas and Veracruz. The collection primarily contains images of Wikarika (Huichol) people, but includes images of the Purepecha (Tarasco), Guerrero Nahuá, Chinantec [Chinantla], Zoque, Otomí (Otomi), Tzotzil Maya, Yoreme (Mayo) and Zapotec peoples.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The majority of the Donald Cordry photographs came to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation along with field collections in 1936 and 1938. There were additional donations of photographs made by Cordry in 1937, 1940, 1941 and 1943.

Related Materials

There are around 900 ethnographic items collected by Donald Cordry in Mexico in the National Museum of American Indian's ethnology collections. For more information about these materials contact NMAI Collections.

The National Anthropological Archives (National Museum of Natural History) holds several collections of Donald B. Cordry photographs. See: NAA Photo Lot 87-38, NAA Photo Lot 82-14, and NAA Photo Lot 80-3. The Donald Cordry Mexican mask collection at Natural History can be found in the Department of Anthropology in accession 355867.

Processing Information

Processed by Rachel Menyuk, Processing Archivist, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Donald B. Cordry photographs from Mexico, Item Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archive Center collections is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment (phone: 301-238-1400, email: nmaiarchives@si.edu).

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center. Please submit a written request to nmaiphotos@si.edu. For personal or classroom use, users are invited to download, print, photocopy, and distribute the images that are available online without prior written permission, provided that the files are not modified in any way, the Smithsonian Institution copyright notice (where applicable) is included, and the source of the image is identified as the National Museum of the American Indian. For more information please see the Smithsonian's [Terms of Use](#) and NMAI Archive Center's [Digital Image request](#) website.

Biographical Note

Starting in high school, Donald Bush Cordry was deeply committed to theatrical set design and puppetry and while attending the Minneapolis Institute of Art began to carve his own wooden marionettes and hand puppets. In 1931, Cordry made his first trip to Mexico (Guerrero) and become fascinated by contemporary Mexican Indian art, especially mask making. In 1934, Cordry moved to New York to work as a marionette designer for puppeteer Tony Sarg and soon contacted George G. Heye to learn more about Mexican Indian art. From 1935 to 1938, Cordry collected Mexican masks and other art forms on behalf of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. On his first 1935 collecting trip for Heye, Cordry traveled throughout the states of Michoacán and Guerrero and collected carved and painted dance masks.

In 1936, Cordry married fellow artist Dorothy Mann. Shortly after their wedding, the newlyweds traveled by horseback for six months through Nayarit, Jalisco, and southern Sonora and extensively collected among and photographed the Huichol, Cora and Mayo Indians. The couple moved to Mexico in 1938, first settling in Oaxaca; in the mid-1940s, no longer working for Heye, they relocated to Mexico City. There Cordry established his own design business and produced decorative Mexican folk art-style crafts. His business was highly successful and his work was featured in *House and Garden* magazine. The couple moved to Cuernavaca, where in 1953 Cordry suffered a stroke and was forced to close his workshop. His stroke also put an end to his traveling and collecting activities. Deeply interested in the history and traditions of Mexican Indians, Cordry assembled an extensive reading library of pre- and post-conquest Mexico materials and together with his wife published "Costumes and Textiles of the Aztec Indians of the Cuetzalan Region, Puebla, Mexico" (1940); "The Costumes and Weaving of the Zoque Indians of Chiapas, Mexico" (1941); and, most importantly, "Mexican Indian Costumes" (1968). Cordry's monumental "Mexican Masks" (1980) was published shortly after his death. Cordry died in Cuernavaca, Mexico, at the age of 71.

Scope and Contents

The Donald Bush Cordry collection primarily contains photographic prints and negatives made by Cordry while he collected objects from 1935 to 1938 on behalf of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. Photographic materials from his private 1933 trip to Guerrero and a few taken around 1940 are also housed in the collection. The photographs depict the native peoples of the Mexican states of Chiapas, Guerrero, Michoacán, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Sinaloa, and Veracruz and represent people preparing food, making masks, pottery and textiles, and dressing for and participating in ceremonies. In addition there are village scenes and informal portraits of individuals. Series 1: Michoacán and Guerrero States, includes images shot within the Purepecha (Tarasco) and Guerrero Nahuatl communities between 1935 and 1936. (Negatives: N21118-N21126; Prints: P11986- P12008; Copy Negatives: N36725-N36731) Series 2: Nayarit

and Sinaloa States, is the largest series and includes images shot in various Wixarika (Huichol) villages in 1937 and depicts many ceremonial functions. (Prints: P12659-P12672, P12880-P12887, P13273-P13275, P13386-P13414; Copy Negatives: N36855-N36863, N41431-N41432) Series 3: Oaxaca, Chiapas, Sonora and Mexico States, includes images from various culture groups from around 1940. These include Chinantec [Chinantla], Zoque, Otomí (Otomi), Tzotzil Maya, Yoreme (Mayo) and Zapotec. (Prints: P15052-P15053, P15202-P15203, P15347-P15348, P16553-P16562; Copy Negatives: N37306-N37307, N37335-N37336, N37506-N37507)

The photographic prints are all silver gelatin (DOP) and are a range of sizes. The majority of the negatives are copy negatives made by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation during a photo conservation project in the 1960s.

Arrangement

Arranged into three series by date and geographical location. Series 1: Michoacán and Guerrero States: Purepecha (Tarasco), Guerrero Nahua, 1933, 1935-1936; Series 2: Nayarit and Sinaloa States: Wixarika (Huichol), 1937; Series 3: Oaxaca, Chiapas, Sonora States: Various communities, circa 1940. Within each series the prints and negatives are physically arranged by catalog number.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Chinantec [Chinantla]
- Cora
- Guerrero Nahua
- Indians of Mexico
- Indians of Mexico -- Rites and ceremonies
- Indians of Mexico -- Social life and customs
- Nahua
- Nayarit (Mexico)
- Otomí (Otomi)
- Purepecha (Tarasco)
- Tzotzil Maya
- Wixarika (Huichol)
- Yoreme (Mayo)
- Zoque

Cultures:

- Chinantec [Chinantla]
- Cora
- Guerrero Nahua
- Nahua
- Otomí (Otomi)
- Purepecha (Tarasco)
- Tzotzil Maya
- Wixarika (Huichol)
- Yoreme (Mayo)
- Zoque

Types of Materials:

Negatives
Photographic prints
Photographs

Names:

Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation

Places:

Mexico

Container Listing

Series 1: Michoacán and Guerrero States: Purepecha (Tarasco), Guerrero Nahua, 1933, 1935-1936

9 Negatives (photographic)

7 Copy negatives

23 Photographic prints

Scope and Contents: This series includes photographic prints and negatives of the Purepecha (Tarasco) community in Michoacán State and Guerrero Nahua community in Guerrero State that Cordry shot during a field collection trip in Mexico for the Museum of the American Indian in 1935-1936. The negatives in Michoacán depict views of various Purepecha dances in Cherán and Lago de Pátzcuaro (Lake Pátzcuaro) with many images of dancers in masks. The prints in Michoacán are mostly portraits of Purepecha (Tarasco) women and men in Cherán, Patamban, paracho and Charapan. Some of the women are weaving and spinning, other images show pottery and a kiln. The prints from Guerrero were shot in various Guerrero Nahua villages depict views of daily life such as making adobe bricks, cutting vines and fishing.

There is one negative in this series from 1933 of a mask maker in Tixtla, Guerrero State, Mexico. It is possible that it is misdated and is also from 1936.

Negatives: N21118-N21126. Prints: P11986- P12008. Copy Negatives: N36725-N36731.

Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)
Guerrero Nahua

N21118: Danza de los Negritos in Cherán, 1935-1936

1 Negatives (photographic)

Notes: View of the Purepecha (Tarasco) "Danza de los Negritos" in Cherán, Michoacán State, Mexico.

Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)

N21119: Danza de los Negritos in Cherán, 1935-1936

1 Negatives (photographic)

Notes: View of dancers at the Purepecha (Tarasco) "Danza de los Negritos" in Cherán, Michoacán State, Mexico.

Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)

N21120: Danza de los Negritos in Cherán, 1935-1936

1 Negatives (photographic)

Notes: View of the Purepecha (Tarasco) "Danza de los Negritos" in Cherán, Michoacán State, Mexico.

Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)

N21121: Danza de los Negritos in Cherán, 1935-1936

1 Negatives (photographic)

Notes: View of the Purepecha (Tarasco) "Danza de los Negritos" in Cherán, Michoacán State, Mexico.

	<p>Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p> <p>N21122: Pastorela dance in Cherán, 1935-1936 1 Negatives (photographic) Notes: Group portrait of Purepecha (Tarasco) musicians for a Pastorela dance in Cherán, Michoacán State, Mexico. They hold tubas, trombones, clarinets, cymbals and other instruments. Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
	<p>N21123: Pastorela dance in Cherán, 1935-1936 1 Negatives (photographic) Notes: View of Purepecha (Tarasco) masked dancers for a Pastorela dance in Cherán, Michoacán State, Mexico. Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
	<p>N21124: Pastorela dance in Cherán, 1935-1936 1 Negatives (photographic) Notes: View of Purepecha (Tarasco) children dressed to represent angels for a Pastorela dance in Cherán, Michoacán State, Mexico. Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
	<p>N21125: Danza de los Viejitos in Lago de Pátzcuaro, 1935-1936 1 Negatives (photographic) Notes: View of Purepecha (Tarasco) men in masks for the Danza de los Viejitos in Lago de Pátzcuaro (Lake Pátzcuaro), Michoacán State, Mexico. The dance is typically performed around the day of the dead. Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P11986: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor profile portrait of a Purepecha (Tarasco) woman with hand woven skirt and belts in Cherán, Michoacán State, Mexico. The same woman is photographed in P11987 and P11988. Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P11987: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor profile portrait of a Purepecha (Tarasco) woman with hand woven skirt and belts in Cherán, Michoacán State, Mexico. The same woman is photographed in P11986 and P11988. Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P11988: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor portrait of the back of a Purepecha (Tarasco) woman with hand woven skirt and belts in Cherán, Michoacán State,</p>

Mexico. She is surrounded by other women and children, some with blankets. The same woman is photographed in P11986 and P11987.

Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)

Photo-folder 1	<p>P11989: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman and child, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Outdoor portrait of a young Purepecha (Tarasco) woman holding a small child in Patambam, Michoacán State, Mexico.</p> <p>Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P11990: Purepecha (Tarasco) potter, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Outdoor portrait of a Purepecha (Tarasco) potter sitting with some of his pots in Patambam, Michoacán State, Mexico. He is holding up an animal figure in one hand. See also P11991.</p> <p>Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P11991: Purepecha (Tarasco) potter, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Outdoor portrait of a Purepecha (Tarasco) potter sitting with some of his pots in Patambam, Michoacán State, Mexico. He is holding up an animal figure in one hand. See also P11990.</p> <p>Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P11992: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman and man at a kiln, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: View of a young Purepecha (Tarasco) woman and man standing behind an adobe kiln used for firing pottery in Patambam, Michoacán State, Mexico. There are pots and other pottery around the rim of the kiln.</p> <p>Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P11993: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman with loom, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: View of a Purepecha (Tarasco) woman setting up a backstrap loom for weaving in Paracho, Michoacán State, Mexico. See also P11994 and P11995.</p> <p>Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P11994: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman with loom, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: View of a Purepecha (Tarasco) woman setting up a backstrap loom for weaving in Paracho, Michoacán State, Mexico. See also P11993 and P11995.</p> <p>Culture: Purepecha (Tarasco)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P11995: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman with loom, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print</p>

	Notes:	View of two Purepecha (Tarasco) women setting up a backstrap loom for weaving in Paracho, Michoacán State, Mexico. See also P11993 and P11994.
	Culture:	Purepecha (Tarasco)
Photo-folder 2	P11996: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman spinning, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	View of a Purepecha (Tarasco) woman spinning wool on a wooden spinning wheel in Charapán, Michoacán State, Mexico.
	Culture:	Purepecha (Tarasco)
Photo-folder 2	P11997: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman at spinning wheel, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	View of a Purepecha (Tarasco) woman spinning wool on a wooden spinning wheel in Charapán, Michoacán State, Mexico. A man relaxes on the ground next to her.
	Culture:	Purepecha (Tarasco)
Photo-folder 2	P11998: Purepecha (Tarasco) woman at spinning wheel, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	View of a Purepecha (Tarasco) woman spinning wool on a wooden spinning wheel in Charapán, Michoacán State, Mexico. A man relaxes on the ground next to her.
	Culture:	Purepecha (Tarasco)
Photo-folder 2	P11999: House interior in Patamban, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	View of a painted interior of house in Patamban, Michoacán State, Mexico. The figure above the table represents a large beetle.
	Culture:	Purepecha (Tarasco)
Photo-folder 3	P12000: Meat drying in Guadalupe, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	View of meat drying in the sun outdoors in a Guerrero Nahua village in Guadalupe, Guerrero State, Mexico.
	Culture:	Guerrero Nahua
Photo-folder 3	P12001: House altar in Chilacachapa, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	View of an altar in a house in Chilacachapa, Guerrero State, Mexico.
	Culture:	Guerrero Nahua
Photo-folder 3	P12002: Guerrero Nahua making adobe bricks, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	View of Guerrero Nahua men and children making adobe bricks outside in Técpan de Galeana, Guerrero State, Mexico.
	Culture:	Guerrero Nahua

Photo-folder 3	P12003: Guerrero Nahua carrying tanned skins, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print Notes: View of a Guerrero Nahua man and young boy and carrying tanned skins on a wooden pole in Tépán de Galeana, Guerrero State, Mexico. Culture: Guerrero Nahua
Photo-folder 3	P12004: Guerrero Nahua man cutting vines, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print Notes: View of a Guerrero Nahua man cutting vines for tying house posts in Petatlán, Guerrero State, Mexico. Culture: Guerrero Nahua
Photo-folder 3	P12005: Guerrero Nahua village of Coyuca, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print Notes: View in the Guerrero Nahua village of Coyuca in Guerrero State, Mexico. Fish can be seen drying in the foreground, a man mending nets sits under a wood and thatched roof building in the background. Culture: Guerrero Nahua
Photo-folder 3	P12006: Guerrero Nahua man mending nets, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print Notes: View of a Guerrero Nahua man mending nets in Coyuca in Guerrero State, Mexico. Wood and thatched roof buildings in the background. Same man as in P12005. Culture: Guerrero Nahua
Photo-folder 3	P12007: Carved stone in Petatlán, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print Notes: View of a Guerrero Nahua carved stone in a plaza in Petatlán, Guerrero State, Mexico. The stone was brought down from nearby mountains. Culture: Guerrero Nahua
Photo-folder 3	P12008: Carved stone in Tépán de Galeana, 1935-1936 1 Photographic print Notes: View of a Guerrero Nahua carved stone in a plaza in Tépán de Galeana, Guerrero State, Mexico. The stone was brought down from nearby mountains. Culture: Guerrero Nahua
	N21126: Mask maker in Tixtla, 1933 1 Negatives (photographic) Notes: View of a mask maker with his masks in Tixtla, Guerrero State, Mexico.

Return to Table of Contents

Series 2: Nayarit and Sinaloa States: Wixarika (Huichol), 1937

54 Photographic prints

11 Copy negatives

Scope and Contents: This series includes photographic prints and copy negatives shot by Donald Cordry in various Wixarika (Huichol) communities in Nayarit and Sinaloa states in 1937. These were made when Cordry and his wife Dorothy traveled by horseback around Mexico for six months following their wedding. Cordy was also collecting on behalf of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye foundation at the times. The majority of the photographs were shot in Nayarit State in the villages and towns of Las Juntas (Las Huntas), Las Guasimas (Las Huasimas), La Mesa, El Limon and El Aire. There are many close-up and full length portraits of Wixarika (Huichol) men and women that highlight traditional hand woven and embroidered clothing and bags. There are also a large number of photographs that depict ritual objects used in various fiestas and ceremonies such as Squash fiesta, Corn fiesta and Hikuri Neixa (Peyote Dance). Other photographs show scenes of daily life such as fishing and weaving. There are several photographs of Donald Cordry himself in this series, these were likely shot by his wife Dorothy.

Prints: P12659-P12672 (P12661 missing), P12880-P12887, P13273-P13275, P13386-P13414. Copy Negatives: N36855-N36863, N41431-N41432.

Arrangement: Though the photographs are intellectually arranged geographically they are physically arranged by catalog number.

Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 4	P12659: Arroyo Los Frailes: Wixarika (Huichol) man shrimp fishing, 1937 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Portrait of Wixarika (Huichol) man fishing for shrimp in Arroyo Los Frailes (Los Frailes River), Sinaloa State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 6	P13389: Arroyo Los Frailes: Wixarika (Huichol) man crayfishing, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: View of a Wixarika (Huichol) man crayfishing in Arroyo Los Frailes (Los Frailes River), Sinaloa State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 5	P12669: Los Frailes: Wixarika (Huichol) ceremonial arrows, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: View of two Wixarika (Huichol) ceremonial arrows, used for curing, in a camp in Los Frailes, Sinaloa State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 4	P12660: El Guapinole: Wixarika (Huichol) man weaving, 1937 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Portrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) man weaving bag of ixtle fibre with a backstrap loom in El Guapinole, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 4	P12662: Las Guásimas: Wixarika (Huichol) man shooting an arrow, 1937

	<p>1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Portrait of Wixarika (Huichol) man shooting an arrow with children watching in the background in Las Guásimas (Las Huasimas), Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Photo-folder 4	<p>P12664: Las Guásimas: Wixarika (Huichol) boy and girl by the water, 1937 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Outdoor view of a temporary hut along the water with a young Wixarika (Huichol) man and girl sitting on the ground in Las Guásimas (Las Huasimas), Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Photo-folder 5	<p>P12667: Las Guásimas: Wixarika (Huichol) young woman, 1937 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Outdoor portrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) woman in Las Guásimas (Las Huasimas), Nayarit State, Mexico. She is wearing necklaces with glass beads and shells. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Photo-folder 4	<p>P12663: El Limón: Wixarika (Huichol) house, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: View of a stone and thatch house with a young Wixarika (Huichol) girl standing out front in El Limón, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Photo-folder 5	<p>P12668: El Limón: Huts in El Limón, 1937 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Scenic view of Wixarika (Huichol) huts on a hillside in El Limón, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Photo-folder 5	<p>P12670: El Limón: Dog wearing an earring, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: Close-up view of a dog wearing a Wixarika (Huichol) made earring of red and green yarn in El Limón, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Box A21	<p>P12880: El Limón: Wixarika (Huichol) men cutting up a bull, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: View of Wixarika (Huichol) men cutting up a sacrificed bull at a corn fiesta in El Limón, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Box A21	<p>P12881: El Limón: Wixarika (Huichol) Corn fiesta procession, 1937 1 Photographic print</p>

Notes: Portrait of Wixarika (Huichol) men and women at corn fiesta procession in El Limón, Nayarit State, Mexico. The first man on the left carries ceremonial arrows, the 4th carries the horns of a sacrificed bull; 5th carries the bull's tail on seat of trousers.

Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Box A22

P12882: [El Limón: Wixarika \(Huichol\) woman with tesguino, 1937](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: Outdoor view of a Wixarika (Huichol) woman taking tesguino, a sacred fermented corn beer, from the fire at corn fiesta in El Limón, Nayarit State, Mexico. A prayer stick, or "god's eye, made from bamboo, sticks and leaves, is in the ground on the left to protect the tesguino.

Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 7

P13392: [El Limón: Tesguino for Corn fiesta, 1937](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: View of tesguino, a sacred fermented corn beer, being cooked in pots for Corn fiesta in El Limón, Nayarit State, Mexico. A group of Wixarika (Huichol) men and women sit in the background.

Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 7

P13395: [El Limón: Two Wixarika \(Huichol\) musicians, 1937](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: Portrait of two Wixarika (Huichol) musicians playing a fiddle and a guitar at Corn Fiesta in El Limón, Nayarit State, Mexico. They are wearing straw hats and the man on the left is wearing an embroidered belt and bag.

Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 8

P13400: [El Limón: Wixarika \(Huichol\) boy holding bull horns, 1937](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: View from below of a young Wixarika (Huichol) boy holding offering horns of a sacrificed bull up to the sun during Corn Fiesta in El Limón, Nayarit State, Mexico.

Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 8

P13404: [El Limón: Donald Cordry holding God's eyes, 1937](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: View from below of Donald Cordry holding two God's eyes in an unfinished house in El Limón, Nayarit State. Photograph likely shot by his wife, Dorothy (Mann) Cordry.

Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 4

P12665: [San Andrés: Wixarika \(Huichol\) men returning from pilgrimage, 1937](#)

1 Photographic print

1 Copy negative

Notes: Three Wixarika (Huichol) men returning from a pilgrimage to the ocean in San Andrés, Nayarit State, Mexico. They are wearing flowers of the corpus plant on their hats.

Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 5	<p>P12666: La Mesa: Wixarika (Huichol) woman weaving, 1937 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Portrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) woman weaving material for woolen bags on a backstrap loom in La Mesa, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Box A22	<p>P12883: La Mesa: Wixarika (Huichol) group at Squash fiesta, 1937 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Portrait of four Wixarika (Huichol) men and woman posed at Squash Fiesta in La Mesa, Nayarit State, Mexico. The man on right wears mask representing Old Man; two center men wear elaborate feathered hats, one playing a tall drum and sitting on a "God's Chair". The woman on left wears huipil and multiple bead necklaces. See also P13273 and P13274. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Photo-folder 6	<p>P13273: La Mesa: Wixarika (Huichol) group at Squash fiesta, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor potrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) group of adults and children displaying various ceremonial items at Squash Fiesta in La Mesa, Nayarit State, Mexico. A singer sits on God's Chair playing a drum, a ceremonial arrow sticks out of the ground in front of the drum. He and another man wear straw hats decorated with feathers. A young boy wears a mask used for squash fiesta; two young women hold God's Eyes, reed wands decorated with yarn. Gourds and other ceremonial prayer sticks can be seen. See also P12883 and P13274. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Photo-folder 6	<p>P13274: La Mesa: Wixarika (Huichol) group at Squash fiesta, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor potrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) group of adults and children displaying various ceremonial items at Squash Fiesta in La Mesa, Nayarit State, Mexico. A singer sits on God's Chair playing a drum, a ceremonial arrow sticks out of the ground in front of the drum. He and another man wear straw hats decorated with feathers. A young boy wears a mask used for squash fiesta; two young women hold God's Eyes, reed wands decorated with yarn. Gourds and other ceremonial prayer sticks can be seen. See also P12883 and P13273 for a wider shot. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)</p>
Photo-folder 6	<p>P13275: La Mesa: Donald Cordry holding a "God's Chair", 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: Portrait of Donald B. Cordry holding a Wixarika (Huichol) "God's Chair" in La Mesa, Nayarit State, Mexico.</p>

	Culture:	Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 8	P13405: La Mesa: Three Wixarika (Huichol) boys playing games, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: View of three Wixarika (Huichol) boys playing a game with seed pods on the ground in La Mesa, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)	
Photo-folder 9	P13408: La Mesa: Wixarika (Huichol) man making a God's eye, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: View of a Wixarika (Huichol) man sitting on the ground making a God's eye to be used in Squash fiesta in La Mesa, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)	
Photo-folder 5	P12671: Guadalupe Ocotán: Two Wixarika (Huichol) men, 1937 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Outdoor portrait of two Wixarika (Huichol) men standing in front of thatched structure in Guadalupe Ocotán, Nayarit State, Mexico. They carry staffs of office and wear woven belts. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)	
Photo-folder 6	P13390: Guadalupe Ocotán: Stone boundary in Guadalupe Ocotán, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: Scenic view of a stone boundary likely placed by local Wixarika (Huichol) members to mark limits between two villages in Guadalupe Ocotán, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)	
Photo-folder 5	P12672: Jesús María: Cave in Jesús María, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: View of a cave in Jesús María, Nayarit State, Mexico containing Cora objects to keep illness away from the village. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)	
Box A22	P12884: El Aire: Wixarika (Huichol) man with drum, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: Portrait of Wixarika (Huichol) man wearing woven belts and bag standing next to a drum and singer's chair in El Aire, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)	
Photo-folder 6	P13386: El Aire: Wixarika (Huichol) men cutting up a bull, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: View of four Wixarika (Huichol) men cutting up a sacrificed bull at Corn fiesta in El Aire, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)	
Photo-folder 6	P13387: El Aire: Wixarika (Huichol) man and child, 1937	

	1 Photographic print Notes: View from below of a Wixarika (Huichol) man and child sitting on top of a wood and thatch structure in El Aire, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 6	P13388: El Aire: Close-up of Wixarika (Huichol) woman, 1937 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Close-up portrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) woman with ceremonial healing arrows in hair in El Aire, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 7	P13391: El Aire: Wixarika (Huichol) man making a feather cape, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: View of a Wixarika (Huichol) man making a collar or cape of parrot and flamingo feathers, likely used by a singer for Corn Fiesta in El Aire, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 7	P13393: El Aire: Donald Cordry in front of a house, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: Portrait of Donald Cordry standing in front of a Wixarika (Huichol) house made of stone with a thatched roof in El Aire, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 8	P13398: El Aire: Wixarika (Huichol) woman, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: Portrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) woman wearing an embroidered xikuri (shricuri), a poncho-like garment that can be worn on the head or shoulders, in El Aire, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 9	P13406: El Aire: Wixarika (Huichol) houses, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: Scenic view of Wixarika (Huichol) stone and thatched roof houses in El Aire, Nayarit State, Mexico. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 9	P13410: El Aire: Wixarika (Huichol) cantador, 1937 1 Photographic print Notes: View from below of a Wixarika (Huichol) cantador (singer) holding a fiddle at Squash fiesta in El Aire, Nayarit State, Mexico. He holds up a prayer stick with feathers in his other hand. Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 9	P13411: El Aire: Wixarika (Huichol) woman spinning, 1937 1 Photographic print

Notes: View of a Wixarika (Huichol) woman sitting on the ground spinning with a drop spindle in El Aire, Nayarit State, Mexico.
Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Box A22 P12885: Coyultita: RESTRICTED, 1937
1 Photographic print
Notes: Portrait of Donald Cordry and his wife Dorothy (Mann) Cordry sitting at a Wixarika (Huichol) shrine containing votive offerings on a mountain top near Coyultita, Nayarit State, Mexico. RESTRICTED
Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 9 P13413: [Coyultita: Wixarika \(Huichol\) man, 1937](#)
1 Photographic print
Notes: Portrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) man wearing traditional embroidered clothing in Coyultita, Nayarit State, Mexico.
Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Box A22 P12887: [Altavista: Close-up of Wixarika \(Huichol\) man, 1937](#)
1 Photographic print
Notes: Close-up portrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) man's face in Altavista, Nayarit State, Mexico.
Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Box A22 P12886: [Las Juntas: Wixarika \(Huichol\) man, 1937](#)
1 Photographic print
Notes: Portrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) man in traditional clothing with woven belts and bag standing by a tree in Las Juntas (Las Huntas), Nayarit State, Mexico.
Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 7 P13394: [Las Juntas \(Las Huntas\): Wixarika \(Huichol\) man with face paint, 1937](#)
1 Photographic print
Notes: Close-up portrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) man's face painted with sun symbols for Hikuri Neixa (Peyote Dance) in Las Juntas (Las Huntas), Nayarit, Mexico.
Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 7 P13396: [Las Juntas: Wixarika \(Huichol\) face painting kit, 1937](#)
1 Photographic print
Notes: Close-up of a Wixarika (Huichol) face painting materials for a Peyote ceremony in Las Juntas (Las Huntas), Nayarit State, Mexico. There is a rock on which the paint is ground, yellow root from which the paint is obtained, and baskets where objects are kept.
Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

Photo-folder 7 P13397: [Las Juntas: Close-up of Wixarika \(Huichol\) girl, 1937](#)
1 Photographic print

	Notes:	Close-up portrait of a young Wixarika (Huichol) girl in Las Juntas (Las Huntas), Nayarit State, Mexico.
	Culture:	Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 8	P13399: Las Juntas: Wixarika (Huichol) man at Hikuri Neixa (Peyote Dance), 1937 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	View of a Wixarika (Huichol) man dressed and decorated for Hikuri Neixa (Peyote Dance) in Las Juntas (Las Huntas), Nayarit, Mexico. His face is painted with sun symbols, he wears a straw hat with feathers on his head, holds a prayer stick with feathers in one hand and flowers in the other.
	Culture:	Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 8	P13401: Las Juntas: Close-up of Wixarika (Huichol) man, 1937 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	Close-up portrait of a Wixarika (Huichol) man wearing broad-brimmed straw hat with danglers in Las Juntas (Las Huntas), Nayarit State, Mexico.
	Culture:	Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 9	P13407: Las Juntas: Wixarika (Huichol) ranch, 1937 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	Scenic view of a Wixarika (Huichol) ranch in the hills of Las Juntas (Las Huntas), Nayarit State, Mexico.
	Culture:	Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 8	P13403: Las Juntas: View of La Laguna, 1937 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	Scenic view of La Laguna, in which it is believed live three Wixarika (Huichol) rain gods, in Las Juntas (Las Huntas), Nayarit State, Mexico.
	Culture:	Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 8	P13402: Mesa de Nayar: Wixarika (Huichol) group travelling, 1937 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	View from behind of a Wixarika (Huichol) group travelling with horses on the road to Mesa de Nayar in Nayarit State, Mexico.
	Culture:	Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 9	P13409: Mesa de Nayar: Wixarika (Huichol) group travelling, 1937 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	View from behind of a Wixarika (Huichol) man on a mule carrying a basket of curing arrows. He is with a group travelling on the road to Mesa de Nayar in Nayarit State, Mexico.
	Culture:	Wixarika (Huichol)
Photo-folder 9	P13414: Mesa del Nayar: Cora Village, 1937 1 Photographic print	
	Notes:	Scenic view of a Cora Village in Mesa del Nayar, Nayarit State, Mexico.

Culture: Cora

Photo-folder 9

P13412: [Rio Grande de Santiago: Wixarika \(Huichol\) men unloading a boat, 1937](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: View of three Wixarika (Huichol) men unloading a boat on the Rio Grande de Santiago, Nayarit State, Mexico.

Culture: Wixarika (Huichol)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Oaxaca, Chiapas, Sonora, Mexico States: Various communities, circa 1940

16 *Photographic prints*

6 *Copy negatives*

Scope and Contents: This series includes photographic prints and copy negatives made across Mexico sometime around 1940, after Cordry was no longer working for the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. The photographs were included with additional gifts and exchanges with the MAI in 1940, 1941 and 1943. The prints include portraits of Tzotzil Maya women in San Bartolomé de los Llanos, Chiapas; Chinantec [Chinantla] women in Choapam, Oaxaca; Zoque men and women in Copainala and Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas; an Otomi fiesta in Chalma, Mexico; Yoreme (Mayo) man and woman in Huatabampo, Sonora; and a Zapotec woman in Villa Hidalgo (Yalálag), Oaxaca. There are also several images of Zoque masks Cordry collected and two photographs of watercolor paintings made by Cordry.

Prints: P15052-P15053, P15202-P15203, P15347-P15348, P16553-P16562. Copy Negatives: N37306-N37307, N37335-N37336, N37506-N37507.

Culture: Tzotzil Maya
Chinantec [Chinantla]
Zoque
Otomí (Otomi)
Yoreme (Mayo)
Zapotec

Photo-folder 10	P15052: Tzotzil Maya group in a plaza, 1940 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Group of Tzotzil Maya women and young girls gathered near a plaza fountain in San Bartolomé de los Llanos, Chiapas State, Mexico. They wear traditional clothing and some hold jugs for gathering water. Culture: Tzotzil Maya
Photo-folder 10	P15053: Tzotzil Maya group portrait, 1940 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Group portrait of five young Tzotzil Maya women and children in traditional clothing in San Bartolomé de los Llanos, Chiapas State, Mexico. They are posed in front of a fence. Culture: Tzotzil Maya
Photo-folder 10	P15202: Chinantec [Chinantla] woman, 1940 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Portrait of a Chinantec [Chinantla] woman posed outdoors wearing a red embroidered huipil and headscarf in Ojitlán, Oaxaca State, Mexico. Culture: Chinantec [Chinantla]
Photo-folder 10	P15203: Chinantec [Chinantla] woman spinning, 1940

1 Photographic print
1 Copy negative
Notes: Portrait of a young Chinantec [Chinantla] woman sitting outdoors spinning and wearing an embroidered huipil and necklaces in Choapam, Oaxaca State, Mexico.
Culture: Chinantec [Chinantla]

Photo-folder 10 P15347: Watercolor painting of Chinantec [Chinantla] woman, circa 1940
1 Photographic print
Notes: Photograph of a watercolor painting made by Donald Cordry. The painting depicts a Chinantec [Chinantla] woman from Choapan, Oaxaca State, Mexico in an embroidered huipil and headscarf holding a spindle.
Culture: Chinantec [Chinantla]

Photo-folder 10 P15348: Watercolor painting of Nahua woman, circa 1940
1 Photographic print
Notes: Photograph of a watercolor painting made by Donald Cordry. The painting depicts a Nahua woman from Amatlán, Vera Cruz State, Mexico in an embroidered huipil.
Culture: Nahua

Photo-folder 11 P16553: Image of a Zoque Mask, circa 1940
1 Photographic print
Notes: Image of a Zoque Mask from Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas State, Mexico. The mask is used in the dance of San Roque etze.
Culture: Zoque

Photo-folder 11 P16554: Image of a Zoque Mask, circa 1940
1 Photographic print
Notes: Image of a Zoque Mask from Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas State, Mexico. The mask is used in the dance of San Roque etze.
Culture: Zoque

Photo-folder 11 P16555: [Zoque man, circa 1940](#)
1 Photographic print
Notes: Outdoor portrait of a Zoque man in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas State, Mexico.
Culture: Zoque

Photo-folder 11 P16556: Elderly Zoque woman, circa 1940
1 Photographic print
Notes: Portrait of an elderly Zoque woman sitting against a stone wall in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas State, Mexico.
Culture: Zoque

Photo-folder 11 P16557: Three Zoque woman, circa 1940

	1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Portrait of three Zoque woman, two standing, one sitting in Copainalá, Chiapas State, Mexico. They wear traditional woven skirts and headscarves. Culture: Zoque
Photo-folder 12	P16558: Otomí (Otomi) fiesta in Chalma, circa 1940 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor view of an Otomí (Otomi) fiesta in Chalma, Mexico State, Mexico. Three large wooden crosses are being erected by men and women. Culture: Otomí (Otomi)
Photo-folder 12	P16559: Group of Otomí (Otomi) women, circa 1940 1 Photographic print Notes: Group of Otomí (Otomi) women sitting on a cobblestone street in Toluca, Mexico State, Mexico. Culture: Otomí (Otomi)
Photo-folder 12	P16560: Yoreme (Mayo) woman weaving, circa 1940 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Portrait of a Yoreme (Mayo) woman sitting at a loom weaving a shawl in Huatabampo, Sonora State, Mexico. Culture: Yoreme (Mayo)
Photo-folder 12	P16561: Close-up of a Yoreme (Mayo) man, circa 1940 1 Photographic print Notes: Close-up portrait of a Yoreme (Mayo) man, possibly a dancer, in Huatabampo, Sonora State, Mexico. Culture: Yoreme (Mayo)
Photo-folder 12	P16562: Zapotec woman, circa 1940 1 Photographic print Notes: Portrait of a Zapotec woman in Villa Hidalgo (Yalálag), Oaxaca State, Mexico. Culture: Zapotec

[Return to Table of Contents](#)