



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

Flora S. Kaplan Collection, 1965-1989

by Rachel Menyuk

2012

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center
Creator:	Kaplan, Flora S.
Title:	Flora S. Kaplan collection
Dates:	1965-1989
Bulk Dates:	1972-1977
Quantity:	0.3 linear feet, 1 Hollinger Box 56 photographic prints 3,284 slides (photographs) 1,828 negatives (photographic)
Abstract:	The Flora S. Kaplan collection includes manuscript materials, field notes, slides, negatives and photographs. The extensive slide collection was taken in several regions of Mexico from the mid-to-late 1960's through the early 1980's and documented local craft processes, particularly ceramics, their makers, their families and life styles.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was originally donated by Flora S. Kaplan in October of 2008. An additional archival donation was made in December of 2009.

Books transferred to the NMAI Library

A Mexican Folk Pottery Tradition: Cognition and Style in Material Culture in the Valley of Puebla by Flora S. Kaplan

Una Tradition Alfarera by Flora S. Kaplan

The Changing Roles of Ceramics in Society: 26,000 B.P. to the Present Edited by W.D. Kingery

Processing Information

Photographs processed by Emily Moazami, Photo Technician in 2009 and papers processed by Rachel Menyuk, Archives Technician in 2012

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Collection Title, Box and Folder Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Conditions Governing Access

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Biographical Note

Flora Edouwaye S. Kaplan, anthropologist, is a professor emerita, and former founding director (1978-99) of the Museum Studies Program, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, New York University. She taught Anthropology as a Fulbright professor, (1983-85), University of Benin, Nigeria; and previously taught at Lehman College, CUNY (1970-1976), before arriving at New York University in 1976. She publishes widely on Benin (Nigeria) and on Mexico, museum politics, art, photography, religion and gender. She holds degrees in anthropology from The Graduate Center, CUNY (Ph.D.), and Columbia University (M.A., archaeology). Dr. Kaplan is a former curator of The Brooklyn Museum, New York. She was a research associate at the Museum of the American Indian, (1977-87), and is an associate at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at NYU. She currently co-edits the books series 'Museum Meanings' (Routledge) and has been a Board member of the journal 'Museums & Society' (University of Leicester Press) since 2004.

Scope and Content Note

The Flora S. Kaplan collection consists primarily of photographic materials documenting the pottery and pottery techniques of Mexican potters, as well as their families and lifestyles. A small amount of manuscript materials, including field notebooks, accompanied the slides, prints, and negatives which were donated to the National Museum of the American Indian in 2008 and 2009. Although the bulk of the photographs were taken by Flora Kaplan herself, a limited number of images were shot by photographer Sidney Kaplan (no relation). The photographs were taken primarily in the following area: barrios of Puebla de los Angeles (capital of the state of Puebla) (Barrios de la Luz) and the surrounding towns in the Puebla Valley (Acatepec, Santa María Tonantzintla, Amozoc, Cholula, La Acocota, Tepeaca, Izucar de Matamoros, Tecali de Herrera, Acoman, Ocototlan). There are also photographs of potters in the Mexican states of Chiapas (Chamula, Chanal, Amatenango, San Cristobal de las Casas, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapa de Corzo) ; Morelos, Michoacan (Janitzio, Alcoman, Capula, Tzintzuntzan, Morelia, Patzcuaro) ; Oaxaca (San Bartolome Coyotepec, Santa Maria Del Tule) ; Guerrero (Acapulco), Veracruz (Puerto de Veracruz, Minatitlán) ; Mexico (Teotihuacan) and the Distrito Federal (Mexico City).

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series; Series 1: Papers, 1952, 1958, 1970-1986 and Series 2: Photographs, 1971-1978, 1988. The Photographs series is then divided into 3 subseries based on

material type. Subseries 2A: Slides, 1972-1978, 1988, Subseries 2B: Negatives, 1972-1973, 1977, and Subseries 2C: Silver Gelatin Prints, 1971-1977.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art and anthropology
- Folk art--Mexico
- Pottery, Mexican
- Pottery--Mexico

Geographic Names:

- Chiapas, Mexico
- Distrito Federal (Mexico)
- Guerrero (Coahuila, Mexico)
- Jalisco (Mexico)
- Michoacán de Ocampo (Mexico)
- Morelos (Chihuahua, Mexico)
- Oaxaca (Mexico : State)
- Puebla (Mexico)
- Veracruz-Llave (Mexico : State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Papers, 1952, 1958, 1970-1986

The papers in the Flora S. Kaplan collection are primarily materials from Kaplans field work in Mexico from 1972-1973 and in 1977. These materials include field notebooks from Kaplan's time in Puebla, Mexico, correspondence received, cards and addresses gathered as well as guidebooks and maps of various location in Mexico. Additionally included are articles written by Kaplan, a copy of her Masters thesis and two calendars that published her images. This series is arranged alphabetically.

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|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Cards and Addresses: Puebla, Mexico, 1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Correspondence: Alberto Beltrau, 1989 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Correspondence: Puebla, Mexico, 1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Ephemera: Calendars Containing Kaplan Photos, 1979, 1986 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Ephemera: Mexico Maps and Guidebooks, 1952, 1970, 1977, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Field Notebooks: Izucar de Matamoros, San Miguel Tenextatiloyan, 1972 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Field Notebooks: Puebla, Jun-Jul 1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Field Notebooks: Puebla, Jul-Aug 1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Field Notebooks: Mexican Folk Pottery, 1977 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Writings: M.A. Thesis, 1958, 2006 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Writings: Articles by Kaplan, 1981, 1994, undated |

Series 2: Photographs, 1971-1978, 1988

The slides and prints in this collection were item level catalogued, individually described and digitized. Many of the slides can be found and viewed on the National Museum of the American Indian Collections Search site. As noted in the collection level scope and content note, the photographs highlight the lives and techniques of Mexican potters during the 1970's. The photographs were taken by Flora Kaplan in various locations throughout Mexico, with the bulk being shot in and around Puebla. The slides are arranged by their unique image number. The negatives are arranged chronologically, geographically and by film roll number. The photographic prints are also arranged numerically by image number.

Subseries 2A: Slides, 1972-1978, 1988

3,284 slides (photographs)

Box 2	Mexico: S12299-S12786, 1972-1978 <i>488 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 2	Mexico: S12787-S12954, 1977 <i>169 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 3	Mexico: S12955-S13253, 1972, 1977, 1988 <i>299 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 3	Pueblo de los Angeles: S13274-S13482, 1972-1973, 1977 <i>249 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 3	Puebla State: S13483-S13613, 1972-1973 <i>130 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 4	Graves: S13614-S13646, 1973 <i>27 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 4	Oaxaca State: S13647-S13746, 1977, undated <i>106 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 4	Chiapas Scenics and Pottery: S13747-S13883, 1977 <i>137 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 4	Red and Blackware Typology Studies: S13884-S14200, 1973 <i>318 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 5	Mexico, D.F.: S14201-S14385, 1977 <i>184 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 5	Puebla State, Tepeaca: S14386-S14455, 1977 <i>70 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 5	School San Jeroniplo Ocotitlan, Puebla: S14456-S14483, 1972 <i>28 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 5	Izucar Potters and Candelabras: S14484-S14592, 1972 <i>110 slides (photographs)</i>
Box 5	Puebla State, Amozoc: S14593-S14701, 1972-1973 <i>110 slides (photographs)</i>

- Box 6 Puebla de los Angeles, La Luz: S14702-S14867, 1972-1973
166 slides (photographs)
- Box 6 Jalisco State, Tonalá: S14868-S14941, 1977
74 slides (photographs)
- Box 6 Candelabra: S14942-S15306, 1977, undated
365 slides (photographs)
- Box 6 Death: S15307-S15324, 1988
18 slides (photographs)
- Box 7 Puebla de los Angeles, Toctos Santos: S15325-S15373, 1973
49 slides (photographs)
- Box 7 Day of the Dead: S15374-S15378, 1973
5 slides (photographs)
- Box 7 Capula, Michoacán and Santa Fe: S15379-S15546, 1972
168 slides (photographs)
- Box 7 Vera Cruz City Scenes: S15547-S15560, 1972
14 slides (photographs)
- Box 7 Uncatalogued, 1972-1973, 1977
11 slides (photographs)

Subseries 2B: Negatives, 1972-1973, 1977, undated

1,828 negatives (photographic)

- Box 8 Mexico: Series 66527, Rolls C1-C5, 1972
145 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico: Series 7025, Rolls 1-4, 1972
144 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico: Series 7025, Rolls 5-8, 1972
110 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico: Series C42, Rolls 380-383, 1972-1973
129 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico: Series SK, Rolls 1-6, 1973
186 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico, Puebla City: Series 6321, Rolls 1-3, undated
94 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico: Rolls 1-5, undated
171 negatives (photographic)

- Box 8 Mexico: Rolls 6-13, undated
286 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico, Puebla City Potters: Series 3174, Rolls 1-5, undated
169 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico, Puebla City Potters: Series 3174, Rolls 6-10, undated
168 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico, Puebla City Potters: Series 3174, Rolls 11-16, undated
175 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico: Series 77, Rolls 16-21, 1977
207 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico: Alonso Garcia Family, 1977
5 negatives (photographic)
- Box 8 Mexico: Miscellaneous Unidentified Negatives, undated
25 negatives (photographic)

Subseries 2C: Silver Gelatin Prints, 1971-1977*56 photographic prints*

- Oversize A71 P37311-P37335
- Oversize A72 P37336-P37366