Guide to the Mexican photograph album documenting the American Seminar on Relations with Mexico [graphic], 1927

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Guide to the Mexican photograph album documenting the American Seminar on Relations with Mexico [graphic], 1927

Collection number: BANC PIC 2000.070--ALB

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Mexican photograph album documenting the American Seminar on Relations with Mexico [graphic],
Date (single): 1927
Collection Number: BANC PIC 2000.070--ALB
Extent: 1 album (133 photographic prints) : b&w; album 23 x 31 cm
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Abstract: Snapshots of the visit of members of the American Seminar on Relations with Mexico to Mexico City, Xochimilco, San Juan Teotihuacan, Toluca, and rural areas like Acolman (in the state of Mexico), and the ejido Tlahuac. Images reflect concerns with rural development and education and they document visits to historical sites, archaeological sites, and churches. Many snapshots include government officials and dignitaries such as President Plutarco Elias Calles and Governor Carlos Riva Palacio (the younger).
Languages Represented: English
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Scope and Content
In 1927 the American Seminar on Relations with Mexico made a trip to the central area of this country. They visited Mexico City, Xochimilco, San Juan Teotihuacan, Toluca, and rural areas like Acolman (in the state of Mexico), and the ejido Tlahuac (close to Xochimilco).

This collection of photographs is a noteworthy testimony of early 20th century Mexico in several senses. It is a portrait of rural Mexico, of its landscapes, of its people, during the times of the reconstruction of the country after the Revolution. It also offers a comparison between the material resources and social projects in two cities (Mexico City and Toluca) and the daily activities in other areas. This collection is also a visual proof of the perception that the members of the American Seminar had about Mexican past and present. Their selection of places to visit, their interviews with the higher political and educative authorities speak about their interest in the social problems and governmental social policies during the 1920s.

The agenda of the members of this Seminar placed the visit to the archeological site of San Juan Teotihuacan, the convent and chapel of Acolman, and some colonial buildings in Mexico City at the beginning of this trip. Besides this interest in Mexican antiquities, the Seminar focused on the situation of Indian people both in the cities and in the countryside. Thus, most of the plates of this collection are devoted to the influence of the Mexican government in areas like education of Indian boys and rural development.

Image 7 (pg. 4):
Interior of the chapel of the convent of Acolman, in the state of Mexico. This chapel was an annex of the Augustinian convent built in the mid 16th century. It was built and decorated in a plateresque style; the presbytery has a series of paintings in fresco representing the hierarchy of the Catholic Church: prophets, bishops, and friars.

Image 52 (pg. 15):
The education of Indian boys after the Mexican Revolution was oriented toward the learning of Spanish language, and the acquisition of some industrial skills and knowledge. This was the case, at least, in central Mexico, where this kind of industrial school received support from the national government.

Image 101 (pg. 16):
The Mexican government tried to gather Mexican peasants in official unions like the CROM (Confederación Regional Obrera Mexicana), founded during the presidency of Plutarco Elias Calles. This photograph shows the relation between this union and the peasants of Tlahuac, a small ejido close to Xochimilco. The comments written at the bottom of the photograph show the favorable opinion of the American Seminar about this relationship.

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Plutarco Elias Calles. President of Mexico, 1924-28.
Physical Description: 90

Hubert C. Herring. Director of the American Seminar on Relations with Mexico.
1/10/1927.
Physical Description: 1

Head of Moctezuma
Physical Description: 131

Fountain on the Alameda
Physical Description: 132

A home by the railroad
Physical Description: 4
Village Church in Xochimilco
Physical Description: 5

Old Church near Xochimilco
Physical Description: 6

Fountain, Mexico, D.F.
Physical Description: 14

Façade of Chatedral Annex, Mexico, D.F.
Physical Description: 43

Municipal Palace, Mexico
Physical Description: 44

"In spite of everything"
Physical Description: 48

Juarez Monument, Mexico, D.F.
Physical Description: 80

"Desfair"
Physical Description: 81

Altar of Acolman Church.
Physical Description: 7
Scope and Content Note
[Note: View shows the interior of the chapel of the convent of Acolman, in the state of Mexico. This chapel was an annex of the Augustinian convent built in the mid 16th century. It was built and decorated in a plateresque style; the presbytery has a series of paintings in fresco representing the hierarchy of the Catholic Church: prophets, bishops, and friars.]

Acolman Church and convent
Physical Description: 8

Church of Acolman
Physical Description: 9

Prof. Mendizabal, Archeologist, telling about Acolman church and convent
Physical Description: 19

Same as 16.
Physical Description: 15

Prof. Mendizabal, Archeologist
Physical Description: 16

Same as 15.
Physical Description: 17

"Morelos" Monument
Physical Description: 24
Monument and Grave of Morelos
Physical Description: 25

Hacienda chapel. Patron saint with shovel
Physical Description: 20

Typical peon children
Physical Description: 21

Haciendas had only one gateway
Physical Description: 22

Old Hacienda, patio, showing store where peons had to buy, and doors to one room living quarter
Physical Description: 23

Same as 36.
Physical Description: 31

The Pyramid peon within "La Ciudadela"
Physical Description: 36

Moon Pyramid, San Juan Teotihuacan
Physical Description: 39

Paul Hutchinson (In Teotihuacan)
Physical Description: 30

Miss Murray, Bob Haberman, Amy Blanche Green (in Teotihuacan)
Physical Description: 32

Aztec Altar within "La Ciudadela". Toltec mound in rear covered earlier civilization
Physical Description: 33

Dinner in Grotto at San Juan Teotihuacan
Physical Description: 34

Approach to Aztec Altar
Physical Description: 37

Country Church
Physical Description: 11

Political propaganda on road to Xochimilco
Physical Description: 13

Members of American Seminar on top of Aztec Altar Floor
Physical Description: 38

"La Ciudadela", San Juan Teotihuacan
Physical Description: 40

Transportation, old and new
Physical Description: 54
Decoration of Acolman Church
   Physical Description: 10

Façade of Guadalupe
   Physical Description: 49

Front of Church of The Virgin of Guadalupe
   Physical Description: 50

   Physical Description: 51

National Palace from tower of Cathedral
   Physical Description: 27

Plaza from tower of Cathedral
   Physical Description: 28

Over National Palace toward Xochimilco
   Physical Description: 29

Same as 47.
   Physical Description: 41

Plaza from Cathedral tower, Mexico, D.F.
   Physical Description: 45

Clock tower and bell tower of Cathedral
   Physical Description: 46

Children of 6th generation, Roof of Cathedral, Mexico
   Physical Description: 47

The Cathedral, Mexico City
   Physical Description: 79

The "Poison Jesus"
   Physical Description: 77

"Souls in Purgatory" - church of the "Poison Jesus" - Mexico, D.F.
   Physical Description: 82

Archbishop Leopoldo Ruiz (Michoacan); Bishop Pascual Diaz (Tabasco); Archbisho
   Miguel de la Mora (San Luis Potosi)
   Physical Description: 93

Xochimilco
   Physical Description: 68

The Indian "Violet Girl"
   Physical Description: 69
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 12   | Seminar Party on Xochimilco barge  
|      | Physical Description: 72 |
| 12   | Xochimilco  
|      | Physical Description: 74 |
| 13   | Bob Haberman, Senator Salcedo, Frank Mc Laughlen  
|      | Physical Description: 64 |
| 13   | Xochimilco  
|      | Physical Description: 65 |
| 13   | Xochimilco  
|      | Physical Description: 66 |
| 13   | Xochimilco  
|      | Physical Description: 67 |
| 13   | Indians, Xochimilco market  
|      | Physical Description: 73 |
| 13   | Church of Xochimilco  
|      | Physical Description: 75 |
| 13   | Xochimilco market  
|      | Physical Description: 76 |
| 14   | Indian boys at stage in Auditorium of New Industrial School, Mexico, D.F.  
|      | Physical Description: 56 |
| 14   | Indian boys of 26 tongues, after 8 months  
|      | Physical Description: 58 |
| 14   | Moises Saenz, A.M. Columbia, Under Sec. Of Education  
|      | Physical Description: 60 |
| 14   | Dr. Ruiz Casanova. Sec. Of Education  
|      | Physical Description: 61 |
| 14   | Tomas Montaño, Director of Univ. Exchange  
|      | Physical Description: 62 |
| 15   | Where products of Industrial schools are sold.  
|      | Physical Description: 52 |
| 15   | Newsboy reading  
|      | Physical Description: 53 |
| 15   | Swimming pool athletic court Normal School, Mexico D.F.  
|      | Physical Description: 55 |
| 15   | Indian boys  
|      | Physical Description: 57 |
Government tractor schredding stalks, Tlahuac "ejido"
  Physical Description: 86

Cornstalks, Tlahuac "ejido"
  Physical Description: 87

Farmers' Union from Zapotitlan greeting Secretary Leon
  Physical Description: 94

Cornstalks being shreded and boled, Tlahuac "ejido"
  Physical Description: 100

C.R.O.M. truck. Landlords used to give $3.00 for stalks from 4 acres. Now with govl. Help, farmers make over $600.00 net.
  Physical Description: 101

Special train for Tlahuac
  Physical Description: 106

Sec. Luis Leon, Jan. 8, 1927.
  Physical Description: 102

C.R.O.M. truck taking shreded, boled cornstalks to market
  Physical Description: 104

Address of Sec. Leon
  Physical Description: 109

(untitled, same as 109)
  Physical Description: 110

Address of Sec. Leon
  Physical Description: 111

Same as 109.
  Physical Description: 114

Banquet served by Tlahuac peasants to American Seminar
  Physical Description: 84

Teacher and children who sang, played, and recited
  Physical Description: 91

American Seminar with Sec. Leon arriving at Tlahuac
  Physical Description: 96

Load of glassware ready for market in Mexico City, Tlahuac
  Physical Description: 92

Typical washing scene, Tlahuac
  Physical Description: 97

Mr. And Mrs. Haberman
  Physical Description: 99
List of Photographs

- **Boy violinist, Tlahuac orchestra**
  Physical Description: 105

- **Dinner at Tlahuac**
  Physical Description: 107

- **Orchestra, Tlahuac**
  Physical Description: 108

- **Cathedral and grass huts, Tlahuac**
  Physical Description: 113

- **Same as 129.**
  Physical Description: 117

- **Gov. Palacio**
  Physical Description: 118

- **State capitol building, Toluca**
  Physical Description: 122

- **Store built into side of Toluca Cathedral**
  Physical Description: 126

- **Gov. Palacio and B. Haberman**
  Physical Description: 128

- **Carlos Riva Palacio, Gov. State of Mexico**
  Physical Description: 129

- **Symbolic Bas relief, Normal School, Toluca, and Director of Cultural Mission**
  Physical Description: 119

- **Womens’ Normal School, Toluca, State of Mexico**
  Physical Description: 121

- **Hauling timber, Toluca**
  Physical Description: 123

- **"Toonerville" at toluca, Ford chasis and engine**
  Physical Description: 124

- **Prohibition propaganda, Normal School, Toluca**
  Physical Description: 130

- **American Seminar with Luis Morones, Secretary of Labor, Mexico**
  Physical Description: 83

- **Indian group on street, Toluca**
  Physical Description: 120

- **"Baskets, sausage and dairy products, Toluca, Public market**
  Physical Description: 127
List of Photographs

page 23  American Seminar with Gov. Palacio at Fountain, Toluca
          Physical Description: 115

page 23  American Seminar guests of Gov. Palacio at Toluca
          Physical Description: 116

page 23  Orchestra, Tlahuac
          Physical Description: 133

          Physical Description: 35