

**MEMORY OF THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL REGISTER
NOMINATION FORM**

Mexico - Collection of Mexican Codices

PART A - ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Abstract:

The collection known as the “Colección de Códices Originales Mexicanos” (Collection of Original Mexican Codices) of the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia” comprises one pre-Hispanic codex, 92 colonial originals and 68 period facsimiles. Most of the pictorial documents which comprise this collection were made in the sixteenth century, although a small number date from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and a very small number, mostly the copies, date from the nineteenth and the early twentieth century. The pictorial documents called “codices” are the only references we have as original sources of pre-Hispanic cultures, the early relations between the native peoples and the Spanish conquistadors, and they are the only surviving examples of a reading and writing system peculiar to the cultures of Mesoamerica.

1. Identity and Location:

Name of the Documentary Heritage: Collection of Mexican Codices

Country: Mexico

State, Province or Region: Mexico City

Address: Paseo de la Reforma y Calzada Gandhi, Col. Polanco, Delegación Miguel Hidalgo, Postal Code 11560

Name of Institution: Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia del INAH

2. Legal information:

Owner: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH)

Custodian: Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia

Legal Status:

- Category of ownership: Public
- Details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage: Constitution of the INAH
- Accessibility: to accredited researchers
- Copyright status: INAH

□ Responsible administration: Secretaría Técnica INAH
Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia of the INAH

3. Identification:

Description:

The collection known as the “Colección de Códices Originales Mexicanos” (Collection of Original Mexican Codices) of the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia” comprises one pre-Hispanic codex, 92 colonial originals and 68 period facsimiles.

ORIGINAL CODICES

Nº - NAME - DATE - SIZE

- 1 - Huamantla Codex - Fifth fragment - 16th century - 242 x 95 cm
- 2 - Partial Plan of Mexico City - 16th century - 238 x 168 cm
- 3 - Baranda Codex - 17th century - 37 x 228 cm
- 4 - La Cueva Codex - 16th century - 77.5 x 160 cm
- 5 - Tula Annals - 16th century - 17 x 487 cm
- 6 - Expenses Codex - 16th century - 104 x 32 cm
- 7 - Map of Sigüenza - 16th century - 54.5 x 77.5 cm
- 8 - Map of Coatlinchan - 16th century - 44.5 x 41.5 cm
- 9 - Cuetlaxcohuapan Codex - circa 1530 - 50.7 x 35.8 cm
- 10 - The Sevina Canvas - 16th century - 125 x 97.5 cm
- 11 - Map of Coateptl - 16th century - 56 x 42 cm
- 12 - Mauricio de la Arena Codex - 16th century - 6 fragments
- 13 - Huamantla Codex - First Fragment - 16th century - 47 x 114 cm
- 14 - Chavero Codex - circa 1579 - 139 page book
- 15 - Moctezuma Codex - 16th century - 250 x 20 cm
- 16 - Genealogy of a Tepeticpac family - 16th century - 119.5 x 58.8 cm
- 17 - Quiotepec and Cuicatlán Codex - 16th century - 61 x 102 cm
- 18 - Colombino Codex - Pre-Hispanic - 24 pp. 18.5 x 606.5 cm
- 19 - Map of Cuauhtinchan Nº 4 - 16th century - 113 x 158 cm
- 20 - Contlanzinco Painting - 18th century - 74 x 53.5 cm
- 21 - Painting of Santo Tomás Xochtlán - 18th century - 67 x 41 cm
- 22 - Post-Cortesian Mixtec Codex Nº 36 - 16th century - 85 x 87 cm
- 23 - Huamantla Codex - Third Fragment - 16th century - 187 x 95 cm
- 24 - Boturini Codex - circa 1540 - 19.8 x 549 cm
- 25 - Tlatelolco Codex - circa 1565 - 40 x 325 cm
- 26 - Huamantla Codex - Second Fragment - 16th century - 154 x 92 cm
- 27 - Huamantla Codex - Fourth Fragment 16th century 189 x 91 cm
- 28 - Nahuatzen Canvas - 16th century - 72 x 102 cm
- 29 - Zolin Genealogy - 16th century - 44 x 35 cm
- 30 - García Granados Codex - 17th century - 49.5 x 674 cm
- 31 - Porfirio Díaz Codex - 17th century - 21 pp. 15.5 x 421 cm
- 32 - Dehesa Codex - 17th century - 23 pp. 17.5 x 498 cm
- 33 - Tax Register - 16th century - 16 pp. 42 x 29 cm
- 34 - Prayer Book - 16th century - 11 pp. 15.6 x 11 cm

- 35 - Huamantla Codex - Sixth Fragment - 16th century - 50 x 178 cm
- 36 - Cholula Codex - circa 1586 - 112 x 166 cm
- 37 - Santa Cruz Tlmapa Tax Codex - 1577 - 8 sheets 383.5 x 31 cm
- 38 - Tequitlato de Zapotitlán Codex - circa 1561 - 25.6 x 85 cm
- 39 - Fragmented topographical codex - 16th century - 102 x 112 cm
- 40 - Metztepetl Genealogy - circa 16th century - 88 x 68 cm
- 41 - Zacatepec Canvas - 16th century - 325 x 225 cm
- 42 - Codex of the lords of San Lorenzo Axotlán and San Luis Huexotla - circa 1672 - 29 x 111.5 cm
- 43 - San Antonio Techialoyan Codex - 17th century - 26 x 21 cm
- 44 - Tizimin Book of Chilam Balam - 18th century - 21.5 x 14.6 cm
- 45 - Ixil Book of Chilam Balam - 18th century - 44 pp. 21.5 x 14.6 cm
- 46 - Muro Codex - 17th century - 14.8 x 223 cm
- 47 - San Juan Teotihuacan Codex - circa 1557 - 139 x 75 cm
- 48 - Map of Cuauhtinchan N° 3 - 16th century - 92 x 112 cm
- 49 - Tlaxcala Codex - 16th century - 97.5 x 83 cm
- 50 - Tax Fragment - circa 1570 - 38 x 18.9 cm
- 51 - Xalapa Codex - 1540 - 81.5 x 45.5 cm
- 52 - Map of a forested region - 16th century - 7.5 x 4.5 cm
- 53 - Map of Otumba - 17th century - 106 x 61.5 cm
- 54 - Map of Tepecuacuilco - 16th century - 113 x 102 cm
- 55 - Caltepaneca fragment - 16th century - 18 x 55 cm
- 56 - Pitzahua Genealogy - 16th century - 26 x 31 cm
- 57 - Nopalxochitl Genealogy - 16th century - 22 x 31 cm
- 58 - Nexmoyotla, Ateno, Zoyatitlan and Heuytetla Genealogies - 17th century - 31.5 x 86.5 cm
- 59 - Tetlamaca and Tlametzin Genealogies - 16th century - 111 x 60 cm
- 60 - Cotitzin and Zozahuic Genealogies - 16th century - 32.5 x 17 cm
- 61 - Genealogies of the Lords of Etlá - 17th century - 6 sheets
- 62 - Teotenantzin Codex - 18th century - 44 x 117 cm
- 63 - Codex of the Possessions of Don Andrés - 16th century - 15.7 x 86.6 cm
- 64 - Map of Santa María Nativitas Tultepeque - circa 1578 - 72 x 64 cm
- 65 - San Cristóbal Coyotepec Codex - 17th century - 74 x 96 cm
- 66 - Plan on fig-bark paper (amate) - 16th century - 40.5 x 34 cm
- 67 - Map of Lachiyoo - 18th century - 107 x 85 cm
- 68 - San Juan Nayotla Canvas - 1590 - 194 x 236 cm
- 69 - Coat of arms of Castile - 16th century - 41 x 34 cm
- 70 - Ixtapalapa Codex - 17th century - 58 x 37 cm
- 71 - Azoyú Codex N° 1 - 16th century - 20.5 x 23 cm
- 72 - Azoyú Codex N° 2 - 16th century - 17 pages
- 73 - Tlapa Canvas - 17th century - 285 x 76 cm
- 74 - Chinantla Canvas - circa - 17th century - 110 x 130 cm
- 75 - Coixtlahuaca Canvas - 16th century - 425 x 300 cm
- 76 - Tecciztlan and Tequatepec Canvas - 16th century - 280 x 170 cm
- 77 - Tocuaro Deeds - 17th century - 12 pages
- 78 - Mizquiahuala Tax Codex Poinsett N° 1 Fragment - circa 1570 - 108 x 20 cm
- 79 - Mizquiahuala Tax Codex Poinsett N° 2 Fragment - circa 1570 - 82 x 19 cm
- 80 - Pottua Turanzas Codex - 16th century - 9 fragments
- 81 - Yatini Canvas - 18th century - 160 x 117 cm
- 82 - Valeriano Codex - 1574 - 22 x 31.8 cm
- 83 - San Lucas Yataú Canvas - 17th century - 105 x 86 cm

- 84 - View of River Chiapa - 18th century - 37 x 142 cm
- 85 - Cristo de Mexicaltzinco Codices - 17th century - 7 fragments
- 86 - Cuauhtli Genealogy - 16th century - 21.4 x 30.2 cm
- 87 - Analco Canvas - 16th century - 173 x 262 cm
- 88 - Map of Cuauhtlantzinco - 17th century - 9 sheets 30 x 43 cm
- 89 - Gómez de Orozco Catechism Codex - 16th century - 6 pages 16 x 10 cm
- 90 - Painting of San Juan Huautla - 17th century - 107 x 105 cm
- 91 - Chan Kan Book of Chilam Balam - 19th century - 128 sheets 15.5 x 11 cm
- 92 - Pérez Codex - circa 1837 - 239 sheets 14.5 x 21 cm
- 93 - Badiano Codex - 16th century

FACSIMILE REPRODUCTIONS

Nº - NAME - DATE

- 1 - Guevea Canvas - 1892
- 2 - Huamantla Codex - Fifth Fragment - 1892
- 3 - Partial Map of Mexico City - 1892
- 4 - Baranda Codex - 1933
- 5 - Jucutácato Canvas - 19th century
- 6 - Map of San Pedro Tlacotepec - 1892
- 7 - Becker Codex Nº 2 - 19th century
- 8 - Cholula Codex - unknown
- 9 - Genealogy of the Mendoza Moctezuma family - unknown
- 10 - Tonatiuh Cult Codex - unknown
- 11 - Map of Sigüenza - 1933
- 12 - Map of Mizquiahuala - 1892
- 13 - Map of Mizquiahuala - 1932
- 14 - Map of Coatlinchan - unknown
- 15 - Codex Nº 20 - unknown
- 16 - Huamantla Codex - First fragment - unknown
- 17 - Plan of San Gabriel Cholula - 1892
- 18 - Map of Cuauhtinchan Nº 2 - 1892
- 19 - Genealogy of a Tepeticpac family - 1892
- 20 - Colombino Codex - unknown
- 21 - Map of Cuauhtinchan Nº 1 - 1892
- 22 - Puácuaro Canvas - 1892
- 23 - Huamantla Codex - Third fragment - 1892
- 24 - Boturini Codex - unknown
- 25 - Tlatelolco Codex - unknown
- 26 - Huamantla Codex - Second fragment - 1892
- 27 - Huamantla Codex - Second fragment - unknown
- 28 - Huamantla Codex - Fourth fragment - 1892
- 29 - Cuauhquechollan Canvas - 1892
- 30 - Cuauhquechollan Canvas - 1933
- 31 - Tlaxcala Canvas - First Panel - 1773
- 32 - Tlaxcala Canvas - First Panel - 1933
- 33 - Tlaxcala Canvas - Second Panel - 1773
- 34 - Tlaxcala Canvas - Second Panel - unknown
- 35 - Tlaxcala Canvas - Third Panel - 1773
- 36 - Tlaxcala Canvas - Third Panel - unknown

- 37 - Tlaxcala Canvas - Fourth Panel - 1773
- 38 - Tlaxcala Canvas - Fourth Panel - unknown
- 39 - García Granados Codex - unknown
- 40 - Porfirio Díaz Codex - 1933
- 41 - Tax Register - unknown
- 42 - Veytia Mexican calendars - 1836
- 43 - Cholula Codex Copy N° 2 - circa 1732
- 44 - Huichapan Codex - 1955
- 45 - Becker Codex N° 2 - unknown
- 46 - The Conquest Codex - unknown
- 47 - Map of Popotla - unknown
- 48 - Durán Codex - unknown
- 49 - San Cristóbal Coyotepec Codex - unknown
- 50 - Yanhuitlán Codex - unknown
- 51 - Tzoquitetlán Canvas - unknown
- 52 - San Juan Nayotla Canvas - 1956
- 53 - Cuara family Codex - 1892
- 54 - Sevina Canvas - 1892
- 55 - Sevina Canvas - unknown
- 56 - Ramírez Codex - 16th century
- 57 - Cuaquechollan-Macuilxochitepec Genealogy - 1933
- 58 - Map of Cuauhtlantzinco - 1892
- 59 - Florentino Codex - unknown
- 60 - Oaxaca Genealogy - 1892
- 61 - Map of Santa Fe or Pátzcuaro - 1892
- 62 - Azoyú Codex N° 1 - unknown
- 63 - Tlacoatzintepec Canvas - unknown
- 64 - Coixtlahuaca Canvas - 1942
- 65 - San Juan Tabaa Canvas - unknown
- 66 - Veytia Calendar - Variation N° 7 - circa 1770
- 67 - Veytia Calendar N° 5 - circa 1770
- 68 - Aztactepec and Citlaltepec Canvas circa - 1905

The collection is kept in the codex vault situated on level one of the building occupied by the National Museum of Anthropology (Museo Nacional de Antropología) in Mexico City. This vault, which is administered by the National Anthropology and History Library (Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia), is equipped with a security system similar to a bank vault and the environmental conditions are stabilized at 20°C and 50% humidity.

For preservation purposes and ease of access, there is a collection of 2,124 colour slides in 4" x 5" format, high resolution emulsions, as well as monochromatic, chromogenic and some infra-red emulsions. These facsimile photographic images are used for:

- 1) Initial research consultations;
- 2) Consultation and access in order to obtain facsimile reproductions, publications for iconographic, pictorial and/or documentary researchers;
- 3) Access for the organization and administration of the collection of originals.

In 1991, the process of digitizing the photographic collection was begun in order to allow the greatest possible number of researchers to have access to the computer-based collection of images. At the present time there is a Kodak Photo CD work-

station equipped with a Sun Spark Station II computer, a slide and transparency scanner for 35mm and 4" x 5" formats, a CD Write Thermal Dye Transfer 300 dpi photographic quality printer for prints up to Kodak XLS8600 8 x 10 inches. The maximum imaging resolution of the codices on optical disc is 4,000 x 6,000 dpi, which allows the images to be viewed in their entirety or in high resolution close-ups.

Bibliographic details:

The collection of codices referred to above has been published in the Catalogue of the INAH Codex Collection (Catálogo de la Colección de Códices INAH), Mexico, 1964, Glass, John B. In addition: various research papers and articles published by the Codex Seminar (Seminario de Códices) of the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia and the Centro de Investigaciones en Ciencias Sociales (CIESAS).

Visual documentation:

Starting at the end of the nineteenth century, the items comprising this collection have been reproduced using scientific photographic techniques and other reproduction techniques. The collection of photographic images is organized as follows:

35mm. Original facsimile editions of the B.N.A.H. 5,920 slides

Original codices 408 slides

6 x 7 inch originals 750 slides

6 x 7 inch copies 123 slides

4 x 5 inch originals 1,505 slides

4 x 5 inch copies 368 slides.

The following videos have been made and are available to the public:

The Coixtlahuaca Canvas VHS 20 mins. duration

Currently under production with a commentary approved by the scientific consultant:

The Zapatepec Canvas

The Post-Cortesian Mixtec Codex N° 36

The Tecciztlan and Tequatepec Canvas

The Porfirio Díaz Codex

Introduction to the Mexican Codices.

History:

The history of this collection began in the strongbox of the old Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnografía where, among other things, a considerable number of codices from the collection made by Lorenzo Boturini between 1736 and 1743 were kept. The Boturini collection was one of the largest collections of manuscripts ever made and included older items gathered by Alva Ixtlilxochtli and Sigüenza y Góngora. Boturini's manuscripts may have been entrusted to the museum prior to 1831.

At least 42 of these codices are to be found in the library collection. Some of these are The Tax Registry, the Partial Map of Mexico City (Tenochtitlan) on fig-bark paper, the Baranda Codex, the Map of Sigüenza, the La Cueva Codex, the Map of Cuauhtinchan 4, the Chavero Codex, The Cotitzin and Zozahuic Genealogy, the Mizquiahuala Tax Codex and, naturally, the Pilgrimage Strip or Boturini Codex.

From the end of the nineteenth century onwards, the collection grew, thanks to further acquisitions. In 1891, the Colombino Codex, the only pre-Hispanic original in Mexico, was acquired. Other important acquisitions include the San Pedro Cántaros or Muro Codex, the Porfirio Díaz Codex and the Coixtlahuaca Canvas. Donations, such as the García Granados Codex, the Huexotzingo Codex, the Ixil Chilam Balam, the Cuauhquechollan-Macuilxochitepec Genealogy and other documents, also contributed to the growth of the collection. The most recent donation was the Cruz Badiano Codex. However, the collection also includes codices which are deposited there for safekeeping. The San Lucas Yataú Canvas is one of these. Each year the stewards pay their respects and, basing their instruction on the document, tell the story of the founding of their community to the young members of that community who accompany them.

PERIOD

Although certain documents which may be copies of pre-Hispanic documents are now considered to be originals, such as the Tax Register and the Pilgrimage Strip, most of the pictorial testimonies in the collection date from the sixteenth century and therefore preserve the iconographic forms and conventions of the Mesoamerican pictorial tradition.

FORMAT AND MATERIALS

There is a variety of formats: folding-screen books (the Colombino Codex); canvases (the Zacatepec Canvas); maps (Map of Coatlinchan); plans (Partial Plan of Mexico City Tenochtitlan on fig-bark paper); strips (the Moctezuma Codex); books (the Tizimin Book of Chilam Balam); and framed oil painting (Painting of Santo Tomás Xochtlan). The support media are equally diverse: most are on fig-bark paper while others are on agave (maguey) paper, tanned animal hides (usually deerskin), cloth made on indigenous looms, parchment, European paper, and oils on canvas and bristol board.

ORIGIN

The codices originate from a number of regions in the Republic of Mexico. The majority are from Mexico City, the State of Mexico and Oaxaca but others are from Guerrero, Hidalgo, Morelos, Michoacán, Puebla, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, and Yucatán, and yet others are of unknown origin.

CONTENTS

Some pictorial manuscripts deal with a variety of subjects so they are difficult to pigeon-hole. For example, the Dehesa Codex is a veritable compendium of information of a historical, religious, ritual, calendric and genealogical nature. Therefore, the classification provided for each individual codex should not be regarded as conclusive but merely as an initial guide. So that the reader will have a general idea of the subjects dealt with in the pictorial manuscripts contained in the collection, a brief description of the thematic groups is provided below.

THEMES

HISTORICAL-GENEALOGICAL Pre-Hispanic. Detailed information regarding important indigenous figures and aristocratic dynasties: Colombino Codex, Oaxaca coast (Tututepec), pre-Hispanic.

HISTORICAL-RITUAL-CALENDAR Made up of various sections, as well as calendar details, they provide information on religious, mythical and historical matters. Dehesa Codex, Oaxaca, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Porfirio Díaz Codex, Oaxaca (Cuicatlan), sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

HISTORICAL (Annals) Chronicles which relate the events which occurred during each year: the Tlatelolco Codex, Tlatelolco, D.F., 1565; the Moctezuma Codex, Mazatepec or Xochitepec, Morelos, sixteenth century.

CARTOGRAPHIC-HISTORICAL. Some are simply maps, whereas others include historical and genealogical information: the Zacatepec Canvas, Oaxaca coast (Zacatepec or Yucusatuta), sixteenth century; the Map of Cuauhtinchan N° 3, Cuauhtinchan, Puebla, sixteenth century.

GENEALOGICAL Historical and genealogical information. These were drawn up to defend inheritance rights in common lawsuits during colonial times: the García Granados Codex, Toluca Valley and Mexico City basin, seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries; Zolin Genealogy, possibly Tlaxcala, sixteenth century.

ECONOMIC Lists of taxes payable before or after the Conquest. They list the subject peoples and the taxes imposed on them: Tax Register, Mexico City, sixteenth century; Huexotzingo Codex, Huexotzingo, Puebla, sixteenth century.

TECHIALOYAN Documents relating to land ownership. Claims to recover land-rights and land: San Antonio Techialoyan Codex, San Antonio de Isla, Mexico State, seventeenth century; San Cristóbal Coyotepec Codex, Mexico State (?), eighteenth century.

TESTERIAN Manuscripts attributed to Friar Jacobo de Testera in the sixteenth century. These are catechisms with glyphs which were used to indoctrinate the indigenous people in Christianity: Prayer Book, of unknown origin, sixteenth century; Gómez de Orozco Catechism, Mexico City, sixteenth century.

CHILAM BALAM Books written in the Mayan language of Yucatán containing historical and calendric information, as well as prophecies, almanacs, and botanical and medical information: Ixil Chilam Balam, Yucatan, circa eighteenth century.

BOTANICAL-MEDICAL These appear in the Colony as a result of the Spaniards' desire to learn about these aspects of Mesoamerican culture: Cruz Badiano Codex, Tlatelolco, D.F., 1552.

Today the collection of codices kept at the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia comprises 93 originals and 68 copies. Many of these, e.g. the Tlaxcala Canvas and the Guevea Canvas, were made directly from originals which have now disappeared, and are themselves now regarded as originals
Lastly, we should not like to close this section without pointing out the significance of

these pictorial testimonies belonging to the indigenous tradition, in the sense that these documents describe historical events from the point of view of the people who made them.

Bibliography:

- Catálogo de la Colección de Códices, INAH, Mexico, 1964, Glass, John B.
- Glass, John B. and Donald Robertson, "A Census of Native Middle American Pictorial Manuscripts", Handbook of Middle American Indians, vol. 14. Guide to Ethnohistorical Sources: University of Texas Press, Austin, 1975.
- Historias en figuras y colores. Códices Mesoamericanos. INAH/BNAH, Mexico
- Noguez Ramírez, Xavier, "Los códices coloniales del Altiplano Central". Apuntes de Ethnohistoria. Emma Pérez Rocha (Comp), Departamento de Ethnohistoria, INAH, Mexico, 1986
- Ojeda Díaz, M^a de los Angeles. Testimonios Pictográficos: Catálogo de Códices, BNAH/INAH. Cuadernos de Trabajo, N^o 60, Mexico, 1985
- Sten, María. Las Extraordinarias Historias de los Códices Mexicanos, Joaquín Mortiz, 1972.

4. Management plan:

The collection is in the care of the curator, the historian Angeles Ojeda, who is a member of the Seminario de Códices and a researcher attached to the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Basic preservation of the collection is entrusted to the Preservation and Restoration Laboratory at the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia, which has the services of two full-time specialists. An integrated, multidisciplinary preservation programme has been drawn up to take effect after 1997 incorporating the services of a specialist textile restorer and a fig-bark paper restorer coordinated by the Assistant Director for Graphic Documents (Subdirectora de Acervos Gráficos). Both specialists have the back-up of a restoration and preservation technician and the whole programme is supported by the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia, the INAH National Coordinating Committee for Preservation and Restoration (Coordinación Nacional de Conservación y Restauración) and the INAH National School for Preservation, Restoration and Museum Studies (Escuela Nacional de Conservación, Restauración y Museografía).

This programme is currently in the diagnostic phase, preparing a clinical history for each codex, keeping a visual record of deterioration and ordering the collection on closed shelving. These activities will dictate the broad lines of action required to ensure that the codices are preserved in the best condition possible, ensuring their stabilization, the best handling methods and/or preparation for producing scientific photographs which will subsequently be included in a digitization process.

At no time has access to the codices been superseded for either national or international researchers. The tasks have been programmed to fit in with work schedules.

However, permits for original photographs have been restricted as far as possible, as regulations were introduced in 1991:

1. Maximum permitted illumination for scientific photography should not exceed 800 lux
2. Only tungsten lamps are used with a cross-polarized lighting system.
3. Photographs are taken in situ in the area next to the storage vault using a 4 x 5 inch camera with an apochromat and an (x,y) system for symmetrical, balanced and perpendicular camera movement. Shots are carefully monitored to ensure maximum preservation of the codex or document to be photographed. This is the reason why only the in-house team of specialists is allowed to photograph these pictorial manuscripts.

The codex vault is covered by the Accident Prevention and Control Programme administered by the Subdirección de Documentación of the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia.

Installations and Safety Precautions

- 1) Smoke detectors
- 2) Fire extinguishers
- 3) Temperature and humidity gauges
- 4) Closed-circuit TV.

As the vault and the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia share the same building as the Museo Nacional de Antropología, both organizations are covered by the safety precautions relating to the INAH and all national museums. It should be pointed out that both the codex vault and the vault housing archaeological artifacts and objects are the only ones of their kind in the building.

Temperature and Relative Humidity

The temperature and relative humidity in the codex vault have been kept stable since 1991-1992, when the prevailing atmospheric conditions were surveyed.

Lighting is controlled by covering all daylight lighting tubes with anti-UV filters and a second white acrylic filter which is also a light diffuser. The vault is divided into two rooms. One of these rooms contains the documents themselves, which are stored on closed (flat) metallic shelving and vertical shelving which slides along a floor-based platform with rails. There are also two strongboxes for storing books and small format documents.

A second room, separate from the first, contains a large metal table where documents can be spread out fully for consultation, thus reducing risks during handling. This same space is used for photography sessions and for public consultation of documents.

Whenever work is to be carried out in this safety area, the access door is opened in the presence of and under the supervision of security personnel, and the names of the persons entering are recorded in the visitors' book.

Only two top managers are authorized to open the Codex Vault.

5. Assessment against the Selection Criteria:

□ **Influence** : The pictorial documents called “codices” are the only references we have as original sources of pre-Hispanic cultures, the early relations between the native peoples and the Spanish conquistadors, and they are the only surviving examples of a reading and writing system peculiar to the cultures of Mesoamerica. These codices permit members of Western cultures to learn about the form, image and meaning of these ancient cultures and our resemblance or otherwise to our forebears.

□ **Time** : Most of the pictorial documents which comprise this collection were made in the sixteenth century, although a small number date from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and a very small number, mostly the copies, date from the nineteenth and the early twentieth century. However, this type of documentation was also produced to record the moment of contact between two very different cultures and worlds. Without the original pre-Hispanic and colonial pictorial documents, and even the symbolic-pictorial tradition of the codices, we should never have been able to get to know Mesoamerican culture as we do today.

□ **Place** : The thematic diversity of the codices contained in this collection is relevant to the area known as the Mexican Altiplano, a high plateau situated at the intersection between two mountain chains: the Eastern and Western Sierra Madre. The extant documents bear witness to the cultures which developed in the valleys of the high plateau - the Valley of Mexico, the Puebla-Tlaxcala Valley and the Texcoco Valley. An important series of codices is the one dealing with the Mixtec area, the territory now occupied by the southern part of Puebla State, the north-west of Oaxaca State and part of the north-west of Guerrero State. This group contains the Colombino Codex, a pre-Hispanic example on deerskin primed with stucco. This document provides information regarding the extent of trade, political alliances, internal wars and the socio-political structures of the area. The same may be said of the Partial Map of Mexico City Tenochtitlan, which reflects urban planning, land census information and land ownership of part of the Aztec capital. The Cruz Badiano Codex shows herbal remedies and indicates the degree of development of natural medicine at the time of contact.

□ **Subject/Theme** : The codices contain sources for the study of the social, economic, political, religious and cultural organization of the pre-Hispanic peoples. The codices also reveal the historical profile of the contact between two cultures, showing how they came to terms with one another, the fate of the human groups involved in the process of conquest and colonization, and how the relationship developed from one of domination to a different type of relationship. For both worlds and cultural horizons, the survival and preservation of the codices means the safeguarding of a source of study, reflexion and understanding of two cultures in coalition.

□ **Form and Style** : The particular characteristics of the books belonging to the pre-Hispanic cultural groups derive from the iconographic writing system developed by the scribes known as “tlacuilos”. The representation system and the images used make the codices difficult documents to interpret and decode. However, the

challenge was so great that many national and foreign scholars have dedicated their academic lives to the study of these documents. Exploration of a codex is a multidisciplinary exercise, since it is not merely an ethnological document but also a visual anthropological stage, a system for documenting and recording a historical event, an inventory of taxes and tributes, an economic and genealogical list and a register of property belonging to religious, civil and military authorities. The codices are often sources of scientific, mathematical and astrological information revealing the calendric and cosmogonic wisdom of the pre-Hispanic peoples.

The foregoing arguments also apply to the concept of Mesoamerica and its hegemony and influence in the New World.

- **Social Value** : They represent a form of cultural expression of the indigenous societies of Latin America.
- **Contextual Assessment** : The codices show the pre-Hispanic indigenous writing system and the use of different support material.
- **Evaluation of Authenticity** : The vast majority of the documents have been subjected to laboratory testing which confirms the authenticity of the materials and pigments used.
Furthermore, national and foreign researchers have assessed the style and the characteristics of the documents to determine their authenticity.
- **Assessment of Rarity** : The proposed collection is a rare one. Very few examples of the codices survive. Nearly all the examples painted were unique in their day, truly original manuscripts. Few of these have survived, and as a result these documents are extremely rare.

6. Consultation:

Independent institutions and experts:

- a) Joaquín Galarza
- b) Miguel León Portilla
- c) Silvio Zavala
- d) Martin Janssen
- e) Alan Dornithorne, Curator of the Royal Collection, Windsor Castle, United Kingdom
- f) Grant B. Romer, Chief Curator, International Photography and Cinema Museum, Rochester, N.Y.
- g) Nora Kennedy, Curator at the Metropolitan Museum, New York, U.S.A.
- h) Xavier Noguez Ramírez

7. Nominator:

Name: Dr. Stella M^a González Cicero

Relationship to documentary heritage : Director of the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia

Contactperson: Lic. Consuelo Méndez Tamargo

Contact details :Subdirección de Documentación de la Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia

PART B - SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

8. Assessment of risk:

- Political climate - voluntary information: The political climate in Mexico is stable and social conditions are peaceful. Possible differences of opinion are resolved by democratic means.
- Environmental conditions: As the Codex Vault is located in the basement of the building, stable atmospheric conditions can be maintained and these are monitored weekly using temperature and humidity gauges.
- Physical conditions: The building where the collection is kept is of solid construction and is endowed with safety devices, such as closed-circuit television, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
There are also ultraviolet radiation filters, large format metal shelving to store large documents, slipcases for small format documents and a security door of the type used in bank vaults.
- Preservation budget: There are three basic projects envisaged for 1997 aimed at preserving and providing access to the collection with a budget of 292,000 Mexican pesos (two hundred and ninety two thousand pesos).
- Extent and nature of use: Consultation of original documents is restricted to accredited researchers who must present a written application explaining the reasons why they require to consult the originals, as excellent photographic material of virtually the whole collection is available.

9. Preservation Assessment:

- Present physical state: Stable physical state
- History of preservation: Specially designed shelving was commissioned so that the documents could be stored flat as far as possible in order to prevent damage due to folding. Each storage shelf has first-level document covers and second-level document covers are being designed for the different formats.
A topographical list exists allowing the documents to be located quickly, as each document has a specifically allocated place within each drawer.
- Current preservation policy in relation to proposed nominated documentary heritage: A scientific photography programme is being carried out which will allow top quality material to be made available, thus avoiding constant handling of the originals.
This programme also included the design of a lighting system to eliminate the use of flashbulbs, which are now completely forbidden.
The photographic plates are digitized in high resolution and kept on PRO CD MASTER discs. This allows the images of the codices to be viewed in high resolution, zoom techniques permitting the images to be studied in greater detail.
Paper and acetate prints of photographic quality are also made available. These are

printed directly in the Subdirección de Documentación of the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia.

□ Person or organization responsible for preservation:

Personnel attached to the work programmes of the Codex Collection of the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia

Organization and Administration of the Programme

Lic. Consuelo Méndez Tamargo

Subdirectora de Documentación

Curator

Lic. Angeles Ojeda Díaz

Preservation and Restoration

Pres.: Lic. Marie Vander

Pres.: Lic. M^a del Refugio Gutiérrez

Restorer

Xochiquetzal Rodríguez Horta

Preservation and Access

Scientific Photography

Ramón Viñas (Archeologist)

Lic. Sonia Reyes Moreno

MC. Fernando Osorio Alarcón

Lic. Gabriela Luna Díaz

Patricio and Pedro García (Technician)

Diagnosis and Preservation of Photographic Archive

Pres.: Kimie Suzuki

MC. Fernando Osorio Alarcón

Video Production

Lic. Angeles Ojeda Díaz (Scientific Adviser)

Lic. Saúl Rodríguez (Producer)

Digitization Laboratory

MC. Carlos Coronel

C. Hueman Jaimes Díaz

Photograph Library

Lic. Mónica Salazar López (Records Management)

Lic. Alicia Barragán Isidro (Records Management)