



Popular Tradition

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**Heritage and Ancestral Hands
in the Artists and Artisans of
Antigua Guatemala: Stories
and Daily Life.**

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**Center of Folkloric
Studies**



Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala

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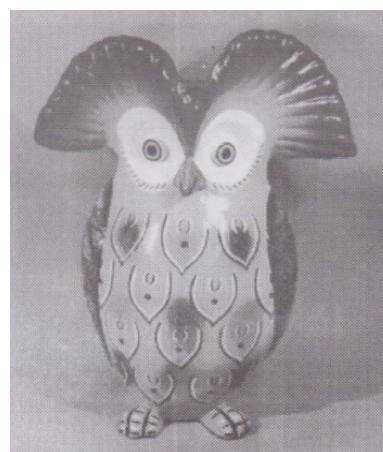
Introduction

On the occasion of the inauguration of the exhibition hall of the *Centro de Estudios Folklóricos* of the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala and the remodeling of its facilities on April 30th, 2002, they presented their XXXVI exhibition. In this opportunity, it was about craftwork: Ancestral Color and Magic: Brilliance in the Popular Arts of the Antigua Guatemala and Sacatepéquez. With the objective of promoting the richness of Guatemala's traditional material culture.

On this occasion a sample of popular handicrafts representative of the department of Sacatepéquez was presented, where works of great popular artists such as the sisters Mariana de Jesús and Ángela Rodenas Pérez and their brother Gerardo Rodenas were presented. In addition, handicrafts of current artists and masters were presented, which showed us the evolution of the forms and styles of these crafts, up to the new current forms, as well as the development of popular industries that have appeared as is the case of majolica and works in handicraft workshops with modern jade machinery, that combined with jewelry, offer us

beautiful works of art that are sold to tourists and exported to Europe and United States; that compete in the globalized market with other national and foreign handiworks, this represent the most authentic artistic expressions of the indigenous and mixed cultures. With their art and richness, they have maintained the tradition of their ancestors and thereby strengthening Guatemala's identity and projecting its future to infinity.

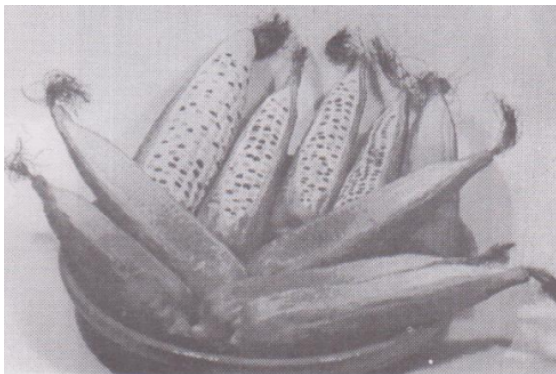
This activity, apart from inaugurating the remodeling of the center and their exhibition hall, fulfills one of the basic and fundamental objectives of CEFOL: to value, promote and support Guatemala's artisanal sector; and for the artisans involved in these activities to reaffirm their culture, increase their self-esteem and take pride in their nation, thus making their artistic creations known.



Traditional owl in painted ceramic by Joselino Magarin.

CEFOL is an investigation center of the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala that promotes the research of the traditional popular culture in the scientific, filosofic, technic afields or of any other cultural nature. The *Línea de Artes y Artesanías Tradiciones y Populares* (Line of Traditional and Popular Art and Handiwork) has as an objective the study and rescue of the material or ergological material, which includes traditional popular handicrafts by making known the material techniques used in their production and marketing; as a means of preserving historical memory, cultural and market valuation.

Covering the phase that corresponds to cultural and market valuation; this line considers as necessary to make known through an specific publication, a guide of the main traditional folk artisans of Antigua Guatemala and some of the surrounding municipalities, most of whom participated in the XXXVI CEFOL exhibition as well as provided the handicraft samples, which the researcher selected for the creation of the museum. This museum will be installed in the *Centro Cultural II* of the *Universidad de San Carlos*, located in the *Colegio Mayor de Santo Tomas de Aquino* in Antigua Guatemala.



Corn in painted ceramic by Cruz Enrique España.

General Data of the Department



The department of Sacatepequez is located in the center of the Republic of Guatemala. It is the smallest of the national territory, but it is also the most populated. It has an area of 465 Kms.2, limiting to the north with Chimaltenango, to the east with Guatemala, to the south with Escuintla and to the west with Chimaltenango.

The departmental capital is the City of Antigua Guatemala, formerly Santiago de Guatemala, which was the seat of the Captaincy General until 1773. The department has 16 municipalities. 56.02% of its population is not indigenous and the 41.64% is indigenous of cakchiquel ancestry. The main Mayan language of the region is also cakchiquel.

Its topography is mountainous and volcanic, it has some plateaus and plains. The department is crossed by rivers of great importance such as El Guacalate, Las Cañas and El Pensativo. Because of their volcanic origin, the lands of Sacatepéquez are very fertile and the agricultural production is strong. Their coffee is of excellent quality, as well as their sugar cane, wheat, vegetables, flowers, fruits, corn, beans, etc. It also stands out for cattle and horse breeding.



Fruits on wood by José María Barrios



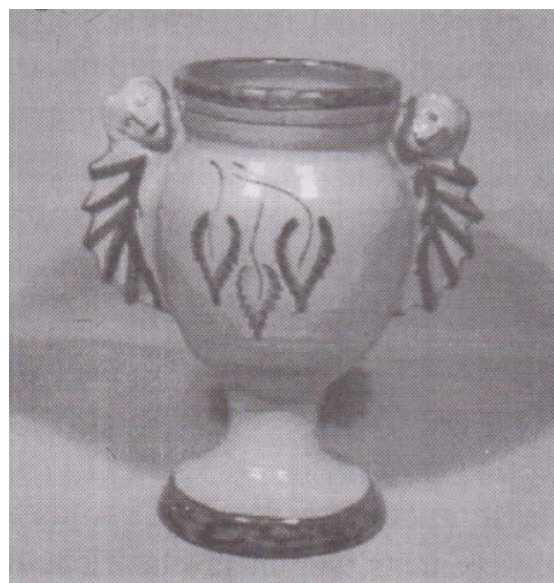
Regarding the production of Popular Art and Handicraft, the department of Sacatepéquez is outstanding in Guatemala; considering that its departmental capital, Antigua Guatemala, was, during the colonial period (1542-1773) the *Capitanía General del Reyno de Goathemala*, known back then as: The Most Noble and Loyal City of Santiago de Guatemala. Therefore, it was a melting pot where Spanish and indigenous traditions merged, giving us that peculiar mixed characteristic of its artisanal culture, with a predominance of elements of hispanic origin, mainly in its departmental head. Here, the production of indigenous weavings, traditional, glazed, majolica and painted ceramics, colonial style wood furniture, baskets, jarcia, musical instruments, iron, bronze and tin plate products, pyrotechnique, silversmith, paper balloons and kites, etc. Also, other unusual varieties of traditional folk art.

Nowadays, popular antigüeño artisans and artists from surrounding municipalities, deal with a strong competitive market, as in the colonial city there are many municipal and private markets, where popular artists and artisans, as well as traders from different ethnic groups and regions offer their traditional artisanal products.

Furthermore, innovations and adaptations are being suggested, that by being oriented to cover a growing tourist market deform such handiwork, by giving them designs and colors unconnected to the antigüeño tradition and inspired in the tastes and

demand of foreign tourists that acquire them.

Faced with this situation, popular traditional artisans from the department of Sacatepéquez, mainly the antigüeños, have been obliged to transform their traditional creations, to adapt them for the new emerging tourist markets and discard the styles that no longer sell. However, they try to preserve as much as possible the features and shapes that distinguish them as popular handicrafts from Antigua Guatemala or Sacatepéquez.



Majolica by José Antonio Palomo.

Faced with the multitude of artisans and foreign vendors and the high degree of commercial competition, the traditional artisans of the region, who were part of the Guild of Artisans of Antigua Guatemala, in small groups or individually, have struggled to promote and exhibit their work, in order to make it known and to increase their sales. But, the majority of time, the efforts have not gone further than the participation in individual or group exhibitions, which in some cases have had the category of exhibitions for sale.

Allowing themselves to sell products on these exhibitions, and the publication in very few cases, of sheets or trifold sheets, with names, addresses and lists of products of some artisans to be distributed in hotels and tourist offices to make themselves known and promote their sales.

All of the latter efforts have been limited, and have not achieved greater success, and therefore, now the researcher of the Line of Traditional Popular Arts and Crafts of the *Centro de Estudios Folklóricos* of the *Universidad de San Carlos*, in an action that allows her to fulfill her objectives of promulgating, promoting, and encouraging the development of traditional popular crafts, chose a group of brilliant and exalted masters and popular artists from Antigua Guatemala and its neighboring municipalities, to develop this guide of traditional artisans, in order to broaden the dissemination and promote their work.

This guide is divided in the basic artisanal fields, that according to the Centro de Estudios Folklóricos are: bronze, ceramics, chandlery, wrought iron, tinsmithing, wood, traditional dolls, papel and pyrotechnics.

It contains general information of the artisans; age, profession or occupation, biographical data, protection, addresses, fax and email. This guide will make it easier for the interested public to learn about or purchase handicrafts, as well as the location of the places where they are shown and sold to the public.

We hope that this work meets the proposed objective and to make known to a wider public, a guide to some of the authors of the wonderful popular crafts of the

Sacatepequez region. And, for the near future, to be able to amplify other publications on this list.

Continuity and Brilliance of the Antiguaño Artisan Masters



In this guide appear the most renowned master artisans of the different branches of popular crafts of Antigua Guatemala and the surrounding municipalities listed below:

Ceramics



Painted Ceramics and Terracotta

Andrade Vela, Eulogio: 76 years of age, married. Pottery and ceramics. He has 2 children. He started to work when he was 12 years old. He learned how to work on clay with the Rodenas, specifically with Mr. Gerardo, who reportedly, was his teacher. His children learned clay modeling; but when they graduated from college they abandoned such work.



Painted Ceramics and Terracotta by Miguel Rodenas.

Eulogio Andrade makes clay miniatures, such as: dolls with traditional costumes, The Magi, nativity clay figurines, tea sets, shepherds with traditional costumes, etc., and any kind of work that is solicited. He still preserves the heritage of the traditional antigüeño artisans.

His address is: Calle Real, Pueblo Nuevo, Pastores, Sacatepéquez. Telephone numbers: 831-1687 and 811-6222.

Arriola Rodenas, José Antonio: 42 years of age, married. Ceramist. He is an urban elementary school teacher, a graduate in small business and a laboratorian. He has 4 children, who help him paint during the holidays. He started to work when he was seven years old. His mother, Mrs. Amalia Rodenas was the one who taught him; as well as his uncles Oscar and Victor Rodenas and his grandfather. José Antonio maintains the Rodena's family tradition with the production of painted ceramics. Nevertheless, he has evolved towards new artisanal expressions oriented to tourist trade.

He makes a large variety of handicrafts in miniature, fruits, vegetables, animals, angels, seraphims, nativities, butterflies, devils, decorative objects, etc.

His address is: "Cerámica Arriola Rodenas", 1ª. ave. El Chajón, No. 26, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number/fax: 832-2480. Email: arriolarodenas@intelnnett.com

Mercado de Artesanías, 4ª. Calle poniente final, local No. 6. Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-1242.



Painted Ceramic Nativity by Juan José Pellecer.

Cabrera Tabin, Edgar Leonel: 41 years of age, single. Ceramist. During his childhood, while on holiday, he helped his father, ceramist master Marcelino C. Monroy, to work on his workshop and that's how he developed the art of making fruits and vegetables that he eventually painted.

After his father passed, he continued with the works that he left behind. He preserves the tradition of painted fruits that made his father famous.

Nowadays, he makes: painted segments of fruits and vegetables for hanging, centerpieces, and all kinds of painted vegetables.

His address is: "Artistic Ceramics, Marcelino C. Monroy, Calle de Los Pasos. No. 28. Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-2984.

España Menchú, Cruz Enrique: 51 years of age, married. Ceramist. He learned how to work on clay when he was 6 years old. His parents had a ceramics workshop. His father worked on the potter's wheel and his mother made miniature figurines. Among these handicrafts we can highlight small birds. With his extraordinary talent he was able to achieve the perfect

imitation of real birds, using materials and techniques of his own invention. Additionally, he has worked on Guatemalan oral tradition characters, life and work of *Hermano Pedro* (Peter of Saint Joseph de Betancur); sculptures of national and international personalities and Guatemalan fauna. His work has an outstanding quality that has taken him to multiple exhibitions, both national and international.

Nowadays he makes: any kind of bird, sculptures of people based on photographs, butterflies, characters of the Guatemalan oral tradition, etc.

His address is: “Avifauna”, San Felipe de Jesús, No. 58, Zona 1. Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 831-1359, Cellphone: 417-7373.

García Rodenas de Sulecio, Maria Piedad: 52 years of age, married. Ceramist. Elementary school teacher, when she was a student she excelled in plastic arts. She has 6 children of whom only 2 know how to make butterflies. Both sons are married and their wives helped them to paint. Their names are: Ever Arnoldo and Josué Otoniel Sulecio García. Both sons are urban elementary school teachers and according to their mother, her children specialized themselves in this art that they inherited from her

María Piedad started to work when she was seven years old “with her grandpa2 Mr. Jselino Rodenas Pérez. She says that her grandfather made her paint the Christmas “thingy” and as she grew, he assigned her more and more difficult jobs. When she got married, her husband helped her make handicrafts. It was with him that

she made molds for the beautiful butterflies in different styles that she makes to this day. With Maria Piedad, the painted butterflies created by her uncle. Master Florencio Rodenas, evolved.

Nowadays she makes: sets of butterflies and candlestick butterflies, pins and card boxes, etc.

Her address is: “Cerámica Eben Ezer”, 1a. ave. Del Chajón No, 9 “A”, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-1269.

Magarín García, Joselino: 66 years of age, married. Ceramist. He has 3 children, who are urban elementary school teachers and whose names are: José Eduardo, Marco Tulio and Oscar Rolando Magarín Hernández, they inherited the art of clay modeling and work alongside him on his workshop. They also offer lessons of pottery work and Spanish language to foreign students.

When Mr. Joselino was a child, his mother took to the market and he liked to see all of the handicrafts that came from Totonicapán. He had hopes in developing the kind of handicrafts “that he saw in the market, someday”.

He started working on ceramics when he turned six years old, after his father passed away, in order to help his mother. He learned how to make owls, pots and to “jagüetear”, which is the work preparation and first firing of the pots to be glazed, with a ceramist called Mariano Muñoz. He worked on that workshop for five years.

In the workshop of Mr. Joselino Magarín, the shepherds for the nativity scene that are placed in the courtyard of the hospital of

the *Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro* every year on the occasion of Christmas are made.

His current production, which represents a genuine Antigüño tradition, is made up of: owl and different fruit shaped money boxes, all in a variety of styles and sizes, including miniatures.

His address is: "Teller San José", Calle Ancha de los Herreros, No. 38, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 831-1732.

Melgar, Víctor: 50 years of age, married. Ceramist. He has 6 children, of which none learned this trade. Mr. Victor began in this work at the age of ten. He says "I learned since I was very young". His uncle, artisan master Mr. Marcelino Monroy (deceased), had a ceramics workshop, so Victor stayed in his uncle's workshop and recalls: "since then I was engraving colors and shapes that I gradually learned and now I make them like my uncle".

He makes all types of fruits and vegetables as requested. His work expresses the polychromy of the variety of the vegetables and fruits that grow in our country.

His address is: 2a. Ave. Sur Final, No. 103, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-2199.

Pellecer Rodenas, Juan José: 63 years of age, single. Painting artist, typographer, is currently active in the Catholic Church as a catechumen. He has a son but he doesn't know how to work on clay. His sister knows how to shape clay, but doesn't work on it to market it, only for her own

consumption. He started to work when he was seven or eight years old. He says that he learned by watching his parents. Juan José, aside from working on clay, also paints watercolors, preserving the antigüño artisan tradition of the Rodenas family, of which he is a direct descendant. He produces new artisanal models of great beauty like his birds, which are of an extraordinary polychromy.

Nowadays, he makes: birds, butterflies, sheeps, Nativities, traditional figurines, Nativity pieces, etc.

His address is: Calle Ancha de los Herreros, No. 1 "A".

Rodenas España, Mario Enrique: 55 years of age, married. Ceramist. Trader. Urban elementary school teacher. He has 3 children.

He started to work on ceramics when he turned ten years old. He learned with his father, Mr. Gerardo Rodenas. He says that none of his children liked to learn how to work on clay. Therefore, when he passes away, this type of handiwork tends to disappear.

Master Rodenas España has made shepherds, nativities, butterflies, etc. Nonetheless, in what he has worked the most are birds which are his specialty. The type of art that Mario Enrique makes can be classified as model artisanal shapes.

Nowadays, he makes: shepherds, butterflies, nativities, birds for hanging, napkin holders, etc.

His address is: 7a Calle 1-43, Colonia los Llanos, Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez. Phone number: 831-0085.

Rodenas España, Manuel Francisco: 54 years of age, married. Ceramist. Urban elementary school teacher. He has 3 children, of whom only Rosa Lizeth Rodenas Paredes likes to paint. She helps to paint the handicrafts made by her father.

He learned the trade of modelling clay with his father, Mr. Gerardo Rodenas, at the age of eight years old. He started by making money bowes and little sheeps. During the holidays he dedicated more time towards working on his father's workshop.

Currently, he makes birds, bird shaped napkin boxes, sets of birds of different sizes, seraphines, napkin boxes and butterflies. These handiworks, as well as those from his brother, are of contemporary art shapes.

His address is: 11 calle 2-67, Colonia los Llanos, Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez. Phone number: 831-0921.

Rodenas González, José Florencio: 82 years of age, married. Ceramist. He had four children, three survived, who are: Migue Arturo and Mirta Aurora Rodenas Morales, both urban elementary school teachers, and Dr. Roberto Aníbal Rdenas Morales; all three work on ceramics, but only his elder son, Miguel, dedicates himself to this job, for he never wanted to become a teacher.

Florencio learned the trade when he was twelve years old. His father, Arturo Rodenas Pérez taught him, who knew it all

about the trade and could work on the potter's wheel, pottery and clay. He was the teacher of all of the Rodenas Pérez siblings, Gerardo, Joselino, Ángela, Mariana de Jesús, etc. His father assigned him tasks that he had to finish before having free time to play and if he didn't finish them during the day he had to do it at night. Little by little, by starting with "simple things, within time, you learned and later, as an adult, and with need, you could start to work".

Mr. Florencio has been working in ceramics for 60 years. About twenty years ago he started to make miniature nativities, which had great success; he perfected them and included shepherds, angels and musicians. he invented butterflies set that became famous and nowadays represent the antiüeño handicrafts, but because he was unable to keep on doing so many objects, he left this job for his son Miguel Rodenas who continued in making the butterflies for a long time.

Currently, he makes nativities by request. He also makes shepherds and angels of all sizes and some special pieces.

His address is: "Cerámica Fina Florencio Rodenas", 1a. Calle del Chajón, sitio No. 19 "D". Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-6226.

Rodenas Morales, Miguel Francisco Arturo: 52 years of age, married. Ceramist. Urban elementary school teacher. Of all of his children only one works on ceramics. His wife, Clara Rodenas, and his son Gerson Rodenas, work with him in the family workshop.

Mr. Miguel learned the ceramics trade with his father, Master Florencio Rodena, who during holidays made him work at the workshops alongside his siblings. He has been working in ceramics for 26 years.

He makes: little and big nativities, angels, archangels, seraphs, all kinds of birds, butterflies, wedding and promotional events favors, etc.

His address is: “Cerámica Fina Manos Antigüeñas”, Calle del Manchen, No. 2. Antigua Guatemala. Phone numbers: 810-3127.

Tabin Álvarez, Hilario: 60 years of age, married. Ceramist with art studies in the field of theater. He has 3 children. Mr. Hilario receives help from his daughter, Carmen Aída, who paints all of the handicrafts that he makes.

He began to venture into different branches of craftsmanship when he was twelve years old. First, he started on the pedal loop. Later on he had a loom workshop while at the same time he was trying to learn how to work on clay in terms of ceramics. He worked on papier maché handicrafts. It is important to highlight, that Mr. Hilario “worked with Isabel Hernández from San Antonio Aguas Calientes on the backstrap loom”.

He lost everything he had with the earthquake of San Gilbeto of 1976, but because he knew how to work on clay, he began the elaboration of processions and dances, which is what he is currently dedicated to. He has made several exhibitions sponsored by national and international institutions.

He is the first artisan to be inspired by and to make known the ancestral, colonial and contemporary traditions of Guatemalas, such as traditional dances and processions of the *antigüño* tradition. His work expresses wonder, magic and great talent.

Currently, he makes on clay: traditional dances, processions, nativities, clay dolls with traditional costumes, butterflies, birds, etc.

His address is: “Tabinsha”, 5a. Ave., Norte No. 34, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-1365.

Terete Valle, Carlos Enrique: 42 years of age, single. Ceramist. He has no children, only two nephews that have learned the trade and work in the workshop with him, they are: Selvin Maldonado and Eduardo Alexander Terete Aceituno.

He started to work when he was ten years old with Guillermo España, Cruz Enrique España's father, who taught him the trade. He then later worked for seven years with another ceramist whose last name was Menchú, but he does not remember his name. In 1988 he opened his workshop where he works nowadays.

Currently, he makes: marimba sets, pigs and turtles sets, little buses, butterfly sets, customary nativities, weavers, canoes, owls of any sizes and designs, etc.

His address is: “Cerámica Creativa”, Calle Ancha, Callejón La Azotea, No. 18, Antigua Guatemala.

Urquizú Rodenas, Julio Cesar: 36 years of age, single. Ceramist-designer.

Professor in Pedagogy and Business Administration Technician.

He started to work when he was six years old but not as an obligation, but as he says “he learned playing with clay². When his great aunt, Ms. Mariana de Jesus Rodenas Pérez made the extraordinary imaginary birds, he made “ducklings” with the clay; these were his first handicrafts. After a long process, he acquired the ability. Then, he made butterflies of different styles, sizes, species and colors. Some of them were real, and others imaginary. Finally, he came to use *mostacilla* (special beads) with which he changes the style of the clay angels.

Urquizú arises from the artisan tradition of the Rodenas family and has transformed its art into the creation of new practices and elaborate styles of unequalled plastic beauty.

He currently makes: butterflies, flower napkin holders and the *mostacilla* (beaded) technique for the coating of the clay angels.

His address is: “Cerámica Rodenas”, 1a. Calle del Chajón No. 28, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-2371.

Sales stand: Mercado de Artesanías, 4a Calle poniente final, local No. 52. Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-2107.

Majolica



Montiel Baeza Siblings: Manuel Francisco of 63 years of age, married. Potter. He has three children. Alfredo of 50 years of age, married. Potter. He has two children. Victor Hugo of 42 years of age, single. Potter and elementary school teacher. And María Elena, 52 years of age, single. Businesswoman.

Manuel Francisco and Alfredo learned the trade of potters since they were little kids at the age of twelve, working alongside their father, Master Francisco Montiel in his workshop, which is still kept as their workplace. Of all their children none of them learned the ceramist trade.

Victor Hugo began to work at eighteen years old. Maria Elene is the one in charge of trading the handicrafts.

The Montiel family keeps the traditions of styles and shapes on the majolic hat they inherited from their ancestors, which they produce with traditional techniques.



Fruit Bowl by the Montiel Siblings

Nowadays they make a large variety of products, such as: tableware, pots, mixers, pitchers, sugar bowls, candy bowls, *porrones* (wine jars), censers, plates, confraternities plates, flower pots, tea sets, masks, tureens, pans, etc.

Their address is: Subidita a San Felipe de Jesús, No. 20, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-6902.

Palomo Cajas, José Antonio: 44 years of age, married. Potter. Secondary school graduate. He has 6 children, of whom none learned this trade.

He started in this artisanal field at sixteen years old. He learned the trade of majolics researching on his own initiative. He studied decorative commercial ceramics for a year in the United States.

He keeps the artisanal tradition of de antiguo majolic tile in its styles and shapes. However, he has turned his production into a modern mechanized popular industry, oriented towards a decorative and construction market.

Currently, he makes: plates, flower pots, vases, amphoras, gargoyles, bathroom sinks, tiles, all kinds of plates and decorative items.

His address is: “Alfarería el Ángel”, lote No. 12, Sección N, San Pedro El Alto, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 504-1857. Email: angeltile@yahoo.com

Sales stand: “Alfarería el Ángel”, Mercado de Artesanías, 4a. Calle poniente final, local No. 66.

Chandlery



Chajón Sactic, Héctor Mario: 2 years of age, married. Waxworker. Accounting technician. He has two young children, five and three years old.

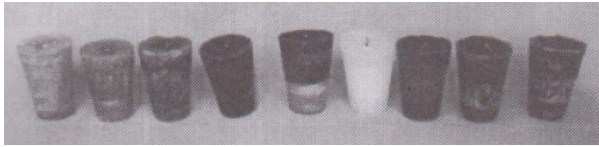
He started to work on chandlery at fifteen years old. His father, Mr. Andrés Chajón Pérez taught him, with whom he still works with today, despite being 70 years old. Hector Mario also gets help from his wife “who is learning the trade and already knows the turning technique, which is the most difficult one”.

Chajón Sactic keeps the tradition of producing traditional candles, but has developed new shapes that sell in the current market, with decorative and export purposes.

He currently manufactures all kinds of candles, including smooth, turned, decorative, paschal candles, candlesticks, *tres Marías* (three Marys), floating candles that are placed in fountains at night events, etc. He also makes all kinds of votive candles, including aromatic, round and decorative candles.

His address is: 1a. Calle del Chajón, casa No. 23, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-1833. Cell phone: 498-1881.

Sales stand: “Cerería Virgen de Dolores”, Mercado Municipal de Antigua Guatemala, 4a. calle poniente fina, 2-02 Sección II.



Votive candles by Hector Mario Chajón.

Wrought Iron and Bronze



Juárez Chacón, Adrián: 72 years of age.

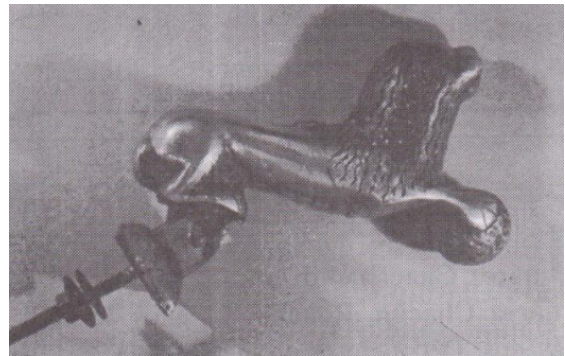
Juárez Chacón, Rogelio: 61 years of age, married. Wrought iron decorators. They both have three children each, but none of the sons, despite having worked in their parents' workshop, have wanted to continue with this trade and chose other careers.

The Juárez brothers workshop was founded in 1890 by his father who worked with German blacksmiths, acquiring a master's degree in this trade. They learned with his father back when they were children, and dedicated themselves to blacksmithing; they made horse hardware, cattle markers, spurs, etc. and in iron forging. When the use of cattle diminished with the introduction of cars and trucks, they learned automotive mechanics as well as battery repairing, and then they dedicated themselves to mechanics in general. Later, due to the competition that arose in the field of mechanics, they worked in plumbing and as they did not get enough profit, they went back to blacksmithing. They have been working in this trade for 50 years.

Nowadays, they make anything related to the field of iron and forging, balconies, railings, lanterns, lamps, candlesticks, rosettes, studs, etc.

Their address is: "Forja Hermanos Juárez", 6a. Calle Poniente, No. 36, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-2859.

Paniagua Vargas, Mario: 51 years of age, married. Blacksmith. Accountant technician. Elementary school teacher on Accounting Economics and teacher at Liceo Rosales in Antigua Guatemala; he has two children.



Bronze dresser door by Renato Tinoco.

He started to work on blacksmithing when he was 14 years old in a workshop of the Salesian priests in Anigua, where he learned the trade, afterwards he worked in the "San Carlos" workshop, later setting up his own workshop, dedicating himself to this trade.

He makes: balconies, lamps, candlesticks, metal furniture and decorations, etc.

His address is: "Forja Paniagua", Colonia la Belleza, No. 32, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-4920. Cell phone: 392-5480.

Sales stand: "Artesanías las Orquídeas, Forja Paniagua". Mercado de Artesanías, 4a. Calle poniente final, local 94, Antigua Guatemala.

Tinoco Castellanos, José Enrique: 54 years of age, married. Artisan in bronze and sculptor. He has five children, three sons and two daughters. Mr. José taught his three sons to work on bronze and iron forging.

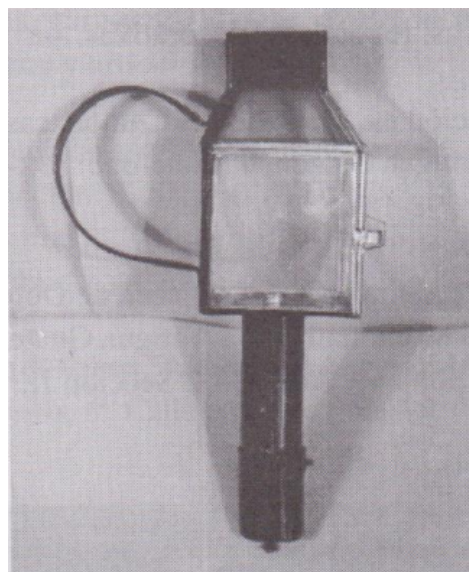
His oldest son, Rony Otonial Tinoco Gramako, is a college graduate professor in Graphic Design and also dominates sculpting. Currently, he lives in the United States. His other two sons: Dany Roberto and Eddy Renato Tinoco Gramajo, the latter has a Bachelor's Degree of Laws and Social Sciences from the San Carlos de Guatemala university, and have continued with the family's tradition on bronze sculpting and iron forging.

Mr. José learned when he was a child with his "grandfather and adoptive father", as he mentioned Mr. Lisandro del Pinal García, one of the oldest forgers of the 19th century, who taught him how to work on bronze and iron with the colonial style of the 16th century, an art that dominated and has given him the fame and prestige that his workshop has.

In his workshop, he makes all kinds of handicrafts that have cast bronze and wrought iron as raw material. A large number of handicrafts are made of bronze, including: door knockers in the shape of a lion or hand, rosettes, lamps, keys, candlesticks, mailbox plates and all kinds of decorative ornaments.

As for wrought iron work, the largest production is the elaboration of candlesticks to be placed on the wall or the floor, railings, balconies, chandeliers, etc.

His address is: "De Bronce", 7a. ave Norte



Tin Lantern by Jorge Rivas

No. 64 "B" Antigua Guatemala. Phone number/Fax: 823-1959. Email: aresanosantigua@hotmail.com

Viena Figueroa, José Salvador: 47 years of age, married. He has three children. He started to work on iron at ten years old, learning with his uncle José Figueroa Marín, outstanding blacksmith from Antigua Guatemala.

He makes all kinds of works in iron and forge; railings, lanterns, lamps, etc. He also works on the basis of catalogs or to the client's taste and with his own invented designs.

His address is: "Talleres Vielman", Calle Real de Jocotenango, No. 23, zona 1, Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez. Phone number/Fax: 831-1373, Cellphone: 401-7410. Email: talleresvielman@yahoo.com

Vielman Figueroa, Juan Francisco: 44 years of age, married. Blacksmith. Accounting technician.

Mr. Juan Francisco says that iron forging is like the Vielman's family inheritance. They learned the trade back when they were children, as they grew up in the workshop founded by one of their maternal uncles.

They make anything that can be done in iron, such as: doors, gates, stained glass windows, lamps, rosettes, balconies, chandeliers, hinges, pulls, hardware, etc. Currently, the majority of their production is made up of orders for metal parts for Caoba S.A., a company that manufactures doors for export.

His address is: "Forja Figueroa", Calle Real de Jocotenango, No. 20, zona 1, Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez. Phone number/fax: 831-1270.

Tinsmithing

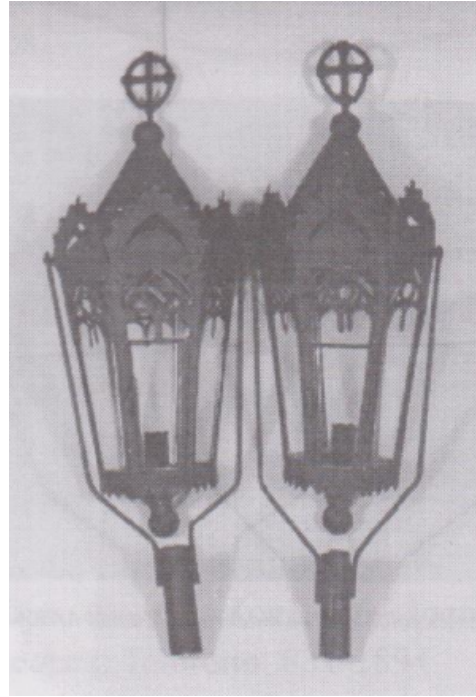


Rivas, Jorge Alberto: 25 years of age, single. Tinsmith. He says that out of all his family, it is only him who learned this trade. The artisan that taught him this job already passed, and his name was Master Edgar Leonel Chacón. His (Mr. Chacón) are the tools that he uses nowadays to work on tin. During holidays he went to work in Mr. Chacón's workshop since he was twelve years old. Currently, he has 4 years of working on his own workshop, alongside him works **Alfonso Uriel García Chajón**, 22 years of age, who is a tinsmith and urban elementary school teacher, as his helper.

He makes a variety of designs such as ornaments, candlesticks, lanterns, etc. He maintains the antiguoño tradition in the

production of lamps, lanterns and utensils for the Holy Week processions.

His address is: "Hojalatería San José", Calle Ancha, No. 42, Antigua Guatemala.



Tin Lanterns by Jorge Rivas

Wood



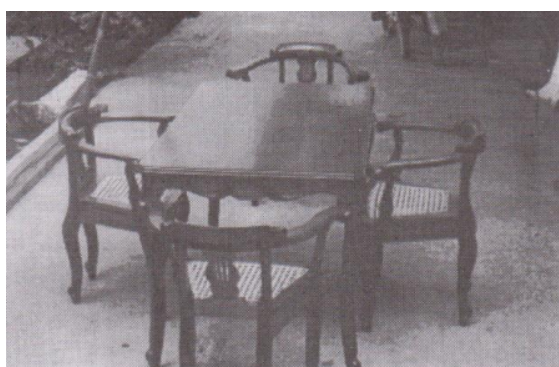
Barrios, Alberto: 48 years of age, married. Carpenter-carver. He has 3 children.

He learned the trade as a carpenter when he was a child, the same as his siblings, as a family tradition; making fruits out of wood. Of his creations, Noah's arks, "little ships carved in wood that have little figurines of animals" stand out. These objects make him famous and distinguish him from the works made by his siblings.

Currently, he makes: "Noah's arks", angels and all kinds of wooden fruit.

His address is: “Arca de Noe”, Calle San Felipe, No 5, Zona 4, Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez. Phone number: 831-0788.

Barrios, Ramón: 42 years of age, married. Carpenter-carver. He has 6 children. He started to learn the trade as a carpenter when he was 11 or 12 years old, as both his parents took him to carpenter workshops that they knew in order for him to learn the trade.



Colonial Wooden Furniture by Manuel Arriola

He currently makes: everything that corresponds to wood carving, such as animal figurines, candlesticks, lamps, shelves, images of church façades, angels, cherubs, coffee boxes, etc.

His address is: Calle San Felipe, No, 22, Zona 2, Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez. Phone number: 831-1885-

Barrios Gómez, Marco Tulio: 55 years of age, single. Carpenter-carver. He learned to work on wooden fruit carving when he was a child in the workshop that Master carpenter Alejo Osorio had in Jocotenango. He has been working in this craft for 32 years.

He currently makes: all kinds of wooden fruit and flat basket strays to lay them in it.

His address is: Calle de San Felipe, No. 5, Zona 4 de Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez.

Barrios Moreira, José María: 51 years of age, married. Carpenter-cabinet maker. He has 3 children. He says that out of three of his children, two work on handicrafts “as it runs in the family”. He learned the trade as a family tradition as aloof his family was active in this branch of craftsmanship and is an exponent of a novel tradition that has taken root in the popular art of Sacatepéquez, such as the wooden fruits of the municipality of Jocotenango.

He makes 24 kinds of wooden fruit of all sizes up to 10 inches in diameter; 24 kinds of vegetables; dancers, apple and pear shaped flat wicker baskets, angel shaped candlesticks, placemats, flowers, napkin boxes, birds of paradise, etc.

His address is: “Artesanías Barrios” Calle de San Felipe, now called calle de Ricardo Arjona, No. 3, zona 4 de Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez. Phone numbers: 831-0116 and 831-0601.

Cardenas Barrios, Tomas: 59 years of age, married. Carpenter-carver. He has 6 children, of them, only the eldest Marvin Giovanni Rosales, learned the trade and works alongside him.

Tomás is originally from Antigua Guatemala and moved to live at Jocotenango, when he was 28 years old, he learned the trade of wooden fruit carving. He started bananas and has 32 years of working on this handicraft. He created almost all of the fruits that his family makes. The apple is the most sold piece and that has given him more recognition.

He currently makes: apples, chili peppers, fruits and all kinds of vegetables, etc.

His address is: “Fábrica de Manzanas”, Calle de San Felipe, now called “Ricardo Arjona No. 7, Zona 4 de Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez. Phone number: 831-1380.

Castillo Pacheco, Virgilio: 71 years of age, married. Carpenter, cabinet maker and carver, specialist on the papier maché technique. He had a son with his first wife and three with his current wife. But none of them, despite him teaching them how to work on carpentry, liked the trade and dedicated themselves to other professions.

He started to learn the trade as a carpenter at age ten, in Mr. Antonio Velasco workshop, where his father took him and he was an apprentice, he was not paid. Eventually, he worked as a builder, earning the “colonial type” construction technique. He also learned blacksmithing and forging, mastered techniques and papier maché decoration work. His dream was, back then, at twenty years old, to become a carpenter.

He has 51 years of experience in carpentry, wrought iron and papier maché decoration.

He has built processional platforms for several brotherhoods in Antigua Guatemala and the Capital City, which have given him fame. Among them there are the two platforms that the *Iglesia de la Recolección* (church of the Recollection) has, the platform that is in the *Basilica del Rosario* (Basilica of the Rosary and the two platforms of the *Iglesia del Calvario* (church of Calvary) in Guatemala City. These last two are very large, the one of

the *Señor del Calvario* (Lord of Calvary) is considered the largest in the world with a capacity of 140 bearers and the one of the *Virgen de Dolores* with 100 bearers.

Nowadays, in his workshop, he makes living room, dining room and bedroom furniture and anything made out of wood, processional platforms, papier maché decorations and wrought iron works on “request”.

His address is: “Carpintería Belén”. calle de Belén, No. 7, Antigua Guatemala.

García Barrios, Luis Américo: 30 years old, married. Carpenter and cabinet maker. He has 4 young children.

His father, Francisco García Barrios, taught him the trade of carpentry, but he began to work on carpentry at 25 years old, when his father passed away.

He currently makes: carved fruits and vegetables, apples, melons, and all kinds of wood carving.

His address is: “Artesanías García”, Calle de San Felipe, No. 75, Zona 4 de Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez. Phone number: 831-1894.

García Valenzuela, José Rogelio: 40 years old, married. Carpenter-carver, specialized in gilded laminate. He has five young children.

He began working at the age of 12 in the workshop of **José Luis Álvarez** situated in Antigua Guatemala, where he learned the trade. Eventually, he mastered the technique of gilding (stewing), and has 25

years of experience in the trade of carpentry.

He manufactures: frames, consoles, brackets for corner ornaments, wooden columns, all kinds of figurines and furniture, beds, bases for dining tables, frames for mirror, carvings, chests, animal figures, boxes, images, lamps; dining room, bedroom and living room sets, solomonic columns for ornaments, fine and rustic furniture, sculptures and wood carvings. He uses only cedar and mahogany wood from the Petén.

His address is: San Luis Las Carretas, costado derecho de la Iglesia Católica, Pastores, Sacatepéquez. Phone number: 831-1781.

Medina Avalos, José Antonio: 76 years old, married. Carpenter and cabinet maker. He has 6 children, two of them who learned the trade with him and that live in the United States, where they dedicate themselves to carpentry.

Mr. Jose's father and uncles were carpenters, but he learned the trade with Master Guillermo Giurqui, an Italian carpenter that lived in Antigua.

Mr. José installed his workshop about 55 years ago and has made in it, aside all that involves the carpentry field, bodies for trucks and vans, processional platforms and counters for the *Agrícola Mercantil* and *Banco de Guatemala* banks.

Currently, he makes "on demand": chairs, all kinds of furniture, dining room and bedroom sets, etc.

His address is: 5a. calle poniente No. 18, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-3308.

Ruiz, Florencio: 73 years old, married. Carpenter and cabinet maker. He has eight children, six sons and two daughters, all of them college professionals, which is why they didn't follow their father's craft.

He started to work when he was very little, as he became an orphan and his mother made a deal with him that he had to learn how to work and of what he earned he had to give her half to be able to survive. With what he had left, he covered his expenses and studied with the teachers of that time, who were very demanding. His first carpentry teacher would be Mariano Larios for who in order to cover his mother's expenses, made some "errands" and extra jobs, like moving a manual lathe from 4 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon. The work was exhausting. For making this job he earned 35 cents per week, which were handed to his mother. He then was working with 2Nayo" Gaitan, one of the carpenter that incorporated the changes to the Antigua Guatemala's handicrafts, in terms of wood, and also made the Louis XV type "horseshoe" chair, which is the colonial chair that today represents the antiguoño craftsmanship.

He has more than 53 years of experience working as a carpenter.

Mr. Florencio currently has a helper, Mr. **Carlos Rigoberto Velásquez**, who has 23 years of working alongside him. Carlos learned the trade, he is professional and capable. He knows how to capture Mr. Florencio's ideas in wood.

Production is done through “order’s”. He makes big furniture, like cabinets and closets. He makes smaller jobs such as: candlesticks, little animals, figurines, book pressing, paperweights, canes, cigar and store boxes, jewelry boxes; big, medium and big trunks, etc. All of them with a “Antigüeño colonial” finish.

His address is: 6a. ave. Norte No. 55 “A”, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-1430, Fax. 832-5159.

Sánchez Martínez, Carlos Enrique: 47 years old, married. Carpenter and cabinet maker. He has two children.

He started to work on carpentry at 14 years old at Mario Barrios’ workshop, which was located on the Santa Lucía roadway. Mr. Carlos built the chair and table set that was used in the Aurora airport in Guatemala City, to welcome Pope Juan Pablo II, on his third visit to Guatemala.

He makes: furniture in fine wood; bedroom, living and dining room furniture, sideboards, bulk work (imagery), doors, windows, cosets, etc.

His address is: 1a ave. Del Chajón No, 26, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-5312.

Traditional Dolls



García López, Benjamín: 75 years of age, married. Artisan, ceramist and English teacher. He has three children, but none of the work on the making of his traditional dolls.

He started to work in handicrafts when he was very young in the field of pottery. He learned the potter’s trade with his father. He used to make: pots, whisk instruments, candlesticks, ashtrays, etc.

When his parents died, he started to make traditional dolls, which he dressed with regional costumes of the different municipalities of the Sacatepéquez department. First, he made small dolls and later on, big dolls of approximately 40 cm of height.

Nowadays, he makes: on “demand”, dolls of about 40 cm of height, dressed in regional costumes, of the different municipalities of the Sacatepéquez department.

His address: 1a. Calle poniente No. 10, Antigua Guatemala.

Paper



Dardon Herrero, Marco Antonio: 60 years old, single. Specialist in the elaboration of paper balloons. In addition to his artisan work, he is also employed as a clerk.

According to him, the work in the elaboration of paper balloons is a tradition that “has come from his ancestors, the grandparents that taught his mother; she taught his father and his father taught him”. He started in this craft industry at the age of sixteen.

He currently is the only artisan that dedicates himself to the making of tissue paper balloons in the municipality of Antigua Guatemala. He indicated that it is during Christmas when he sells the most balloons. He maintains the tradition of the elaboration of paper balloons that are used in fairs and traditional festivities of the region.

He currently makes all kinds of tissue paper balloons.

His address is: Colonia El Manchén, No. 35 “A”, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 832-3992.



Tissue Paper Balloon by Marco Antonio Dardón

Pyrotechniques



Sican Díaz, José Jerónimo: 72 years old, married. Pyrotechnician. He has five children, but only one, named **Carlos Sican**, of 40 years old has followed the tradition and works with Mr. José in the production of pyrotechnical articles.

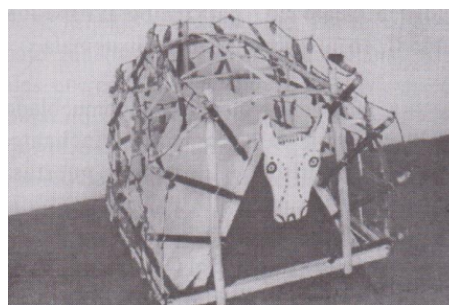
M. José learned to work with gunpowder when he as a child, He was taught by his brother, **José Julio Sican**, who learned the trade form their father, Mr. **Eustaquio Sican**, who died when Jose was very young.

His brother died when he was 15 years old, so he had several jobs before dedicating himself to the making of pyrotechnical articles, at the age of 20.

He currently makes on his fireworks factory: toritos, flying bombs, stick rockets, light bombs, light grenades, cane games, castles, flares, etc.

His residence address is: 2da. avenida sur No. 2, San Juan del Obispo, Antigua Guatemala. Phone number: 8321941.

Factory: “Cohetería Luces de navidad”, diagonal sur, San Juan Obispo, Antigua Guatemala.



Pyrotechnic “Torito” by Jerónimo Sican

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