SACRED PAPER FIGURES OF MESOAMERICA

PRESENTED BY NINA COLLINS
Contemporary Rituals with Pre-Hispanic Roots

Photo courtesy of http://www.famsi.org/reports/01001/
Contemporary Rituals with Pre-Hispanic Roots

Photo 12. Main altar in the shrine at the foot of Postectli. Note the square arch, decorated with palm and flower stars, that represents the sky realm. The table top containing the offerings and two boxes with seed images represents the surface of the earth. Beneath the altar table are offerings and candles dedicated to the earth itself.

Photo courtesy of http://www.famsi.org/reports/01001/
Sacred Paper Figures
Museum Collections

http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/vocabularies/aat/
Museum Collections

http://et.afsnet.org/
Sacred Paper Figures

• In AAT, Mesoamerican Sacred Paper Figures can fall under:
  – bark paper
  – paper dolls
  – ritual objects
Sacred Paper Figures

• In Ethnographic Thesaurus, they can fall under:
  • ceremonial objects

Note: Ethnographic Thesaurus does not provide definitions!
Sacred Paper Figures

• Other Ontologies do not reveal the type of information we feel is important about these objects.
• Create an Ontology
Sacred Paper Figure Ontology

• Classes
  – Culture
  – RitualSpecialist
  – Ritual
  – SupernaturalAssociation
  – Origin
  – FigureName
  – SpecimenNo
  – IconographicFeatures
Sacred Paper Figure Ontology

• Properties
  – hasCulture
  – hasMember
  – hasMaker
  – hasRitual
  – hasSuperNaturalAssoc
  – hasOrigin
  – hasFigureName
  – hasIconographicFeatures
Mesoamerican Sacred Paper Figure Ontology
Sacred Paper Figures

SpecimenNo 091

Maker
  Cirilo (M)
FigureName
  Pilsintsij
Supernatural Assoc.
  Seed
Origin
  Sacred Cave
Ritual
  Fertility
Iconographic Features
  ??
Problems

• Utility of this Ontology outside this collection
• Adding Data Types
• For Research Purposes, Database would be better
• Intellectual copyright
Questions?

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