

April 2024 – MEF gratefully accepts the donation of remaining stock from Yax Te' Books.

To learn more about this nonprofit, we asked former Yax Te' stewards, Dr. Hana Muzika Kahn and Dr. Laura Martin to kindly provide us some background:

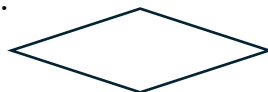
History of Yax Te' – by Dr. Hana Muzika Kahn and Dr. Laura Martin

Yax Te' Press (in the Q'anjob'al Maya language Yax means 'green' and Te' is 'tree') was originally founded to make works of Mayan literature, both oral and written, available to Mayas themselves and to interested others. It also helped to repatriate foreign ethnographies to Guatemala so that Mayas could read what has been written about them and others who read Spanish could gain access to these works.

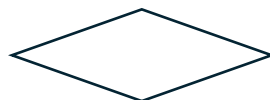
Yax Te' Press was founded in the late 1980s by Dr. Fernando Peñalosa, professor of sociology at California State University-Long Beach. In February 1997 it was reorganized as the Yax Te' Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit. It was transferred in 2003 to the K'inál Winik Cultural Center at Cleveland State University under the direction of Dr. Laura Martin. In 2006, Yax Te' moved to Temple University, under the direction of Dr. Hana Muzika Kahn.

Overhead costs were minimal: there was no paid staff, and office space, equipment, utilities, and telephone service were all at no cost to the Foundation. All Yax Te' income was from the sale of its own books and those imported from Guatemala. Most of it went for direct expenses like printing, shipping, postage, and authors' royalties. For many years the web site at <http://www.yaxte.org> provided the latest information on availability of titles, but it was hacked in 2019. A new website was established at www.yaxtebooks.info, but is now closed.

The Maya Educational Foundation accepted the remaining inventory of Yax Te' in April 2024 and will be able to distribute the books listed to interested organizations, universities and other groups, hoping to attract good will donations to MEF for scholarships for Maya students in Guatemala and beyond.

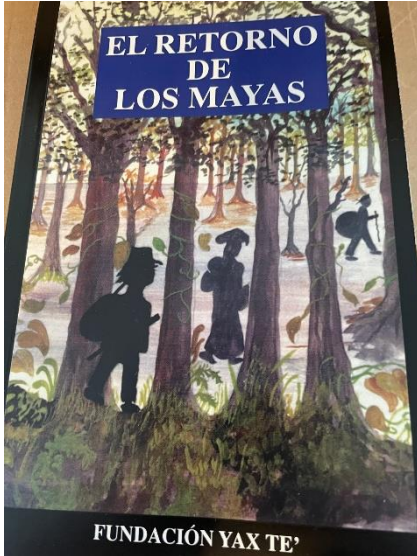


MEF commends Yax Te' founder Fernando Peñalosa and previous directors Laura Martin and Hana Muzika Kahn for their many years of dedicated service to the mission of the Yax Te' Foundation, and for now trusting MEF to house and distribute these unique works in the U.S. in the hope that the books will generate donations for university scholarships for Maya students in MEF programs.



We thank Yax Te' Books, especially Hana Muzika Kahn and the authors, for entrusting us with this important legacy of Maya relevant writings.

Among the currently available titles are:



- **EL RETORNO DE LOS MAYAS**, by Gaspar Pedro González:

The story of the return of a Maya refugee to Guatemala as he

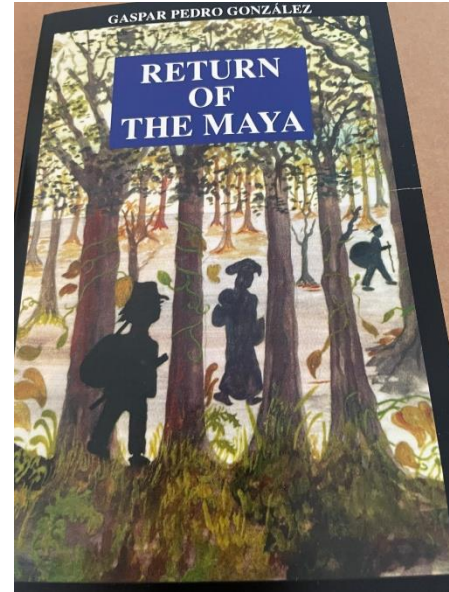
reminisces on the painful journey to exile in

Mexico. Meb'ixh ('the orphan'), reflects on his

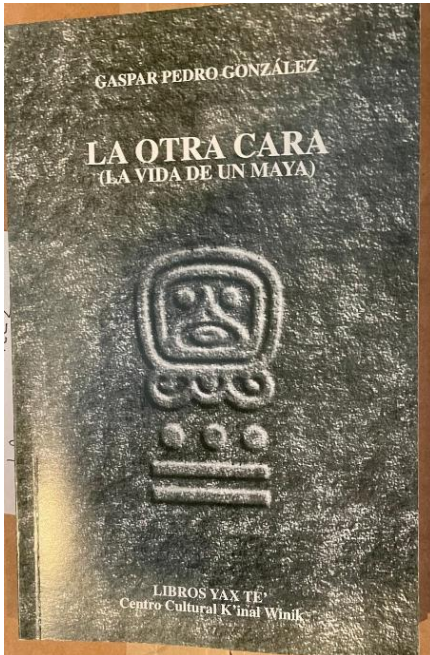
experiences as he analyzes them and raises

important questions for the future of Guatemala.

Spanish, 168 pp.



- **RETURN OF THE MAYA**, by Gaspar Pedro González: Translated by Susan G. Rascón English version of preceding item. 181 pp.



- **LA OTRA CARA (LA VIDA DE UN MAYA)**, by Gaspar Pedro

González: For all those interested in Maya culture and the Maya

outlook on life this first novel by Gaspar Pedro González is a great

opportunity for enlightenment, and for entertainment also. This, the

first novel ever written by a Maya, tells the

life story of a Q'anjob'al Maya growing up

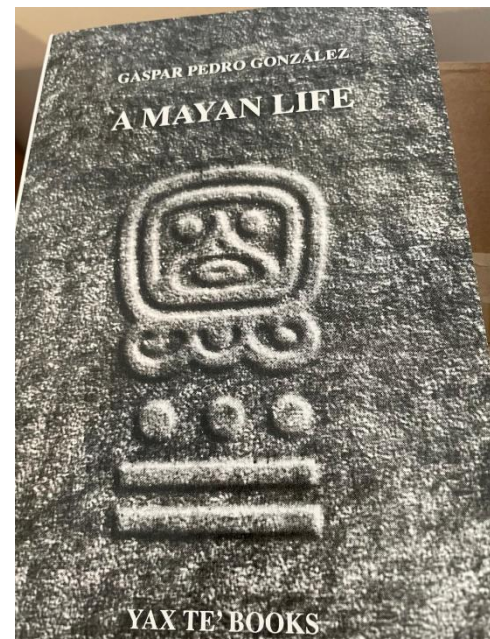
in troubling times. Rich in psychological and

ethnographic detail. 256 pp.

- **A MAYAN LIFE** By Gaspar Pedro

González . Translated by Elaine Elliott. English-language

version of La Otra Cara (see above), 235 pp.



- **UN MAYA MIGRANTE/ A MAYA MIGRANT**

by Gaspar Pedro González

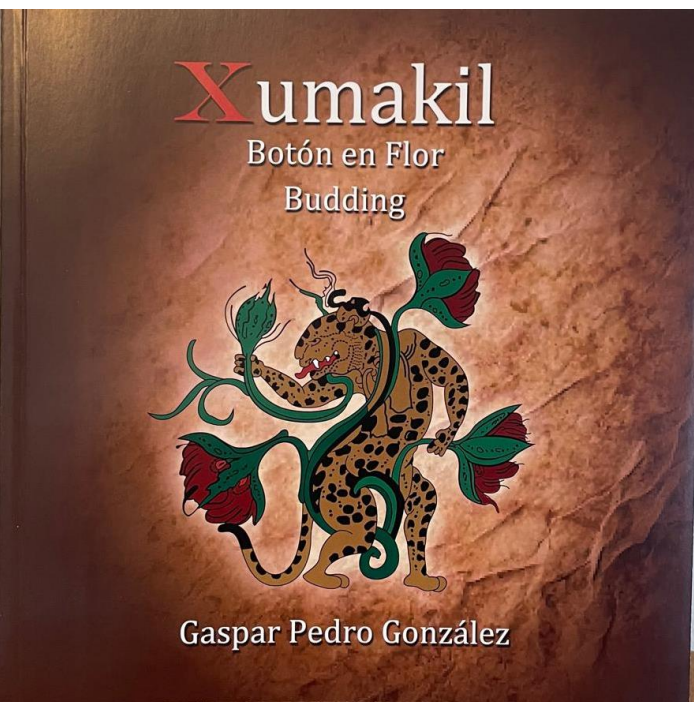
English/Spanish bilingual edition, 2021, a recent novella. It covers the long-term immigration experiences of a Q'anjob'al Maya and the impact on his family in Guatemala, and includes glossaries of Q'anjob'al vocabulary. It will be of great interest to MEF supporters and the communities that MEF supports.

262 pp.



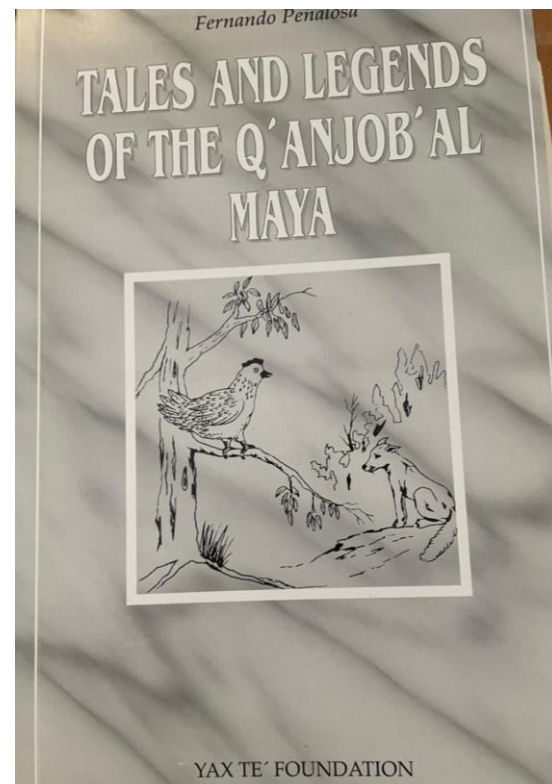
- **XUMAKIL / BOTON EN FLOR / BUDDING** by Gaspar Pedro González Trilingual, Q'anjob'al /Spanish/English edition of poems, 49 pp.

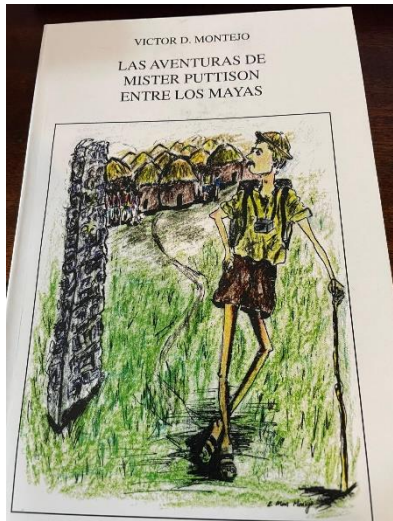
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**TALES AND
LEGENDS OF THE
Q'ANJOB'AL MAYA**

Translated by Fernando Peñalosa. Forty-one tales, fables, myths and legends of the Q'anjob'al-speaking people of the Cuchumatán Mountains of Guatemala, ranging from amusing animal fables to strange encounters with Lords of the Hill, tales of deceit and wonder, and legends of Santa Eulalia, San Pedro Soloma and San Miguel Acatán. 178 pp. illus.





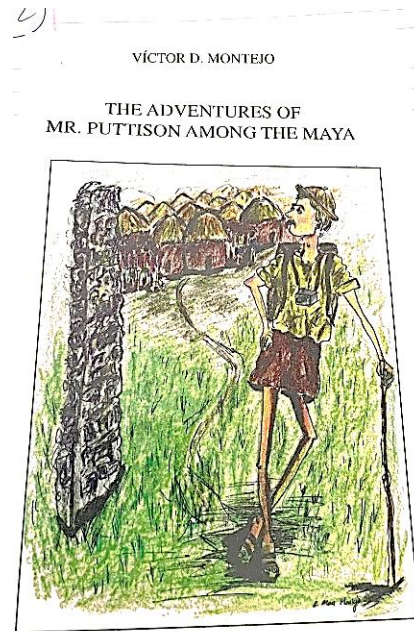
- **LAS AVENTURAS DE MISTER PUTTISON ENTRE LOS MAYAS,**

Victor D. Montejo, 193 pp. A historical and satirical novel whose principal character is an American adventurer who suddenly turns up in a Maya community in the highlands of western Guatemala. Apart from the impact that he causes in the community by his strange customs and his very presence, the stranger also learns the customs and the traditions of Yulwitz, which maintain the

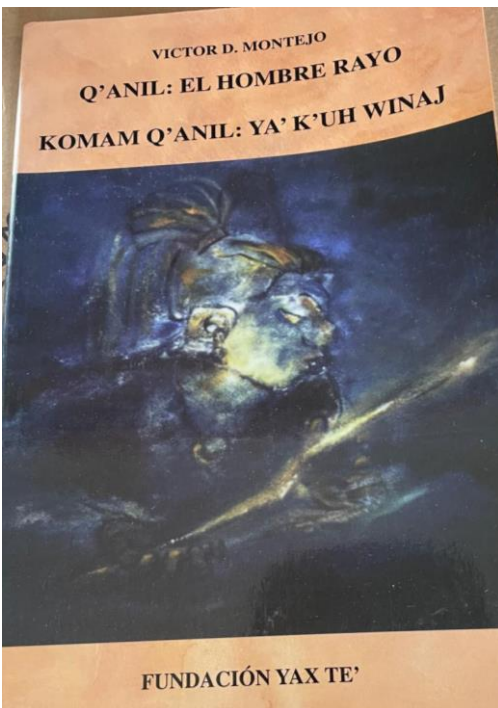
unity of the community. Lighthearted in tone, this novel nonetheless reflects some of the most serious concerns of the Maya in recent decades, and gives us a unique insight into their culture. 193 pp.

- **THE ADVENTURES OF MR. PUTTISON AMONG THE MAYA,**

Victor Montejo, 182 pp. Translation of the preceding book.

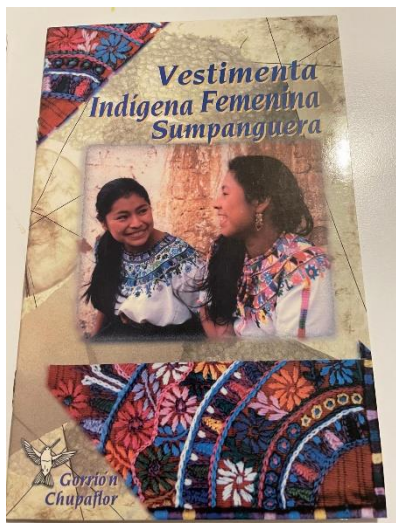


YAX TE' FOUNDATION



- **Q'ANIL: EL HOMBRE RAYO,** Victor D. Montejo Bi-lingual, Jakaltek Maya and Spanish edition. The legend of El Q'anil, the "Man of Lightning," stands alongside such classic Maya literary artifacts as Popol Vuh and Chilam Balam but has been preserved only through the oral tradition of the Jakaltek Maya. In this tale, the young man Xhuwan Q'anil brings lightning to his people in order to save them from destruction. He undertakes a journey of adventure, participates in a great war, and is subsequently immortalized. 122 pp.

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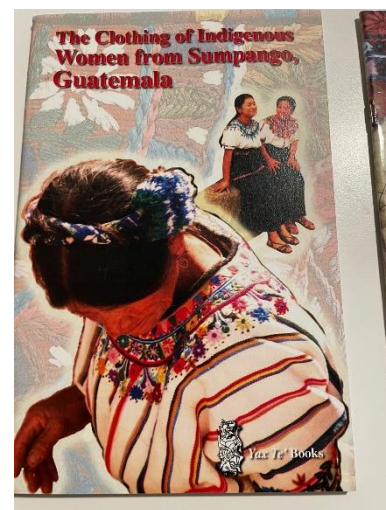
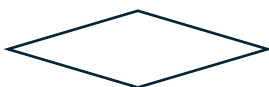


• **VESTIMENTA INDIGENA FEMENINA SUMPANGUERA.** This small, 30 pp., volume about the clothing of indigenous women from Sumpango, Guatemala, was first published in 1999 by Asociación Gorrión Chupaflor in Spanish, and in 2006 by Yax Te' Books in an expanded, English edition, 44 pp. as

• **THE CLOTHING OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN FROM SUMPANGO, GUATEMALA**

It explains all the items a woman from Sumpango

would traditionally wear, with many photos and illustrations.



Since these books are now available through the Maya Educational Foundation (MEF), please contact us at 508-349-1330 or mayaedufound@aol.com for more details. The books will be distributed to seriously interested parties for a donation to MEF to benefit Maya students in Guatemala and beyond.

Weaving for Justice, our friends who sell donated textiles to benefit MEF scholarship students, will also display these books at their monthly textile sales, for we know that, in New Mexico, there will be great interest in these books.

LET'S MAKE THIS A GREAT WIN-WIN

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS!

for more, see www.mayaedufound.org