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**THE DECLINE OF JASPE (IKAT) REBOZO WEAVING IN OAXACA
A VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH FIDEL DIAZ VALENCIA,
THE LAST MAESTRO OF JASPE WEAVING**

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The dark blue and white *jaspe* (ikat) *rebozo* is a traditional shawl-like garment still worn daily in Mexico by many women and girls, especially in the State of Oaxaca. Formerly, this type of *rebozo* was mainly produced locally in *talleres* (workshops) in Oaxaca. Now such *rebozos* are almost entirely made in other centers, most probably Tenancingo and Chilapa de Guerrero, and brought into Oaxaca. When asked about the number of *jaspe reboceros* in Oaxaca in former times, informants would reply "a lot," or "many." By the early 1960's, eight of these remained. Not only had other types of weaving become more profitable and less labor intensive, but there is also a possibility that a decline in the wearing of the traditional *jaspe rebozo* had contracted the market. While the *rebozo* is romanticized and seen as part of national and state costume, it is also seen as representing rural attitudes and a lack of modernity. For example, young girls are discouraged from wearing *rebozos* at school. Today, only one maestro of *jaspe* lives and works in Oaxaca, Fidel Diaz Valencia.

In video interviews conducted in May/June 1990 together with Pamela Scheinman, Don Fidel tells of his life as a weaver, and *pocotero* (seller) of *rebozos*. He explains and demonstrates the *jaspe* technique. This material is presented as a thirty minute video which also includes photographs of Don Fidel taken by researchers from the San Diego Museum of Man in 1963, as well as a meeting of Don Fidel with representatives from a Oaxacan governmental agency, concerning the continuation of this weaving tradition. Copies of the video are available at cost from the author.

For additional information concerning *jaspe* technique see:

Davis, Virginia "Resist Dyeing in Mexico: Comments on Its History, Significance, and Prevalence." In *Textile Traditions in Mesoamerica and the Andes*, eds: M. Schevill, J. Berlo and E. Dwyer, pp. 309-337. Garland Publishers, 1991.

