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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Chiesa di Santa Maria in Vallicella (Chiesa Nuova)

Via del Governo Vecchio, 134, 00186 Roma (RM)

Form compiled by Alberto Bianco (Director of the Archive of the Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri), in collaboration with Davide Domenici

Introduction

In the sacristy of the church of Santa Maria in Vallicella (also known as the Chiesa Nuova) – Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri – two exceptional Christian priestly vestments in linen and silk decorated with feather mosaics are preserved. Dated between the late seventeenth and the early eighteenth century, they were produced in the western regions of New Spain by P'urhépecha artists.

Cultural Areas

Mesoamerica

Collections

#01

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Priestly vestments from New Spain
<i>Collector</i>	Unknown

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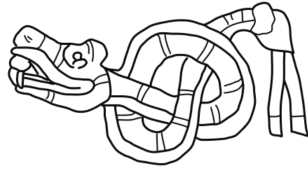
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<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	P'urhépecha (New Spain)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Two different sets of priestly vestments, distinguished by their colour as “green” and “yellow”, both characterised by complex floral motifs. The “green” set, in which the feathers are sewn, includes chasuble, mitre with lappets, maniple, stole, burse and chalice veil. The “yellow” set, with glued feathers, includes chasuble, mitre with lappets, maniple, stole and chalice veil.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The “green” set can be dated between the late seventeenth and the early eighteenth century, while the “yellow” set seems to be some decades later, that is, fully eighteenth-century.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bianco, A. 2025. “Parato da Pontificale, detto Parato Giallo. Manifattura messicana, fine del XVII-inizio del XVII secolo”. In <i>Barocco Globale. Il mondo a Roma nel secolo di Bernini</i>, ed. F. Cappelletti, F. Freddolini, 306-309. Roma: Scuderie del Quirinale-Electa.

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