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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Museo Pontificio della Santa Casa

Santuario della Santa Casa di Loreto

Piazza della Madonna, 1

60025, Loreto (AN)

Form compiled by Dr Vito Punzi (director), in collaboration with Davide Domenici

Introduction

The Museo Pontificio della Santa Casa in the Santuario di Loreto preserves four feather mosaics from New Spain, depicting saints (Saint Jerome, Saint Ambrose, Saint Augustine and Saint Gregory), datable to the seventeenth century. The four mosaics were donated to the sanctuary on 7 November 1668 by the Augustinian Pietro Lanfranconi, bishop of Terni between 1667 and 1674.

Cultural Areas

Mesoamerica

Collections

#01

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Feather mosaics from New Spain
<i>Collector</i>	
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica

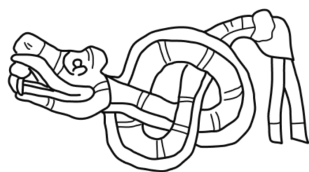
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<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Nahua or P'urhépecha (New Spain)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Saint Jerome, feather mosaic on amate paper and copper plate, with ebony frame, 43 × 31 cm, New Spain, seventeenth century (inv. 74). Saint Ambrose, feather mosaic on amate paper and copper plate, with ebony frame, 43 × 31 cm, New Spain, seventeenth century (inv. 75). Saint Augustine, feather mosaic on amate paper and copper plate, with ebony frame, 43 × 31 cm, New Spain, seventeenth century (inv. 76). Saint Gregory, feather mosaic on amate paper and copper plate, with ebony frame, 43 × 31 cm, New Spain, seventeenth century (inv. 77).
<i>History of the collection</i>	The four mosaics were donated on 7 November 1668 by the Augustinian Pietro Lanfranconi, former Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine (1661–1667) and then bishop of Terni (1667–1674), as recorded in the archival documentation: “Adì 7 novembre 1668. Quattro mosaici di piume che sono li quattro Dottori della Chiesa cioè S. Gregorio, S. Agostino, S. Girolamo e S. Ambrogio, con la loro cornice d’ebano et attaccaglie di rame dorato, con loro talchi donati dal padre maestro Pietro Lanfranconi d’Ancona dell’ordine di S. Agostino hora vescovo di Terni”. Archivio Storico della Santa Casa. Governo Santa Casa. Registro dei doni, 1661-1687, c. 19’.

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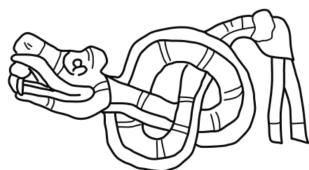
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	They were acquired by the museum on 7 November 1668.
Online Database	
Web page	
Bibliography	• Kern, M. 2018. “Cultured Materiality in Early Modern Art: Fetaher Mosaic in Sixteenth century Collections”, in The Nomadic Object. The Challenge of World for Early Modern Religious Art, eds. C. Göttler, M.M. Mochizuki, 319-341. Leiden: Brill. • Rose, S. 2025. “San Girolamo; Sant’Ambrogio; Sant’Agostino; San Gregorio. XVII secolo”. In Barocco Globale. Il mondo a Roma nel secolo di Bernini, ed. F. Cappelletti, F. Freddolini, 302-305. Roma: Scuderie del Quirinale-Electa. • Russo, A., G. Wolf, D. Fane, ed. 2015. Images Take Flight. Feather Art in Mexico and Europe, 1400-1700), 387-389, 451, figs. 231, 233, 254. Munich: Hirmer.

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