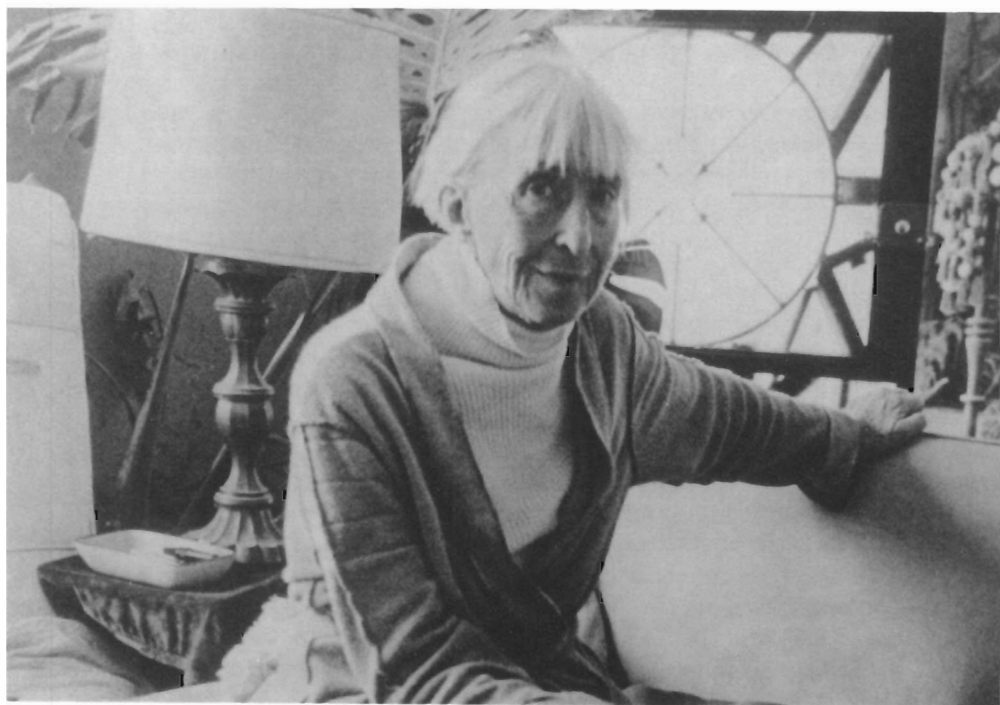


**NACHRUF**

**NECROLOGÍA**

**ORBITUARY**





## Carmen Cook de Leonard (1906 - 1988)

Carmen Gloria Cook Mittag de Leonard, for short Carmen Cook de Leonard, was born of a German mother and an American father in Mexico on April 9th, 1906. From childhood onwards she had been learning to be conversant in Spanish, English, German and French. During her lifetime she also learned Nahuatl and various Mayan dialects.

Her parents decided for her to continue her formal education as an architect in Europe. Upon receiving her degree she returned to Mexico, and unable to find any employment in her profession, she finally decided to study what had always been her favorite subject, viz. archaeology. In conjunction with her love for archaeology she studied as well art, painting, writing and psychology.

Fine Orange slip ceramics had been excavated in Teotihuacan, but one was not sure where it originated. In 1952 Carmen established the origin of Fine Orange slip ceramics as being from Popolca, located in the State of Puebla. On this subject she also wrote her thesis.

In 1953, together with her husband Don Juan Leonard, she founded the Centro de Investigaciones Arqueológicas (CIAM) and began publishing the magazine *Yan*. The most important effort of CIAM was the publication of the *Es-*

*plendor del México Antiguo* (1959), which is a detailed description of all aspects of precolumbian life in Mexico, written by associates of the Centro under her editorship.

In 1957, CIAM in cooperation with the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) organized an excavation on the Isla de Jaina, Campeche, in which Carmen vigorously participated. About 400 tombs were excavated by the team, but Carmen seems to have excavated by herself more than 50 percent. Unfortunately her material on the excavation was never published and gathered dust in Amatlan when the author of this article last consulted it.

Since 1946 she had been a member of the Sociedad Alemana Mexicanista (SAM) and in 1955 she was elected to the board of directors of this institution. Starting with Volume VIII she was entrusted with the publication of the journal *El México Antiguo*, which she handled admirably up to 1969. Volume XI which contained the last part of Beyer's works and a bibliography of Humboldt, was the last one published under her editorship and by anybody else.

Due to personal problems the relationship with SAM came to an end. This break must have happened shortly before publication of Volume XII. In a conversation that the writer had with Carmen she indicated that the material for Volume XII was with her in Amatlan. Maybe SAM, INAH or UNAM could be persuaded to publish this material as a last tribute to Carmen, who died in Amatlan, Morelos on May 4th, 1988 where she had lived for the last ten years of her life. The Indians of her community who loved her dearly for all the efforts she had made to obtain for them electricity, running water, a school, a church and an asphalt road to Tepoztlan, gave her a typical nahuatl funeral, and to honour their Maestra particularly the Indians performed their music on precolumbian musical instruments.

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