

Quiroga: A Repeat Photographic Essay

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In 1951 Donald D. Brand published a monograph titled *Quiroga: A Mexican Municipio* under the imprint of the Smithsonian Institution's Institute of Social Anthropology, Publication No. 11. The field investigations that resulted in that publication took place from 1939 to 1945. Brand went to México to conduct geographical research with funding from the US Department of State's Project of the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation. As was later revealed, this was a guise of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Brand's secret task was to monitor the activities of residual groups who participated in the Cristero Rebellion. The fear at the time was that these groups would facilitate Hitler's largely unknown and ridiculous plan to invade the US through México. Ever the scholar and patriot, Brand accomplished both goals.

Early in the 21st century the Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental (CIGA) or the Center for the Study of Environmental Geography of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) or the National Autonomous University of México in Morelia, Michoacán began a project to translate into Spanish and republish some of Brand's and other American scholars' books on México. To date, one of Brand's books, *A Study of the Southwest Coast of Mexico* (1957) has been completed, *Estudio Costero del Suroccidente de México* (2013). Plans were made to translate and republish *Quiroga*, and I was invited to join in the effort. After the 2005 meeting of the Conference of Latinamericanist Geographers held in Morelia, I drove to Quiroga and, with Brand's monograph in hand, began photographing places in town that he illustrated in various plates. More than fifteen years on and without translation and republication, I am presenting here some of Brand's pictures along with my pictures taken at the same places and in the same direction. I offer them with abbreviated versions of Brand's captions, uncorrected, untranslated and with no interpretation.



Plate 3. The Villa de Quiroga from the air.



Plate 6a View
down Calle
Benito Juárez....





Plate 6b Food *puestos* at the T-intersection of the highways to Guadalajara (straight ahead down Calle Zaragoza) and Pátzcuaro (to the left down Calle Nacional).



Plate 6c View down Calle Nacional, toward the exit for Pátzcuaro, taken from the corner opposite the *puestos* shown above.



Plate 7 The views on this plate show the three principal phases or types of streets in Quiroga—unimproved dirt, cobblestone of the Díaz era, and modern asphalt pavement.

a, The Calle de la Montaña is bordered by a stone wall on the left and an agave hedge on the right.

Plate 7 The views on this plate show the three principal phases or types of streets in Quiroga—unimproved dirt, cobblestone of the Díaz era, and modern asphalt pavement.



b, The Calle del Abasto Viejo was cobblestoned in the days when the *arrieros* used this route to the nearest point on the railroad some 14 km. away at La Cacana via Zirandangacho.



c, A view up
Benito Juárez



Plate 7 The views on this plate show the three principal phases or types of streets in Quiroga—unimproved dirt, cobblestone of the Díaz era, and modern asphalt pavement.



8b, The Calle de Degollado clearly shows the central open-gutter type of drainage.





Plate 9a, The Center of the Plaza Principal occupied by a water fountain or *pila* of cut stone and a column surmounted by a statue of America.

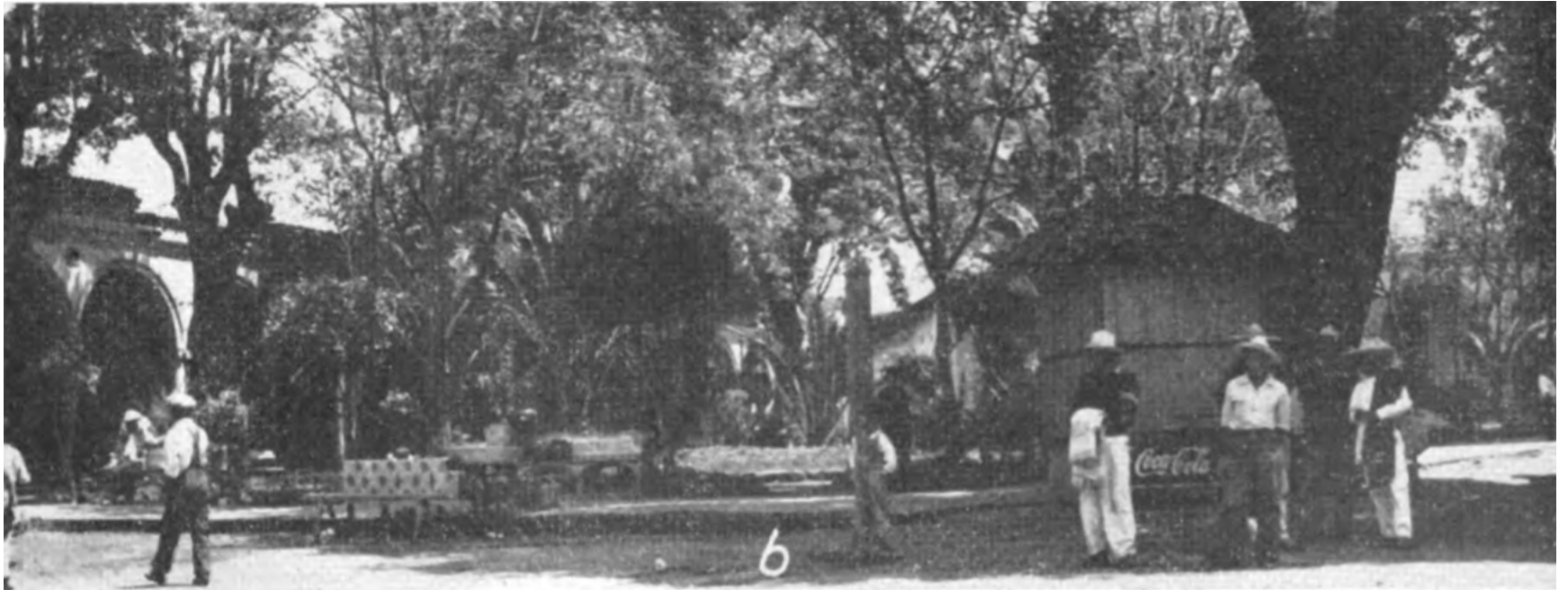


Plate 9b, The front of the Plaza Principal facing toward the point where Zaragoza and Benito Juárez merge and intersect with Nacional.

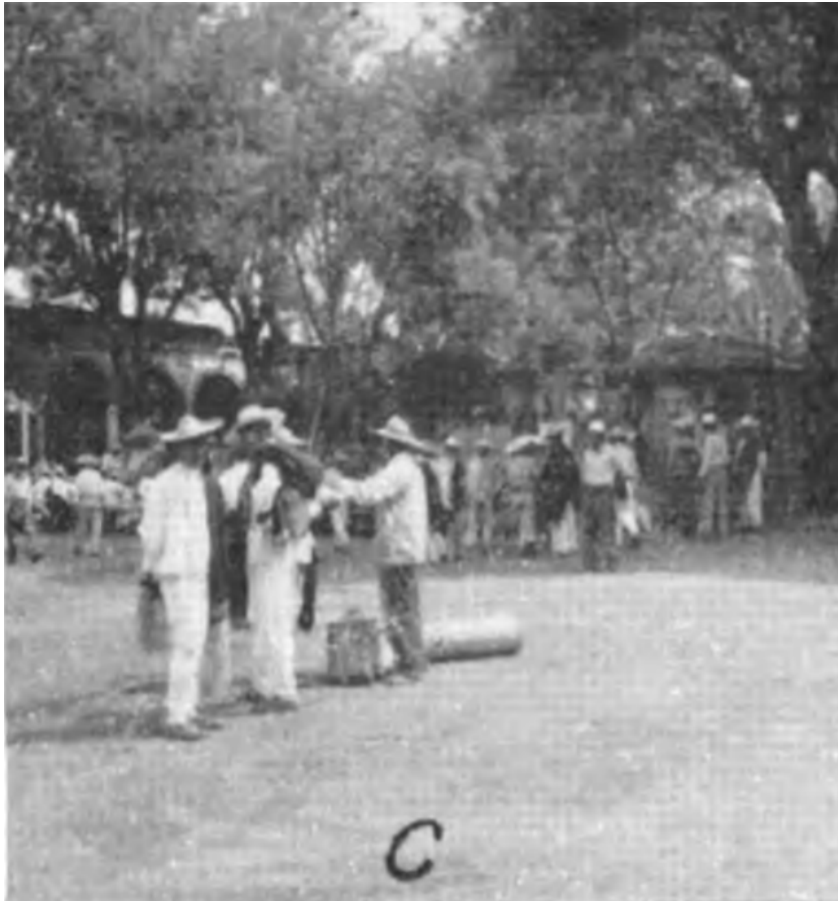


Plate 9c, A group of nearly typical *campesinos* (with serapes, carrying bags, *petates*) awaiting a bus in the exact center of the busiest street in Quiroga. The Plaza Principal is in the background.



Plate 9d, The main *alcantarilla* and *pila* in the Plazuela de Valle. A dry-goods store or *cajón de ropa* is in the background. The trees by the *pila* are jacarandas.



Plate 9e, The Plazuela de Mina on the left side of the Calle Nacional on the out toward Pátzcuaro. The trees are ashes.



Plate 10a, The Plazuela Nicolás Bravo (former Plazuela de Degollado and de los Naranjos) is located back of the church of La Concepción and at the intersection of several streets. The trees near the *pila* are jacarandas.



Plate 10*b*, The large domed structure of brick and stone is an *alcantarilla* or water tower which feeds the local *pila* and also a number of fountains downtown.

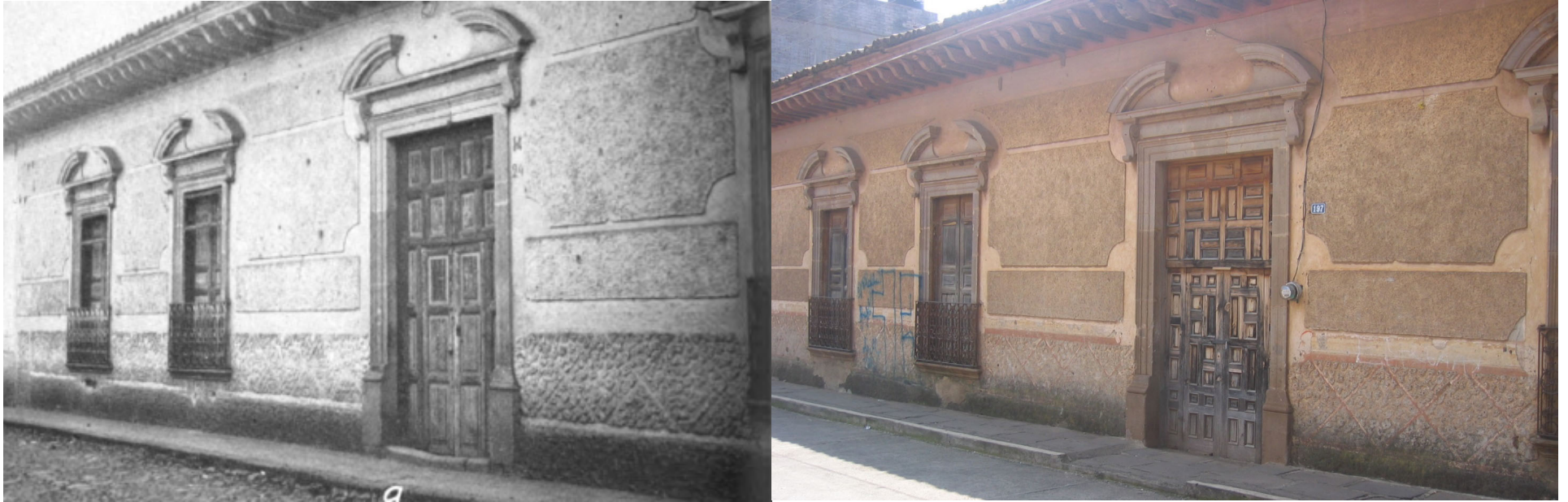


Plate 14a, The ornate front of this house is characteristic of the homes of some of the wealthiest merchants and land owners. It will be noted that the house number has been changed from 14 to 24 (on Calle Iturbide). **By 2005 it has been changed to 197.**



Plate 14b, The large building marked Hotel, in three places, is on the corner of Benito Juárez (upon which it fronts) and Guerrero. It is most commonly known as the Posada Escobedo....



Plate 15*a*, Interior patio in Posada Escobedo

Plate 15b, This corner is at the intersection of Benito Juárez and Guerrero on the south side of Benito Juárez.

