



16 piece Mayan-Aztec Starter Set — individually boxed — 13.60

MAYAN-AZTEC

Before Columbus "discovered" America, there flourished a civilization in this country whose artistic, social, and religious standards far surpassed any European people up to that time. THESE were the FIRST Americans. We don't know just when they came, or from where, but we do know that their cultures were quite well established by the time of Christ.

It is well established that the nucleus of American Indian tribes spread from this Great Southwest region. Those that stayed there were the Pueblos; others wandered in all directions according to their likings and interest. Those who went south came to be known as the Mayans and Aztecs. Our particular interest is in this group, for it is they who have given to the world some of its richest art treasures. Their fine creations are coveted by the leading Art Museums throughout the world.

The "golden age" of Mayan Art, in which they developed their pantheon, built their temples, perfected their Arts, their social structure and government, occupied the first few centuries after Christ.

The most widely known of the Mayan and Aztec arts are the numerous hieroglyphs, used on buildings, altars, monuments, and other such places. Ever present was the sacred Plumed Serpent — likened to the Thunder Bird of our later Indians. As they recorded history, or sang songs, or worshipped their Gods, these symbols were gems of carefully planned, beautiful designs. Their art was their only written language.

Pottery always evidenced every strata of culture. Fragments of pottery have been found where all other records have been destroyed, even in prehistoric times. Throughout the long history of all Indian tribes pottery has been the universal art. The pottery of the ancient Southwestern Indians challenges comparison in color, form and mastery of line with that of the Greeks and Orientals. The universality of clay, and life that is evident in the plasticity of clay, and the ease with which it conforms to the slightest will, have been contributing factors in making pottery the "personal craft."

These two cultures embody the greatest achievements in Indian Art, and cover about 15 centuries of development. Their influence was dominant throughout the Southwest Indian country, from New Mexico and Colorado to the plateaus of Guatemala and Yucatan.

It is through the inspiration of this wealth of beauty that FRANKOMA has created its Mayan-Aztec line of tableware. Every piece oven-proof.