

# The Codex

There are documents also referred to as a codex but originate from Europe or the Middle East. They are notably different because they have few pictures and are mostly writing.

St. Gall Codex  
6th Century



The general use of the term codex refers to a written picture document most commonly from prehistoric Mexico. The largest number of examples of the codex is from the Aztec and also from the Mixtec, Maya, and others.

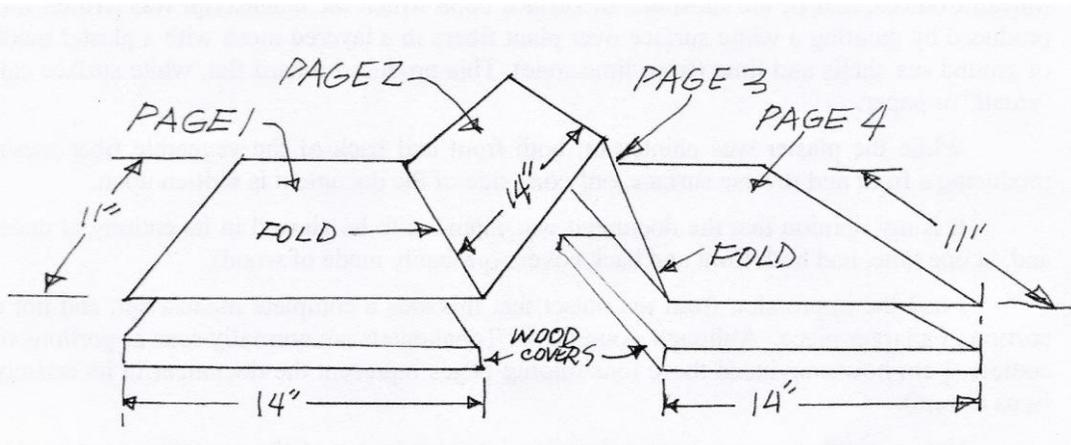


Pictorial Writing – Mesoamerica circa 1200 CE

These codex documents or codices (plural) are the attempt of the Mesoamerican indigenous people to retain and describe their culture, especially their religious beliefs. They themselves took it very seriously as a way to transmit their beliefs and were very successful, spreading the religion based on Quetzalcoatl from South America to New England.

There are ways to categorize the codices created by different groups because they fall into three main types. First is the genealogical type which is based on the marriages and offspring of leaders. Second is the type referring to conquests and property rights over the land. And the third type is related to the calendar and is used to convey religious doctrine and schedules.

Making a codex is a difficult manual process and as a result, no two codices are alike. They differ in origin and construction but are mostly made during the time between the 10<sup>th</sup> century CE<sup>1</sup> and the 1600's. Most of the codices are long fan-fold documents that are strung together accordion-style as a type of book but some are smaller stand-alone ones with only a few pages.



## The Hidden Codex Layout<sup>2</sup>

The Hidden Codex is one of the stand-alone varieties of calendar-based codex documents designed for use in religion and forecasting called a Tonalamatl meaning “book of days”. Some of the larger codices include a Tonalamatl section within the longer document such as the Borgia.

<sup>1</sup> Ernesto Gonzales Licon 1991

<sup>2</sup> Loren Jeffries The Smoking Mirror Codex 2014 unpublished