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Davidson Library  
Department of Special Collections  
Californian Ethnic and Multicultural Archives

## **GUIDE TO THE LUCHA COPRI PAPERS 1958-1998**

**Collection Number:** CEMA 26

**Size Collection:** 1.6 linear feet (4 boxes).

**Acquisition Information:** Donated by Lucha Corpi, September 26, 2000.

**Access restrictions:** Selected correspondence files which are sensitive in nature will remain confidential until 2030.

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**Processing Information:** Principle processor Alexander Hauschild, assisted by Viviana Gonzalez, Courtney Bone, 2001. Callie Bowdish and Paola Novo updated series III in January, 2009 and April 9, 2009.

**Location: Del Norte.**

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Lucha Corpi is a celebrated Chicana author. Born in 1945 in Jaltipan Veracruz, she has received numerous literary awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and the Latino Hallmark Book Award. She was named president of the Centro Chicano de Escritores (Chicano Writers Center), and is a member of the international feminist mystery novel circle, *Sisters in Crime*. Currently, she lives and teaches English in Oakland, California. Her poems have appeared in literary magazines anthologies, and in the collection, *Fireflight* (1976). Corpi was first introduced to poetry through the poetic rhythm of song. She once said,

“My father liked singing and music very much, many different kinds and types of music. Through him I developed a sense of musicality...or what you call poetic rhythm. When I write now I try to create sounds that have a musical tone. I still write in Spanish because the tones I learned as a child were all in Spanish.”

Her early childhood teachers encouraged these talents by having her perform recitals and memorize poems. In 1964 she came to California at the age of nineteen, enrolling at the University of California Berkeley. She received her B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley, and her M.A. from San Francisco State University in World and Comparative Literature.

Lucha Corpi, who goes by the name “Luz”, began writing during a difficult period in her life, simply to express all the pent up feelings she was experiencing. She found that she had an innate understanding of words. As she says, “I could charge them with electricity, make them shine, and make them do what I wanted them to do.”

Nearly all of Lucha Corpi’s poems have been translated into English by Catherine Rodriguez-Nieto, a writer in her own right and a master of translation.

Luz sums up the relationship of her educational experience to her writing in the following manner, “I don’t consider writing a profession. Its reason for existing is different. Education is important because it allows you to read and study works that help you in the craft of your writing, the apparatus, the structure in which you place your experience. That is useful. But, education can also intimidate you so that you can never write.”

Lucha Corpi is part of the great renaissance in Latino literature taking place throughout the United States. Her major works include, *Delia's Song* (1984), *Eulogy for a Brown Angel* (1992), *Cactus Blood* (1995), *Palabras de mediodia/Noon Words* (1980), *Variations on a Storm* (1990) and *Where Fireflies Dance* (1997). *Eulogy for a Brown Angel* received the 1992 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award and the Multicultural Publishers' Exchange award for the best book of fiction, 1992. It features a Chicana feminist detective, Gloria Damasco.

## **SCOPE NOTE**

The Lucha Corpi Papers are primarily arranged according to subject matter and date. Wherever possible they have been maintained in their original order to reflect the design of the creator. **Series I: Personal and Biographical** contains several clippings with mention of the writer and her work and the writer’s correspondence has been arranged in two groups, incoming and outgoing, the first arranged alphabetically the second arranged chronologically. Box four folders one in Series I Correspondence has been classified confidential at this time, at the request of the donor. The correspondence will be accessible ten years after the donor's death or the year 2030, whichever comes first. In addition, a miscellaneous group has been created to contain pieces of a biographical. **Series II: Literary Work** falls naturally into four sub-series, School Papers, Short Stories, “Cuentos Infantiles,” and Poetry. These sections have been arranged in chronological order where the original order was not evident. The last series, **Series III: Photos** has been arranged according to the creator’s original order and each photo has had its information cited in this guide wherever that information was available.

## CONTAINER LIST

### SERIES I: PERSONAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL

#### Box Folder Contents

1	1	<b>Articles and Reviews</b>
		<b>Correspondence</b>
1	2	Incoming (A-J), (1973-1984)
1	3	Incoming (K-Z), (1976-1983)
1	4	Outgoing , (1976-1982)
1	5	Miscellaneous, (1978-1982)
4	1	CONFIDENTIAL

### SERIES II: LITERARY WORK

#### School Papers

1	6	Passion: The Vehicle of Fate (April 1979)
1	6	La Demencia de Andres Abalos (April 1978)
1	6	Imagination and Reality in the Poetry of William Carlos Williams (Spring 1978)
1	6	The Spirit and the Flesh in the Poetry of Charles Baudelaire (December 1978)
1	6	The Absurd in The Stranger and the Trial (December 1978)
1	6	Three Portraits: Bathsheba, Eustacia and Sue (December 1977)
1	6	Personal Statement, San Francisco State University (1977)
1	6	Soneto #67 de Fernando de Herrera (March 1973)
1	6	Midterm Examination Spanish 115 (February 1972)
1	6	<i>Ecchoing Gree and the Garden of Love</i> (March 1972)
1	6	Los Funerales de la Mama Grande (April 1972)
1	6	Informe Sobre Ciegos (May 1972)
1	6	La Búsqueda y El Retorno (June 1972)
1	6	<i>Hymn Before Sunrise</i> Paper (undated)
1	6	The Indian, Spanish & Mestizo Heritage (undated)
1	6	Spanish Survey of the Latin American Novel (undated)

#### Short Stories

1	7	The Strawberry Ghost (1998)
1	7	Delia's Song (1984)
1	7	Shadows on Ebbing Water, 1 draft (1984)
1	7	Alguna fé adorable, 3 drafts (1982)
1	7	Los Cristos del Alma, 4 drafts (1982)
1	7	<i>Cuento sin título</i> , 1 draft (undated)
1	7	Delmira, 3 drafts (undated)
1	7	Mariposa Negra, Mariposa Negra, 1 draft (undated)
1	7	Viajes en La Noche de Mañana (undated)

#### Cuentos Infantiles

2	1	Corazón (1985)
2	1	El Río de los Recuerdos, 1 draft & 1 published copy (1985)
2	1	The River of Memories, 1 draft & 1 published copy (1985)
2	2	<i>Fem</i> Magazine (1984)
2	3	Printers Copy of "Palabras de Mediodia" (1980)
2	4	Printers Copy of " <i>Black Widows Wardrobe</i> " (c. 1972))

2	5	“Tres Mujeres” (1970)
2	5	Arturo/Ricardo (undated)
2	5	Intruso (undated)
2	5	My Grandmother (undated)

### Box Folder Contents

		<b>Poetry</b>
2	6	Invitations Programs and Announcements (1969-1995)
2	7	“Variaciones Sobre Una Tempestad” (1987)
3	1	“Los ritos del invierno/The rites of Winter” (1982)
3	2	Poetry (1970-1981)
3	3	Poetry (undated)
3	4	Invitations Programs and Announcements (undated)
3	5	University of California Folder
3	6	Miscellaneous

### SERIES III: PHOTOGRAPHS

3	7	<b>Biographical Photographs</b> (9 photographs) Age 32 Age 21, at parents’ 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary, San Luis Potosi. Age 19, with friends and classmates at her first wedding with Guillermo E. Hernández, San Luis Potosí. Age 19, passport photo when immigrated to United States Age 17, in dentistry school with basketball team, “Madrina” of the team. Age 16, piano recital Teatro de la Paz, San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Age 16, graduation from high school, Bachillerate Hispano Mexicano, San Luis Obispo, Mexico. Age 15, Quinceañera, 1960. Age 13, piano recital at teacher’s house in San Luis Obispo, Mexico (1958). Age 12, elementary school graduation Age 4, with brother Victor and sister Conchita, at Valtipan, Veracruz.
3	8	<b>Palabras del Mediodía Reception Photographs</b> (3 photographs) Left to right: Jorge Lerma, artist illustrator and teacher. Oscar Treviño, publisher <i>Fuego de Aztlán Publications</i> . Corpi Catherine Rodriguez Nieto, Arturo Hernandez (son), Alcides Rodriguez Nieto two photographs, undated Corpi reading at reception, undated
3	9	<b>Personal Photographs</b> (7 photographs) Age 40, piano recital at Berkeley Piano Club. Age 33, with students at the Oakland Public Schools (ca. 1978). Age 30 (three photographs) Age 29, outside Centro Infantil de la Raza (not depicted), was a parent involved in its creation. Age 27, student at UC Berkeley (Photographer Wolfgang Binder).
3	10	<b>Writer’s Photographs</b> (5 photographs) Corpi with Mark Greenside fiction writer. From left to right, Ricardo Vasquez poet, Manuel Gomez poet, activist, Lucha Corpi Sarah Espinoza Viale, Argentinean poet. Left to right Roberta Fernandez (edited Corpi’s first mystery novel), Arturo Carrillo, friend and mariachi, and Corpi at Cinco de Mayo celebration Oakland Ca. 1978.

Manuel Gomez, poet (seated) Juan José Arreola, Mexican fiction writer, wrote forward to *Palabras del Mediodia*, Lucha Corpi and son Arturo (right corner foreground) Picture taken June 1972.

- 3 11 **Family Photographs** (4 photographs)  
Family at grandmother's house on Avenida Morelos, Jaltipan, Veracruz Mexico, 1957.  
View of Avenida Morelos ca, Mid 1970s.  
Corpi with Arturo Hernandez (son) at 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, Oakland California.  
Miguel Angel Corpi (Corpi's father). Victoria Constantino de Corpi (Corpi's mother)1965.
- 3 12 **Additional Photographs** (25 photographs)  
Age 60, Partners in crime research for Death at Solstice, Shenandoah Valley, California  
Age 59, With Catherine Rodríguez-Nieto at book reception for Crimson Book  
Age 53, Climbing the Tepozteco Mountain to the pyramid, research trip to Tepoztlán, Mexico  
Age 52, with granddaughter Kiara Alyssa Hernández  
Age 52, with best friends from left to right, Laura Rodríguez, Linda Latasa and Carolina Juárez that were the former Board of Directors of Aztlán Cultural  
Age 50, with fellow teachers, Jim Graham, Gail Leong and Caroline Gee on strike outside Clinton Park School in Oakland, Ca  
Age 49, with Carlos Gonzáles and Victoria Constantino de Corpi at their wedding reception in Oakland, California  
Age 49, at wedding reception with Carlos Gonzáles  
Age 49, at gathering of the Sisters in Crime Nor-Cal Chapter, Marin Co.  
Age 49, with Sisters in Crime and author Linda Grant at the Marin County Library.  
Age 48, with Sister-in-Law, Margo G. Zaragoza, Red Rock Elementary Sch. Dist. Tucson, Az  
Age 48, at signing in San Francisco  
Age 48, with the new President of Centro Chicano de Escritores Francisco X. Alarcón  
Age 48, with Children's author and Poet Francisco X. Alarcón in Davis, Ca  
Age 47, from L-R: Cindy, Freda Molina, Craig Howard and step-daughter Cindy Gonzáles at book reception of Eulogy  
Age 47, Reading at Cody's Books in Berkeley, California  
Age 46, Naomi Madell's and Arturo E. Hernández's Wedding in Mexicali  
Age 46, with Guillermo E. Hernández at their son's Wedding in Mexicali  
Age 46, photo taken by Carolina Juárez in Oakland, Ca  
Age 55, with Corpi family, brothers Guillermo Alonso, Miguel Angel, Luis Enrique, Victor Miguel, Jorge Alberto and Francisco Javier; sisters Conchita Corpi de Nájera and Vitoria Constantino de Corpi; in Saltillo, Coach. Mexico  
Age 55, J.P. Gutiérrez and Rodrigo Reyes writers at a retreat of Centro Chicano de Escritores when Lucha was President, workshop near Ukiah, Ca  
Age 55, Centro Chicano de Escritores workshop retreat near Ukiah, Ca; writers and poets: Francisco X. Alarcón, Rodrigo Reyes, Bernardo García and J.P. Gutiérrez  
Age 55, Norma Alarcón introducing Lucha Corpi at book reception for Variaciones sobre una Tempestad, published by Third Woman Press, Takara Sake Co, Berkeley  
ca. 50-44, with fellow teacher Adrian Bozzolo at ceremony celebrating her Award for Best Teacher  
ca. 50-44, with Carolina Juárez and Roberta Fernández (Editor, Arte Público Press, of Eulogy)  
Age 44, with Tey Diana Rebolledo, Francisco Lomelí, Sonia Lomelí and their Daughter in Albuquerque, N.M.  
ca. 44, with Marina Tristán at Arte Público Press in San Francisco
- 3 13 **Additional Photographs** (29 photographs)  
ca. 44, at her son's Graduation  
Age 44, Lucha's Partner in Crime research and best friend at winery in Napa, Ca  
ca. 44, Centro's writers Francisco X. Alarcón and Rodrigo Reyes (Actor and Playwright) in Ukiah, Ca

Age 44, with Tey Diana Rebolledo, Francisco Lomelí, Sonia Lomelí and their Daughter in Albuquerque, N.M.  
 ca. 43-42, Poet Margarita Luna Robles at Centro Chicano de Escritores workshop in San Francisco  
 Age 42, Centro Chicano de Escritores workshop of writers and poets: Juan Felipe Herrera, Víctor Martínez, Tina Alavarez and Francisco X. Alarcón in San Francisco  
 Age 42, Centro Chicano de Escritores workshop meeting at Lucha's on E 28<sup>th</sup> St, Oakland; Bernardo García, Tony Curiel and Barbara Brinson-Pineda  
 ca. 42-40, Aunt Francisca Constantino de Franyotti and Cousin Dulce María Franyotti C. in Jáltipan, Ver.  
 Age 40, Lucha at Laguna Chacalapa in Jáltipan, Ver.  
 Age 40, Reading in the sun Tilden Park- Berkeley, Ca  
 ca. 40-35, Helena María Viramontes and Family in Oakland  
 Age 35, at Latin American library Palabras de Mediodía with Jorge Lerma (teacher), Oscar Treviño (Publisher) (Fuego de Aztlán), Catherine and Alcides Rodríguez-Nieto and son Arturo  
 Age 26, Arturo and Juan Jose Arreola in Berkeley  
 ca. 26-25, with Marina Tristán at Arte Público Press in San Francisco  
 Age 25, with her son in Berkeley, California  
 Age 24, with son Arturo E. Hernández's San Luis Obispo, Ca  
 Age 19, at her first wedding with Guillermo E. Hernández, San Luis Potosí; with friends and classmates : Eloísa and Ana; Children: Frieda Molina Harnández (Niece), Francisco Javier Corpi C (Brother) and Ricardo Molina Harnández (Nephew)  
 Age 19, at her first wedding with Guillermo E. Hernández and Miguel Angel Corpi Aguirre  
 Age 17, Photo ID for Campo Deportivo Ferrocarrilero  
 Age 16, with Miguel A. Corpi, Victoria C. de Corpi and Brother Francisco J. Corpi at Lucha's High School Graduation in San Luis Potosí  
 Age 15, Quinceañera: L-R, Miguel Angel Corpi A, Lucha Corpi, and Victoria C. de Corpi  
 Age 12, at Graduation from Elementary School  
 Age 12, Lucha in Mexico, D.F.  
 Age 7, at home in Jáltipan, Ver. Mexico  
 Age 4, her sister with Conchita and Tirso el aguador's mules in Jáltipan, Veracruz  
 Age 4, with brother Víctor in the backyard at her parents' home in Jáltipan, Veracruz  
 Age 1, with Victoria C. de Corpi, Miguel Angel Corpi A., Nicolasa Aguirre (Paternal grandmother) holding Lucha Corpi, and Victor M. Corpi Constantino in Jáltipan, Ver. Mexico  
 Age 8 months, Luz Del Carmen Corpi Constantino in Jáltipan, Ver. Mexico  
 1930, America Corpi, Lucha's father's sister in Coatzacoalcos, Ver. Mexico

## **SERIES IV AUDIO/VIDEO MATERIAL**

A8618/CS, Third World Poetry at San Francisco State , 1980  
 A8619/CS, Song Cycle, Susan Riley Caldini, 5/9/1992  
 A8620/CS, KPFA interview, reading, Eulogy, undated  
 A8621/CS, SPA Corpi: Oficio nocturna: la Poesia, 1980  
 A8622/CS, En Contacto Directo, KPFA, 9/18/1992  
 A8623/CS, La Malinche, 5/3/1986  
 A8624/CS, Faculty Lounge Mills College, Nov. 12  
 A8625/CS, KIKO, Miami, 6/23/2003  
 A8626/CS, CactusBlood, Arte Publico Press, Home Expressway Show, 6/25/1995  
 A8627/CS, Bouchercon '97: A Ragout of Mystery; Cross Cultural issues; Roles of Sleuths, 1997

A8628/CS, Guns and Salsa: Latino Crime Fiction, undated  
A8629/CS, Bouchercon '97: Readings: Poets Who Turn to Crime, 1997  
A8630/CS, Color Voices, KPFA, 5/25/1985  
A8631/CS, KPFA Storytelling, 1976-1977