Mexico’s criminal history

TREASURE TROVE
In 2010, the artist Stefan Ruiz chanced upon a vast collection of old Mexican crime photographs and drawings at a stall in the Lagunilla market in Mexico City. He met with the seller several times and managed to purchase many of the pieces. While Mr. Ruiz was never able to determine the exact source of the collection — much of the work was damaged, loosely organized and annotated with hand-scribbled text — he believes it came from Mexico City’s police archives, from the late 1950s to the early 1970s. With a selection of more than 100 mug shots, crime-scene photos and artists’ impressions, he created a book, “Mexican Crime Photographs,” published this month by Gost.

THEN AND NOW
Dr. Benjamin Smith of the University of Warwick in Coventry, England, wrote an essay for the book, putting the works into historical context. “The photographs in this collection and the stories that underpin them still have resonance,” he wrote, adding, “Crime, police corruption, and impunity still dominate the news.”