

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

In previous reports the Council has pointed out from time to time the importance of various special collections in our Library. It takes the present occasion to call attention to the number and the value of the books, pamphlets and newspapers on Latin American and Caribbean countries.

A striking increase of interest in Latin America has been taking place in this country during the past decade, which was particularly noticeable just before our thoughts and energies were absorbed in the world war. This interest has been shown in many ways, and may be measured in part by definite figures. The leading newspapers in the United States, for example, according to the reports of the statisticians in the Pan American Union, gave more news space to Latin America in a single month of 1915 than the same papers gave in the thirty-six months of 1907, 1908 and 1909; our magazines had more articles on Latin America in the first three months of 1916 than in the five years from 1907 to 1912; while more books dealing with Latin America were published in this country in 1914 than in the entire period from 1906 to 1910. In a bibliography, 1916, of the two hundred best volumes on South America, it appears that seven-eighths of them were published within the previous five years.

This increased interest appeared in many other ways. There were over seventeen hundred clubs in the United States, before the war, making a study of Latin America and Pan American relations; while three thousand moving picture theatres, it was estimated, were every week showing to American

audiences the people, the scenery, and the life of the republics of South America. At that time Director General John Barrett stated that the Pan American Union was then receiving on an average between two hundred and three hundred letters a day asking for information on Latin American affairs, and added that it was not unusual to have as many as twenty-five cablegrams a day from Latin America, making various inquiries concerning the United States. About the same time the United States Bureau of Commerce, according to statements in the press, was receiving a daily average of eight hundred letters from all parts of the country regarding trade openings and economic conditions throughout the Latin American world.

Now that the war is over, public attention is again being turned to the Republics to the south of us, as is evident from the newspaper space given to Latin America; for example, regular sections are being devoted to South America in such dailies as the *New York Sun* and the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*. Our commercial and financial relations, too, are more intimate than ever before. During the war, and in part on account of it, the United States has secured almost a monopoly of Latin American exports and imports. While in 1914 there was not a single branch of a United States or North American bank in any city south of Panama, today every important South American city has at least one North American bank. In 1914 no South American newspaper received Associated Press news; now the most important South American dailies are supplied regularly and directly with our Associated Press despatches. A rapidly increasing number of periodicals in this country deal with Latin American affairs. Besides the official *Bulletin* of the Pan American Union may be mentioned the *South American*, the *Pan American Review*, *The Americas*, *Inter-America*, *El Estudiante Latino-Americano*, published for Latin American students in the United States, and the recently established *Hispanic*

American Historical Review, a scholarly quarterly, worthy to rank in its special field with the ablest publications in this country.

The appearance of the last two magazines shows that the marked increase of interest in Latin America, which is fundamentally due to economic and financial considerations, is not limited to these fields, nor to official Pan Americanism, but is extending to education and letters. This is seen most strikingly in the teaching of Spanish. Ten or twelve years ago very few colleges and almost no secondary schools taught Spanish; now nearly all universities, colleges and higher institutions in the United States as well as over two thousand secondary schools teach Spanish, while a few institutions teach Portuguese. But of greater significance is the remarkable increase in our colleges and universities, during the past half dozen years and a little more, of new courses on the history, commerce, culture and international relations of the States to the south of us. Exchanges of professors have been already carried out by a number of the larger institutions, including Harvard, Columbia and Pennsylvania, while plans are being made for extending these exchanges to the smaller colleges and universities which will arrange for short lecture courses from some distinguished Latin American scholar. Our colleges, universities and technical schools have also shown a genuine desire to attract Latin American students; some fifty of our higher institutions have offered one or more tuition scholarships for Latin Americans, while a few have established money fellowships, and one has founded a \$500 Latin American fellowship for graduate work.

Latin America, on its side, has shown a growing appreciation of educational Pan Americanism. There are a larger number of Latin American students in the United States than ever before; so many in fact that they have recently founded a Federation of Latin American students with branches in a number of our

colleges and universities. To attract and aid students from the lands to the south of us the Pan American Union has recently established a Section of Education. In its last report it states that a number of the foremost Latin American professors are willing to give occasional lecture courses in North American universities. Dr. Ernesto Nelson, Professor in La Plata University, and recently Minister of Education in Argentina, has pointed out that since Latin America has no educational or literary center, this can be best established in the United States, where Latin Americans may come to study the collected literature of all the Latin American countries. He makes a strong plea that some library in this country should collect all Latin American literary and scientific works. There is no such educational or literary center in Latin America, nor does one seem likely to develop. The only probable rival to the United States is France.

Of especial significance for those interested in collections of Hispanic Americana is the recent action of the Association of American University Professors in organizing a large committee, representing some sixteen of our Universities, to promote exchange professorships between the United States and Latin America; the establishment of exchange fellowships; and scientific co-operation between the professors and the universities of the United States and those of Latin America. Some of our professors have already begun co-operation with professors in Latin America, while others are planning to do so in the near future. It has been suggested that a history of all the American republics be written by the joint work of Spanish, Portuguese and American historians.

It is evident that the interest in Pan Americanism, which from merely popular, economic and diplomatic fields has now reached the domain of education and of genuine scholarship, will soon make a greatly increased demand for library material dealing with Latin America. In fact, this demand is already being felt.

To what extent American scholars in history, international relations and international politics are already turning to Latin American subjects, cannot be stated statistically, but it may be mentioned as a mere indication of this trend that during the past five years in Clark University, two Doctors' dissertations and seven Masters' theses have been written upon phases of Latin America and its relations to the United States.

It is very natural therefore that attention is now being directed to the value of special collections of Hispanic Americana.¹ There appeared in the last number of the *Hispanic American Historical Review* an article upon the Latin American collection in the Library of Congress. The increase in this collection may be judged from the fact that the number of books and pamphlets in the strictly historical section alone, has grown from 3,893 in 1901, to 15,116 in 1918. But the Library of Congress arrived late in the field, and its collection, while excellent in material published during the past half century, and strong in European Americana dealing with the early period, is "not preeminent in primary sources, original and rare editions." The Columbus Memorial Library of the Pan American Union has a large collection which contains 40,000 volumes and pamphlets, 21,000 photographs, 1500 maps, and 1300 Latin American newspapers, magazines and other publications. But the value of this Library is very largely in the material of the past few decades.

Among other libraries which are emphasizing their Latin American collections, should be mentioned that at Yale University which, under the guidance of Professor Hiram Bingham, has secured probably the best single collection of South American material in this country; the New York Public Library, with the

¹The April 1919 issue of the "Library Journal" is devoted chiefly to the subject of Latin American libraries. It describes, with illustrations, the national libraries at Buenos Aires, Mexico and Santiago de Chile, and gives sketches of the collections in eight American libraries.

largest manuscript material relating to the colonial times; the Harvard University Library, with an excellent general collection; the John Carter Brown Library, with many manuscripts and early printed books, particularly dealing with exploration and discovery; the important collections of the Hispanic Society, and of Mr. Wm. E. Gates in California; and the large private library of Dr. Manuel de Oliveira Lima, of Brazil, which is soon to be placed, under Dr. Lima's supervision, in the Catholic University of America at Washington.

It is a pleasure to know that the American Antiquarian Society has a collection on Latin America which ranks well with those in other important libraries. Our Librarian states that we have probably a larger collection of Hispanic American imprints for the early period than can be found elsewhere in this country. It comprises about 700 examples of printing from 1555 to 1800, chiefly of Mexico City and Puebla, but with many from Guatemala and a few from Lima and other South American towns.

While the printing press was introduced into Mexico about 1539, it was difficult to publish in the Spanish colonies, due especially to the strict enforcement of both civil and ecclesiastical censorship. Books printed in Latin America therefore, in the early period, aside from such works as catechisms and linguistic material, were few in number, and are now rare. Our collection is thus of especial value and should be particularly featured, since no other library has apparently covered this field so extensively, and since it is in line with our notable collection of early American imprints.

The foundation of the fund for Hispanic Americana was laid by Isaac Davis, who in 1868 gave to the Society \$500, the income of which was "to be applied to the purchase of books, maps, charts, and works of art, relating to that portion of North America lying south of the United States." With a subsequent gift

of \$1,000 from Isaac Davis, and gifts of \$5,000 in 1891, and \$5,000 in 1910 from Edward L. Davis, together with accrued income, the fund now amounts to \$23,000. The scope of the fund was later enlarged to admit of the purchases of works relating to South America, and, in 1910, at the suggestion of Edward L. Davis, the Society was allowed to spend the income for general purposes of the Society, if any part of it was not required for the original object of the fund.

Another source of additions to the collection of Hispanic Americana were the frequent gifts of books from Stephen Salisbury, Jr. From the days of his college friendship for David Casares, of Merida, Yucatan, Mr. Salisbury always evinced a decided interest in the archaeology and history of Central America and some of the rarest of our early works on this subject were presented by him.

Today the Hispanic American collection numbers over 4500 books and pamphlets, mostly of the early period. There has been little attempt to secure the material of the last fifty years except as it may throw light upon the older literature.

Of the bibliographical works the Society has a large collection including nearly all of the valuable monographs compiled by J. T. Medina of Santiago de Chile, and the bibliographies of Viñaza, Montt, Trelles, Leclerc, Leon, Beristain, Garraux, Andrade, Icazbalceta, and other workers in this field.

The narratives of the early voyagers, travellers and commentators are well represented, including original editions of Acosta, Benzoni, Las Casas, Dampier, Drake, Hakluyt, Herrera, Laet, Linschoten, Martyr, Oviedo and La Vega. In consideration of the greatly increased values of most of these editions, it is fortunate that they were obtained for the Library a number of years ago.

The source-books for the study of linguistics have been almost all obtained in the last ten years, chiefly through the aid of Miss Alice W. Kurtz, who has

travelled throughout Mexico and Guatemala acquiring these rare volumes from monastic and private libraries. The *artes*, *confesionarios*, and *vocabularios* published from the sixteenth to the early eighteenth centuries include:

Molina, *Vocabulario en la Lengua Castellana y Mexicana*, Mexico, 1555.

Molina, *Confessionario Mayor*, Mexico, 1565.

Molina, *Arte de la Lengua Mexicana y Castellana*, Mexico, 1571.

Lorra Baquio, *Manual Mexicano*, Mexico, 1634.

Carochi, *Arte de la Lengua Mexicana*, Mexico, 1645.

Marban, *Arte de la Lengua Moxa*, Lima, 1702.

Perez, *Farol Indiano*, Mexico, 1713.

Avila, *Arte de la Lengua Mexicana*, Mexico, 1717.

Perez, *Catecismo Romano*, Mexico, 1723.

Gastelu, *Arte de la Lengua Mexicana*, Puebla, 1726.

Serra, *Manual de administrar los Sacramentos*, Mexico, 1731.

Quintana, *Confessionario en Lengua Mixe*, Puebla, 1733.

Rinaldini, *Arte de la Lengua Tepeguana*, Mexico, 1743.

Flores, *Arte de la Lengua Metropolitana*, Guatemala, 1753.

Torres, *Arte de la Lengua Quichua*, Lima, 1754.

Ripalda, *Catecismo Mexicano*, Mexico, 1758.

Paredes, *Promptuario manual Mexicano*, Mexico, 1759.

Aguirre, *Doctrina Christiana en Lengua Opata*, Mexico, 1765.

Febres, *Arte de la Lengua Chileno*, Lima, 1765.

Moreno, *Vida del Vasco de Quiroga*, Mexico, 1766.

Tapia Zenteno, *Noticia de la Lengua Huasteca*, Mexico, 1767.

Arenas, *Vocabulario Manual de las Lenguas Castellana y Mexicana*, Puebla, 1793.

The collection of Mexican, South American and West Indian newspapers has been given especial

attention, and most of the longer files have been noted in the Librarian's Reports of the past ten years. This has been chiefly strengthened by the purchase of a large number of South American newspapers in 1915, of numerous Mexican and Guatemalan files from Miss Kurtz, and by the acquisitions made by the President of the Society on a trip to the West Indies in 1913.

The value of this collection has inspired several gifts of importance. During the past winter Mrs. F. Spencer Wigley of St. Christopher visited the Library and as a result presented us with the rare "Laws of the Island of St. Christopher" printed in the Island in 1791, a valuable example of West Indian printing. Also within the past month the Society has purchased the London 1739 edition of the Acts of the Island of St. Christopher, and the 1740 edition of the Acts of the Charibbee Leeward Islands.

In closing its report the Council would call attention to the following somewhat unusually large number of deaths among the members:—

Andrew Dickson White (elected 1884) died November 4, 1918.

Samuel Abbott Green (elected 1865) died December 5, 1918.

Samuel Swett Green (elected 1880) died December 8, 1918.

Franklin Pierce Rice (elected 1906) died January 4, 1919.

Theodore Roosevelt (elected 1918) died January 6, 1919.

Henry Ainsworth Parker (elected 1910) died February 17, 1919.

Mr. Samuel Abbott Green and Mr. Samuel Swett Green were the senior members of the Society.

Biographical notices will be prepared to be published in the Proceedings.

GEORGE H. BLAKESLEE,

For the Council.

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