

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

LUSO-HISPANIC STUDIES

I. SCOPE

This overview of the Library's collections deals with materials published in or about the countries of the Iberian Peninsula, Latin America, and the Caribbean and other areas where Spanish and Portuguese influences have been significant, such as the Spanish Philippines, the Marianas Islands, Portuguese Asia and Spanish and Portuguese Africa. Excluded from this essay are works dealing with Hispanics in the United States and the history of the Spanish Borderlands which is the subject of another overview.

II. SIZE

Materials relating to the Luso-Hispanic and Caribbean areas can be found throughout the Library. The size of the collections is estimated as surpassing three million books and periodicals and approximately 13.5 million items. The Library's Luso-Hispanic and Caribbean collection, in many languages, is, without doubt, the largest and most complete in the world. These collections include, in addition to books and serials, rare books, newspapers, manuscripts, maps, photographs, fine prints, posters, feature and documentary films, newsreels, videotapes of television programs, recordings, CDs and sheet music. The establishment of the Hispanic Division in the Library of Congress in 1939, brought to the Library the annual, annotated bibliography *The Handbook of Latin American Studies* (which is prepared with the cooperation of 160 contributing editors), and ensured that the Division's staff would develop the collections in a systematic manner in response to demands in the growing field of Luso-Hispanic studies.

III. GENERAL RESEARCH STRENGTHS

Based on current computer records (as of 2008), and reflected through OCLC's reporting, The Library of Congress has approximately 300,000 works in Spanish, but many more in other languages relating to specific subject or geographic areas, such as approximately 250,000 titles dealing with Spain, its regions and its autonomies. Of these more than 4,000 are serial titles. There are also more than 200 current and retrospective newspapers from Spain and its regions.

The Brazilian book and periodical holdings number approximately 150,000 titles. The establishment of the Library's Field Office in Rio de Janeiro in 1966 immensely enriched acquisitions from that Afro-Latin country.

The well balanced and rich Mexican collections surpass 86,000 titles, with special strength in official publications and legal materials.

The Argentine classified collections include approximately 54,000 titles.

Cuban materials in the classified collections exceed 15,000 items.

IV. AREAS OF DISTINCTION

The Library houses unsurpassed Luso-Hispanic collections of not only books and manuscripts, but of official gazettes, debates of parliamentary bodies, and all other significant official publications of national agencies, as well as selected state or provincial imprints. Many of these official publications are not available in the countries themselves as a result of wars and revolutions. These materials are in a variety of formats and spread throughout various custodial divisions of the Library.

The Law Library has collected the most complete Iberian and Latin American collection in the world, ranging from items such as a thirteenth century edition of the *Fuero Juzgo* of Spanish Visigothic law to contemporary laws, statutes, and legislation of each country.

Supported by the Library's Field Office in Rio de Janeiro, the Brazilian collection of books, periodicals, newspapers, and ephemera is outstanding and extensive. Of special interest is the ongoing collection of materials by and about Brazilian Popular Groups, collected by the Rio Field Office. This is an extensive collection of materials that document political, social, and religious movements in contemporary Brazil.

The collections for Luso-Hispanic history, politics, society, and religion are quite comprehensive, ranging from the earliest Iberian, Celtic and Roman periods and the pre-Columbian era in Latin America to the present. The literary collections in the areas under consideration are probably the world's most comprehensive resource for comparative literary studies. All literary forms, major and minor, are represented, from medieval poetry to Spanish drama of the golden age, up to the modern age.

The Archive of Hispanic literature on Tape, begun in 1942, includes voice recordings of selections of the writings of contemporary Luso-Hispanic poets and prose writers, including seven Nobel laureates (among them Gabriel García Márquez, Octavio Paz and Gabriela Mistral). It also includes recordings in indigenous languages.

The Law Library's rare book collection includes several early editions, as well as copies, of the Spanish law code the *Siete Partidas* as well as an original copy of the 1563 Mexican *Cedulario* de Vasco de Puga, believed to be the first law book published in the Americas.

The Rare Books and Special Collections Division has a large number of Latin American travel accounts, rare government decrees, military documents, literary works, early periodicals, and the Spanish books in the Jefferson collection. The Rare Book Reading Room provides access to the first edition of *Don Quixote*, and two of the earliest books printed in South America: a catechism in Spanish and in two Indian languages and the earliest Spanish-Quechua vocabulary. Among the Spanish incunabula are Fernan Mexia's book of noble families (1492), Lucena's treatise on chess (1496) and the Sneyd Codex, which is the first Venetian report of Spain's forays into the New World. And extensive rare and general holdings of vocabularies, grammars and catechisms in

indigenous languages of Latin America. Such as the Catechism by Francisco de Pareja in the Timucua language found in the Jay I. Kislak collection. The rich Kislak collection of pre-Columbian Meso-American art and other materials are described in the online exhibit, *Exploring the Early Americas*. See also the printed book, *The Jay I. Kislak Collection at the Library of Congress : a catalog of the gift of the Jay I. Kislak Foundation to the Library of Congress* (Washington: Library of Congress, 2007).

The Manuscript Division has a number of important manuscripts relating to the Luso-Hispanic world such as the following collections:

- Microforms and transcripts numbering hundreds of thousands of pages copied from Spanish and Latin American archives. See the listing available in the work of Guadalupe Jiménez Codinach, *The Hispanic World 1492-1898* (Washington: Library of Congress, 1994).
- *Archivo Nacional de Cuba collection pertaining to Spanish colonial rule in Louisiana and the Floridas, 1770-1911*. Transcripts of originals found in the Cuban national archives pertaining to Spanish colonial rule in Louisiana and the Floridas. Includes correspondence of the Spanish governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez, with José de Gálvez, the secretary of the Indies; and Felipe Fonsdeviela, marques de la Torre, and Diego José Navarro García de Valladares, the capitanes-generales at Havana. Also includes an index of correspondence of the capitanes-generales of Cuba; correspondence of traders operating under Spanish protection, in particular William Panton of Panton, Leslie and Company; material concerning commerce, political relations with local Indian tribes, Spain's role in the American revolution, and Spanish relations with the U.S.; and miscellaneous documents, government orders, and land grants.
- The Domingo Delmonte Collection of Spanish colonial history. A Cuban historian, Delmonte's collection contains materials relating to the Spanish colonial history of Cuba, Mexico, Peru, South America, the Philippines, and the West Indies.
- The online exhibit on the Kraus Collection of Sir Francis Drake shows some of the wealth of items found in this collection. For additional information see the detailed catalog, *Sir Francis Drake, a pictorial biography* [by] Hans P. Kraus (Amsterdam: N. Israel, 1970). This work is also available online in the web site: *Sir Francis Drake: A Pictorial Biography by Hans P. Kraus*.
- Two Edward Stephen Harkness Collections (Mexico & Peru). These extensive collections on Mexico and on Peru are described in the following three books: *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress: Calendar of Spanish Manuscripts concerning Peru, 1531-1651* (Washington, GPO, 1932); *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress: Documents from Early Peru: the Pizarros and the Almagros, 1531-1578* (Washington: GPO, 1936); and *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress: Manuscripts concerning Mexico: A Guide* (Washington: Library of Congress, 1974).
- The *Huexotzinco (Huejotzingo) Codex*, one of the top treasures of the Library is available online in its entirety.
- The Hans P. Kraus Collection on the exploration of the Americas is described in the *Hans P. Kraus Collection of Hispanic American manuscripts; a guide*, by J. Benedict Warren (Washington: Library of Congress, 1974)

- Microfilmed copies of the personal and professional papers of Nobel laureate Gabriela Mistral.
- Henry P. Monday Collection, 1522-1935. A collection of Mexican manuscripts.
- The Portuguese Manuscript Collection spanning 500 years and listed in *The Portuguese manuscripts collection of the Library of Congress : a guide* (Washington : The Library, 1980.)
- The Jose Ignacio Rodriguez collection relating to Cuba.
- Papers of Antonio López de Santa Anna, 1836-1874 , consisting of correspondence and other documents relating to Santa Anna's military and political activities.
- Rudolph Schuller Collection of ethnography and indigenous languages
- The Spanish Marianas Islands Collection.
- The Ephraim George Squier Collection.
- The Spanish Philippines Collection
- The Vernon-Wager collection of naval operations in the Caribbean.
- The West Indian Manuscript collection

The Prints and Photographs Division of the Library has:

- The Archive of Hispanic Culture, a photographic reference collection in the Prints and Photographs Division.

The Geography and Map Division of the Library contains:

- A rich and well balanced collection of maps and atlases dealing with Luso-Hispanic countries. It includes single maps, series maps, aerial maps and atlases. There are over 1,000 manuscript maps relating to Latin America in the online presentation, *The Luso-Hispanic World in Maps*.
- A large number of Spanish and Portuguese portolan charts of the Atlantic Ocean and the Americas. Includes a large number of maps copied from Spanish Archives.
- Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection of maps of the Americas.
- Henry Harisse Collections of Manuscript maps. The Oztoticpac Land map (Mexico) of 1540 is a rare treasure.

V. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

There are several subscription databases as well as generally available (free) databases listed on the Americas (Area Studies) portion of the *LC Databases & Electronic Resources* page. These are collections of databases which contain a wide variety of materials. The major bibliography for Latin American Studies is *The Handbook of Latin American Studies*, produced in the Hispanic Division of the Library. The Handbook covers the fields of anthropology, archaeology, genealogy, art, economics, electronic resources, geography, government and politics, international relations, literature, music, philosophy, and sociology. This resource has some full text available. The Library has made its own arrangements to copy electronic journals in PDFs through the *Full Text Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese Origin Electronic Journals – BIVIR* database.

VI. WEAKNESSES/EXCLUSIONS

The Library lacks documentary photographs of political and cultural figures from the Luso-Hispanic area. Because the Library no longer collects original foreign manuscripts it has very few original materials from the Luso-Hispanic areas for the twentieth century.