

que nos afectan y por esos motivos creo que los artículos que aparecen en la revista precisan de una orientación bien clara en este sentido. Quiero decir que:

1) Los artículos con base histórica deberían traer claramente expuesta por el autor las conclusiones y consecuencias que dejen ver el camino que nos llevó a nuestra situación actual y lo que se puede entrever para el futuro. Encuentro perfectos, dentro de esta idea mía, artículos tales como "Sarmiento y su teoría de Civilización y Barbarie", "Cuento y recuento de la Democracia Americana", "The United States and Latin-American Revolutions", "La Quatrième Réunion Consultative des Ministres des Relations Extérieures d'Amérique", etc. En cambio, me parece inoperante . . . el que puede ser interesante para un limitadísimo número de lectores especializados y, sobre todo, que no trae ideas actuantes.

2) Entiendo que ciertos artículos "muy nacionales" deben ser condensados y también establecer condiciones más generales, de horizonte un poco más amplio para poder ser apreciados con mayor interés . . . .

3) Sugiero que en la página donde se hace la presentación de los autores, sería interesante tener alguna información más precisa; definir su nacionalidad, profesión, títulos, su ocupación actual.

4) Me gustaría encontrar algunos artículos también sobre crítica de arte, evolución de las mismas, sean plásticas, música, arquitectura, urbanismo, etc., siempre con ese criterio que ya he expresado o sea, no pretendiendo que sean solamente para técnicos y especialistas, sino conceptos y análisis generales al alcance del tipo de lector que indudablemente está en el nivel cultural de vuestra revista.

Y ahora pregunto: ¿no sería interesante que la revista tuviera una sección tipo "Cartas del Lector"? ¿No establecería esta sección un trato amistoso entre lectores, autores y directores? A mí, por ejemplo, me gustaría hacerles preguntas a Enrique de Gandía, a Germán Arciniegas y a Pedro Teichert. Si consideran que este sistema puede llevar a polémicas entonces se podría adoptar el sistema de ciertas revistas que reciben toda la correspondencia dirigida a los autores por intermedio de ella, la leen, la distribuyen a los interesados y publican solamente lo que consideran de interés. Por su parte el autor si quiere contestar a la carta del lector o lo hace directamente o por intermedio de la revista, también para el caso que ésta lo considere de interés. . . .

Agradeciendo desde ya el gentil envío y felicitando entusiastamente a los autores de la idea y a sus ejecutores, cordialmente

Sergio E. Pellegrini  
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April 25th, 1963

Dear Sirs:

I have been reading a most interesting article in the January, 1963, issue of the *Journal of Inter-American Studies*, namely "The United States as Seen from Mexico". In this connection and following an irresistible impulse I made up my mind to write you a few lines on the subject, because I entirely agree with the writer when he approvingly quotes from Leo P. Crespi, chief of the Survey Research Division of the United States Information Agency, that the "image" of the United States in other countries is vitally needed "to promote a better understanding among the people of the world of what America is and what it stands for". These are undoubtedly very impressive words but we are all concerned whether they are just a felicitous literary expression or a concrete program of immediate action.

I deeply regret not to be able to express myself quite accurately in English and I would have chosen to write in Spanish had I not feared that your presumed knowledge of my mother-tongue would not be enough to understand me thoroughly well.

I just want to let you know that, in my opinion, it is deadly important for the United States to make people of all America realize that "we are all sailing in the same boat", and when one is sailing in the same boat with others it is much better for all of them to have a good knowledge of one another in order to feel friendly and have a nice trip together. The trouble is that we Latin Americans know little about you, but you Americans know even less about us, although I presume that at present many of your people do not consider us any more as "indios", "salvajes" or something of the kind. Of course it is somewhat exaggerated, but the bare fact remains that it is not only necessary for you to know how the United States is seen from Mexico or any other country of Latin America, but also to know HOW THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF AMERICA ARE SEEN FROM THE UNITED STATES. I do hope that you do not resent my saying so; it is not idle criticism but the expression of concern about our common future. I did not intend in the least to be ironical, but I earnestly believe that it is not only a question of making free loans or low-interest loans, or a question of technical assistance, etc. It is agreed by the experts that these ways may help the underdeveloped countries of the world. But if we really want to succeed — in terms of a happy and prosperous future together — we must stress the vital necessity of making the people of these poorer parts of America understand, believe in and TRUST their powerful neighbor of the north.

I have been talking enough on the subject, and you may ask me in turn to stop theorizing and come right to the point: how to achieve this ambitious goal? I am not entitled to complete a study on such a problem, but I think nevertheless I can give you a very few suggestions; in fact, I would limit them to just one or two. For instance, to promote a program of visits to the States, but not for rich people — they can travel at their own expense — but for those forgotten people who make their lives working hard: clerks, laborers, schoolteachers, students, wives and children, etc. I mean ordinary people who live ordinary lives, the unknown mass formed by the common people of all countries, so that they could know the common people of the States, so really different from the distorted image given by most of the films or TV series, and so entirely different from certain businessmen and politicians, who are alike all over the world. And the reverse, to promote visits from the United States to the rest of America. Americans would certainly enjoy the journey and would learn about their neighbors of the south. I am afraid I must add something you may not like. I was told more than once that whenever Americans are out of their country and in a foreign one, they pose as being so superior . . . and supercilious. To tell you the truth, I have never met one who behaved like this, but just in case, they might be advised to mind their attitude on this respect, for we Latin Americans are very sensitive and proud.

I point out another suggestion. Why does not anybody suggest the idea of organizing "Inter-American Family Clubs" or something of the sort? Suppose one of the existing clubs in the States invited a group of guests from any Latin American country so that the visitors would only have to pay the fare? The visitors would undoubtedly remember forever what they have seen through their own eyes.

In my home town, Rosario, there is in operation a very interesting service, "The American Field Service", but it is restricted to young students. Would it not be possible for an American family to invite a schoolteacher, or an office clerk, or a laborer, to spend one year with them, during which period the visitor could secure a suited job? Imagine the experience and the width of vision gathered through his stay . . . And, of course, I suggest the same for Americans staying and working in our countries.

I think I must put an end to this letter which I intended to write briefly.

I am hoping against hope that something could one day come true.

Thanking you for your kind attention, I remain,

Very truly yours,

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