

SPECIALIZED LATIN AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHIES

INDEX TO ANTHOLOGIES OF LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION. By JUAN R. FREUDENTHAL and PATRICIA M. FREUDENTHAL. (Boston, Mass.: G. K. Hall & Co., 1977. Pp. 199. \$15.00.)

WOMEN IN SPANISH AMERICA: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FROM PRE-CONQUEST TO CONTEMPORARY TIMES. By MERI KNASTER. (Boston, Mass.: G. K. Hall & Co., 1977. Pp. 696. \$38.00.)

VENEZUELAN HISTORY: A COMPREHENSIVE WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY. By JOHN V. LOMBARDI, GERMAN CARRERA DAMAS, ROBERTA E. ADAMS, et. al. (Boston, Mass.: G. K. Hall, 1977. Pp. 530. \$20.00.)

The worldwide dispersion of publishing on Latin American topics complicates efforts to establish and maintain bibliographic control. Both public and private sector organizations and commercial and noncommercial publishers account for the exceptional diversity of printed sources. Much of this material enters regular bibliographic channels, sold by book dealers or publishers to libraries which in turn catalog it and thereby ensure a permanent record of its existence. Access may be local or through the use of cooperative lending systems, to readers nationally or abroad. To meet the research interests and curricular requirements of Latin Americanists, a number of libraries commit substantial fiscal resources to the development and maintenance of research collections. Bibliographers concentrate on the selection of relevant materials, but also advise on organizing the collections and instruct patrons in their usage.

Frequently, conventional wisdom likens the state of bibliographic control of Latin Americana to the developmental level of the countries from which much of it emanates. Such a position can and does adversely affect research and curriculum. To begin with, Latin America is the only major geographic and cultural area with a social science and humanities bibliography organized by discipline—the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*. One cannot overestimate the exceptional utility and reliability of this Library of Congress project for both retrospective and current bibliographic searches. A critical selection of works, their annotations (either descriptive or evaluative), the introductory essays surveying the state of scholarship by discipline, and since volume 35 (1973) a sophisticated subject index, enable students and scholars to search profitably the series from its inception in 1935. Nearly all bibliographies compiled today should rely heavily upon *HLAS*, as do the three under review. Consultation of its annual section on bibliography and general works reveals many publications of importance that by their very nature escape notice by all but the most tenacious bibliophile. A current, less selective listing of similar works appears annually in the *Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials' Report on Bibliographic Activities*.¹ This bibliography is based in part on citations appearing in the *SALALM Newsletter*'s section

on new reference tools, most recently compiled by Haydée Piedracueva. And, too, the second supplement to Arthur Gropp's *A Bibliography of Latin American Bibliographies* nears completion.

For periodical literature, bibliographic control varies in comprehensiveness and consistency. Since its beginning in 1935, the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* selectively cites and annotates articles drawn from hundreds of journals. The Columbus Memorial Library also contributed with its *Index to Latin American Periodical Literature, 1929–1960* with annual supplements through 1970. The latest advance comes with the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index*, edited by Barbara Cox at the UCLA Center for Latin American Studies. The 1975 volume indexes over two hundred Latin American, European, and U.S. journals, thereby providing the sophisticated subject access required by multidisciplinary research trends.

Technological advances and subsequent application to bibliography bring major data bases to Latin Americanists at reasonable prices. Among the most important are: AGRICOLA (Based on the *Bibliography of Agriculture, 1970–*), MEDLARS (based on various indices including *Index Medicus, 1966–*), *Biological Abstracts* (subject coverage divided among humans, animals, and plants, 1970–), Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau (includes approximately thirty of their specialized bibliographies, 1973–), *Food Science and Technology Abstracts* (1969–), and *Predicasts' F & S Indexes* (corporations, industries, and products, 1972–).

All of these steps toward strengthening bibliographic control occurred in concert with the continuing efforts of bibliographers compiling specialized sources on specific topics. Many of these bibliographies can ably assist non-specialists as well as seasoned Latin Americanists branching into new areas. The works under review illustrate the utility of specialized bibliographies to meet these needs.

The *Index to Anthologies of Latin American Literature in English Translation* by Juan and Patricia Freudenthal facilitates access to the works of 1,122 authors appearing in 116 anthologies. Fortunately, the compilers include all genres—poetry, drama, essay, and fiction—for Brazilian and Spanish American authors.² With the steadily rising interest in Latin American literature by social scientists and nonarea specialists, this carefully prepared volume is a welcome and needed addition to a relatively limited number of similar, though in most cases not as comprehensive, works available in most large libraries. The Freudenthals' *Index* establishes a new bibliographic plateau in this area. To begin with, anthologies in book and journal format, published through 1975, comprise the index core, and each is descriptively annotated. By selecting sources most likely to be in medium and large library collections, users can expect a high percentage of their quests to be satisfied. The body of the *Index* is a straight alphabetical listing by author with works organized by genre, the English language title cited along with the translator, and the anthology code abbreviation and beginning page number provided. Consultation is rapid and easy.

The core listing of anthologies results from a search through the *National Union Catalog, Handbook of Latin American Studies*, the major dictionary catalogs of Latin American collections (e.g., Texas-Austin, Florida, Tulane, Canning House), and other cited sources. In itself this listing goes far toward establishing bibliographic control over widely dispersed literature. By including more than those

anthologies published by the largest trade publishers—which tends to be the limitation of the *Essay and General Literature Index*³—the Freudenthals bring to our attention such sources as the *Evergreen Review*, *Haravec*, *Mundus Artium*, and *The Sixties*, which probably escaped the attention of most Latin Americanists. To extend a search beyond these 116 anthologies means that the likelihood of encountering elusive imprints increases considerably, as scrutiny of Claude L. Hulet's works on poetry, drama, essay, and the novel indicates.⁴

A brief, but again accessible, bibliography of histories, criticism and other types of bibliographic and reference sources comprises the final pages of the *Index*. The descriptive annotations should assist those unfamiliar with Latin American literature to pursue specific interests within the titles of this section. The inclusion of these sources to provide the historical view of the cultural context in which to place the works of the 1,122 authors certainly strengthens the Freudenthals' attempt to offer a volume with all essential bibliographic entry points covered.

Latin America's literary independence commences with modernism and so does the *Index*. Spanish American authors born from about 1850 on appear, but contrary to this chronological benchmark for modernism (p. viii), Brazilian modernists born in the 1890s launched the *Semana de Arte Moderna* in 1922. For both groups a reasonable selection of translated works appears with several dozen entries for such luminaries as Jorge Luis Borges, Rubén Darío, Carlos Drummond de Andrade, Nicolás Guillén, Vicente Huidobro, Leopoldo Lugones, Gabriela Mistral, Pablo Neruda, Octavio Paz, and César Vallejo. But the strength of the *Index* also stems from inclusion of obscure and infrequently translated authors from the smaller countries. Were it not for this and similar bibliographies, these writers would remain unknown to the monolingual English reading public. Fortunately, a geographic index comprises part of the accessing system, although some users may find the absence of genre subdivision inconvenient.

The works cited for each author appear only in English translation. For users wishing to locate the Spanish or Portuguese original, a reasonably good command of those languages may be necessary in order to make an accurate translation and thereby skip consulting the anthology which most likely will give the title in the original language.⁵

The accuracy of both compilation and annotations underscores the compilers' keen understanding of what a first-rate reference source should be. The organization, bibliographic form, and methodology adhere to model standards. In comparatively few instances do omissions or errors appear, and even then the *Index*'s enduring value is not seriously compromised.⁶ Hopefully others contemplating similar bibliographic efforts will study the structure and multiple means of access that justify placing the *Index* among other major Latin American bibliographies.

Meri Knaster's *Women in Spanish America: An Annotated Bibliography from Preconquest to Contemporary Times* contributes significantly to advancing the bibliographic control over published works in this important emerging field. Over 2,500 titles constitute this pioneering work, which doubtlessly will provide the

basis for specialized bibliographies in the years ahead. Clearly stated from the onset, the scope, organization, and purpose prove consistently adhered to throughout the bibliography. Composed principally of secondary sources drawn from articles, documents of national and intergovernmental agencies, as well as books, pamphlets, dissertations, and theses, an impressive range of literature by and about women from prequest to present times emerges. Primary source materials, such as correspondence and various types of archival records, are not included unless they appear within a secondary source. Generally excluded too are fiction, poetry, literary criticism, unpublished pieces, and newspaper articles. The work cites approximately 445 periodicals, many of which are not regularly indexed or have ceased publication. Students and scholars alike should appreciate Knaster's utilization of the standardized journal abbreviations from the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*. The publication time span is the seventeenth century through 1974; for 1975 and other imprints see her article "Women in Latin America: The State of Research, 1975" (*LARR* 11, no. 1 [1976]:3–74).

Fifteen broad subject categories reflective of female life provide the overall structure: biography and autobiography; the arts; literature, mass media, and folklore; education; magic, religion, and ritual; ethnographic and community studies; marriage and the family; human sexuality, reproduction, and health; psychology; economic life; law (divided into general legal status, delinquency and penal institutions, and employment legislation); history (divided chronologically through the nineteenth century); politics and twentieth-century revolution; perspectives on women's liberation; and, finally, a general or miscellaneous section. Preceding each category's citations is a scope statement broadly outlining types of subjects included and providing cross references for topics treated elsewhere in the bibliography. Given the difficulty of succinctly placing interdisciplinary research in one category, the suggested see references assume great importance.

Each category has its bibliographic entries arranged under either a general Spanish America heading or else under Middle America, South America, or the Caribbean. Therein further subdivision occurs by country, moving geographically southward rather than arranging the countries in alphabetical order. Why the former organizational structure prevails is not explained. The bibliography is consecutively enumerated.

Probably the most impressive accomplishment of this work involves the annotations for each entry. Clearly written, they either summarize or describe rather than evaluate, analyze, or compare. The author succeeds in maintaining an objective position on even the more absurd pieces although she indulges in a few editorial exclamation points. Most annotations offer sufficient information for a user to select with a high degree of success those titles most appropriate for his or her research.

As with any topical approach, the quality of existing studies varies considerably, and thus Knaster believes the items cited reflect a wide range of viewpoints and methodologies. Only works specifically about women were reviewed—with a few exceptions—although the amount of information within each which pertains to women varies considerably. Some titles suggest areas of

involvement or merely relationships, with only general information on women. Excluded are laws on marriage, divorce, and the family.

Efficient use of the volume entails the author index and impressive subject index, the latter prepared by Mary Lombardi. All too frequently valuable bibliographies land in a secondary—or worse—position because of the absence of a sophisticated subject index which the topics and sources covered require. The comprehensiveness and quality of this subject index certainly deserves model status for bibliographers everywhere.

Latin Americanists await a bibliography on women in Brazil and the English-, French- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. Hopefully, the high quality of Knaster's work will continue for these areas.

The stated purpose of *Venezuelan History: A Comprehensive Working Bibliography* "is to help guide students to information on Venezuela's past, rather than to provide a definitive list" (p. x). Most citations bear post-World War II imprints although some are reprints of earlier works. No cut off date is given, but the infrequent appearance of 1974 imprints suggests limited coverage through that year. Despite the stated chronological scope, prewar publications appear if in the compilers' judgment their significance merits it. Included too are dissertations submitted to United States universities during the past ten years, as well as government publications. Excluded are pamphlets and journal articles from Venezuelan periodicals.⁷ English and Spanish language sources predominate; indeed, other languages receive citations only if they "appeared" (p. ix) in the course of compilation. As with the other bibliographies under review, reliance on the printed catalogs of the major Latin American collections, the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, and the *National Union Catalog* brings together a high percentage of contemporary Venezuelan holdings in the United States. The compilers extended this base to include libraries in Venezuela (p. xiii) as well as publishers' catalogs.

History taken in its broadest sense permits a wide range of subjects to constitute this work of approximately four thousand items. Beyond history, introductory level bibliographic research is feasible in geography, education, urbanization, petroleum, the Church, and civilization (e.g., literature, art, music, architecture). Organized chronologically for history and thematically for publications in other disciplines, each section's citations appear alphabetically by author. Works pertaining to several sections have citations in each, a necessary duplication given the absence of a subject index. Of particular note is the general reference section and its wide range of sources necessary to conduct advanced research. The list of Venezuelan periodicals (items 228–98) in the social sciences and humanities deserves consultation given the exclusion of this serial literature in the bibliography. Complete bibliographic information for a number of these serials is wanting.

Efficient and quite likely effective consultation of this bibliography will prove difficult for those pursuing subjects crossing chronological and thematic lines. For example, citations on slavery and medicine appear in at least five sections, which means users unfamiliar with all authors on the topic must consult the *entire* section in order to extract even one germane citation. This is

particularly distressful in the general reference section for a source such as guides to archives (items 20, 21, 26, 77, 79, 80, 120–23, 127, 135). Subdivisions for dictionaries, guides, indices, and biographical directories would substantially enhance the usefulness of the section not only in relation to other sections, but also to complement existing sources found in most large research libraries. If this bibliography intends to facilitate access to the wide range of topics covered, then a subject index on the order of Knaster's becomes essential.

Given the inclusion of "comprehensive" in the title and the disclaimer that the work is not a "definitive list" (p. x), most users can reasonably expect to locate a wide range of significant titles. Yet care must be exercised because some of the omissions involve publications of importance.⁸ Works not immediately found may reflect significant variation from the nationally accepted standard bibliographic entry—specifically opting for a personal name rather than the corporate name.⁹ This divergence means users must determine what the correct author is because no other references appear within *Venezuelan History*.

In spite of the national standards for bibliographic citations that identify all essential elements and the sequence in which they appear, Lombardi opted to provide the scholarly community with a work of considerable variance. Absence of edition information (e.g., revised, augmented), number of pages, or notes on the presence of maps or illustrations necessitates further bibliographic consultation. Little additional effort would have been required; a pity it was not taken.

From a technical perspective, this bibliography suffers from several serious flaws. In an age of increasing computer application to data manipulation projects—including bibliographies—reliance upon inadequate software and hardware is unwarranted. Users reading the preface (p. xii) are forewarned that orthography is wrong, punctuation is altered, authors in the index have their names truncated after fourteen characters, and only a forty-eight character uppercase set is used. The results more appropriately place this work as a preliminary draft, not an internationally distributed book.

Given the absence of a subject index and the organizational structure of this bibliography, an author index assumes considerable importance. Unfortunately, the programming limitations result in multiple entries for the same person if a distinguishing characteristic (e.g., editor, compiler) exists. Hence, one finds four separate entries for "Arcila Farias," three for "Cova, Jesús An," "Febres Cordero" [Tulio] (in this case nine entries for "Febres Cordero" exist without the distinction of Eloy, Héctor, José, Tulio, Carlos, and Julio!), only to cite a few examples among dozens. A simple extra step in programming permits a relationship to be stored, thereby allowing sorting to place together all identical names. Inappropriate fixed length sort keys result in character truncation in the index which serves no useful purpose from the user's standpoint! The situation with corporate entries borders on the absurd: "Universidad Ca" appears fifteen times with a total of twenty-three items cited; "Venezuela. Min" has twelve entries with twenty-six citations.

Employing a computer printer to produce the final copy, with a photo-reduction of approximately 20 percent, quite simply was a bad choice. Ample

technology exists: the work should be easily adapted for the creation of an output tape from which the text would be printed with a ninety-six-character upper/lower case set (feasible for the CDC 6600 used).

Inadequate programming means the capabilities of the computer remain underutilized. Just applying a print program to print each record—stamping out line after line—yields no refinements normally and reasonably expected of first-rate bibliographic works today. With proper coding a subject index could exist. A first field limitation for the author index coupled with the inappropriate fixed field lengths results in truncations and redundancies in an imprecise index. Implications for users include the outright dismissal of the work by non-Venezuelan specialists engaged in topical research or comparative studies, or tedious consultation of each section's entries by those pursuing topics able to utilize secondary materials. What a pity the compilers failed to exploit adequately the potentials of technology that easily bring the accuracy and refinements normally expected for works of this type.

These three bibliographies depend heavily upon the recorded holdings of the major Latin American collections in the United States as well as the citations appearing in the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*.¹⁰ Doubtlessly this trend of reliance will spawn many more subject bibliographies, for unlike the works laboriously compiled thirty or more years ago, the ones today can easily manipulate a data base of considerable magnitude. Whether or not the full potential is realized depends on the comprehensiveness of the base, the objectives of the bibliography under preparation, and computer-related expertise. The exercise of critical judgment on both inclusion and exclusion criteria for existing works cannot be slighted. Knaster recognizes this point (p. xiv), and hopefully others engaging in bibliographic projects that concentrate on new themes or attempt a revisionist approach to heretofore accepted interpretations will endeavor to evaluate comprehensively the present bibliographic base.

The inextricability of Latin American research and bibliographic control places expectations on those scholars engaged in either or both activities. The work of the contributors in the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* exemplifies such commitment. But how best to convey the importance of such relationship to students? Development of their critical judgment and elevation of their bibliographic knowledge should occur in tandem with subject matter. To relegate bibliography to a few prefatory comments on term papers or simple listing on a syllabus does little to impress upon students the considerable realm of the bibliographic universe that is Latin American. As a teacher, one's responsibilities hold greater dimensions: improved scholarship, new knowledge, and potentially significant methodological advancements, for which cumulative bibliographic control provides the structure.

In recent years many large universities began offering bibliographic instruction courses on Latin American research materials and methods. Such courses or lectures should be encouraged and, after proper evaluation, incorporated into the regular curriculum.¹¹ The improved quality and sophistication of student research clearly justifies the reordering of how bibliographic knowledge can be most effectively and efficiently communicated. No longer should

upper division and graduate level courses depend upon bibliographic serendipity—to do so is a disservice to the seriousness of the subject matter and the complexity of bibliographic coverage of Latin America. The defense of, “I learned by trial and error and so should my students” defies pedagogic justification today. Professors individually or collectively must place their demands for bibliographic instruction on the library and insist that students be prepared to utilize competently the steadily expanding range of Latin American bibliographies of which the three under review are but a representative sample.¹²

PETER T. JOHNSON
Princeton University

NOTES

1. Issued as a preprint for the annual conference, it appears later in the published *Final Report and Working Papers*.
2. For French and Dutch anthologized authors see Bradley A. Shaw, *Latin American Literature in Translation: An Annotated Bibliography* (New York: New York University Press, 1976), which unfortunately does not identify individual works, just anthologized authors.
3. *The Essay and General Literature Index* (New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1934–) covers annually since 1900 anthologized writings.
4. Claude L. Hulet, comp., *Latin American Poetry in English Translation: A Bibliography* (Washington, D.C.: Pan American Union, 1965) and for drama, essay, and the novel see his *Latin American Prose in English Translation: A Bibliography* (Washington, D.C.: Pan American Union, 1964).
5. This can be risky; see Jean R. Longland, “World World Vast World of Poetic Translation,” *Latin American Research Review* 12, no. 1(1977):67–86, for the joys and pitfalls of translating literature.
6. The Freudenthals endeavor to provide birth and death dates when known. For some authors nothing appears although the information is available (e.g., José de Jesús Esteves, 1882–1918, and Armando Tejada Gómez, 1929–); for others errors exist (e.g., Demetrio Aguilera Malta, 1909 not 1905, and Bernardo Canal Feijóo, 1897, not 1898). In the country index (p. 185) Olavo Bilac (entry 132) appears with Bolivian authors rather than Brazilian. Engber’s *Caribbean Fiction and Poetry* (p. 193) has 427 items, not 472.
7. Given the fact that unlike English language journals most Venezuelan ones receive limited indexing, the decision to exclude important scholarly work because of physical format seems most unfortunate.
8. E.g., Spain. Sovereigns. *Documentos para la historia colonial de los Andes venezuelanos; siglos XVI al XVIII*, Caracas, UCV, 1957. 317p.
9. Most works in this category involve the compiler and editor as author, rather than corporate authorship. Users should use the title approach to locate these items in library card catalogs. See for example item 887, “Enrique Otte, comp.,” which under nationally accepted rules is “Spain. Sovereigns, etc. 1516–1556 (Charles I).”
10. See the dictionary catalogs published by G. K. Hall for collections of Texas-Austin, Florida, New York Public Library, Oliveira Lima Library, Miami, Bancroft, and Tulane; Harvard publishes their own as part of the Widener Library Shelflist series.
11. Indeed, Knaster credits the foundation of her work to the bibliography course taught by James Breedlove at Stanford University, (p. xxii).
12. See “Guidelines for Bibliographic Instruction in Academic Libraries,” *College and Research Libraries News*, No. 4 (April 1977), p. 92. These became policy for the Association of College and Research Libraries 31 January 1977.