

OF LIBRARIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Georgette Magassy Dorn
Library of Congress

DIE BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL IN MADRID. By RENATE GARCÍA Y MÁS (Berlin: Colloquim Verlag, 1975. Pp. 115.)

BIBLIOTECA BIBLIOGRÁFICA HISPÁNICA. [Compiled under the direction of] PEDRO SAÍNZ Y RODRIGUEZ (Madrid: Fundación Universitaria Española, "Seminario M. Pelayo," 1975–1976.) 1: *REPERTORIOS POR LUGAR DE NACIMIENTO*, by AMANCIO LABANDEIRA FERNANDEZ (Pp. 149); 2: *REPERTORIOS POR PROFESIONES Y OTRAS CARACTERÍSTICAS PERSONALES*, by MIGUEL M. RODRIGUEZ SAN VICENTE (Pp. 300); 3: *TIPO-BIBLIOGRAFÍAS*, by AMANCIO LABANDEIRA FERNÁNDEZ (Pp. 132); 4: *ÍNDICES DE PUBLICACIONES PERIÓDICAS*, by AMANCIO LABANDEIRA FERNÁNDEZ (Pp. 125).

In a world where research grants and travel allowances are shrinking, the appearance of reference works, guides to libraries, bibliographies, and other aids that assist scholars in planning their time will be much sought after. Bibliographies such as *The Handbook of Latin American Studies* and Stein and Cortés Conde's *Latin America: A Guide to Economic History*¹ are really indispensable tools when embarking on a serious research project. Those who read German will certainly welcome García y Más's *Die Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid*, which traces the development of the Spanish National Library from its founding in 1712, as the Royal Library under Philip V, to the present.² Important landmarks include the royal decree of 1716 establishing the fledgling library as the legal depository of books published in Spain; the influence of the Jesuits on the library's early development, which came to an end when the order was expelled from Spain in 1767; the transfer of the library in 1836 from the crown to the jurisdiction of the Ministerio de Gobernación; and the granting of it, at the same time, the name Biblioteca Nacional. The acquisition of a number of important private collections made it imperative that the library be given a new and fireproof building and thus the library was moved in the 1850s to the Palacio de Biblioteca y Museos Nacionales, where it is located to this date. The library increasingly took on more complex roles. Since 1958 it has been charged with providing economic, social, legal, and scientific information to the Spanish government. The Biblioteca Nacional has also been appointed to keep a collection of the most relevant foreign books and periodicals, to produce printed cata-

logs, and to coordinate the work of the Spanish public library system. García y Más evaluates succinctly the past and present roles of the Biblioteca Nacional and touches on a number of other aspects such as its famed rare book collection, its educational activities, and its exhibit programs. The German text is followed by a brief summary in Spanish.

Under the direction of Pedro Sainz y Rodríguez, the Fundación Universitaria Española published a Hispanic bibliography of bibliographies, an effort undertaken earlier by bibliographers on the other side of the Atlantic such as Cecil K. Jones and Arthur Gropp.³ *Biblioteca bibliográfica hispánica*, however, is more extensive and specialized. These volumes concentrate on biographical guides, bibliographies, and indexes pertaining to Spain and Spanish America from the sixteenth century to the present.

Repertorios por lugar de nacimiento presents 321 annotated entries divided into several categories. It begins with basic works, starting with those published in the seventeenth century. National, regional, and provincial bio-bibliographic guides and indexes follow. Spain, Argentina, Cuba, Chile, and Mexico are the countries which have produced the greatest number and variety of bio-bibliographical works. The annotations by Labandeira Fernández are clear and to the point. This volume should be used in conjunction with the *Diccionario biográfico español e hispanoamericano* and Josefina del Toro's *Bibliography of the Collective Biographies of Spanish America*.⁴ Labandeira Fernández also added an author index, a list of localities cited, and a listing of libraries. One unfortunate feature is citing the books found at the Library of Congress by card number rather than call number.

Repertorios por profesiones y otras características personales, by Rodríguez San Vicente, is an ambitious undertaking presenting a historical bio-bibliography by professions and specialities. In addition to Arabists, Archivists, and Conquistadors, the source presents categories for "Bandidos," "Heterodoxos y Reformistas," "Numismáticos," and "Cineastas." The compiler provides 917 annotated entries, many of them not generally known. Heavy reliance was placed on earlier standard works such as *Manual del librero hispanoamericano* by Antonio Palau y Dulcet, the catalogs compiled by Pedro Sainz y Rodríguez, and Simón Díaz's *Bibliografía de la literatura hispánica*. *Repertorios por profesiones* is certainly useful and well organized, and is based on works that could be consulted in repositories in the Spanish capital.

Tipobibliografías contains 420 annotated entries of bibliographies. The work is divided into general and retrospective bibliographies, Spanish regional and provincial bibliographic works with special sections devoted to periodical publications. More than two thirds of this guide deal with Spanish American countries. Each country is followed by a section on periodicals. *Tipobibliografías* also includes an author index, a

geographic register, a list of libraries, and a general index; it should be used in conjunction with the bibliographies by Cecil K. Jones, Gropp, and Del Toro mentioned above.

Indices de publicaciones periódicas presents 512 entries of indexes to periodicals, about half of them annotated. Understandably, over one-half of this work is devoted to indexes of Spanish periodicals as the work itself is based on materials available in libraries in Madrid. The sections on the Americas are divided into a general section, and separate sections for each country. Periodical indexes from the United States have been included, but not from Canada, Brazil, or the Caribbean, with the exception of Cuba. This is an exhaustive, well-organized, and very readable guide to periodical indexes. The one surprising omission in this guide is mention of the *Index to Latin American Periodical Literature*,⁵ which surely must be available at the Biblioteca Nacional. The work does include the other major sources for locating articles in periodicals, such as *The Handbook of Latin American Studies* and Leavitt's *Revistas hispanoamericanas; índice bibliográfico*.⁶ A compact guide such as *Indices de publicaciones periódicas* will undoubtedly be most useful to researchers and librarians.

These four volumes of *Biblioteca bibliográfica hispánica* represent a major contribution to Hispanic bibliography, and bring together often thoughtfully annotated citations to sources in biography and bibliography ranging from the sixteenth century to the present. These guides will undoubtedly be treasured by Iberianists, colonialists, and nineteenth- and twentieth-century specialists in a number of fields.

NOTES

1. Stanley J. Stein and Roberto Cortés Conde, *Latin America: A Guide to Economic History* (Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 1977).
2. Other guides to the Spanish Biblioteca Nacional are: *Breve noticia de la Biblioteca Nacional* (Madrid: Aribau, 1876) and *Guía del lector en la Biblioteca Nacional; historia, organización, fondos*, 2. ed. corregida y aumentada (Madrid: Patronato de la Biblioteca Nacional, 1949).
3. Cecil Knight Jones, *A Bibliography of Latin American Bibliographies* (Washington, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1942); Arthur E. Gropp brought up to date Jones' work in *A Bibliography of Latin American Bibliographies* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1979); one should also note Daniel Raposo Cordeiro, *A Bibliography of Latin American Bibliographies: Social Sciences and Humanities* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1979) and Agustín Millares Carlo, *Prontuario de bibliografía general* (Caracas: Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, 1973).
4. *Diccionario biográfico español e hispanoamericano*, publicado bajo la dirección de Gaspar Sabater (Palma de Mallorca: Instituto Español de Estudios Biográficos, 1950–1951); Josefina del Toro, *A Bibliography of the Collective Biographies of Spanish Americans* (Detroit, Mich.: Blaine Ethridge Books, 1971; reprinted from a 1938 work published by the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras).
5. *Index to Latin American Periodical Literature, 1929–1960*. Comp. by the Columbus

- Memorial Library of the Pan American Union (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1962; 8 vols.); and 1962–1969 *Supplements* also published by G. K. Hall.
6. *The Handbook of Latin American Studies* (1935–) was published by Harvard University Press 1935–1950, by the University of Florida Press 1950–1979, and beginning with 1980 by the University of Texas Press. The other major index is Sturgis E. Leavitt, *Revistas hispanoamericanas; índice bibliográfico, 1843–1935* (Santiago, Chile: Fondo Histórico y Bibliográfico José Toribio Medina, 1960).