

ANALES DE ANTROPOLOGÍA

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Anales de Antropología is both a publication outlet for the research of the members of the Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas and a general journal with a broad editorial policy that aims to cover the full range of anthropology. Most of the journal's authors have an affiliation with the Instituto, but a substantial minority do not. The intended audience includes the Mexican anthropological community at large and other American anthropologists as well. An English abstract accompanies each major article, suggesting that the editors hope to interest a wider foreign anthropological public, not just Latin American specialists (who presumably read Spanish without great difficulty).

About 85 percent of each annual issue of *Anales de Antropología* is devoted to articles representing all four traditional subfields of anthropology: sociocultural anthropology (including ethnohistory), linguistics, archaeology, and physical anthropology. Two-thirds or more of these articles might be classed as specialized area studies dealing with specific topics in Mesoamerican anthropology. Occasional pieces, often written by foreigners, deal with specific topics in the anthropology of other parts of Latin America and of Spain (reflecting the national origin of several Mexican anthropologists as well as the common language). Most articles are analytical and comparative, and they often focus on broadly defined topical problems. Few are simply reports of fieldwork. Such project and data summaries more often find their way into other outlets such as the *Boletín* and *Anales* series of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, the proceedings of the Mesa Redonda conferences of the Sociedad Mexicana de Antropología, or regional anthropological journals published in Mexico. Most articles in *Anales de Antropología*, however specialized the subject, are written so that specialists in all subfields can follow at least the main lines of the argument. A widely shared interest in Mesoamerica as a coherent culture area and as a field of specialization in its own right helps to maintain lines of communication among practitioners of increasingly specialized subfields within the

Mexican anthropological community. Fragmentation of the discipline is evidently not as serious in Mexico as it has become in North American anthropology.

Anales de Antropología also carries more general topical or subfield reviews that make special reference to Mesoamerica or that are relevant to the concerns of Mexican anthropologists: marginalization vs. integration, IQ and the nature-nurture controversy, *indigenismo* and applied anthropology, linguistic categories and archaeology, kinship studies in Mexico. Other reviews report on methodological developments that are of special interest to Mexican anthropologists: somatotyping, palaeopathology, and field methods in archaeology are a few recent examples. Occasionally, review articles are reprinted in translation from foreign journals. All these articles have some obvious relation to anthropology in Mexico: they deal primarily with Mesoamerica, draw key examples from Mesoamerica, or are "useful" in developing and maintaining certain kinds of professional expertise in Mexican anthropology. *Anales de Antropología* carries none of the very abstract "theoretical" treatises so popular in North American anthropology journals.

Each issue includes a brief "Informaciones" section. Most of this space is devoted to reports on the activities of the Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas and of other national and international anthropological institutions such as the Sociedad Mexicana de Antropología and the Congreso Internacional de Americanistas. "Informaciones" also carries obituaries and occasional notices of the activities of prominent living anthropologists. The concluding pages of each number are devoted to book reviews. Here, too, the coverage is general, including works in all subfields by foreign as well as Mexican anthropologists. Books that incorporate relevant methodological information, though they may not deal directly with Mesoamerica, are quite prominent. A typical issue will include more reviews of English language books than of works in Spanish; occasional books in French, Italian, Dutch, and Portuguese are reviewed as well. Mexican anthropologists are evidently more inclined to pursue the scholarly literature in foreign languages than are most of their North American colleagues.

Beginning in 1978, *Anales de Antropología* came under new editorial guidance following the resignation of Juan Comas, founder of the journal. Future issues are to be published initially in the form of fascicles, though bound copies will be made available eventually. To judge by volume 15, there has been no other major change in editorial policy and no diminution in the quality of the contents. Future volumes deserve a much wider audience than that reached by past issues. Mesoamericanists will obviously continue to be interested in reports on the research activities of the Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas,

but other Latin Americanists, and anyone concerned with anthropology as an international endeavor, will also find much to interest them here. Mexican anthropology is a dynamic academic field, and anthropological perspectives play an ever-increasing role on the wider Mexican intellectual stage. *Anales de Antropología* is a valuable source of insights into the state of anthropology in Mexico today.