

NOTES AND COMMENT

THE THIRD HISPANIC-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

The Third Hispanic-American Congress of Geography and History met in Seville, on May 2 to 8, 1930, under the auspices of the Spanish Government and the Royal Academy of History of Spain. The Duke of Alba, minister of state and president of the Academy, was president of the congress and attended the opening session. This session was presided over by King Alfonso XIII. in person, who declared the congress opened. The active presidency of the congress was exercised first by Sr. Angel Altolaguirre, member of the Academy, and later by Professor Rafael Altamira, member of the Hague Tribunal and professor of law in the University of Madrid.

About one hundred and seventy-five persons registered, a large percentage being Spaniards, some representing organizations and others being individual members of the congress. The countries having official representatives were the United States, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Uruguay. At the closing session Cuba and Colombia adhered to the congress. The American delegation, which was the largest single foreign group, consisted of Miss Irene A. Wright, official representative of the United States; Charles Upson Clark, the Smithsonian Institution; Roscoe R. Hill, the Library of Congress; A. B. Thomas, the University of Oklahoma; John Van Horne, the University of Illinois; Ralph Graves, the National Geographic Society; Mrs. Anna Schoellkopf, the American Embassy, Madrid; Miss Alice B. Gould, Boston; and Miss Dorothy I. Hill, Chicago.

The sessions of the congress were held in the pavilion of the Plaza de España of the Ibero-American Exposition, the sumptuous palace designed by the much lamented Sevillian architect Sr. Aníbal González. The opening and closing sessions were held in the beautiful general assembly hall and the sectional meetings in other rooms of the pavilion, which unfortunately left much to be desired from an acoustic standpoint.

At the opening session on May 2 under the presidency of the king, Sr. Vicente Castañeda, secretary of the Academy of History, read a preliminary statement regarding the congress. This was followed by brief addresses by the official representative of the United States, Miss Wright, and that of Panama, Sr. Melchor Lasso de la Vega, minister of Panama in Spain, on behalf of the Hispanic American countries. Miss Wright sketched the exploits of Spanish discovery, especially in relation to the United States, and praised the labor of civilization accomplished by Spain in taking to America its language, arts, religion, and blood. She set forth the reasons why the United States can consider Spain a second mother country and expressed the satisfaction of the American delegates in being able to join with the Hispanic-Americans in meeting on the soil of the common mother country. Sr. Lasso de la Vega expressed the hope that the results of the congress would tend toward a fraternal fusion of the Hispanic-American countries, united in the profound affection for the mother country.

This session was concluded by the official address by the Duke of Alba, who began with observations on the cultural efforts of the Hispanic races. He then briefly sketched the great epic of colonization realized by the discoverers, conquistadores, missionaries, legislators, and others who participated in the implantation of Spanish civilization in the new world. He made an appeal for more thorough historical investigation and addressing the American delegates, stated,

If the knowledge of our history is necessary for you because it is the origin of yours, even so the knowledge of the history of America, past and present, is necessary for our culture. I hope that the extension and diffusion of these studies [of American history], today scanty in our country, shall be one of the results of this congress, because this field of study is most extensive and is little and poorly explored. Daily we are pleasantly surprised by the concrete rectifications which the new investigations produce. Today it is the arts, tomorrow the political labor of the viceroys or the biographies of illustrious unknown persons, the work of the missionaries or the effects of Spanish instruction in the new continent. Always there are pleasant discoveries in the rich mine and to labor resolutely in it you are assembled here.

The following days were given over to the sectional meetings in the mornings and social entertainments in the late afternoons. The preliminary plan called for six sections but these were reduced to three, viz.: (1) Prediscovery and discovery of America; (2) Colonization; and (3) Geography. For these meetings there was no set pro-

gram, the chairman in each case calling up from among the papers which had been submitted, usually giving preference to authors who happened to be present at the opening of the section. This system made it rather difficult to know the subjects to be treated at any given time or to hear the papers in which one was especially interested.

In the first section the most exciting theme was that of Columbus. Two theories were set before the congress and debated with vigor and to great extent, in fact too great. Sr. Luis Ulloa, ex-director of the National Library of Lima, who has already published two volumes on the subject,¹ set forth his thesis that Columbus was a Catalonian corsair and not the son of a Genoese wool carder and that he had made a voyage to America prior to the capitulations of Santa Fe; and he cited a number of interesting documents in proof of his contentions. On the other hand Father Adrián Sánchez advanced the theory that Columbus was born in Estremadura and proposed seven points for his thesis. However, in all his presentation, which was extensive, he failed to get beyond his first point or to produce any documentary evidence. After all the debate the general opinion seemed to remain in favor of the classical theory regarding the birth of Columbus and his discovery of America. Miss Alice B. Gould, who has long been devoted to the study of Columbus, gave interesting account regarding her studies to identify the seventeen ships and 1500 individuals that made up the second voyage of Columbus.

One of the best prepared as well as most interesting papers of this section (although much too long to be read entire—although it was read) was by Sr. José de la Riva-Agüero, official delegate of Peru, on the "Raza y Lengua probables de la Civilización de Tiahuanaco". He set forth the theses that the founders of Tiahuanaco were not Aimaras, that the Incas came from lake Titicaca and were of the Quechua race and language and that there is no proof that the Aimara culture and tongue are any older than the Quechua. From the standpoint of excellent presentation, as well as for its subject matter, great praise must be given to Professor Eduardo Ibarra, of the University of Madrid, for

¹Luis Ulloa, *Christophe Colomb, Catalan* (Paris, 1927); and *Xristo-Ferens Colom, Fernando el Católico y la Cataluña Española* (Paris, [1928]). See also *New York Times*, December 7, 1930, Did Columbus land on American Shores before 1492? See also Cecil Jane, *Select Documents illustrating the four Voyages of Columbus* (London, 1930), pp. xvii, xxxii, xxxiv-xxxv, 148 n. 3.

his paper on the "Precedentes extranjeros de la Casa de Contratación". Coming at the end of a weary session of discussing Columbus, Professor Ibarra, in snappy Spanish interspersed with sparkling wit, presented the essential facts of his interesting study, in a brief period. He traced the antecedents of the casa de contratación back through the practices and experiences of Portugal, England, the Hanseatic League, and even to Hamarubi, showing that Spain did the natural and obvious thing in the matter of trade practices and that in so doing followed the precedents of the nations which had had occasion to enter into overseas trade prior to Spanish experience. Other papers of this section were: "Palos y la Rábida en el Movimiento Hispano-Americano", by Sr. Marchena Colombo of Huelva; "La Familia de Atahualpa", by Gabriel Navarro Enríquez, consul general of Ecuador in Spain; "Conquista y Evangelización de América, Estudio crítico de la Contribución a ella prestada por la Orden de Santo Domingo", by Padre Manuel M. Martínez, O. P.; and "El Origen de los Mejicanos según el Doctor Francisco Hernández", by Padre Agustín J. Barreiro.

The second section, which was devoted to colonization, included a considerable group of papers dealing with various phases of the organization of the Spanish colonial empire and the brief presentation of a number of recently published works, several of which deal with archival investigation. The following papers were of the first group: Professor Ernesto Schafer, delegate of the Ibero-American Institute of Hamburg, "Algunas Consideraciones para escribir la Historia del Consejo Supremo de Indias"; Sr. Luís Redonet, of the Academy of History, "El Espíritu rural de España en la Colonización de América"; Professor Tomás Elorreita, of the University of Madrid, "El Imperio Español de América"; Professor Claudio Sánchez Albornoz, of the University of Madrid, "La Edad media y la Empresa de América"; Padre Pedro Martínez Vélez, O. S. A., "Importancia de los Cronistas Agustinos para el Conocimiento de la Historia del Perú"; Mrs. Anna Schoellkopf, "Elógió de Bernardo de Gálvez"; Professor Demetrio Nalda, of the Real Academia Hispano-Americano de Cádiz, "Los Cripto-Judios; una Página de las Relaciones entre España, Inglaterra y América"; and Colonel Gaspar do Couto Rebeiro Villas, of Lisbon, "Portuguese Colonization in Brazil", based on unedited documents.

The presentation of the published works took the form of a brief

statement regarding the work and its contents. Sr. José Torre Revello, delegate of Argentina and for many years in charge of the Argentine mission in the Archivo de Indias, dealt with the history of the archives and cataloguing of the manuscripts deposited therein.² Sr. Cristóbal Bermúdez Plata, director of the Archivo de Indias, explained the work of cataloguing that is being carried on by the archivists with special reference to the formulation of lists of those who went to the Indies.³ Professor José María Ots Capdequi, of the University of Seville and technical director of the Instituto Hispano-Cubano de Historia at Seville, gave an account of the work of this latter institution which has recently been founded for the purpose of furthering historical studies and indicated the nature of the first catalogues which have been published by the Institute.⁴ Sr. Gabriel Navarro Enríquez presented his recent work dealing with colonial art and architecture.⁵

The papers presented in the third section devoted to geography were in general of a technical character. These included: Sr. Fernando Gil Montaner, "El Astrolabio de Prisma en los Trabajos geodésico-astronómicos"; Sr. Fernández Ascarza, Determinaciones de Coordenadas geográficas en el Observatorio de Madrid"; Sr. Enrique Meseguer, "El Servicio meteorológico Español y las Rutas aéreas sobre el Atlántico", in which he urged the necessity of more extensive meteorological studies and observations of the aerial routes of the Atlantic; Captain Manuel García Vaquero, "La Fotogrametría en el Servicio geográfico del Ejército", which gave a description of the photographic work carried on by the Spanish army in the Pyrenees,

² José Torre Revello, *El Archivo General de Indias de Sevilla: Historia y Clasificación de sus Fondos*, Publicaciones del Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, Num. I. Buenos Aires, 1929. Pp. 215.

³ Personal Facultativo del Archivo General de Indias, *Catálogo de Pasajeros a Indias durante los Siglos XVI, XVII y XVIII*, Volumen I (1509-1553). Publicaciones de la Inspección General de Emigración, Ministerio de Trabajo. Madrid, 1930. Pp. 469.

⁴ José M. Ots Capdequi, ed., *Catálogo de los Fondos Cubanos del Archivo General de Indias*, Tomo. I, Volumen I, *Consultas y decretos, 1664-1783*. Publicaciones del Instituto Hispano-Cubano de Historia de América. Madrid, 1930. Pp. 475.

————— *Catálogo de los Fondos Americanos del Archivo de Protocolos de Sevilla*, tomo I, *Siglo XVI*. Publicaciones del Instituto Hispano-Cubano de Historia de América, Madrid, 1930. Pp. 560.

⁵ José Gabriel Navarro Enríquez, *La Escultura en el Ecuador (Siglos XVI al XVIII)*. Madrid, 1929. Pp. 195.

the Canary Islands, and Spanish Morocco; and Sr. José Galbis, "El Magnetismo en España". In this section as well as in the others numerous papers were read by title only.

At the closing session on May 8, the minister of public instruction, Professor Elias Tormo, presided. The secretary read a statement of the conclusions of the congress. These included suggestions regarding the teaching of American history in the Spanish universities; the organization of reference libraries at the Spanish archives; a trip to America of the replica of the Santa María, which was constructed by the Spanish government for the Sevillian exposition; and the proposal, made by Professor Altamira, of the organization of committees of correspondence and study for the preparation of the themes to be discussed at future congresses. Sr. Tormo in his address in which he declared the congress closed, stressed the great importance that the government gave to the congress, discussed the importance of historical studies, expressed his desire for fraternity among the hispanic peoples and indicated

the advantage that, in this meeting of Americans, Spaniards, and Portuguese and in all undertakings which they jointly put in execution, they shall consider that the most efficient way to union must be the love for truth to which respect shall be given even on those occasions in which it does not appear pleasing.

The social side of the congress was an outstanding feature, for here one had opportunity of getting into intimate contact with the members of the congress and besides the entertainments provided were all most interesting and pleasant and were in historical settings. At a tea and garden party given by the Duke of Alba in his very old Sevillian palace, one was treated to a sample of true Andalusian life. A select program of Spanish dancing and music and the service of "*buñuelos*" by women in typical costumes made a pretty picture indeed. On Sunday, there was an excursion on the Guadalquivir River, which carried the trade of the Indies in the sixteenth century. The mayor of Seville gave a reception in the famous Ayuntamiento, with its interesting old session hall, its library and archives full of precious historical records reaching back into the middle ages and its beautiful reception hall with valuable historical paintings and elaborate decorations. There was an excursion to Itálica, the ruins of a once famous Roman city, with its amphitheater and recently discovered wonderful mosaics and street paving, which have lain for centuries beneath an olive orchard. Here was given another excellent program

of Spanish dancing by the noted Otero dancing school. On the way to Itálica, a stop was made at the old convent of San Isidro-extra-muros, at Santi Ponce, which played a part in the Spanish protestant movement of the sixteenth century. There was also a tea in the old Convent of Remedios, across the river from the Torre de Oro, which has been remodeled to become the seat of the recently founded Instituto Hispano-Cubano de Historia de América. Its founder, Sr. Rafael González Abreu, was the genial host on this occasion. During the tea the work of the Institute was described and praised by various speakers. Visits were also made to a number of pavilions of the exposition.

On the closing night, the permanent committee of the Ibero-American Exposition offered a banquet to the members of the congress in the grand hall of the exposition casino. Here amidst the beauty and splendor of the building were pronounced the closing remarks of the congress, words of good fellowship, and appreciation of Spanish hospitality. The official delegates of each country spoke briefly. The writer at the request of the official delegate made the response for the United States, toasting to the development of closer cultural relations, especially in historical studies, between Spain and Portugal and the American Republics.

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On December 9, 1930, there was unveiled at Caracas, Venezuela, with impressive ceremony, a statue of Henry Clay, which was presented to Venezuela by the United States. A delegation in charge of Ambassador Extraordinary Mr. Sheffield was sent from the United States to make the presentation. After the unveiling of the statue by President Pérez, the ambassador made an address, in the course of which he said :

May it cement in still closer bonds the unbroken peace that has existed from the beginning between our nations, and convey to the people of your beautiful country the sympathetic understanding of my people and Government, and their earnest desire for your future peace, happiness, and prosperity.

It was the hope of the president of the United States, the ambassador said "that our relations as sister republics may be in the future as in the past based on reciprocal good faith and mutual understandings". Reply to the ambassador's address was made by Dr. Itriago

Chaoín, Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs, and the oration of the day was delivered by Dr. José Santiago Rodríguez. Among other things, the speaker said :

There could be no more appropriate occasion than this splendid and auspicious anniversary of Ayacucho, a date which stamps in burning characters the final success of the democratic movement in Spanish America, whereon to pay this undying homage, this most worthy tribute to the exaltation of Henry Clay, of whom it is sufficient but to recall that, in the Great Republic of the North, . . . he, bound heart and soul unto this movement, rose to be its Champion and its Leader.

On December 10, the delegation visited the National Pantheon, the house where Bolívar was born, and other notable places. The statue of Henry Clay in Caracas and that of Bolívar in New York are bonds between two American peoples that must have an influence toward a better cultural understanding and have their place in the peace of the world.

At the banquet tendered in Caracas to the United States delegation at the time of the unveiling of the statue of Henry Clay on December, 1930, Ambassador Sheffield announced (December 10) that Mr. Rudolf Dolge, United States representative of the Standard Oil Co. in Venezuela, and his wife propose to present to Venezuela and the United States their collection of Venezolana. This unique collection consists of over 10,000 pieces and relates mainly to the history of Venezuela and its relations with the United States. Among its treasures are a number of unique pieces; and as a whole it is a most valuable library, the result of many years ardent collecting. The gift is a memorial to their only son. For its administration, it is proposed to create a trust composed of Venezuelans and citizens of the United States, so that the collection may be made available to students both of Venezuela and of the United States. Mr. Dolge is a citizen of the United States, who has lived many years in Venezuela.

The first meeting of the Institute of Inter-American affairs at the University of Florida, was held at Gainesville, Florida, February 10-13, 1921. The Institute was founded with the following specific aims :

1. To foster international goodwill between the two Americas.
2. To hold conferences and institutes on Inter-American affairs.
3. To stimulate interchange of ideas.
4. To encourage the exchange of students and professors between colleges and universities of the two continents.

5. To promote an interplay of cultural ideas.
6. To stimulate specific studies common to the two Americas.
7. To advance Inter-American interests in agriculture, in trade and commerce, in education, in health, and in other fields of human endeavor.

The specific aim of the first annual meeting was

to outline a definite Inter-American coöperative educational program which will increase understanding among the nations of the western hemisphere. In the development of this program there are two distinct, although closely related, divisions that must be considered. Briefly these are: first, the collecting, translating, and interpreting the information necessary to an intelligent understanding of a people; and second, the dissemination of such information through the various educational channels both formal and informal.

The session of February 10 was on "The place of education in the development of understanding among peoples", and was participated in by William John Cooper, U. S. Commission of education, Wallace W. Atwood, president of Clark University, and John C. Merriam, president of Carnegie Institution of Washington. The session of February 11, on "The place of agricultural education in the development of Inter-American understanding and goodwill", was participated in by Bradford Knapp, president of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, H. Harold Hume, past president of the Florida Horticultural society, and Roscoe W. Thatcher, president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. A round-table discussion was held in the afternoon of the same day on "The purpose of agricultural experiment stations and extension work in the development of a coöperative agricultural educational program", the speakers at which were David Fairchild, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, H. Harold Hume, and Sr. Ing. Francisco L. Terminel, representing the Oficina federal para la Defensa Agricola, Mexico. On the morning of February 12, there was round-table discussion on "The nature and scope of the research work to be carried on by the institute to increase intellectual understanding in the Americas", at which John C. Merriam, Wallace W. Atwood, and Joseph L. Jones, foreign editor, United Press, spoke. The last session, that of February 13, was on "The place of the press in the development of an Inter-American educational program", had as speakers, Henry Grattan Doyle, editorial director, *Pan American Magazine*, James A. Robertson, editor, *THE HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*, and Joseph L. Jones.

The ceremonies at Caracas in connection with the centenary of Bolívar's death were opened on December 16 by the firing of military salutes and by half masting the flag on all public buildings and on many private houses. On December 17, the completely rebuilt Pantheon was inaugurated in the presence of the president of Venezuela, the cabinet, and many other officials and notable men and women. Bronze wreaths were presented by several European nations and many American nations. On the same day the ceremonies in connection with the restored cathedral of Caracas were observed. Next day the new concrete road between Maracay and Carabobo, as well as the new bridge over the Tocuyito River, was dedicated. On December 19, the new statue of Bolívar in Caracas was unveiled, as well as statues of General José Antonio Páez and General José de San Martín, the new cavalry barracks, the new infantry barracks, and the new hangars for the air force. On the 21st, the statue of the Cuban, José Martí, was unveiled by President Pérez. These ceremonies, together with the publication of Bolívar's letters, form a fitting memorial to the Liberator. Impressive ceremonies in many cities of the United States were held in memory of Bolívar on December 17.

Ceremonies in honor of the centenary of the death of Bolívar were held at Managua on December 17, 1930. At that time a monument to the Liberator was unveiled by President Moncada assisted by the minister of public instruction. An address was given by Dr. Cordero Reyes.

The committee on cultural relations with Latin America, whose headquarters are at 112 East 19th St., New York City, announces the sixth seminar in Mexico, for July 4-24, 1931. Those interested in attending this seminar should apply to the executive secretary, Hubert C. Herring. The report of the fifth seminar in Mexico, namely *The genius of Mexico* has recently been released. This contains articles by Moisés Saénz, Carleton Beals, Mary Austin, Rafael Ramírez, Manuel Gamio and Paul Kellogg, Diego Rivera and Count René d'Harnoncourt, and Judge Florence Allen and Justice Salvador Urbina. This will be reviewed in a later issue of this REVIEW. The seminar in Mexico was inaugurated as an agency for developing public opinion throughout the United States, making it sensitive to the peculiar genius of the Mexican, appreciative of his artistic and cultural gifts.

and concerned with the creation of relations of mutual respect between the peoples of the two republics. The same committee organized the first seminar in the Caribbean which was held February 14 to March 4, 1931. The seminar in the Caribbean was established as one of the annual projects of the committee and was organized in response to various representations relative to the critical importance of the Caribbean in the international relations of the United States. Membership in the seminar was open upon application or nomination to a representative group of editors, writers, lawyers, business men and women, college and university professors, artists, clergymen, librarians, social workers, engineers, officers of civic organizations, and others.

Dr. Hans W. Hartmann, of Zürich, Switzerland, who did part of his graduate work in the University of Pittsburgh, is offering a course on the "Entdeckung und Kolonisation von mittel- und Südamerika" in the Volkshochschule des Kantons Zürich. In this he discussed the background of discovery and colonization, the voyages of Columbus and other discoverers, the beginnings of Mexico, Peru, and other parts of America, Spanish colonial methods and colonial politics, early Brazil, and other matters.

NOTE: It was wrongly recorded in the February issue of the REVIEW that the genial archivist, Don Pedro Torres Lanzas, had gone to his reward. Dr. A. P. Nasatir, who is now making researches in the Archivo General de Indias at Seville, has informed us that the report (like that of Mark Twain) is "greatly exaggerated". Don Pedro is still "very much alive" and is busily engaged in making studies on "Escudas de Armas". This correction is made because of the many friends in Hispanic circles who are indebted to Don Pedro for many services. Long may Don Pedro stay among us. He has been and is an inspiration to many.—ED.