

NOTES AND COMMENTS

MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE ON HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIA- TION HELD IN PHILADELPHIA, DECEMBER 29, 1937

The Conference met at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel and, after the annual luncheon, Professor Mary W. Williams acted as chairman. The minutes of the 1936 Conference at Providence were read and approved.

Professor Arthur P. Whitaker, chairman of the Conference reported that Professor Emilio Ravignani of the University of Buenos Aires and Professor Percy A. Martin of Stanford University were unable to attend the Conference. Mr. Charles Lyon Chandler kindly consented to substitute for Professor Ravignani and Professor Martin sent his paper to be read.

The chairman then discussed the vague relations of the Hispanic American Conference to the American Historical Association and its unsatisfactory constitution.

A report by the nominating committee for 1937 (Professor Arthur S. Aiton, chairman, Professor I. J. Cox, and Dr. France Scholes) was made. The following slate was presented: for members of the committee to prepare for the next Conference, Professor J. Fred Rippey, chairman, Professor Mecham, and Rev. Dr. Jerome V. Jacobson, S. J.; for the nominating committee Professor Wm. S. Robertson, chairman, Dr. Lewis Hanke and Dr. Dana G. Munro. By motion, duly seconded, the secretary was authorized to cast a ballot for the nominees.

Professor I. J. Cox reported concerning the possibility of obtaining a small sum of money from the American Historical Association for expenses of the Conference.

Mr. Chandler announced that the Corn Exchange National Bank of Philadelphia had contributed a collection of Argentine archaeology to the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania.

Professor A. Curtis Wilgus then presented the subject of the formation of an Academy of Hispanic American History. By mo-

tion, duly seconded, it was proposed that the nominating committee should select a committee to consider the matter of a constitution for the Conference.

Professor Williams announced that the report of the Buenos Aires Conference by Professor Whitaker was to be published in the February number of *THE HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*.

There being no further business the meeting was then adjourned.

LILLIAN E. FISHER.

Secretary of the Hispanic American Conference
of the American Historical Association.

ARSÈNE LACARRIÈRE LATOUR¹

The name of Arsène Lacarrière Latour is familiar to students of the Battle of New Orleans, for Latour played an important part in that engagement, and was the author of a *Historical Memoir*² which has become basic for the study of the battle. His military activities are easily traced, but other information about him is hard to find in print. There is a biographical sketch of him in Cullum's *Campaigns of the War of 1812-15*,³ but it is incomplete and inaccurate. Further, it does not indicate that, after leaving the United States Army, Major Latour became a secret agent of Spain, informing against the United States. This part of his career has never been related.

Latour was presumably born in France; the date is not known. Cullum implies that it was about 1789, but all other evidence⁴ indi-

¹The writer is indebted to Dr. Joseph B. Lockey for suggesting this study, for placing at the writer's disposal many photostats and transcripts, and for valuable advice in the preparation of the manuscript.

²Arsène Lacarrière Latour, *Historical Memoir of the War in West Florida and Louisiana in 1814-15* (trans. H. P. Nugent. Philadelphia, John Conrad, 1816).

³George W. Cullum, *Campaigns of the War of 1812-15, against Great Britain, Sketched and Criticised; with Brief Biographies of the American Engineers* (New York, James Miller, 1879). Most of Cullum's information is based on a statement given to William Beer, of the Howard Memorial Library, by Armand Hawkins, a New Orleans antique dealer. Mr. Stanley C. Arthur of New Orleans has kindly provided the writer with a transcript of this statement.

⁴Especially a few biographical references in Ramírez to Cienfuegos, April 7, 1817, Archivo Histórico Nacional, Estado, Legajo 5560, Expediente 6, p. 360 (Library of Congress pagination).