

AUSTRALIAN MANUSCRIPT SOURCES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA

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BACKGROUND

A VITAL INTEREST IN THE AFFAIRS OF LATIN AMERICA HAS GROWN RECENTLY IN Australia. There, in that land "in back of the beyond," professors are offering new programs of Latin American Studies while their librarian counterparts have strengthened their holdings through active participation in the Latin American Co-operative Acquisition Program (LACAP) and in the Seminars on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM). The move of Claudio Véliz from the Universidad de Chile to the Chair of the Department of Sociology, La Trobe University (Bundoora, Victoria), will stimulate further the development of Latin American Studies in the Antipodes, while the resurgence of trans-Pacific sailings during the past decade is attracting the interest of the Australians to the nations across the Pacific.¹ It is worth noting that last year Professor Gilbert Butland of the University of New England, Armidale (New South Wales) published a general study entitled *The Other Side of the Pacific: Problems of Latin America* (Sydney, 1972).

Although this surge of interest is a recent development, contacts between Australian and Latin America have a long and complex history. Both scholarly and polemical debates about the lands discovered by expeditions such as those directed by Miguel López de Legazpi and Pedro Fernández de Quiros have enriched our understanding of Spanish Pacific explorations. While such expeditions apparently did not touch Australian shores, they did anticipate the many voyages which would link the Antipodes and Ibero-America, particularly during the nineteenth century. Shortly after the small fleet commanded by Arthur Phillip dropped anchor in the safe waters of Port Jackson (contemporary Sydney), in January 1788, ships sailed eastward from Australia in search of such grain and foodstuffs as could be obtained along the west coast of South America. Soon vast amounts of Chilean wheat were being shipped from ports such as Tomé and San Antonio to stock the empty shelves of the merchants of Sydney.² After a brief decline of the trade during the late 1840s, wheat trade flourished again for a few years during the middle 1850s in response to the market opportunities created by the Australian gold-rush of that period. The 1860s, however, saw a reversal in the pattern of the trade and by the latter years of the nineteenth century, flour from Australian wheat was baking in the ovens of Santiago. Increasing numbers of Antipodean ships carried coal from New South Wales to fill the bunkers of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, while other ves-

Latin American Research Review

sels crossed from Sydney to load guano and nitrates at stops such as the Chincha Islands or Iquique for deposit at ports in Great Britain.

Extensive contacts also linked the east coast nations of South America with Australia. Many of the early convict-ships en route to Sydney stopped at ports such as Bahia to refit and, often, to load illicit cargoes of rums and other liquors for later resale to the thirsty settler, soldiers, and convicts of Australia. Indeed, complaints were common that such stops so extended the time of the voyage that great suffering and illness became the common companions of the prisoners locked below the decks of the vessels wallowing at anchor in the then febrile harbors of Brazil.³

The archives of Australia are spotted with shipping notices, manifests, memoirs, business and personal correspondence, and ships' logs which illustrate a great deal about such voyages and about the ports at which they touched. The review of such sources can explain such fascinating aspects of history as why it was that Australian lumber was used for the railroad ties of several of Brazil's interior railroads; or, what happened to the several hundred Chilenos who came to Australia as indentured servants in 1839 and 1840. We know of the Australian agricultural colony established in Paraguay in the 1890s, but what was the fate of the nearly one thousand Australians who emigrated to Chile in 1843 and 1844? In sum: autochthonous archival material can illustrate a bit about the opening up of the Pacific by Spain, and a great deal about the international trade patterns of the nineteenth century Latin America. Very little appears available which might help us understand better the social, political, or intellectual development of Latin America.

While I have not worked in the more contemporary sources, I expect that the archives are rich in the scientific fields serviced by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO, headquarters at 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3000). CSIRO has been active particularly through its Division of Plant Industry, its Division of Animal Physiology, and its Meat Research Laboratories, which have fostered exchange of personnel and information with equivalent research institutions throughout Latin America.⁴ Anyone working in such fields would do well to contact CSIRO preparatory to their arrival in Australia.

This report is offered in the hope that it may provide a tool for specialists in the affairs of Latin America who plan a trip to travel and work in Australia. The focus of the report will be the specific consideration of those sources of interest to the historian, but the information about the libraries, their addresses, hours, and services hopefully will be of some value also to scholars outside the field of history. The concluding section of the report will comment briefly about the state of Latin American Studies in Australia, in the hope of stimulating academic exchanges with our peers across the Pacific.⁵

THE SYDNEY AREA

Beyond any question the place to start one's research would be the Mitchell Library, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Only a few short blocks from the ferry terminal and the underground station at the Circular Quay, the Mitchell is a special research

AUSTRALIAN MANUSCRIPT SOURCES AND PROGRAMS

collection within the general Library of New South Wales. It is a public collection available for use on conditions similar to those which prevail at the British Museum or at the National Archives, Washington, D.C. Admission is by reader's ticket, and no books or manuscripts may be removed from the Library. Excellent xeroxing facilities are available.

The readers room is graced by beautiful heavy tables and large comfortable chairs sufficient for approximately twenty-five readers. The librarians are usually prompt and always courteous. The reading room is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

A published catalogue of printed books held by the Mitchell is available, but the Library's most valuable resources are its vast collections of manuscripts. There are two problems for a Latin Americanist using such sources. First, the manuscripts have been used only sparingly by scholars trained in the affairs of Latin America; accordingly the indices have been set up in a manner inconsistent with our needs. Thus, a ship sailing to Valparaíso would be listed under its proper name, but the port of Valparaíso would not be an index entry. Second, there are four separate indices which must be consulted before full use can be made of the manuscript collection:

- 1) "Index Catalogue of Manuscripts." Approximately 280 drawers of cards containing entries for manuscripts catalogued prior to March 1963, arranged alphabetically by author and subject heading. The "Index-Catalogue" also includes entries for small-size documents catalogued up to December 31, 1965.
- 2) *Catalogue of Manuscripts: Series A, 1945–1963* (Sydney, 1967).
- 3) *Catalogue of Manuscripts: Series B, 1963–1967* (Sydney, 1969).
- 4) "Catalogue of Manuscripts: Series, C, 1967–." (Being compiled and maintained on stencilled leaves at the library. The reader should also make use of an amalgamated index of Series "A," "B," and "C" which is kept in drawers which follow the letter "Z" listings of the "Index Catalogue of Manuscripts.")

Other valuable indices include the typescript prepared by G. Hendy-Pooley of the *Sydney Gazette*, 1803–1842; and the Library-prepared indices of the *Australian*, 1824–1842; the *Sydney (Morning) Herald*, 1842–January 1845; and the *Port Phillip Gazette*, October 1838–April 1845. Again, these guides are available only in the Library itself; the caveats about inappropriate index heading prevail.

The Mitchell Library holds few sources of generic interest to a Latin Americanist, although it does have broad holdings which tell us much about the Cosme or Australian Colony in Paraguay, and isolated folios that can provide interrupted but rich veins for historical insights.⁶ The greater part of the information, however, is spread throughout many different collections and can be used only with a great deal of effort on the part of the researcher. Thus, it is absolutely necessary that the scholar be thoroughly immersed in and profoundly aware of the secondary literature appro-

Latin American Research Review

priate to his topic. For example, there will be no easy way to study the tobacco trade between Brazil and Australia, but the business files of the individual merchants involved in the trade are likely to be valuable repositories which could demonstrate a good deal about the economic history of Brazil.

Among the few folios of particular value to the Latin Americanist are:

<i>Catalogue Key</i>	<i>Manuscript Number</i>	<i>Title and Subject Description</i>
B-380		Papers of Mendaña de Neyra Alfaro <i>re</i> barque Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria, 1582-85.
3-la		Papers on Spain in the Pacific.
B-1025		Records of the Marquesas Isles, 1678-1899.
4-37A		Papers <i>re</i> convicts who escaped to Mexico on the ship <i>Otter</i> , 1796-98. (Copied from the National Archives of Mexico).
5-154B	564/1	David Ramsey Papers. (Recounts his trip to Brazil in 1820-22).
5-175B	693	Diary of Mrs. M. Martin. (Shipwrecked in Arauco, 1828).
5-92A	A3343	Diary of F. G. Simpkinson (?) (Recounts a survey trip along the West Coast of America, 1837).
5-154B	1679/6	O. B. Ebsworth Papers. (Tells of his purchase in 1852 of a load of wheat in Chile).
6-263-B	830/4	J. T. E. Gowlland. (Journal of a Survey Trip to South America).
A-892		Sir Frederick Palgrave Barlee Papers of 1876-88. (Was Lt. Governor of British Honduras (1877-82) and Acting Governor of Trinidad, 1884).

The Mitchell librarians, although unskilled in the area of Latin American Studies, will be of great assistance in locating these folio files and others like them. Preparatory inquiries about a research project should be addressed to Miss Suzanne Mourot, Associate Mitchell Librarian. Allow a lead time of at least two months because the Library staff is always quite busy.

Located in the same building as the Mitchell Library are the larger but less valuable General Reference Library and the important Archives Office of New South Wales. The latter library maintains the same hours as the Mitchell. To make effective use of the Archives Office one should consult the *Concise Guide to the State Archives of New South Wales* (Sydney, 1970). The Archives Office is particularly valuable for maritime history. Sources such as the daily reports of the *Sydney Harbour Master* (4/5139-94; 56 vols.); the *Shipping Reports* (4/5198-251; 54 vols.); and the

AUSTRALIAN MANUSCRIPT SOURCES AND PROGRAMS

Reports of the Shipping Master's Office (4/5195–7, X 69–464; 399 vols.) are of great help to the student of the international trade of Latin America because they list the ports of origin or destination of all vessels entering or leaving Sydney Harbor, and frequently they describe the ships' cargoes and identify their masters. Supplement these sources with the *Minute Books and Appendices of the Executive Council of New South Wales* (4/1515–4/1604, SB 608–653, 4/1438–4/1452; 150 vols.). The tariff debates of the Council are of unusual interest because the members often exclaimed loudly and bitterly about the value, nature, and extent of Australia's trade with South America.

Less than a block away from the library complex described above is the History House, Royal Australian Historical Society (133 Macquarie Street, Sydney). There scholars are greeted graciously by General Secretary H. C. "Harry" Harper; but the Latin Americanist will find little research material. The RAHS's slight Latin American holdings do not merit proper cataloguing; the few documents which the library holds seemingly treat only of the Spanish explorations in the Pacific and are included under a subject heading of "Pacific;" thus it is necessary to see each listed item to determine its relevance.

The Latin American holdings of the many universities about Sydney are generally weak, but an overall program of inter-Library cooperation bodes well for the future. Structured by the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographic Services (AACOBS) and organized by the Book Resources Committee of New South Wales, each university has accepted the obligation of strengthening itself in only one particular area specialty. Henceforth the University of New South Wales (Kensington, Sydney: A. Horton, Librarian) will do most of the buying of Latin American resources, while the University of Sydney will maintain only reference coverage of the area.

THE CANBERRA AREA

One day's drive south of Sydney is Canberra, the capital city of Australia. Canberra contains several good libraries which hold manuscript materials of interest to the Latin Americanist.

The National Library of Australia (Canberra, postal address, ACT 2600) is one of a series of notable public buildings which occupy the area known as the Parliamentary Triangle on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin. A new building (1968), the library is impressive as well as beautiful. Designed so that it may expand to hold 12,000,000 volumes, the library is a well-run, expanding institution which already holds material of interest to the Latin Americanist and plans to add more. Among the collections held by NLA are some of particular interest to students of Portuguese imperialism and the history of Brazil:

- 1) The *J. M. Braga Collection*. Composed of approximately 3,300 books and pamphlets, the collection focuses upon Portuguese colonial activity in Macao and Hong Kong.

Latin American Research Review

2) The *Adir Guimaraes Collection*. Twelve thousand volumes (books and journals) relating to Brazil of the post-1850 period. The collection was supplemented continually by orders during the existence of LACAP (Latin American Combined Acquisitions Program), and a blanket order has been placed for all new official publications of the Brazilian government.

3) The *Carmona Collection*. A collection of works about Portuguese colonization in Africa, India, and Indonesia.

4) The *Valente Collection*. 7,200 titles which focus upon Portugal and which emphasize Portuguese drama of the last three centuries.

Those who study the early history of Spain in the Pacific will find the *Spanish Documents* (G-306) micro-filmed by the Reverend Celsus Kelly to be of interest. This film collection of 17 reels made in the archives of Spain and the library of Yale University focuses upon the Mendaña, Quirós, and Malaspina expeditions. The Kelly collection is supplemented by the *E. A. Petherick Collection* (1 foot, 6 inches) which includes a narrative about the brigantine sent by Hernando Cortés to explore from the port of Zacatula, New Spain.

The [Dr. Diogenes] *López Collection*, purchased by the library in 1969, includes 2,308 items, most of which are books dealing with either the history of the Province of Tabasco, Mexico, or which consider specifically the Mexican Revolution.

The *Nan Kivell Collection* of ships' logs and books (3,800 items) illustrates a great deal about commerce across the Pacific during the nineteenth century. This collection has been enhanced by a number of Abstracts of Ship's Logs which were recently donated to NLA by Alan Villiers.

The working conditions at the National Library are superb, and the staff is very skilled and pleased to be of assistance. The Advanced Studies Reading Rooms are open from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Saturday. Only the Main Reading Room is open on Sunday; its hours are then from 1:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Across the Lake from NLA, on the campus of the Australian National University (ANU), are a number of libraries and research facilities. The University, since 1960, has operated in two academically distinct but interrelated parts: the Institute of Advanced Studies and the School of General Studies. The main libraries of these schools are of little value to the Latin Americanist, but the same is not true of smaller research complexes which are attached to the Research Schools of Social Science and of Pacific Studies. These latter two schools, under the aegis of the Institute of Advanced Studies, are located in the pentagonal complexes of the A. C. Coombs Building. The Research School of Social Sciences holds extensive records relating to the firms in Australia which participated in trade with the nations of Latin America. Again, such records are unindexed, and the researcher must know what particular companies were involved within the topic he is studying. The papers of the Australian Agricultural Company, for example, reveal a great deal of information about the Chilenos who came to Australia as indentured servants. The student would need to

AUSTRALIAN MANUSCRIPT SOURCES AND PROGRAMS

know first that the A.A. Co. did indeed hire such servants; then he would have to be willing to leaf page by page through the correspondence appropriate to the time period of the hire. Fortunately, the letters are arranged chronologically in the folios.

While most of the records held by the archives reflect the twentieth century, the student of the nineteenth century will find valuable sources at the school archives. Among such nineteenth century collections are:

<i>Deposit Number</i>	<i>Company/Dates/Quantity</i>	<i>Subject and comment</i>
78, 126	Australian Agricultural Company: 1824–1940. 60'	Despatches and letters.
27	Newcastle Coal Mining Company: 1876–1946. 35'	Correspondence; might describe trade with Pacific Steam Navigation Co.
83	Sydney Meat Packing Company: 1870–1946. 120'	Correspondence; should be of value <i>re</i> Roco-Runciman Pact.

Additional information and permission to work in the documents may be obtained from the Archives Officer, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, P. O. Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

In the same building are the crowded offices of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PAMBU). Under the effective leadership of Robert Langdon and supported by the Research School of Pacific Studies, PAMBU is most concerned with photocopying unpublished manuscripts relating to the Pacific Islands. Among such manuscripts copied and offered for sale is PMB 135–140 (6 reels) "Loaisa, Garcia Jofre de—Papers relating to his 1525–28 expedition to the Pacific and the Moluccas" (A\$214.66). But the most exciting project of PAMBU is the recently completed New England Microfilming Project. Dr. J. S. Cumpston visited many libraries in the northeastern sector of the United States. There he obtained microfilmed copies of the logs and journals of American whalers, sealers, sandalwooders, and traders which visited Australasia. Because many of those ships stopped in ports such as Bahia and Valparaíso, a review of their logbooks and journals may provide information about the economic and social conditions in the nations of South America. Eleven of the twelve sponsoring institutions of the Project are in Australia and New Zealand; these include the Mitchell, NLA, and the State Library of Victoria. Each of the sponsors holds a full set of the microfilmed records. The remaining sponsoring and thus holding institution is the University of Hawaii. More information about PAMBU and about the New England Project can be obtained from The Executive Officer, Research School of Pacific Studies, The Australian National University, Canberra, A.C.T., 2600.

Latin American Research Review

THE VICTORIA AND TASMANIAN AREAS

South and west from Canberra lies the large, sprawling city of Melbourne, Victoria. This beautiful city of more than two million people, founded in 1835, was a true "boom-city" during the 1850s when rich goldfields were discovered at nearby Ballarat and Bendigo. Soon Quartz crushing machines imported from Chile were at work just outside Melbourne, and ships by the hundreds plowed the Pacific, linking Australia's southeast to Chile and Peru. Such links were but transient ones, however, and by the latter years of the century most of the ships sailing eastward out of Melbourne stood well to the south to pick up the winds of the "Roaring Forties" and thus turned Cape Horn en route to Great Britain without ever sighting Callao, Valparaíso, or Talcahuano. The rapid atrophying of the commercial links with South America's west coast may explain Melbourne's almost total lack of archival materials of interest to the Latin Americanist. Indeed, a specialist in Chilean history will find, in some exasperation, that the public libraries of the area do not hold basic works such as Francisco Encina's *Historia de Chile*.

The only located materials of interest are in the La Trobe Library, which is attached to and affiliated with the State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Here, too, the manuscripts emphasize the mercantile relationships between South America and Australia. The *David Little Collection* (MSS-7595, Box 476) provides an apparently comprehensive list of the vessels which sailed between the continents of the South Pacific. This list is enriched by the ships' logs also held by the La Trobe Library. These include the Log Books of the "Saxon" and of the "William Cole," which sailed from Melbourne to Callao in 1849 and 1854, respectively. At least a few Chilenos came to Victoria to work in the goldfields; the records of their work and of the purchase, shipment, and use of the crushing machines undoubtedly are buried deeply in some company and municipal archives and could be uncovered by a diligent scholar.

Other libraries in the area seemingly have nothing of particular interest to the historian of Latin America, although the library of the University of La Trobe (Bundoora: D. H. Borchardt, Librarian, Victoria 3083) is making plans to increase greatly their Latin American holdings.

Across Bass Straits from Melbourne lies the beautiful island-state of Tasmania. Perhaps best known as a penal colony, Tasmania was also an active participant in the trans-Pacific trade of the nineteenth century. Its capital and primary city, Hobart, is located on the shores of the Derwent River, and provides one of the finest deep-water ports in the world. Understandably concerned about security until the closure of the prisons in 1877, the authorities at Hobart noted and recorded a great deal about every ship which sailed up the Derwent. As the port was used commonly by the whaling and sealing fleets, the Archives, State Library of Tasmania (91 Murray Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7200) provides a great deal of information to an historian who is willing to work through massive yet well organized files. A very quick review

AUSTRALIAN MANUSCRIPT SOURCES AND PROGRAMS

of the Customs Records (Folios 35/1-3) shows that between November 1837 and November 1847, at least twenty voyages linked Tasmania and South America. Interestingly, a much greater percentage of those ships went to Callao than was true of the sailing initiating in either Sydney or Melbourne; but the economic realities underlying such contacts have never been studied.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES⁷

As noted previously, political, economic, and cultural contacts between Latin America and Australia have grown rapidly during the last decade. Diplomatic relations have been established with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay. In June 1970, the Donald Mackinnon Memorial Award, financed by the government of Brazil, was established to enable a scholar to spend each year between two and three months working in the rich Brazilian collections at NLA. An increasing number of trade missions are linking Latin America and Australia, while Australia's international airline, QANTAS, now flies regularly to Mexico City. Nevertheless, of the sixteen universities in the "Land Down Under"⁸ only four claim an active program in Latin American Studies, and these describe their resources as ranging from poor to adequate.

Again moving from north to south: the University of New England (Armidale) has been teaching Latin American geography for more than fourteen years, and during 1974 no less than four members of the Geography Department will be involved in Latin American studies. That Department, in cooperation with the University's fine history and sociology staffs, will offer in 1974 a year's course in Latin American history. Such activity, however, is offset partially by the decision of the French Department to hire an Italian rather than a Spanish specialist. In the Sydney area the University of New South Wales has a viable Study Programme. Under the executive leadership of Professor R. Johnson, supported by a selective buying program of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services (AACOBS), and stimulated by the recent hiring of a specialist in the history of Argentina, the University of N.S.W. appears to be moving well in the direction of developing a comprehensive program.

Further to the South, there are no programs of Latin American Studies offered in the Canberra area, but Monash University (Melbourne) and La Trobe University (Bundoora) both offer courses which might be applied to the B.A. Monash emphasizes the contemporary literature of Latin America, while La Trobe has both a major and a graduate program in Latin American Studies. La Trobe currently offers courses in language, literature, history, sociology, and political science. The appointment of Claudio Véliz to the Chair in the Department of Sociology can only stimulate further that university's interest in the affairs of Latin America.

Flinders University, located in Adelaide, South Australia, reports that almost 80 students are enrolled in courses on "Contemporary Spain and Latin America" and "Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Latin America." Unfortunately, I was unable to

Latin American Research Review

visit Adelaide, but the general academic excellence of the university promises a bright future for Latin American Studies in that sector of Australia.

An overview reveals a number of University staff members interested in the countries of Latin America; "their fields of interest include high altitude physiology, land reform and social and economic development."⁹ While these potentials are dimmed somewhat by a weak program of studies in the Spanish and Portuguese languages, and by the historical tendency of the Australians to glance back to the "Mother Country," there exists, nevertheless, a new and positive tendency on the part of those same Australians to look now across the expanses of the Pacific to the nations of Latin America, just as research and lecture trips by specialists from the Americas will stimulate further the development of Latin American Studies in the Antipodes.

NOTES

1. The opening or closing of the Suez Canal influences profoundly the patterns and amounts of trans-Pacific merchant shipping. The closure of the Canal has led to a marked increase of trade across the Pacific.
2. For a review of this trade see my article, "Before the Gold Fleets: Trade and Relations between Chile and Australia, 1830–1848," to appear in the *Journal of Latin American Studies*.
3. See the discussion of this problem in T. W. Keeble, *Commercial Relations between British Overseas Territories and South America, 1806–1914* (London, 1970).
4. See the discussion of CSIRO in the report "Latin American Studies in Australia" prepared by the National Library of Australia, and read by Mr. Robert Paton before the Sixteenth Seminar of SALALM (Pueblo, Mexico, June 1971).
5. I acknowledge gratefully the support extended to me by the American Philosophical Society and by the University of New England (Armidale, New South Wales), which helped to defray the expenses of my research in Australia.
6. For the Cosme Colony see Gavin Souter, *A Peculiar People: The Australians in Paraguay* (Sydney, 1968). As examples of such particular research see Phyllis Mander-Jones, "A Sketchbook found in Australia," 3:3 (Sept.–Dec., 1953). See also Thomas M. Bader, "Un naufragio australiano de 1828 en la costa de Arauco," *Revista de Estudios del Pacífico*, 6: (Valparaíso, Marzo, 1973).
7. Unless otherwise stated the remainder of this paper combines my own observations with those noted in the NLA report, "Latin American Studies in Australia," cited previously.
8. This report has not considered the status of Latin American Studies in New Zealand. There seem to be no developed programs in that nation but see the June 13, 1973, letter of Steven S. Webster, University of Auckland, in the Latin American Studies Association, *Newsletter*, 4:2:35, where he reports that he is teaching a course in the regional ethnography of Latin America, and that the Department of History may institute a program of Latin American Studies.