

SOME LATIN AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHIES

"*LATIN AMERICA AND JAPAN: A BIBLIOGRAPHY.*" (Latin American Studies Center, California State University, Los Angeles, 1975. Pp. 19.)

"*CENTRAL AMERICA: A BIBLIOGRAPHY.*" (Latin American Studies Center, California State University, Los Angeles, 1976. Pp. 52.)

COLONIAL CENTRAL AMERICA: A BIBLIOGRAPHY. By SIDNEY DAVID MARKMAN. (Tempe: Center for Latin American Studies, Arizona State University, 1977. Pp. 345.)

These bibliographies share at least one characteristic: each is a by-product of another enterprise rather than an end pursued for itself. The two pamphlets published by the Latin American Studies Center of California State University at Los Angeles are the first items of a projected series of bibliographies to be produced in connection with special courses relating to Latin America offered by the Center. The Markman volume is the harvest of bibliographical information accumulated during some twenty-five years of scholarly research that produced the sharply focused studies of colonial architecture in the Captaincy General of Guatemala for which he is well known. The unusual provenience of the works differentiates them in character from the ordinary examples of their genre.

Each of the California State pamphlets is a listing of books and periodical and journal articles encountered and judged relevant to a specific course by the students enrolled. The lists provide little guidance to the user beyond the entries themselves. Titles are not annotated and, except for division by country in "Central America," are unclassified. Language limitations are also evident. "Latin America and Japan" consists almost exclusively of English language works—the list of some seventy-five books, for example, includes only one title each in Spanish and Portuguese and none in Japanese. "Central America" is linguistically much better balanced.

Criteria for inclusion of titles are not made clear. "Latin America and Japan" affords no clue as to selection standards, but "Central America" declares the intent "to present the most important literature on Central America between 1965 and 1975" as well as "major works predating 1965" (p. iii). The announced criteria, however, do not describe the content. The compilations are internally inconsistent and omissions abound. Perhaps the best example of these shortcomings is exclusion of Belize from the Central American coverage "because of the lack of bibliographical material concerning the area" (p. iv). In fact, had the compilers found and tabulated books published within the decade of their announced concentration by authors such as Wayne M. Clegern (1967), Algar Robert Gregg (1968), Barry Floyd (1970), Grant D. Jones (1971), Norman Ashcraft (1973), Narda Dobson (1973), and O. Nigel Bolland and Assad Shoman (1975), and at somewhat earlier dates by William A. Donohoe (1946), Stephen L. Caiger (1951), Douglas MacRae Taylor (1951), N. S. Carey Jones (1953), D. Vickers

(1953), Jack Downie (1959), R. A. Humphreys (1961), and D. A. G. Waddell (1961), they would have produced a list comparable in length to half of those published. Had they discovered Clarence W. Minkel and Ralph H. Alderman, *A Bibliography of British Honduras, 1900–1970* (Research Report No. 7, Latin American Studies Center, Michigan State University [East Lansing, 1970], 93 pp.) they would have had more than one thousand titles from which to choose.

Rather than informed and judicious selections of the most useful literature on each subject, the compilations appear to reflect principally the levels of student professional knowledge, judgment, linguistic competence, and industry, and perhaps the particular holdings of certain libraries. Possibly they were useful student projects, but they do not provide trustworthy guides to reading, and certainly they can contribute nothing to realization of the hope expressed by the editors of "Central America" that they might "help stimulate research" (p. iv).

The Markman volume, in contrast, provides a useful tool for research scholars. The range of titles cited goes far beyond any narrowly defined guide to materials on architecture and art history, and gives impressive testimony to the compiler's determination to display "art monuments . . . largely undocumented and undated" (p. vii) in full historical and social context.

The bibliography consists of 2,250 numbered entries that, allowing for duplication, account for some 2,100 separate titles. The listings are divided into eight sections: the first four list printed material such as general studies, monographs, pamphlet literature, and journal and newspaper articles, and give corresponding call numbers for all items found in either the Duke University libraries or the Library of Congress; entries through section 7 carry annotations, some extensive and unusually informative. An index of authors, persons, places, and subjects will assist scholars to make most efficient use of an unusual bibliographical tool.

Section 1 (The Colonial Period) cites works written during the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries from which Markman gleaned general historical and comparative background material for his studies. It is a miscellaneous listing of contemporary publications, original and reprint, and of some manuscript works that found their way into print long after they were written. Some of the titles, such as those of the early chroniclers, deal with all of Spanish America and, hence, are to be found also in general bibliographies, but the bulk of the section consists of items focused on Central America. Among such titles are the colonial chronicles published or reprinted by the Sociedad de geografía e historia de Guatemala in its Biblioteca "Goathemala" series; accounts of the conquest and conversion of the native inhabitants; memorials detailing the services and accomplishments of conquerors; accounts of the founding and building of cities; descriptions of kingdoms, provinces, districts, and cities; chronicles of religious orders, their personnel, and their works; accounts of natural disasters and the ruin they occasioned; reports of visits, surveys, investigations, and *residencias*; compilations of laws, orders, and regulations; official reports and *relaciones*; accounts by travelers; and handbooks for builders.

Section 2 (The Modern Period) lists works published and largely produced

during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Most of the titles report the results of studies and investigations carried out by students of Central American events. A number, however, are contemporary works that might be considered extensions of section 1. The contemporary materials are quite varied. They include versions of indigenous oral traditions reduced to written form during the colonial period and published in transliteration or translation during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; eye-witness descriptions, participant accounts, and travelers' observations; documentary collections; newspapers; and immigrant and tourist guides. The remaining citations in the section constitute a real miscellany. Histories form perhaps the most numerous category. There are general histories of regions, states, provinces or departments, and cities; others that treat defined periods such as the conquest; some concerned primarily with economic, sociological, or political phenomena; others still that focus on institutions, individual buildings, or even venerated religious images. There are also closely related monographic studies of individual departments and cities. Other categories include biographical works, composite and individual; socio-anthropological studies of populations, demography, mestization, and urbanization; and geographical descriptions and studies. Included also are citations of the most useful publications of professional and learned societies in the United States and abroad.

In section 3 (Art and Architectural History: General) the emphasis falls principally on Spain and the Spanish Indies, but on certain themes relevant to those areas the coverage is general. Religious architecture receives the major attention, but military structures are accorded some notice. Functionally, in Markman's work, these sources provided general background information on architectural development and a basis for comparison of similar works, concepts, and styles in colonial Central America. The titles inventoried are chiefly architectural and art histories; studies of architectural styles; analyses of stylistic characteristics, development, and antecedents; and discussions of the sources, conventional and indigenous, that modified them, especially in Spanish America. Other topics represented include urbanization and urban planning; architectural descriptions of provinces, cities, and individual buildings; studies of architectural features of ecclesiastical structures such as retables, facades, and choir stalls; examinations of decorative arts related to architecture such as ceramics and sculpture; and handbooks for artisans engaged in building trades such as architects, plasterers, and brick masons. Bibliographical materials are also cited, and documentary collections are noted.

Section 4 (Art and Architecture: Reino de Guatemala [Colonial Central America]) focuses specifically on Central American architecture and topics related to it and demonstrates clearly the relationship between the earlier sections of the bibliography and the compiler's own work; items 1191–1204 cite his own contributions. Histories and descriptions dominate the listings. Guatemala outranks other provinces of the former Captaincy General as a focus of study, and the capital, Antigua, and its monuments likewise outrival all other administrative and religious centers in the attention bestowed by authors.

The historical and descriptive works on colonial architecture treat units

such as provinces (modern countries), and cities, and such themes as architectural styles of churches and monastic structures, individual edifices, fortifications, public buildings, and even domestic housing. Similar attention is given to related arts and crafts in general; to specific specialties such as gold- and silver-smithing, sculpture, painting, and weaving; and to collective and individual studies of certain products of the craftsman's art. Biographies of artists and architects, collective and individual, are noted, as are individual studies and comparative analyses of major architectural styles. Some titles deal with settlement patterns, founding and layout of towns, urban plans and planning, building plans, and building techniques. Guides to cities and to museums are listed, and some books of photographic record, studies of urban services, and reports on the consequences of natural disasters are noted. A few documentary collections, including at least one census, are also to be found among the listings.

Section 5 (Bibliography) details bibliographic tools related to the printed works cited in sections 1–4. It is the principal compilation of finding aids contained in the bibliography, but it should be noted that citations to more specialized works of similar function appear in other sections. The better known bibliographical aids cited include bibliographies of bibliographies, general bibliographies, and works focused by time period, discipline, theme, and political or geographical unit. Other well-known items include guides to libraries and archives, to the contents of individual scholarly journals, to the literature of certain disciplines such as ethno-history, and to the study of such subjects as culture. These items are often to be found in bibliographies of the usual genre.

The more esoteric listings include catalogs of important large and specialized library collections in the United States and some principal European countries; calendars of museum, private, and gift collections, of book expositions, and of publications issued by a university or a national press; listings for a stated time period of publications appearing within a single country; inventories of publications by authors affiliated with certain religious orders; and historical records of printing and printed material within a single country.

Section 6 (Documentary Sources) cites finding aids to both published and manuscript documents as well as published documents. It also includes references to articles on archival subjects such as how certain Central American archives are organized and what resources they afford, how search for documentary sources on Central America was conducted in Europe, and even topical historical studies heavily documented from archival sources. The finding aids include guides to documents in some major collections in the United States and Europe, indices to certain Central American archives, and catalogs of documents originated by a single group, or to be found in certain locations, or that deal with precise subjects or localities. The published documents cited are principally general collections covering all of Spanish America or collections relating to a political or geographical unit within Central America. A few list documents from a specific source, and some are topical collections. There are also citations to a few published single documents, and to an occasional manuscript source.

Section 7 (Maps and Plans) lists finding aids and some related publications as well as published maps. The related publications are principally geo-

graphical dictionaries and a history of maps. The finding aids cover both manuscript and printed maps. They include indices and catalogs of map collections in the United States and some of the principal European repositories, and lists of maps showing Central America as a unit, or a single country within it. Published maps cited include all of Latin America, Central America, a single country within it, and a few units as small as a department or a region within a country. The plans noted show chiefly cities treated singly or in collections.

Section 8 (Catalog of Documents) details an extensive selection of manuscript materials almost entirely from the Archivo General de Centro América (formerly Archivo Nacional de Guatemala, and earlier still, Archivo General del Gobierno). The documents are listed in a sequence that follows (and for each item gives the identifying symbols of) the classification system devised by the late director, J. Joaquín Pardo. This procedure results in rough topical groupings within which the items are arranged in chronological order. Citations to the *Boletín del Archivo General del Gobierno* are supplied for the items that were published in the house organ of the archive.

The documents selected represent the full range of interests displayed in the bibliography. The diversity of subject matter precludes detailed description of contents, but some of the major areas of coverage can be indicated. Many items deal with relations between Spaniards and native inhabitants. Some of the major topics included are conquest, conversion, and reduction to community living of Indian groups in various parts of Central America and, for Guatemala in particular, forced Indian labor and slavery. Much documentation deals with construction, maintenance, and repair of buildings, and with builders and building trades. Some topics of emphasis within this motif are regulations governing construction; applications for authorization to undertake new construction; plans for construction of new buildings of various kinds and for repairing, remodeling, or rebuilding older structures; petitions for royal aid or for authority to use funds from varied sources for new construction or for repair or rebuilding of existing edifices; contracts for construction; estimates and statements of actual costs of construction and repair; operation of guilds in the construction trades; and methods of construction. Related topics include assignment of land and water to new constructions, and the festivities and observances that marked completion and inauguration of new buildings.

The focus of the bibliography makes it natural that many documents would deal with damage and destruction to buildings. Some of the topics related to this theme are accounts of natural calamities and the ruin they occasioned, reports on the condition of buildings, and measures taken in consequence. Detail is especially abundant on the Santa Marta earthquake of 1773 that destroyed Antigua, and on the transfer of the capital, its citizens, and certain nearby populations to the site of modern Guatemala City. Other topics on which documentation is cited include construction, maintenance, and repair of roads and bridges; censuses of general population and of artisans in building trades; histories of institutions and of religious orders and communities; *relaciones geográficas* covering all of Central America; early requirements placed on male

Spanish residents; Negro-Indian relationships; and establishment and early activity of the colonial university.

Markman's professional interests give character and direction to the bibliography, but the diversity of the materials listed will make it a finding aid that a wide variety of students working in the Central American field will be wise to consult. By Markman's own evaluation, his listings contain significant information for "investigators of ecclesiastical, social economic, urban, and political history, as well as a host of other disciplines, especially ethnohistory and cultural and social anthropology" (p. vii).

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