
EDITOR'S FOREWORD

At the beginning of 1989, only three years will remain before the advent of the Columbus Quincentenary. To judge by the support provided to the U.S. Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, the Reagan administration has been less interested in this historic event than the governments of Spain, Italy, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America. Meanwhile, Chicago's effort to duplicate its 1893 Columbian Exposition has collapsed, and the Jubilee Commission has yet to confirm U.S. participation in the Seville World's Fair of 1992. In contrast with the major financial support provided for the 1976 Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence and the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, it appears that only modest funding will be forthcoming for the Quincentenary.

Despite these disappointing developments, the Quincentenary represents a significant opportunity for Latin American studies. The growth of popular interest in the Quincentenary at the grass-roots level does not depend upon official sponsorship. News of local events, exhibits, and projects devoted to Quincentenary topics fills the pages of *Encuentro: A Columbian Quincentenary Quarterly*. It is also possible that a new administration in Washington will give more attention and resources to the Quincentenary.

A general and broadly international consensus seems to be developing that the significance of the encounters resulting from Columbus's voyage should be emphasized, rather than the theme of the "discovery" of the New World by the Old World. This consensus on the theme of encounters is obviously congruent with the long-established emphasis on comparative and interdisciplinary approaches in Latin American studies. To the extent that the Quincentenary becomes a focal point for international scholarly cooperation and for the redefinition of

popular images of the common and diverse heritages of the American republics, it will represent a welcome change from some of the recent issues that have stimulated interest in hemispheric affairs, such as the conflicts in Central America, the debt crisis, and the narcotics trade.

LARR continues to receive and publish research on historic and contemporary topics stemming from the Columbian encounter. As noted in the manuscript report of a year ago, interest in contemporary topics addressed by political science and economics remains high, and these two disciplines continue to represent about half of the manuscript submissions received by *LARR*. The fields contributing the other half of submissions provide good coverage of material less oriented toward current events.

Manuscript submission patterns for the year running from June 1987 through May 1988 show the usual minor variations that have characterized previous annual reports. During this period, 120 manuscripts were received as compared with 128 for the previous report period. The publication rate for articles and research notes continues to be about one of every five submissions.

The distribution by discipline reflected a continuing rise in political science submissions to 31 percent of the total. Second place was again held by economics with 18 percent of submissions, followed closely by history with 16 percent and sociology with 14 percent. Language and literature submissions remained almost constant at 8 percent of the total, while anthropology submissions increased modestly but remained in sixth place with 5 percent of submissions. Other fields such as communications, education, geography, and music accounted for the remaining 9 percent of submissions.

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>June 87– May 88</i>	<i>July 86– May 87</i>	<i>July 85– June 86</i>
Political Science	31%	28%	27%
Economics	18	23	12
History	16	18	24
Sociology	14	7	13
Languages and Literature	8	9	8
Anthropology	5	2	5
Other fields	8	13	11
Totals	100%	100%	100%

Latin American authors or coauthors, as determined by surname, submitted precisely one-third (33 percent) of all submissions. Women authored or coauthored 22 percent of submissions, as compared with 27 percent in the last manuscript report.

Nineteen percent of the manuscripts came from outside the United States, as compared with 22 percent for the previous period. Sixty-five percent of these non-U.S. manuscripts came from Latin America, as compared with 70 percent in the preceding report period and 43 percent in the period before that. Other countries represented included Canada, England, Israel, the Netherlands, Scotland, South Africa, and Sweden.

Inasmuch as the editors are continuing the policy of not soliciting articles or research notes, *LARR*'s contents reflect the research interests of its authors and the informed judgments of its referees. As the Quincentenary year approaches, it can be expected that the rise of scholarly interest in Quincentenary themes should increasingly be reflected in the pages of this journal.

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