Our latest list contains thirty items relating to Mexico, from the colonial era to the modern age. Highlights include a handsome volume of 19th-century novenas; a collection of Posada chapbook covers; a funerary work with a large 18th-century engraving; a rare (if imperfect) work on the Huastec language; a manuscript cook book; a celebratory treatise on the newly independent government, and more.

Cheers,
Teri, James, & Joe

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DEATH SPOILS A HAPPY CELEBRATION FOR THE CAPUCHIN NUNS


Sole edition of this late 17th-century sermon on the subjects of the Virgin Mary and the Immaculate Conception, delivered at the Capuchin women’s convent in Mexico City on the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December, 1696, and published the following year. Aguirre begins by saying that the joy of the occasion has been spoiled by the almost simultaneous deaths of Dr. Bernabe Diaz de Cordova y Murillo who was to have sung the mass and of Fr. Balthasar de Medina, who was to have preached. The overall message of the sermon addresses the relationship of the conception to original sin and death in Catholic thought. With an attractive title-page composed of several different text styles and a handful of woodcut ornaments within a woodcut border. We locate six copies of this rare Mexican imprint -- at St. Bonaventure, the University of Dayton, Indiana University, NYPL, JCB, and the National Library of Chile.

Medina, Mexico 1660. Palau 3946. (McBRB980) $1,950

DEATH COMES FOR THE ARCHBISHOP (OF MEXICO)

2. Becerra Moreno, Juan. Relacion del Funeral Entierro, y Exequias de el Illmo. Sr. Dr. D. Manuel Rubio y Salinas Arzobispo Que Fue de Esta Santa Iglesia Metropolitana de Mexico... Mexico City: En la Imprenta del Real y Mas Antiguo Colegio de S. Ildefonso, 1766. [10],155pp., plus large folding plate. Small quarto. Contemporary limp vellum, manuscript spine title. Remnants of vellum ties at fore-edge; spine mostly perished. Minor dampstaining to vellum. Two short tears at gutter of folding plate, well away from image. Quite clean internally. Very good.

From January 1748 until his death in July 1765, Manuel Rubio y Salinas was the Archbishop of Mexico City. This period coincided with the rebirth and expansion of the Mexican mining industry, which fostered great wealth, new secular and ecclesiastical institutions, and an architectural boom in the viceregal capital. Rubio and the Church benefitted from the new wealth in significant material ways, but he remained popular throughout his tenure for attention to prevalent social concerns and dedication to his religious duties. One of his most significant achievements was the procuration of the 1754 papal decree that made Our Lady of Guadalupe the patron saint of New Spain.

When Rubio died, all of Mexico City turned its energy towards his commemoration, much of which is summarized and transcribed in the present volume. The work includes a Spanish-language account of the last days of the Archbishop, his death, and his burial (pp.1-87); followed by the Latin funeral oration, “Maximum occidentis sidus...,” spoken by Pedro José Rodriguez de Arizpe.
and concluded by a second funeral sermon given in Spanish by Cayetano Antonio de Torres. The account of the burial includes a detailed description of the cenotaph that the city erected for Rubio, including transcription of the inscriptions and epigrams by F.J. Alegre. Following the conclusion of the text, there is a large folding engraved plate by Manuek Villavicencio, one of the most prominent and skilled engravers of the period in colonial Mexico, that depicts the design of the funeral monument by Miguel Cabrera, “Pintor Americano,” in exquisite detail and precisely to scale.

Extremely scarce on the market; no copies appear in available auction records since the Brinley Sale, almost 150 years ago, where Maximilian I’s copy of this work brought $16 (!!). A good source for the study of Mexican colonial architecture, religious ceremonies, and death rituals; and very good, clean copy, with an outstanding example of the excellent and large architectural engraving.

(Recipies for Each Day of the Month)

RECIPES FOR EACH DAY OF THE MONTH


Second edition of the scarce cook book, first published two years prior in 1930. The work is devised to offer thirty-one daily menus -- one for each day of the month -- to help the cook plan for the household simply and easily. For example, the menu for Day 14 comprises Sopa de Huevo, Mole de Olla, Peneques, Frijoles, Fruta, Crema Envinada, and tea or coffee. Recipes for each day’s items follow. We locate only two copies of either edition in OCLC, both editions located at UT San Antonio and the University of New Mexico. (McBRB4473)

$7,500

UNUSUAL MANUSCRIPT COOK BOOK


An interesting volume, used by someone to record recipes for cooking but also for medicinal curatives for a variety of ills. The half of the book used for cookery is more heavily worn, with clear signs of regular usage. Recipes are written in a narrative paragraph form, and include Sopa de Jocoqui, Coanos de Cielo, Pasteles de Almendra, Huevos Poblanos, Merengue Italiano, and others. Also in this section are recipes for everyday items like cold cream, mentholatum, and talcum powder, as well as a few that seem medicinal. In the section for obviously medical use, there are curatives for intestinal infection, for hemorrhoids, cures for colds and respiratory ailments, for wounds or contusions, and “para el cancer,” among others. Slightly fragile, but full of colloquial knowledge.

(Recipies for Each Day of the Month)

(UNUSUAL MANUSCRIPT COOK BOOK)
“LORENZO ZAVALA, A FAMOUS CRIMINAL, DESPISED IN GENERAL BY THE NATION”


An animated and rare 1833 broadsheet attack on the political beliefs and actions of Lorenzo de Zavala, one of the foundational figures of the Texas Republic. Zavala was a prominent liberal Mexican politician, who helped to draft the Constitution of 1824, and served as president of Congress and Secretary of Finance. In 1829, he began investing in Texan lands, thus beginning his close involvement in Texas. When this document was issued, Zavala was serving as Governor of the State of Mexico.

The present address, styled as an open letter to Mexican president Santa Anna, and dated June 1, 1833, from Tlalpan, was authored by conservative General Gabriel Durán, who makes a vehement attack on Zavala’s patriotism and character, urging Santa Anna to cut ties with Zavala completely. In translation, Durán urges the Mexican president to defend, “The State of Mexico, oppressed and degraded by an impious, audacious, and insolent faction...that took by assault the sovereign executive powers enabling Lorenzo Zavala, a famous criminal, despised in general by the nation.” In order to, “Sustain the sovereignty of the nation in spite of the violent jolt and ill-fated attacks of the anarchy,” Durán offers Santa Anna the military support needed to halt, “A schism and the violation of our sacred religion, and the restlessness of proprietors of being despoiled of their properties will be forever dissipated.” He completes his address by offering an eight-point plan to “annul the elections where de Zavala was triumphant,” and to regain power in the region surrounding Mexico City.

Durán’s message was not at first heeded by Santa Anna, who appointed Zavala as Minister to France in October 1833. However, in reaction to Santa Anna’s dictatorial proclivities, Zavala resigned his position in 1834, and never returned to Mexico. He settled in Texas in 1835 when it was on the cusp of revolution, and helped to draft the Texas Constitution, before serving as the Republic’s first Vice President. We locate only two copies, at the Sutro and British Libraries.

Sutro Collection Pamphlets, p.690. 
(McBRB3694) $3,250

GIVING THANKS FOR VICTORIES IN THE WAR OF SPANISH SUCCESSION

6. Guevara, Juan de. Sermon, Que en los Solemnes Cultos, Que el Muy Religioso Parrochial Convento de N.S.P. San Francisco de la Ciudad de Santiago de Queretaro... Mexico: Por la Viuda de Miguel de Ribera Calderon, 1711. [10],28pp. 4to. Later plain vellum. Boards bowing at fore-edge; small, narrow wormhole through front hinge. Title page printed in black and red; detached and reaffixed to stub. Light tanning and foxing; some dampstaining, heavier to rear leaves. About very good.

A rare sermon given by Juan de Guevara in 1711 at the Convent of
San Francisco, the oldest religious building in Querétaro. Guevara was the official professor of theology at the convent, and in this address he gives thanks for the Franco-Spanish victories over the English at the Battles of Brihuega (December 8, 1710) and Villaviciosa (December 10, 1710) during the War of Spanish Succession. These two battles were important in strengthening Philip's hold of the Spanish crown, and forced England out of the conflict. An attractive piece of early 18th-century Mexican printing by one of the prominent women printers of the Spanish colonial period, and quite scarce -- we locate only two copies, at the National Library of Chile and Indiana University.

Medina, Mexico 2292. Palau 110434 (modern ed.).
(McBRB3825) $2,750

THE INQUISITION CENSORS POLITICAL WORKS DURING THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION


A fascinating and rare broadside in which the Inquisition attempts to prohibit pro-independence publications, including the 1814 Constitution of Apatzingán, during the midst of the Mexican Revolution. Dated July 8, 1815, this proclamation of the Inquisition first reiterates a blanket prohibition on what it labels seditious and anti-Catholic publications, that is to say, anything in favor of the revolution and independence. It warns that any statements in favor of liberty and democracy constitute heresy in the eyes of the Inquisition, and that such calls in fact seek to subvert the natural order rather than re-establish it:

“Producciones de una nueva raza de Filósofos, hombres de espíritu corrompido, que bajo del especioso título de defensores de la libertad, maquinan realmente contra ella, destruyendo de este suerte el orden político, y social, y gerarquia de la Religion cristiana, exhortando con este lenguaje de seducción á ascender el yugo de subordinacion, y sujecion á las lexitimas Potestades, tan recomendada por Jesucristo, y pretendiendo por aquí, fundar si les fuera posible, sobre las ruinas de la Religion, y Monarquias, aquella soñada libertad, que malamente suponen concedida á todos los hombres por la naturaleza: razon porque prohíbe los muchos libros que menciona, y los demás que sean de la misma clase, para precaver con oportuno remedio el daño que puedan occasionar.”

The proclamation then continues in seven numbered sections to outlaw specific works published by the revolutionary government, its forces, and its supporters. Most significantly, the broadside outlaws the Decreto Constitucional para la Libertad de la América Mexicana, more
commonly known as the Constitution of Apatzingán. This document, promulgated by the Congress of Anáhuac on October 22, 1814, printed 242 articles for the establishment of republican government in Mexico, although it was never brought into force. The propositions put forth by the Constitution are so egregious, according to the Inquisition, that it is impossible in one edict to denounce them all individually:

“Excederia los límites de un edicto la especificacion particular de todos, y de cada uno de los crasísimos errores, que contiene este infernal papel; pero bastará advertir á los Fieles, que en él, bajo el respetable nombre de Religion Católica, Apostólica Romana, que sirve de escudo á sus tramas, como antes servia el de Fernando VII contra quien tan iniquamente se han declarado rebeldes, se introducen las mas groseras heregias, y los mayores delerios."

Nevertheless, the authors go on to highlight the most transgressive articles, condemn the inferred inspiration of the document from authors like Hobbes and Rousseau, and emphasize the rejection of Church doctrine implicit in calls for revolution and democracy:

“Mas como los Autores de Constitucion se han propuesto revelarse tambien contra la Doctrina expresa de la Iglesia, dogmatizan ser lícito á los Ciudadanos, levantarse contra el Príncipe, prevarle del Reyno, mudar el Gobierno monárquico en republicano, á pretexto de tiranía, como si fuera lo mismo fundarlo de nuevo, que revelarse contra el ya fundado. Decir que es lícito, y justo el tal levantamiento contra el lexísmo Príncipe, aunque sea bajo de pretexto de tiranía, es una proposicion condenada repetidamente por la Iglesia, y heregia declarada.”

In the remaining six sections, the Inquisition continues to condemn a litany of decrees, sermons, almanacs, manuscripts, and other texts that emanate from revolutionary sources or espouse democratic ideas. In all, the document serves as an outstanding representation of the royalist, Catholic, and conservative forces that were attempting to hold power in Mexico during this period and a fascinating example of attempted censorship of revolutionary ideals. Rare, we locate only two copies -- one at Berkeley and Medina’s copy at the National Library of Chile.


An apparently unrecorded pocket-sized Mexico City edition of a compendium of fifteen “spiritual exercises” developed by San Ignacio del Loyola. The work also includes an introductory sonnet to Ignacio, preliminary sections containing “Advertencias Acerca de Estos Ejercicios,” “Disposición para tomar los Ejercicios,” a prayer, and other preparatory passages, as well as an Appendix comprised of “Resoluciones” and a list of maxims of Saint Teresa. Of particular interest are the nine lithographs which complement the text, featuring Jesus on the cross and other religious scenes of Heaven, Hell, and the Bible. The plates were presumably produced in Mexico, though they are not signed. OCLC reports a handful of editions of this work in Paris and Barcelona, but does not list any copies of a Mexican edition.

(McBRB4860)  $7,500

(McBRB2373)  $950
ENCOURAGING SPANISH MIGRATION


An enthusiastic guide for Spanish emigrants to Mexico, with the author extolling the country's virtues at every turn. Fewer than ten copies in OCLC, only three of them in the United States -- UC Berkeley, the University of Texas, and Southern Methodist University. Scarce and unusual. (McBRB2584) $450

SUSTAINING MEXICAN RESISTANCE AROUND VERACRUZ


A rare broadside decree that establishes guidelines for the collection of funds and donations for guerillas and their families continuing the fight against the American invasion around Veracruz in 1847. The important port city had fallen two months prior, and Santa Anna was routed at Cerro Gerro by Winfield Scott a month earlier. All that was left for Mexican forces in the region was sustained guerilla harassment of the American army. In this decree, a separate account from regular government monies is established for funds raised, and various government departments of the state of Veracruz are ordered to encourage donations and to publicize contributions, and children are even encouraged to contribute food to the soldiers. A desperate plea for a desperate situation; dated May 31, 1847, and signed in type by Veracruz state president Juan Soto in Huatusco, the temporary location of the displaced government. OCLC locates no other copies. (McBRB2634) $1,500

PROTESTING THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION


A scarce Mexican protest pamphlet, railing against actions taken by United States occupation forces in redistricting Mexican state entities. The author here writes that even though war is barbarous, the victor should respect the rights of the occupied and “pay homage to justice.” They discuss the impact of occupation on treaty negotiations, the historical use of authority in Mexico, the impact of American influence in the country on traditional views of the Mexican federation, and other matters. Half a dozen copies found in OCLC, at the
GOVERNING PUEBLA DURING THE MID-19th CENTURY

12. [Mexico]. [Large Group of Broadside Decrees Issued by the State Government of Puebla During the Mid-19th Century]. Puebla: 1830-1870. Forty-one broadsides, most measuring approximately 12 x 8 inches, many larger. Stab holes at left margin where previously bound; larger broadsides folded to fit a folio volume. Some wear and chipping at edges, occasionally heavier. Scattered, occasionally crude, tape repairs. Light tanning and scattered foxing. Overall, good plus.

A large and interesting group of Mexican broadsides published by the state of Puebla that promulgate numerous state and federal decrees, laws, and orders from 1830 to 1870. While topically somewhat disparate, many deal with the levying of taxes, particularly on alcohol and tobacco, imposing duties, regulating imports and exports, and other financial issues of national importance. A significant number also relate to foreign affairs and the domestic political situation during a fairly turbulent time for the country.

The earliest four broadsides present in this collection date to 1830-1, and concern tax and customs matters, one of which is a decree that orders an additional state tax on pulque for the construction of a new jail and hospital. There are nine broadsides here from the 1840s, the most interesting of which promulgates a 1843 decree by Santa Anna that distributes financial responsibilities to the states for restitution payments to the United States on claims dating to the Texas Revolution. An 1849 decree addresses several issues regarding domestic prisoners and veterans from the Mexican-American War, and another from the same year announces the creation of the new state of Guerrero (on the southwest coast of the country).

Five broadsides from the first half of the 1850s include a decree regarding taxes on aguardiente and orders for the observation of the funeral of Manuel de la Peña y Peña, long-serving Justice of the Mexican Supreme Court and the interim president of the country between following the fall of Mexico City in 1847 and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The largest subgroup, eleven broadsides, date to 1856, the year after the Liberal opposition deposed and exiled Santa Anna for the final time. The most significant of these announces the annulment of all orders made by Santa Anna during his last reign and fixes a date for the hearing of claims for restitution or damages from the burdens of the previous regime. Another establishes several categories of awards and medals, such as “Patriotica Condecoracion de la Paz” and “Restaurador de la Paz en 1856,” for those who helped to defeat the Conservative factions in this instance.

The final sizable group of broadsides date to 1868, the first full year the Benito Juarez was in power following the defeat of Loyalist forces and the arrest and execution of Maximilian. Among these are a large printing of the Ley Organica which supposedly protected the freedom of the press guaranteed under the new Constitution. Other interesting items include a decree that punishes highway robbery by death, two orders for the repair of railroads, and several decrees reestablishing the customs and duty system for imports and exports. The last item chronologically in the present collection is a large printing of the 1870 treaty of peace and commerce between Mexico and Prussia. A sizable assemblage of material, with many interesting broadsides on numerous topics of Mexican history.

(McBRB1690) $4,000
A celebratory manifesto from the newly independent Mexican Congress that announces the completion of the Acta Constitutiva to form a republican government, accompanied by a solemn warning to the people to protect the new republic. After achieving independence from Spain, Agustín de Iturbide briefly ruled as head of the First Mexican Empire, but was overthrown and exiled in March 1823. A constituent congress was eventually convened to decide on a new direction for the fledgling nation, and they ratified the Acta Constitutiva on January 31, 1824. The Act declared Mexico a federal republic of sovereign states (deliberately modeled after the United States) and provided for an interim government while a permanent constitution was debated. That constitution was created and ratified with minimal adjustments in October of the same year.

The present manifesto, signed in type by five members of the Congress with José Miguel Gordoa at their head, describes the recent history of the revolution, why a federation of states is the best a freest government for Mexico, and emphasizes the duty of the people to uphold and support its tenets. “Here is the fruit of the revolution,” it begins, “That glorious revolution so unique in its traits and comparison to others, and which now calls the attention of the political world to the singular character of the Mexican people” [our translation]. Now that such attention has been cast upon them, however, it was the duty of the people to live up to expectations and to avoid the pitfalls of other revolutions of the recent past.

The authors also spare a moment to mention Iturbide, the “Hero of Iguala,” who, “When the day came...to fulfill the solemn promises to which his word was linked...and submit to the body that represented national sovereignty, his heart changed direction.” Monarchists and detractors of republicanism still lingered within their ranks, the Congress warned, “But all their arguments can be vanquished with a single point -- show them the United States to the North.” They close with a mixture of pride and apprehension, pointing to the mercurial tides of the revolution and succeeding empire:

“Yes the revolution is over...[but] here, Mexican people, is the crisis where you now find yourself, the evils that can befall you, and the extremes to which you can be driven. Understand that a people does not find itself in the position you are in more than once -- with your hands you will choose life or death, glory or ignominy, prosperity or destitution, slavery or liberty.” A rare and important piece of Mexican history, officially announcing the end of the revolution and the beginning of a free republic. We locate only five copies in U.S. institutions, at the Bancroft, the Lilly, the American Philosophical Society, University of Virginia, and Library of Congress.

( McBRB4858 )  $5,750
TWO WORKS ON SILVER MINING


Two scarce works on the significance of protecting the silver mining industry in Mexico, and its importance to the prosperity of an independent country in the near future. The second work, clearly a response to a printed criticism, further comments upon and elucidates the first work. OCLC locates two copies of each in U.S. institutions; the first at Berkeley and the University of Texas, and the second at Berkeley and the Huntington.

*PRINTED IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH*

15. [Mexico]. [Railroads]. *Tehuantepec-Concesion de la Sere, 1869 / Tenhuantepec La Sere Grant, 1869*. [Mexico or New York: 1869. Large broadsheet, approximately 23x18.5 inches. Folded, with three-inch separation along horizontal fold from edge. Small, contemporary ink stamp in upper corner. A few small chips and short tears at edges. Scattered staining, even tanning. Good.

An unrecorded bilingual broadsheet announcement of a railroad grant to construct a line across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec from Coatzecoalcos on the Gulf of Mexico to the port of La Ventosa on the Pacific Ocean, issued to Simon Stevens and Don Emilio La Sère by the Juarez government during the late 1860s. Simon Stevens was the nephew of abolitionist and prominent Republican Thaddeus Stevens, and he attempted to enlist the favor of Washington politicians up to and including President Grant for the effort at a time when the Transcontinental Railroad was nearing completion and American enthusiasm for railroad building was at a fever pitch. Nevertheless, the transisthmian project, as with several others of the era, was a failure, and the Tehuantepec Railway Company folded after a decade of frustration. A railroad actually was completed in late 1890s, but it was rendered obsolete by the Panama Canal; the line was reconstituted as a passenger route in 2023.

The present large broadsheet prints in English and Spanish the lengthy decree by Mexican President Benito Juarez which granted the concession and laid out the objectives, permissions, and restrictions put upon the nascent railroad company. The piece was clearly intended as an instrument to advertise the endeavor and to attract investment, and was clearly used as a promotional tool by company president Simon Stevens himself, with his personal small ink stamp in an upper corner. A very interesting, dual-language promotional for an unsuccessful trans-Mexican railroad project; not in OCLC.

* (McBRB4913) $1,250
Prelude to the French Intervention


This law was promulgated at the end of 1856 by the new liberal government of Mexico following its ascendancy in the mid-1850s, and preceded the reform Constitution of 1857 by two months. Its statutes defined “crimes against the independence and security of the nation,” including various forms of treason, rebellion, and foreign military service or assistance, and made them punishable by death. The law anticipated conservative resistance and revolt against the new policies of the liberal faction that aimed to strip power and influence from the church and traditional aristocracy of the country. Their efforts indeed led to full-scale civil war in 1858 and the second French intervention in the early 1860s. OCLC locates a small handful of institutional copies and we locate just one in available sales records. Scarce, and in attractive original wrappers. ($1,250)

Save the Infidel Chinese Children

17. [Mexico]. [Religion]. Extracto de la Noticia de Mons. de Forbin-Janson Obispo de Nancy y de Toul, Sobre la Obra de la Santa Infancia para el Rescate de los Niños Infieles de la China y de Otros Países Idolatras... [caption title]. [Mexico City]: Imprenta de M. Murguia y Ca., [ca. 1852]. Broadsheet, 12.75 x 9.25 inches. Previously folded. One very short separation and minor loss along horizontal fold line. Very light dust soiling and toning. Very good.

A rare broadsheet presenting the efforts and goals of the Bishop of Nancy to Mexican Catholics regarding his urgent requirement to rescue infidel children from China and other “idolater” countries. The sheet presents the suffering and needs of the innocents, going into great detail on the supposed barbaric practices of China, describing the many ways unchristian people kill children such as drowning them in buckets of hot water, feeding them to dogs or pigs, and throwing them into rivers tied to pumpkins. The document begins:

“Arrebatar de las garras de la muerte un sin número de criaturas, hijos de padres infieles, que el capricho y la miseria, la superstición y la más horrible y desnaturalizada barbarie hace morir a centenares y a millares, arrojados a los rios y en el mar, y aún comidos por perros y cerdos....El [Obispo] desea ante todas cosas abrir al mayor número posible de estos seres infelices, desheredados en su nacimiento del afecto paternal, las puertas del cielo por el bautismo; y también preparar un medio seguro y poderoso para regenerar las naciones idolatras dando una educación cristiana a los niños y niñas libertados de la muerte y hacer de ellos con el tiempo instrumentos de salvación, como maestros, médicos, presbíteros y aún misioneros indígenas...”

The broadsheet goes on to announce the formation of a Catholic organization to aid these poor souls, headquartered in northeastern France, and to appeal in florid language to the devout citizens of Mexico for their generous contributions to the cause. The verso also prints extracts of the regulations for this main organization at Nancy, and it includes the names of the central council in France and the Mexican principals in charge of collecting money for the cause. OCLC locates only one copy of an 1852 French printing of a similar appeal, but no copies of a Mexican imprint. A highly unusual and scarce Mexican broadsheet. ($750)

Second edition, after the first of 1835, of this extensive bilingual catechism on the “principal mysteries of our holy faith.” The question-and-answer text, printed in Spanish and Nahuatl on facing pages provides basic explanations of the central tenets and practices of Catholicism. The present copy bears an inscription from Mexican theologian and polymath Agustin Rivera to a friend and fellow teacher at the Liceos de Padre Guerra in Lagos de Moreno, Bernardo Reyna. Rivera published many religious, historical, and pedagogical texts in Lagos, many for use in his school and on the subjects of native culture and history. A substantial, late 19th-century Nahuatl language imprint with an interesting association. (McBRB4468) $650


An attractive bound volume of twelve scarce Mexican devotional booklets from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Most are illustrated with engraved or woodcut portraits of the religious figures being supplicated. With a couple of exceptions, the imprints collected here emanate from the well-established printing houses of Jauregui and Valdés in Mexico City, and are recorded at most in only one or two copies, or not at all. An interesting sammelband of scarce Mexican devotional material, whose list of contents is as follows:


3) *Novena a la Gloriosa Virgen y Martir Santa Lucia, Abogada de los Ojos*. Mexico: Oficina de D. Alejandro Valdés, 1821. [22]pp., plus engraved frontispiece portrait. This edition not in OCLC.

4) *Devota Novena a el Dulcisimo Sagrado Nombre de Maria*. Mexico: En la Oficina de Dña. Maria Fernandez de Jauregui, 1806. [32] pp. plus engraved portrait. This edition not in OCLC.


6) *Novena de Nuestra Señora del Refugio de Pecadores*. Mexico: Oficina del C. Alejandro Valdés, 1832. [2],30pp., with woodcut portrait on title page verso. This edition not in OCLC.


9) Novena de Nuestra Señora la Santisima Virgen Maria de los Dolores, con la Corona de su Santisimo Hijo Jesus Crucificado. Mexico: Oficina de la Testamentaria de Ontiveros. [32]pp., with woodcut portrait on title page verso. This edition not in OCLC.

10) Triduo Doloroso en Obsequio y Memoria de los Tres Originales Rostros.... Mexico: Imprenta Imperial, 1822. [29]pp., plus woodcut frontispiece portrait. JCB only in OCLC.


(McBRB3609) $3,000

19th-CENTURY MEXICAN WORKS ON MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS, AND THE CLIMATE


A wonderful collection of six Mexican scientific works by Vicente Reyes, three of which appear unrecorded, all bound together in chronological order around the time of publication of the latter works. Vicente Reyes was a civil engineer, architect, and member of the Observatorio Meteorological Central and other scholarly organizations. The contents of each work ranges from technical or instructional pamphlets to more analytical reports that used data and statistics, especially in relation to climate studies, as a tool for social progress. Further details on each work are as follows:

1) Apuntes Sobre la Disposicion y Uso de los Tablas Trigonometricas. [N.p., n.d.]. 12pp. A primer on Napier's trigonometric tables. No copies reported in OCLC.

2) Instrucciones Especiales para Hacer las Observaciones Internacionales Simultaneas. Mexico: Imprenta y Litografia de Ireneo Paz, 1877. 47pp., plus twenty-five tables, and one blank folding chart for recording meteorological observations. Also includes instructions to meteorologists for conducting observations in alignment with international standards. Just three copies in OCLC.


4) Ensayo Estadistico-Geografico Sobre la Mortalidad en el Estado de Morelos. Mexico: Imprenta de Francisco Diaz de Leon, 1879. 25pp., plus
six color folding maps illustrating mortality rates in the state of Morelos; one map is headed, “Carta Necrologia.” Includes a statistical breakdown of mortality rates and causes in the state. None in OCLC.

5) Memoria Sobre el Departamento Magnetico del Observatorio Meteorologico Central de Mexico. Mexico: Imprenta de Francisco Diaz de Leon, 1880. 60pp., plus nine plates of technical figures. A history of the Mexican Meteorological Observatory and a technical description of its equipment. About ten physical copies in OCLC.

6) Datos Meteorologicos; Resumen de las Observaciones Practicadas en Varios Lugares de la Republica Durante el Ano de 1879. Mexico: Imprenta de Francisco Diaz de Leon, 1880. 24pp., plus folding table. A summary of national climate statistics for 1879. No copies in OCLC.

FINANCING SANTA ANNA AGAINST THE TEXAS REVOLUTIONARIES


An exceedingly rare Mexican decree concerned with financing the Mexican Army during the early months of the Texas Revolution. Essentially, the decree called for slashing the budgets of other departments (or states) within the Mexican government to help ensure funding for Santa Anna and his troops while “subsista la guerra provocada por los colonos de Tejas” [the war brought on by the Texas colonists continues]. The decree was issued just about halfway between two of the most important events of the Texas Revolution - the Battle of Goliad in September 1835 and the passage of the Texas Declaration of Independence in early March 1836. The Battle of the Alamo also occurred around the time of the latter, less than two months after this decree was promulgated. It was likely through the present decree that Santa Anna was able to raise enough troops to steamroll the Texans in San Antonio, as the Mexican economy was stretched thin beforehand.
“The series of alarming events of rebellion in Texas, culminating with the Siege of Bexar in late 1835, prompted authorities in Mexico to issue this decree to raise the funds needed to underwrite Santa Anna and his army of about five thousand ill-provisioned green recruits who were enduring the frightful ordeal of marching six hundred miles from San Luis Potosí to San Antonio in the dead of winter across the desert to punish the Texans. Santa Anna had energy and nerve, but not a cent in his war chest. The same might be said of the Texans” - Sloan.

“Decree authorizing the government to dispose of half of the income of the departments while the war brought on by the Texas colonists continues” - Streeter.

Streeter had not located a copy at the time of publication of his Bibliography of Texas and took his information from a provincial printing of the decree issued in Arizpe that was located at the Bancroft Library. Streeter subsequently acquired one, presumably from the Eberstadts, which is now at Yale. OCLC shows just three copies of the Mexico City printing, at Yale, Baylor, and the University of Texas at Austin. Yale also holds the single copy of the Chihuahua printing. The Mexico City printing came first, and the decree was then promulgated through several states, with copies known from Arizpe, Chihuahua, Guadalajara, Toluca, and Zacatecas.

Streeter Texas 871. Streeter, The Only Located Copies of One Hundred Forty Texas Pamphlets and Broadsides 83. Eberstadt 162:868. Dorothy Sloan Auction 6, lot 53. (McBRB2211) $2,500

Large and handsome map of the Mexican state of Sinaloa printed in San Francisco. The map is based on surveys made by Frederick G. Weidner, a topographical and mining engineer who served as the state's surveyor. In his introductory text, Weidner claims this to be the first such map of Sinaloa. The accompanying text gives both general statistics and geological observations of the area. The additional material laid in includes two partial maps showing Sinaloa, one with what we presume to be Weidner's notations, as well as a sheet of handwritten notes. We locate two copies with the text at the University of California in OCLC, and two further copies of the map alone, at the Huntington and the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center. (McBRB3305) $1,750

Extensively illustrated popular history of Catarina de San Juan, known as La China Poblana. She was brought to Mexico through the Philippines in the early 17th century, converted to Christianity, and became a
beata in Puebla, where she was buried in the Jesuit sacristy upon her death in 1688. The text gives the entire historical context of her voyage from Asia to Mexico and a lengthy account of her biography. The leaf following the title page contains a dedication in Chinese and translation into Spanish from the Asociacion Fraterna China de Puebla. In addition to numerous other illustrations, the rear contains eight plates depicting her iconography and status as progenitor of the classic “China Poblana” Mexican fashion.

EPHEMERAL GAME


A scarce sheet of Mexican paper game pieces featuring illustrations by José Guadalupe Posada. “Although the rules are not given, this game appears to be a type of draw game similar to the French ‘jeu de lonterie.’ Here a sheet containing a number of small images is cut into individual squares, which are then drawn from a hat and matched up with corresponding numbered pieces. The ‘juego de lotería’ has, like its French counterpart, a pedagogical value in that it associates the names and pictures of familiar animals, symbols, and persons. Images from Mexican folklore, like the calavera, diablo, and coyote, are notable inclusions” -- Tyler. A scarce survivor; we locate just a small number of intact copies.

Tyler, Posada’s Mexico 74.

(McBRB2701) $375

CHAPBOOK COVERS WITH POSADA ILLUSTRATIONS

26. [Posada, Jose Guadalupe]. [Large Group of Over Fifty Chapbook and Pamphlet Covers, the Preponderance Featuring Posada Artwork]. Mexico: Antonio Vanegas Arroyo, 1890-1920]. Fifty-one items, including three duplicates, most measuring from approximately 4.5 x 6.5 inches to 6 x 8 inches; plus two small printed cards, each about 4 x 2.5 inches. Occasional light chipping and wear at edges; two examples with heavier edge wear. Even toning and light dust soiling. About very good.

A substantial collection of illustrations by noted Mexican engraver Jose Guadalupe Posada (1852-1913). Posada is best known for his calavera broadsides, but he began his career as a political cartoonist and book illustrator. He worked for a number of periodicals and newspapers before moving to Mexico City and allying himself with the press of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo. His work spans more than forty years, more than half of it with Arroyo, who continued to use Posada’s engravings even after his death.

This group of materials comprises fifty-one illustrated covers of chapbooks and similar, smaller works published by Arroyo and utilizing Posada’s artwork. Included are several wrappers from the series “Coleccion de Cartas Amorosas,” which printed melodramatic romances and love songs, a number of covers from the series “Coleccion de Canciones Modernas,” a serial publication of popular songs, and various other examples of similar ephemeral Mexican songbooks from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Also present are covers from a number of chapbooks for children’s stories, religious parables, and the
“Teatro Infantil” series. In all, an excellent assemblage of Posada’s cover illustration work from the last twenty years of his career and beyond.

(McBRB4777) $4,500

An admittedly defective, but substantial portion of an exceedingly-rare and important Mexican linguistic work with a distinguished provenance. Huastec is the northernmost dialect of the Mayan language. In the 17th and 18th centuries, it was spoken in Puebla, Veracruz, and San Luis Potosí; it is actually still spoken today by about 150,000 people, primarily in the latter two regions. Works in Huastec of any category are rare, especially this work, which is the first grammar and first dictionary of the language. The language is treated in depth, including pronunciation, cases, declensions, conjugations, and more. There is also a segment of forty pages containing a Huastec-Spanish dictionary. The author, Carlos de Tapia Zenteno was not only an important Mexican linguist and professor of Mexican languages at the Royal and Pontifical University, but was also a comisario for the Spanish Inquisition. This work of his is dedicated to Archbishop Francisco Antonio Lorenzana, a man deeply interested in the indigenous culture and especially the conquest of it. He was the man who produced Hernán Cortés’s letters in a fine and wonderfully-illustrated edition in Mexico in 1770.

The present copy of Tapia Zenteno’s work was first gifted by Jose Maria Andrade to Antonio Peñafiel, evidenced by Andrade’s gift inscription on page 88. It then passed to Nicolas León (with his bookplate on the front pastedown), and then sold to the John Carter Brown Library in 1909. The JCB deaccessioned the book in 2008. A substantial fragment of an important Mexican linguistic work, priced accordingly.


(McBRB2500) $2,250
This extraordinary decree, issued thirty-nine days after the fall of the Alamo, prints twelve articles regarding Mexican treatment of Texian prisoners during the Texas Revolution. Under this decree, the leaders of the Texian revolt were subject to the death penalty, but soldiers and other rebels who surrendered within fifteen days could be spared death by lifetime banishment from Texas. The decree is signed in type by José Justo Corro as president and José María de Tornel y Mendivil as Secretary of War, with Tornel’s manuscript paraph.

“This decree was passed in the flush of the victory at the Alamo, applied to those rebellious Texans who surrendered within fifteen days or such greater or lesser time as Santa Anna might fix, and gave Santa Anna the right to fix the times and places of embarkation of those banished. Those not already subject to the death penalty might be punished by ten years imprisonment in interior regions of the Mexican republic, distant at least 70 leagues from the coast and the land frontiers” - Streeter. Thomas W. Streeter listed just one known copy -- his own -- in his Bibliography of Texas. OCLC reports only three copies, at Yale, Baylor, and Texas A&M. Streeter Sale 347. Streeter Texas 876. Dublan 1724.

(McBRB2348) $5,000

**“GRAN COMPANÍA DE ALTA COMEDIA”**


Ephemeral, early 20th-century Mexican broadside for performances of a traveling theater troupe starring Spanish actress Prudencia Grifell at the Teatro Peon Contreras in Merida, Yucatan. The broadside lists members of the company and crew, the repertoire of plays to be performed (beginning with the comedy “Pipiola” by Spanish playwright Álvaro Quintero), ticket prices, and other relevant information. The advertisement is illustrated by photo portraits of Grifell and one of her fellow actors. Grifell began in the theater but went on to a long career in Mexican radio, film, and television following a self-imposed exile caused by the Spanish Civil War. She passed away in 1970 at the age of ninety-three, only a year after her final screen appearance. The Peon Contreras theater still stands in Merida, although it was seriously damaged by fire in 2022.

(McBRB4868) $350
A pocket-sized guide for the employees of the Mexican National Railroad Company, printed in facing English and Spanish text. The work codifies the rules for work trains, deportment and uniforms of employees, rules for train masters, conductors, yard masters, flagmen, brakemen, and porters, among others. There are also rules for freight, car inspectors, and the roadway department. The final fifty pages of the work cover rules for the telegraph department, and the text ends with a one-page table on telegraph signals for the alphabet, numerals, and punctuation. Three copies in OCLC, at the Clements, New York Public Library, and the California State Railroad Museum Library.

(McBRB2157) $850

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