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ACLAIIR

Newsletter



ACLAIIR Newsletter

Newsletter of the Advisory Council on Latin American and Iberian Information Resources

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Information Resources

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The ACLAIIR Newsletter is an annual publication, produced for the members of the Advisory Council. The aim of the Council is to advance education in its two fields of interest, by: Acting as a focus for Latin American and Iberian studies in libraries of all kinds Providing information on libraries' holdings in the Council's fields of interest Acting as a forum for discussion between librarians and users of Latin American and Iberian materials Examining possibilities of co-operation between libraries and individuals or bodies concerned with such materials

Annual membership of the Council costs 15 pounds sterling, and includes a free copy of the Newsletter.

Notes for contributors

Contributions to future issues of the Newsletter from Council members are always welcome. Submissions should be preferably in electronic form, but we will accept typewritten or (even!) handwritten contributions. Please send them to the editors at the above address.

ACLAIR on the web: <http://www.aclair.org.uk/>

Electronic mailing lists

ACLAIR does not have its own mailing list, but two which have useful material are:

IBERIA (www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/IBERIA.html)

LATAM -INFO (www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/LATAM-INFO.html)

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SECTION ONE: ACLAIR news

1. Chair's Report to the Annual General Meeting of ACLAIR 2011

If you Google the phrase 'doing more with less' you get any number of hits, whether applied to the NHS, business, public service, the European Commission, etc. In ACLAIR member institutions, the Hispanic picture has been varied, but certainly all are doing at least the same, or are expected to do more, with less, whether with less money for acquisitions or for conferences, or with fewer staff. For ACLAIR, it has definitely meant that time has been short to devote to existing projects and to new initiatives that have been proposed. However, we should not despair. Thanks to Joanne Edwards, we now have a completely re-designed website: it looks good and Joanne is open to ideas for further developments. We do now have a Facebook page although it would be good to have more friends and more postings. Sonia Morcillo has continued to work on the Audiovisual Resources project. An entry for the important collection of the Instituto Cervantes in London has now been added. Work has also progressed, albeit slowly, on the Microform Holdings project.

Maintaining a presence at conferences, however, is not proving easy and may get even harder in the future. Christine Anderson and I were both able to attend the WESLINE conference at Manchester in September. This was a really excellent event with sessions of great interest to all language groups. It is much to be regretted that WESLINE seems at present to be in the doldrums, although news has recently reached me that ideas are being floated for 2012. No one from the UK was able to attend SALALM in Philadelphia in May this year. Fortunately, we have no problem with REDIAL, as our Continental colleagues have come to us instead and are meeting next door as we speak. Members of ACLAIR have attended 2011 academic conferences: Aquiles Alencar Brayner went to SLAS in St Andrews (but not this year to PiLAS in Cambridge) and Barry Taylor and I, as members of British Library staff, were at the Association of Hispanists' conference at Nottingham. ACLAIR has sought to maintain its links with all three professional bodies.

We have continued to benefit from the generosity of the Federación de Gremios de Editores de España which has enabled UK subject specialists to attend the professional book fair, LIBER, in Spain. In October 2010 five library staff and one academic staff member were in Barcelona. Meeting the smaller specialized and institutional publishers continues to be important, as is the chance to catch up with our US colleagues. Some of the sessions devoted to the book trade and publishing trends have also proved well worth attending. As last year we are grateful to ICEX for acting as intermediary with the Federación.

There have been two sad events since the last AGM. Robert McNeil, one time Chair of ACLAIR and long-time Committee member, died after a long illness on 7 November 2010. Donald Munro represented us at Robert's funeral and the group made a donation to the Multiple Systems Atrophy Trust in his memory. There were many tributes, particularly from his friends in SALALM in the Americas.

A sad institutional passing is the closing after many years of the Canning House library at the end of March 2011. The parent body, the Hispanic & Luso-Brazilian Council, has struggled financially for some time now and the Library's closure could be postponed no longer. The official decision was to 'mothball', but one cannot be optimistic about the Library's future. There is of course a personal side to such an event and Alan Biggins, a member of ACLAIR for very many years, was inevitably made redundant.

The Committee this year co-opted Claire Parry, officially Change Manager at Chatham House Library. This has been a welcome development in our efforts to reach out wider. Unfortunately Claire has now left and we should like to maintain contact with her successor. We have continued to benefit from mutual observer status with the Committee of the Association of Hispanists, and have a current vacancy for SLAS observer. We are however glad that this year's President of PiLAS, Catriona McAllister has again been able to attend this meeting. Aquiles Alencar Brayner who has been such an energetic member of ACLAIR and Hispanic colleague at the British Library has been promoted but unfortunately (for us) away from Latin American Studies. We have however welcomed today his successor, Elizabeth Cooper, whom we hope will join the ACLAIR committee in due course. Last year we said goodbye to David Carrión when he left the post of Librarian at the Instituto Cervantes. I am glad that we have been able to welcome (back) Mayte Azorín not only to Eaton Square, but also to the ACLAIR Committee. However, as we commented last year at this time we need to think seriously about the future running of ACLAIR. We have a replacement for John Laidlar as web editor, Joanne Edwards, but not as Treasurer. John wishes now to stand down and it is a top priority to replace him. Things are not going to get any easier in 2012 and 2013, so we need to think constructively now. Whatever we do (or do not), it is important to maintain and develop WESLINE in this difficult context.

As ever, I need to thank on your behalf Christine Anderson as our Secretary and Newsletter editor. Without a secretary there can be no committee and Christine's contribution is invaluable and indispensable. I should also like to thank John Laidlar, for his contribution to our work both as Treasurer and Webmaster. And to the rest of the committee: gracias mil.

Geoff West, 16 June 2011

2. ACLAIR Meetings and Events

ACLAIR Seminar and AGM 2012

The 2012 Seminar and AGM will be hosted by the Taylor Institution Library, University of Oxford, on Friday 29 June 2012.

The seminar will be entitled: ***Digital Resources in Hispanic Studies.***

Speakers and subjects addressed will include:

Stephen Parkinson (Oxford University): ***The Oxford Cantigas de Santa Maria Database;***

Sonia Morcillo and Alison Sinclair (Cambridge University) on the project ***Wrongdoing in Spain, 1800-1936***

and

Joan Ramon Veny and Jordi Malé (Universitat de Lleida): ***Corpus literari digital (en español).***



3. ACLAIR Projects

ACLAIR Project on Microform Holdings and Listings in the U.K

Donald Munro reports that he is still awaiting responses from a couple of libraries. He is currently putting the data he has gathered so far in order for Joanne Edwards to put on the webpage. Once this has been done, anyone who wishes can pick up the project at a later date, and use this information as a base to build on.

Audiovisual Resources Project (was: Survey of Audiovisual collections in U.K. libraries (Spain, Portugal, Latin America))

Sonia Morcillo has written her introduction to the project and this has been mounted onto the webpage. Some updates have been received and forwarded to Joanne Edwards. There are still some libraries which have not yet sent in a contribution.

4. ACLAIIR Webpage

ACLAIR now has a new web page, courtesy of Joanne Edwards, with help from Aquiles Alencar Brayner:

<http://aclair.wordpress.com/>

At the 2011 ACLAIIR AGM, Joanne gave the following report:

Website Statistics 2011

N.B. Numbers may appear low compared to previous years due to the site only being created in April, and the redirect from the old website only functioning at the end of May. Figures recorded on 14th June 2011.

Number of visits by month

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2011				93	218	126							437

Average per Day

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Overall
2011				5	7	9							21

Page breakdown

Page	Views
Home	178
Events	115
Projects	54
Newsletter	53
Contact us	21

Top 5 clickthroughs

URL	Clicks
aclair.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/redial2011_progdef_may2011.doc	41
aclair.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/redialregistrationform_may2011.doc	15
librarything.com/catalog/ACLAIR	10
aclair.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/latin-american-newspaper-census.pdf	6
red-redial.net	6

Top 5 referrers (not including old website url, which redirected 24 users)

americas.sas.ac.uk/events/eventdetails.html?id=9513 [ISA]	14
red-redial.net/america-noticia-4320.html [REDIAL]	11
bl.uk/reshelp/bldept/socsci/events/socscievents.html [BL]	5
ahbx.eu [Asociación de Hispanistas del Benelux]	3
uwe.ac.uk/library/resources/lang/latin.htm [UWE]	3

Top 3 search terms

aclair	10
aclair wordpress	5
aclair/redial conference	2

Summary

As many of you will hopefully have seen, ACLAIR now has a new look to its website, hosted on the Wordpress platform. The new design is more compact and I hope that users are finding it easy to navigate. Newsletters from 2002-2008 are now up, and minutes of previous AGMs will be available through the site shortly.

The newspaper census is still proving a popular link, as well as our publications list and links to the ACLAIR/REDIAL registration forms and programme.

It was also discussed at the last AGM that the site could be more interactive. The new site is still quite static, but there is capacity to incorporate a live news page or blog-style page on to the website. This would require more maintenance than the current static site, but would certainly make the space livelier. Suggestions for the type of information you would like to see are very welcome.

At the moment I have disabled all the comment features that are available on the Wordpress platform, but these could be enabled if we decided to go ahead with a blog-style page to allow members to contribute.

This site is still a work in progress and feedback is more than welcome. Please contact joanne.edwards@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.

ACLAIR Facebook group

Please join and participate in the group. Any items on resources, useful links, research trends, conferences and events etc. will be welcome.

5. ACLAIR Committee membership

Election of Committee members and Officers at the 2011 AGM

Chair: there being no nominees to stand for this post, Geoff West declared himself willing to stand again, and was, after due process, re-elected, but with a proviso that this might be only until 2012 rather than the full 2-year term to 2013.

Secretary: the post of Secretary was not due for re-election until 2012: Christine Anderson will remain in the post until then.

Treasurer: there was a vacancy for this post as John Laidlar wished to stand down. Both Sonia Morcillo and Emer Stubbs said they would be prepared to consider this post, and it was finally agreed after the AGM that Emer Stubbs would become the new Treasurer, and that she would investigate a change of bank. The ACLAIR account was moved from the Halifax to Lloyd's in the Autumn of 2011.

Committee members: Chris Anderton confirmed that he will continue for the full 2-year term until 2012. Both Emer Stubbs and Joanne Edwards had been elected at the 2010 AGM and would therefore remain in post until the 2012 AGM.

The post held by Sonia Morcillo was due for re-election, she was willing to stand again, and was, after due process, elected for the term 2011-2013

Aquiles Alencar Brayner stood down to take a new job within the British Library, thus leaving a vacancy. His replacement, Beth Cooper, the new Latin American curator at the BL, was nominated, and after due process, elected for the term 2011-2013.

Co-optees: Aquiles Alencar Brayner, Mariama Ifode, Mayte Azorín and Donald Munro were invited to be co-optees, although the latter warned that he would stand down in 2012. Both Alan Biggins and Robert Howes, who had been unable to attend the AGM, were invited to continue as co-optees after the AGM.

Attendees were reminded that anyone could become a co-opted member, and to contact Geoff West if they were interested.

It was decided that Frank Egerton be invited to the next committee meeting in November 2011 and asked if he would like to become a co-opted member.

AHGBI observer: Kirsty Hooper was willing to continue in this role.

SLAS observer: there was a current vacancy for a SLAS observer.

SECTION TWO: National Round-up: News from Universities and Libraries

6. Staff activities, staff changes and other news

News from member institutions

BL:

The current voluntary exit exercise was not affecting collection areas, but would affect other areas such as conservation, and would affect Reference Services in 2011-2012.

Serious serials cuts were in hand: proposals for cuts had been made, and a reply to those proposals was awaited. There was also a moratorium on ordering new serials.

Bristol University:

Andrew Ginger, the new Chair of Hispanic Studies, took up post in September.

The 1st and 2nd floor Arts and Social Science Library is being refurbished.

The Biological Science Library has had to move, and there might be a possibility of extending the building upwards or outwards within the next 5-6 years.

The University is expected to increase its intake by 600 (predominantly in English and History) for September 2012, and this would have implications on the library book budget and on space.

Canning House Library:

The library at Canning House closed at the end of March due to acute financial problems within Canning House itself. *See the article at the end of this section.*

Chatham House:

Building work was ongoing. The change management project was ending, and job descriptions have been finalised, resulting in three posts consisting of: Research Liaison Librarian, Electronic Resources Librarian and Library Services Manager.

Essex:

A planning application for a new building had been submitted. The library extension would be going ahead.

The new art gallery in the centre of Colchester, designed by the Uruguayan architect Rafael Viñoly, is now open, as of September 2011, and provides dedicated space for the exhibition of material from the UECLAA: University of Essex's Latin American art collection. *See the article at the end of this section.*

IHR:

As part of Phase 4 of the Senate House refurbishment process, the IHR moved out of its home in the North Block and relocated to the 3rd floor of the South Block.

Whereas most of its stock has been predominantly open access, only 20% of its stock will be on open access for the next couple of years during this phase of the refurbishment.

Instituto Cervantes:

As the Grosvenor Estate needed to approve the planned refurbishment work, a 'weeding' project was undertaken while approval was awaited.

Currently, the Instituto Cervantes is still renovating its building and its library accommodation, with a temporary library currently in operation on the ground floor. When it has been completed, the newly renovated library will be called the *Luis Cernuda Library*.

Oxford:

The Oxford libraries collectively were now known as the 'Bodleian Libraries'. Amanda Peters has taken early retirement and Jill Hughes is now Acting Librarian in Charge.

Some remodelling/refurbishment work is taking place, and as part of this, some 'weeding' is being done

The Oxford Latin American Centre has begun a retro-con project for material purchased pre-1991. Box level records are being created for 200 boxes of grey material.

The LAC materials budget is to increase by 10% next year.

The Brazilian Minister of Justice, José Eduardo Cardozo, had visited the Latin American Centre on 29th October 2011.

SHL:

The SHL refurbishment entered into Phase 4 during August/September 2011, with collections (including the Latin American collections) moving from the North Block back into the South Block. The Latin American and Caribbean collections are now located with the U.S. Studies collections at the South end of the 6th floor of the South Block, within easy reach of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies collections at the North end of the same floor.

Canning House Library 1948–2011

In the mid-1930s the proposal was first made for a British centre 'to co-ordinate Britain's commercial and cultural relations with Latin America'.* The efforts of Viscount Davidson and the sponsorship of a number of major British companies with business interests in Latin America led to the creation of a Hispanic Council and a Luso-Brazilian Council (names suggested by the Foreign Office) in 1943, initially to organise summer language courses in Spanish and Portuguese. After the war the Councils took steps to establish a permanent centre, and in January 1947 this was inaugurated at 4 Upper Berkeley Street, W1. The new organisation was given the name Canning House in honour of Foreign Secretary George Canning, 'the man who led the governments of Europe to recognise the newly emerging republics' of Latin America. In 1952–53 Canning House moved to a permanent home at No.2 Belgrave Square, one of the imposing white stuccoed mansions built by Thomas Cubitt in the 1820s. Corporate sponsorship and membership fees still represent this charitable organisation's main source of funding.

One of the Councils' original aims in the expansion of their programme of cultural and business activities was 'the establishment of a major Library specialising in the literature, history, geography, economics and culture of the countries of Latin America together with Spain and Portugal'. This was achieved in 1948, the same year as the creation of the first Chair in Latin American History, and seventeen years before the Parry Report ushered in the university centres and institutes of Latin American studies and the building up of library stocks to support them. Canning House's first Librarian was George H. Green – only the second subject librarian for Latin America and Iberia in the UK (the British Museum Library had the first) – who would serve for thirty-two-years and receive an MBE in 1976 'in recognition of his contribution'. Subsequent Librarians were Christine Younger, Noel Treacy, Claire Diamond, Carmen Suarez, Irene Barranco and Alan Biggins.

The new Library had been boosted in the 1950s by the donation of the 4,500 volumes of the Hudson Library (containing many rarities of River Plate literature) belonging to the Hudson Institute established in London by former ambassador Sir Eugen Millington-Drake. At first the library operated from a room on the second floor, but as the collections grew the library moved (1969) to the large basement extension, which included a conference room, built with financial support from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Baring Brothers and 'several Mexican bankers and industrialists'. It could claim to be 'the most representative working library in Britain covering the twenty-two Ibero-American countries', and consistently attracted donations from individuals and organisations – embassies, the various 'Anglo societies', publishers, banks and research institutions. The Hudson Library was the largest single donation until the transfer in 2005 of more than 5,000 volumes from the Brazilian Embassy Library originally deposited with Middlesex University and consisting of Brazilian imprints published between 1950 and 2000. During its first fifty years Canning House Library 'always achieved a high rate of new acquisitions', and a book fund sufficient to allow the Librarian to use the second-hand market for filling gaps in the rare-books collection. Grants for book purchases came from bodies such as the British Library (through the Wolfson Foundation), and the Anglo-Venezuelan and Anglo-Portuguese Societies. The collections grew rapidly, 'from 2,600 volumes in 1947 to 17,500 in 1953, to 30,000 in 1964 and to 60,000 in 1978'. By 2011 there were approximately 70,000 volumes (50,000 titles).

The Library's subject strengths were History, Economics, Sociology, Literature, and Art, with smaller but still important holdings in Geography, Natural History, Folklore and Customs, Language, Religion and Philology, Agriculture, Music, Biography and Bibliography. Reflecting the organisation's aim of 'stimulating understanding and engagement between Britain and the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian world[s]' – Latin America, the main focus of Canning House's activities, but also Spain and Portugal – the Library collected widely on Britain's political, economic and cultural relations with Latin American, Spain and Portugal, and received a large number of reader enquiries related to the British presence in Latin America. The Library also included important holdings on Portuguese Africa and Asia, the Hispanic communities of the United States, and the Falkland Islands. The Economics section held up-to-date financial reports and serials donated by the Latin American Trade Advisory Group, located in the building. Undergraduate students could find many of their set texts in the Library's holdings of standard English-language titles. A collection of feature films on DVD and video was a very popular area of the Library. The Language and

Literature sections covered Basque, Catalan and Galician. Perhaps the Library's prestige collection was its rare books, around a thousand titles from the seventeenth to the twentieth century's (the oldest being Purchas his Pilgrimage, 1617). These were predominantly travel writing (a joint exhibition of travel books on Latin America was held in the Travellers' Club in 1999), history, literature, language, religion and anthropology. There were also three special collections devoted to works by and about George Canning, R.B. Cunninghame Graham and W.H. Hudson. The Library had also built up impressive sets of some 300 journals (including outstanding runs of the Review of the River Plate and the South American Journal), but because of rising subscription costs and space problems most of them were withdrawn between 1981 and 1983, mainly to libraries within the University of London and to the British Library (Reference and Lending divisions). Although the Library did not normally withdraw material, since it considered its collections to be of permanent research value, duplicate and surplus books were occasionally offered to (or exchanged with) other relevant libraries.

Statistically, Canning House's 70,000 volumes placed it as Britain's fifth largest library on Latin America and tenth largest on Spain and Portugal. ** Quantitatively, by the 1990s the collections could stand comparison with most other equivalent UK libraries. The Library fulfilled 'an essential role as the major lending library concerned with Latin American studies' – the first and only one to play that role – but it was a public library with research-level holdings. In 1982 the Librarian reported that 'the Library should aim primarily at the needs of the general public since provision for this group by other libraries, public and academic, was rather weak'. Library materials on Latin America, Spain and Portugal, and their former possessions, were – uniquely for this branch of area studies – shelved on open access and in a single sequence, an ideal arrangement for historical and interdisciplinary research. Ninety per cent of the Library's readership divided equally into two categories: schools and universities, and 'general public'. The general public, above all, prized the Library precisely because it was independent from other national, university and special collections in the field. If Canning House's mission is to educate the British public about Latin America and Iberia, that mission can be said to begin with outreach to schools: the expansion of Latin American Studies in the universities after 1965 'led Canning House to concentrate on the encouragement of Latin American Studies in schools'. Schools using the Library consulted material on Spain and Latin America in roughly equal measures. The Library was a key element in Canning House's workshops for secondary-school classes, and from 1994 prepared reading lists on the most popular subjects likely to be asked for by pupils preparing Spanish A-Level.

The importance of the collections was recognised by the Boston publisher GK Hall, well known for showcasing the holdings of important national, university and special libraries. As with other GK Hall catalogues, Canning House's was reproducing the catalogue cards twenty-one to the page; separate Hispanic Council and Luso-Brazilian Council volumes were issued in 1967, and corresponding Supplement volumes in 1973 (7 volumes in all). For many years the Library contributed its new acquisitions to the British Union Catalogue of Latin Americana, the card union catalogue maintained from the late 1960s to 1988 by the Library of the Institute of Latin American Studies (now the Institute for the Study of the Americas), University of London.

The Canning House Library 'has always been more than just a collection of books'. In 1949 the Library began publication of the *British Bulletin of Publications on Latin America, the West Indies, Portugal and Spain* (the *West Indies* in the title was changed to *Caribbean* from issue 59), a twice-yearly annotated bibliography of new English-language books on the region, together with a listing of references to recent periodical articles. The *Bulletin* was a unique publication, compiled within the Library with the help of a team of volunteer reviewers. AJ Walford, founder of the famous *Guide to Reference Material*, contributed the lists of periodical articles for 48 years. At first the *Bulletin* provided short summaries, but under recent editor Philip Davies these became detailed and more informative reviews. The 116th and last issue of the *Bulletin* was published on the day the Library closed.

Librarian George Green was secretary to the Committee on Latin America (a forerunner of ACLAIR), which published three volumes of holdings lists of Latin American serials – economic & social; history & politics; literature, language, art and music – in 1969, 1973 and 1977. In 1997 Librarian Claire Diamond co-authored *Latin Americans in London: a select list of prominent Latin Americans in London, 1810–1996*, published by the Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London. The Library was an active member of ACOLAM (later ACLAIR) – it hosted the AGM in 2003 – and of REDIAL. From the time of its foundation the Library benefited from the advice of a Library Committee composed of representatives from a wide spectrum of relevant organisations and interested libraries.

The Library had been seeking to automate procedures since 1991, and in 1995 (when use of the Library had reached its peak) the Executive Committee accepted a formal computerisation plan. Dynix's Horizon library management system was installed that year (cataloguing and circulation modules) and conversion of the card catalogue began. With the half-completed retroconversion slowing down, a successful application was made in 2000 to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to purchase extra hardware and employ cataloguers to finish the project, and by 2004 the catalogue was fully automated and the OPAC launched on the internet. But the Library had grown to full capacity in the basement space. Canning House was struggling to meet the Library's costs, and despite its past support for the Library and a moderately successful Library Appeal in recent years, the decision to close the Library came at the end of March 2011.

A very special library has closed its doors, but a part-solution has been found. Large sections of the Library will be transferred to King's College Library, University of London – though not to a dedicated area, meaning that a number of duplicates will have to be disposed of separately. Canning House members will have access to the KCL Library, and items from Canning House will be identifiable by their bookplates.

* All quotations are from Nicholas Bowen, *A history of Canning House: its origins, development and current activities* (1979), and from minutes of the Library Committee.

** ACLAIR's directory *Latin American and Caribbean library resources in the British Isles* (2002).

Alan Biggins

Essex Collection of Art from Latin America (ESCALA)

In September 2011 the University of Essex Collection of Latin American Art (UECLAA), changed its name to the Essex Collection of Art from Latin America (ESCALA) in order to make the Collection more accessible to its ever-growing UK and international audiences. The name change was accompanied by an updated design identity with a distinctive name logo and stripe motif with colours inspired by one of ESCALA's outstanding paintings, *América del Sur*, by María Freire.

The impetus for the name change and updated identity was the need for the Collection to improve its digital collections management system by replacing a bespoke system with a fuller and more flexible system called MuseumIndex+, developed by System Simulation. ESCALA also required a more flexible and manageable website and so worked with Red Leader Industries to develop a site that enhances access to ESCALA's online collection catalogue, as well as to our research projects and education activities. The new website, which was launched in December, also features news and events listings and integrated social media, feedback, and comment forms. The project was managed by Matt Terrington, an MA student in Curating Latin American Art and ESCALA intern who now works in the Digital Media Department at the National Gallery.

In September, ESCALA also mounted its first exhibition at firstsite, the new visual arts centre in Colchester, designed by Uruguayan-born architect Rafael Viñoly. As partners in the building, the University of Essex has a centrally located room which is used to showcase ESCALA and the University's research more broadly. ESCALA's inaugural exhibition, *Southern Press: Prints from Brazil, Paraguay and Chile*, received more than 17,000 visitors between 25 September 2011 and 12 February 2012. The exhibition focused on the works of thirteen printmakers from the 1950s, 60s and 70s and was curated by Ian Dudley, a PhD candidate in Art History. Ian was also project officer to *Meeting Margins*, an AHRC research project between the School of Philosophy and Art History at the University of Essex and TrAIN, the Research Centre for Transnational Art, Identity and Nation at the University of the Arts, London.

ESCALA's second exhibition, *Unravelling Threads*, opened on 18 February 2012 and has been curated by Valeria Paz Moscoso, another PhD student in Art History from the School of Philosophy and Art History. Before coming to study at the University of Essex, Valeria was Head of the Museum Section and Curator of Exhibitions at the National Museum of Art in La Paz, Bolivia. *Unravelling Threads* explores issues related to textile production by the indigenous people of the Andean region of South America. For the exhibition, New York-based artist Cecilia Vicuña developed a performance *Fiber of Prayer / Fiber of Gold* that explored the relationship between word and thread, while revisiting the artist's exile in London after the military coup in Chile in 1973 at firstsite. Cecilia was invited to the UK by Birkbeck College, University of London, to participate in the international conference *Textiles, Techne and Power in the Andes*, which relates to the AHRC project *Weaving Communities of Practice: Textiles, Culture and Identity in the Andes: a semiotic and Ontological Approach*.

In 2011, ESCALA received a £3,000 Collections Care Grant from the Effective Museums Programme, (which is part of Renaissance East of England) for the project 'ESCALA questionnaires: digital documentation for the web'. The project will improve and increase the amount of information available to the public about the artists and artworks in ESCALA through artist questionnaires in English, Spanish or Portuguese sent to all of our 350 artists or their representatives. Valeria Paz Moscoso is leading this project.

7. Projects and publications, reports

Bodleian Latin American Centre Library Annual Report, 2010-2011

At the beginning of the year, Library staff wrote a report on approaches to the retrospective cataloguing of books purchased before 1991 and the Library's extensive collection of Grey Literature. As a result of the report, cataloguing of the Grey Literature began during Michaelmas 2010. An innovation, unique to the Library amongst University of Oxford libraries, was the box-level record. This kind of record is appropriate to the Library's boxed collection of Grey Literature and was proposed to CatSIG by Library Assistant, Samantha Truman. CatSIG approved the use of the record, which makes the cataloguing of the numerous pamphlets and other documents contained in each box a relatively straightforward and time-efficient process.

Also in Michaelmas, two-hour loans were introduced for core reading list items after discussions on the accessibility of such material at CoLP. The system has worked well and has been much valued by both academic staff and students.

Following Librarian Frank Egerton's attendance at the Latin American Studies Association International Congress in Toronto last year, he ordered books at book fair discounts for the Library and on behalf of the Taylor Institution Library Latin American Literature Subject Consultant, Joanne Edwards, and the Bodleian. A saving of some £600 was made over and above the 18% discount offered by Blackwell, which went a considerable way to offsetting the cost of the trip to Canada. All books purchased for the Bodleian were from non-copyright depositing US publishers. On his return from the Congress Frank Egerton wrote a report for Staff Development entitled, Latin American Studies Association, XXIX International Congress (available on the Staff Intranet).

The Library has published three LibGuides this year (Bodleian Latin American Centre Guide, Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Region 5, Latin America and Latin American Studies) and has started adding its new acquisitions to its LibraryThing account pages. A Facebook page has also been set up for the Library.

In autumn 2010, students on the three Master's courses run at the Latin American Centre attended a Skills Toolkit session at OUCS, jointly run by the Library, OUCS and the Careers Service. It was a very well attended and popular event.

Two new documents have been written by the Librarians during 2010/11, the Library's Emergency Plan (prepared by Senior Library Assistant, Rebeca Otazua) and the Latin American Studies Collection Policy (written by Frank Egerton, with contributions on the Bodleian's policy on the purchase of Latin American History from Joanne Edwards of the Taylor). The latter document includes a list of all Bodleian Libraries where Latin American material is held with hyperlinks to their websites, in an attempt to give readers a unified sense of the Bodleian Libraries' extensive collections in this increasingly important subject area.

Three new databases have been purchased by the Library, jointly with the Taylor: PRISMA and HAPI and Oxford Bibliographies Online, Latin American Studies. Both PRISMA and HAPI were trialled and feedback sought from both academics and students before purchase.

All three Librarians undertook full Aleph training during the spring and summer and are now preparing for the new academic year. The Library is in good heart.

Frank Egerton, September 2011



Cambridge: The Wrongdoing Project

“A new study of wrongdoing and its cultures in Spain from 1800 to 1936...”

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/read-all-about-it/>

The Wrongdoing project, funded by the AHRC, began in 2011 and will run until the end of September 2014. The Project Leader and Principal Investigator is Professor Alison Sinclair.

This team works on a series of research questions related to the varying profiles of the representation of wrongdoing, and its historical realities. The work is in all respects inter-disciplinary, and draws on work done in literary, cultural and musicological studies on the one hand, and on sociology, history, law, criminology and anthropology. It has a particular interest in popular culture and literature.

A key part of the project, related to its emphasis on popular material, is the cataloguing and digitization of a significant body of popular material held at the University Library, Cambridge, and the British Library (4,470 *suelos*). This material is of *pliegos suelos* (chapbooks) and is an ephemeral genre, frequently sensationalist, and habitually sold in the street. It includes ballads and prose writings on wrongdoing, some of them relating to real acts of crime or moral infraction, others being fictional in nature. This body of material offers a rich source of investigation for the project, and will be read in conjunction with other material (newspaper accounts of crime, judicial proceedings and other historical sources on the one hand, and, on the other, fictional works on wrongdoing to be found in both popular culture and elite culture). Once digitisation has taken place, the collection will be accessible via the University of Cambridge’s central repository www.dspace.cam.ac.uk/

Through the three years of the project there is a regular rhythm of workshops, some held in Cambridge, some elsewhere, and two conferences are to be held, one in Cambridge, one in London, alongside exhibitions in the University Library, Cambridge and the British Library. For more information on events, see http://timescape.mml.cam.ac.uk/wp-multiuser/wrongdoing/?page_id=55



SECTION Three: Events

8. Conferences and seminars

Beth Cooper of the British Library is organizing a conference to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Jorge Amado (*b. 10 August 1912 — d. 6 August 2001*). It is planned to hold this event in June 2012 and it is being organized in conjunction with the Brazilian Embassy. A second event, in conjunction with the Brazilian Embassy and other bodies, is planned for November 2012.

AGHBI: Association of Hispanists of Great Britain & Ireland

The AHGBI holds two committee meetings per annum. Geoff West attends these and has found that they give a good insight into subjects such as the RE, and discussions on the future of modern languages. During the AHGBI Conference, he addressed a preliminary gathering of postgraduate students on resources. Next year, the AHGBI will meet in Stirling, and Geoff West could do a session on resources again there.

Debate in the House of Lords on the provision of modern language degrees

In the House of Lords debate of 13th October 2011, Baroness Cousins defended the need for the provision of modern language degrees.

See <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/lords/?id=2011-10-13a.1870.1#g1889.0> for her statement.

PiLAS

The 2011 PiLAS Annual Conference was held at the University of Cambridge, 27th-29th June 2011. Speakers included Dr Geoffrey Cantaris (University of Cambridge) and Prof. Peter Wade (University of Manchester). The conference was very well attended. 95 postgraduate attendees benefitted from a wide range of research topics with 54 presentations on 19 panels.

The next PiLAS Annual Conference, *Cultures in perspective: from indigenous politics to street dancing*, will be held at the University of Oxford 25-27 June 2012.

Beth Cooper and Christine Anderson conducted a workshop on Latin American resources for PiLAS on 25 November 2011 at the British Library.

REDIAL

Beth Cooper has replaced Aquiles Alencar Brayner as UK representative to REDIAL, and as editor of *Puentes*.

REDIAL's next meeting is to be held in Vienna, and the group is preparing a panel for the ICA, which will take place there on 15-20 July 2012.

SALALM

SALALM 2011 (SALALM LVI) *Preserving Memory: Documenting and Archiving Latin American Human Rights* was held at the University of Philadelphia and Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 25 May-1 June 2011.

No one from the UK was able to attend, mainly for financial reasons.

SALAM LVII *Popular Culture: Arts and Social Change in Latin America*

is to be hosted by the University of the West Indies and will be held 16-19 June 2012. The 2012 ACLAIR AGM will have to be arranged so that it does not clash with SALALM: the end of June 2012 would probably be most suitable.

SLAS

This year's SLAS Annual Conference (its 47th) was held at the Department of Spanish, University of St Andrews 8-10 April 2011. The events included a plenary workshop on the 2009 coup in Honduras and a keynote speech by Prof. Eric Van Young (University of California, San Diego). There were over 30 panels, covering a wide range of topics.

The 48th Annual Conference will be hosted by the Department of Hispanic Studies at the University of Sheffield, from Wednesday 18th to Friday the 20th of April 2012.

SLAS Annual Lecture 2011

The SLAS Annual Lecture for 2011 "*On Finding Hope on a Dark Night: the Latin American Contribution*" was delivered in Glasgow on 18 November 2011 by John Holloway, author of *Change the World Without Taking Power*.

To access the video recording of this lecture go to

<http://vimeo.com/32358696>

Latin American Studies Association, XXIX International Congress, Toronto, 6th-9th October 2010

Introduction

The 29th LASA International Congress was held at the Sheraton Centre, Toronto. It was attended by some four thousand delegates from around the world, including academics, students and library professionals. Over the four days, there were just over eight hundred and fifty events. Alongside the congress runs the Book Fair and the Film Festival. The theme of this year's Congress was 'Crisis, Response, Recovery'¹.

My aim during the conference was threefold:

- To attend library-related events and the Book Fair
- To attend academic events in order to deepen my understanding of the subject area
- To represent the Bodleian Libraries

An unexpected bonus of being in Toronto was that I was invited by Miguel Torrens² on a tour of the Robarts Library³, which houses the university's Humanities and Social Science collections.

Library-related events and Book Fair

The Ins and Outs of Academic Publishing

The two main library-related events organised by the Congress were panel discussions on Exploring the Ins and Outs of Academic Publishing from the perspective of both journal and monograph editors. The point the editors wanted to make was that a huge amount of good material never makes it into print beyond university papers and dissertations because the authors find it hard to understand how to present it to publishers. This is a particular problem now because budgets are being trimmed and publishers have less time to spend nurturing writers. As academic writers don't tend to have agents (who are taking over editorial roles for fiction and popular culture authors), subject librarians have the potential to become, if not editors, providers of information about what different publishers want. Another benefit of the journals panel was learning about two new publications that might suit our collection.

Gale-Cengage presentation

I also attended a really interesting breakfast meeting (7 am start) at the Osgoode Hall Portrait Room in the Law Library of Upper Canada⁴, which I had been alerted to by my colleague at the Taylor, Joanne Edwards. The company is building a one million page electronic resource on the history, social science and culture of Latin America and the Caribbean. The idea of the breakfast forum was to introduce the database, which is already in a pretty advanced state of construction, and get feedback from librarians on content and functionality. I was impressed by the range of materials and the ease with which students at undergraduate and graduate level will be able to navigate them. While there is quite a lot of standard encyclopaedia material in the database there promises to be tens of thousands of digitised original documents too, which for the Latin American Centre would be its principle attraction. The cost of the database was being kept under wraps and I have a sneaking feeling that it will be high to begin with. Nevertheless, I am following the project and intend to road-test some of it when the beta version is made available to those that attended the meeting.

The target audience for the database is broad, not surprisingly from a commercial publisher's point of view, although there were times while Ray Abruzzi from Gale-Cengage was telling us about the 'low-interest' material that had been excluded from the resource (historic documents relating to remote areas of Peru, for example) when I thought, those are things I'd really like to read.

Many thanks, however, to Ray and the other representatives of the company for their hospitality and a stimulating meeting.

The Book Fair

The Book Fair runs alongside the Congress and is very popular with delegates, not least because of the many bargains to be had (often generous discounts apply for up to three months after the Congress). For me, one of the main attractions was looking at the books on the publishers' lists for the coming six to twelve months, as well as meeting representatives from the different publishing houses in the subject area. (I should say, though, that the number of Latin American publishers there was said to be down on previous years due to the economic crisis.)

I also wanted to discuss eBooks and databases and to get a sense of how the former are being taken up by the smaller niche publishers in particular. The answer was mixed. Some produce eBook versions of every title they publish, whereas a few have no plans to make eBook editions available at all. Most publishers seem to think that eBooks will be increasingly important, although as in the wider publishing industry no one is quite sure what this will mean in practice.

The biggest benefit of the Book Fair for me was to establish personal contacts at the firms that I think are useful to us. In addition I brought back information that I hoped would be of interest to colleagues at the Bodleian Libraries. I also came across a fascinating little booklet published by the Edwin Mellen Press entitled *How to Publish a Scholarly Book*, which tells would-be academic authors about publishers' dos and don'ts (useful, I thought, in the light of the two presentations mentioned earlier).

At all the above events, I met librarians from a number of different countries. I hope to learn from these contacts in the future and to share information with them about what we do in Oxford.

At both the library-related events and the Book Fair, I was also interested in finding out about trending topics and areas that publishers are interested in bringing on. One area that publishers want more material on is the trans-national analysis of how countries in the region have developed politically and economically at local levels. The interest is not in the macro, or foreign policy, perspectives but in looking at how alliances have developed across borders at the level of say the smaller political parties, special interest groups or provincial governors. The idea is that while the big political and economic things have been happening, countries have also been developing together at much more grassroots levels—and that these important levels have been neglected in books and articles on development and growth thus far.

Postscript: films

In between events, I also watched a few short films which were being shown as part of the Film Festival. Of particular interest to me were ones on Cuba, which were fascinating not least for the glimpses of the urban and rural environments. The most poignant, and the best in terms of production, was *¿A dónde vamos?* (*Where Are We Going?*), which was about farmers migrating from the countryside to the city. For someone living in the UK in a rural community (Bampton), used to seeing gigantic machines driving through the village, it was salutary to see farmers whose only tools

were a machete and a whetstone. The farmers were being forced to migrate because they were being failed by the centralised agricultural marketing board. Arrangements were made, for example, to collect bananas during a certain week. But when the lorries were late the harvested crop rotted and the farmers were given no compensation. Like farmers everywhere the people in the film loved the land and were sad to be forced out.

Academic Events

I went to a number of seminars and panel discussions on a variety of subjects, including the following.

Sub-national authoritarianism

This event looked at the topic from the point of view of Brazil (drawing on research done by the Director of Oxford's Latin American Centre, Professor Tim Power), Mexico (focusing on the state of Oaxaca—of interest to me because one of my library's special collections contains material relating to this state) and by comparison with similar issues in Russia and India. Briefly this topic involves looking at how state-level officials and parties are able to dominate their region's voting in an undemocratic way and determining whether this is a phenomenon that is encouraged by the ruling national parties or something more spontaneous.

National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons

This talk considered notions of truth before, during and after the commission that was set up by President Raúl Alfonsín in Argentina in 1983 to investigate the disappearance of thousands of political activists and intellectuals during the military dictatorship that ruled between 1976 and 1983. The speakers felt that the nature of truth changed during the different periods. At the time the disappearances were taking place people turned a blind eye, encouraged by the dictatorship. The rulers simply refused to acknowledge any empirical evidence that people were disappearing or were being found murdered and this seems to have been accepted by people generally. During the time of the commission, however, (Comisión Nacional sobre la Desaparición de Personas), a new truth emerged: people began to see themselves as the victims of the dictatorship even when they had knowingly turned a blind eye to what was happening. As one speaker suggested, it was as if the whole population saw itself as the victims of the regime and a dozen members of that regime as the guilty people. In recent years a more complex and in some senses less edifying truth has emerged. A fascinating contribution to the debate was made by an art historian who has researched cartoons from 1970s newspapers that show authentic instruments of torture and buildings that are known to have been used as temporary places of execution. The implication being that such things were widely known about despite the subsequent amnesia.

Representing the Bodleian Libraries

I hope that at some level my being at the event as a representative of the Bodleian Libraries did some good. I would hope that the presence of someone from the Oxford library service at such a prestigious event does have a positive and beneficial effect. People I met were interested to learn about the Oxford collections and about the Latin American Centre.

I was also struck by how many people asked after Robert McNeil, who was the Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American subject librarian at the Bodleian from the 1970s to 2005 and who was forced to retire early because of ill-health. People spoke of Robert McNeil with great admiration and affection. Sadly, Robert McNeil died earlier this month, November 2010.

University of Toronto Robarts Library

Part way through the Congress, I met up with Miguel Torrens at the Robarts Library, where he works as the Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American subject librarian. The library houses the University of Toronto's Humanities and Social Science collections and is the largest university library in Canada (the university's library system itself is said to be the third largest in North America after Harvard and Yale). There are some four-and-a-half million volumes housed in the library, which was built in the early 1970s and runs to sixteen floors, including two basement levels. Although the brutalist building is showing some signs of aging, it is an impressive space and is currently being extended and renovated (five hundred new study spaces and twenty group study areas are being created). I was very impressed by how effectively the reading rooms were insulated from the noise and dust from the building works happening on the other side of their walls.

As in Oxford space is a problem despite the building's size. A few years ago it was decided to create an offsite storage facility, which currently holds eight hundred thousand books and can be extended as more volumes need to be moved there.

On the ground floor are rows and rows of computer workstations. I have to say that I did feel envious of the sheer magnitude of the library's IT resources, here and elsewhere. These include a special computing department where academic staff can use powerful machines, equipped with a wide range of software to create presentations, podcasts, videos and so on. The closest such library in Oxford is probably the SSL, although the proposals for the ROQ Humanities Library incorporate many similar features. The aforementioned, for example, plus: twenty-four hour access to some study areas; cafeterias; lockable study space for research students; informal study areas. The library is also open to the public to a limited but significant extent—a requirement of state funding.

One of the most heartening things that Miguel told me was that when the big investment in IT and e-resources started, everyone thought that this signalled the end of the library itself. Instead books are used more than ever and the building is now the social hub of the Humanities and Social Science departments. People like to

work and socialise there. It is a convenient common space outside the college system (similar in some respects to Oxford's).

Intriguingly, Umberto Eco is said to have worked on *The Name of the Rose* at the University of Toronto and to have used the Robarts staircase as the model for the one in his hidden library. I notice, though, that a reference to this in the novel's Wikipedia entry says 'citation needed'...

Conclusion

For me, going to Toronto for the LASA Congress was a tremendous opportunity to meet academics, fellow librarians and publishers in the subject area and to deepen my understanding of Latin American politics, economics and culture. It was also a privilege to represent the Bodleian Libraries at this event. I am grateful to Professor Tim Power, Director of the Latin American Centre, and to Margaret Robb for suggesting at CoLP last year that I apply to Staff Development for funding for the trip. I was thrilled to get Staff Development's backing.

The trip brought the subject area to life for me in ways I could not have anticipated.

Latin America is a very exciting region and the next decade promises much that will make it an increasingly significant player on the world stage, affecting all our lives.

As Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum said earlier this year,

'Latin America has moved from what was a lost decade into the first 10 years of this century, the decade of promise. The fundamentals have been laid down to lead to the next decade of fast-growing social and economic development.'

Notes

¹ The Latin American Studies Association summarised the background theme of the Congress as follows:

The U.S. financial crisis of 2008 quickly became a global economic crisis. It destroyed jobs, increased poverty and disease, exacerbated social tensions, raised scepticism about the efficacy of democratic governance, led to policy experimentation, complicated efforts to deal with global problems multilaterally, and fuelled civil and international conflict. The impact of the crisis in Latin America has varied from country to country, community to community, even neighbourhood to neighbourhood. In Latin America, the crisis was both reminiscent of previous crises but also different, in terms of transmission mechanisms, impact, and responses. Understanding the effects of the crisis, and the varied responses to it, calls for insights from multiple disciplines. Recovery, when it comes, will be shaped by the way citizens, governments, and international organizations understand the causes and consequences of the crisis itself.

² As many colleagues will remember, Miguel spent a year in Oxford managing both the Spanish and Portuguese and Latin American Collections in 2007-2008.

3



University of Toronto Robarts Library (background)

4



Law Library of Upper Canada, 7 am

Frank Egerton, 13 November 2010

9. Exhibitions and events

The **BL** reports that an exhibition for 2013 on Propaganda is just getting underway, and this is to contain Spanish and Latin American material, as well as material on the Falklands.

Bodleian

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/about/exhibitions/online>

http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/about/exhibitions/forthcoming_events

Cambridge University Library

<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions/>

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/whatson/>

Essex

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/events/>

Instituto Cervantes

http://londres.cervantes.es/en/culture_spanish/upcoming_activities_culture_spanish.shtm

ISA

<http://americas.sas.ac.uk/events/forthcoming-events/>

<http://americas.sas.ac.uk/events/videos-podcasts-and-papers/>

Oxford: Latin America Centre

<http://www.lac.ox.ac.uk/events>



25th Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (Jalisco, Mexico)

The 25th edition of the Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (FIL) was held in Guadalajara (Jalisco) from the 26th of November to the 5th of December 2011, with Germany as guest of honour. With over 250,000 titles on display, 1,935 publishers and 43 countries represented, the FIL is currently the largest and most important book fair for Spanish-language books in the world.

Cambridge University Library's Hispanic Specialist, Sonia Morcillo, attending the book fair for the first time, returned to Cambridge with over 250 books for the Library. Recent and retrospective publications from Bolivia, Costa Rica, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador were purchased. The books cover a range of subjects and periods aiming to document Latin America's present and past.

Some representative acquisitions include *Memorias de la lucha sandinista*, by Monica Baltodano, a three-volume work with over 200 interviews to 150 guerrilla and collaborators of the FSLN conducted by Baltodano between April 2009 and mid 2002. Also, *Historia de las relaciones internacionales de México, 1821-2010*, a rigorous seven-volume work on the history of external relations of Mexico spanning seven regions in five continents; and *Historia de la Iglesia en Guatemala: 1500-2000* by R. Bendaña Perdomo, one of the most comprehensive studies on the subject published to date.

The FIL offers a vital platform for librarians and other book professionals interested in the Spanish-language publishing industry. Not surprisingly, Mexican imprints feature prominently with a vast number of publishers on show. Historic and contemporary visual arts from Mexico are well represented, with such prominent publishers such as BANAMEX, UNAM and CONACULTA, to name but a few.

A good selection of Mexican art books was purchased for the Library to meet the growing development of scholarship and research in Latin American visual arts and culture at Cambridge University. The selection aims to reflect the diversity of Mexican art in architecture, drawing, folk art, graphic design, painting, photography and sculpture. Classic and modern artists such as Miguel Covarrubias, Lola Cueto, Ernesto García Cabral, Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera are represented, as well as lesser-known names. Although the selection has a strong Mexican focus, some important publications on visual arts from Latin America are also featured. A selection of books on Latin American cinema was also acquired.

The list includes museum and exhibition catalogues showcasing the collections of the Museo de Arte Moderno de Mexico, the Banco Nacional de Mexico, the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes de Mexico and the Museo Estudio Diego Rivera y Frida Kahlo, amongst others. Some representative acquisitions include *La vida en un volado: Ernesto "el Chango" García Cabral (2005)*, *Paul Strand en México (2010)*, *Murales de la Suprema Corte de Justicia (2010)*, *Frida de Frida (2007)*, *Arquitectos iberoamericanos siglo XXI (2006)*, *Soy Cuba: el cartel de cine en Cuba después de la revolución (2011)* and *Historia del diseño gráfico en México: 1910-2010 (2010)*

Sonia Morcillo-Garcia, April 2012

10. LIBER 2011

Five UK librarians attended LIBER in Barcelona in October 2010 and found the panels and exhibitions very interesting.

Five ACLAIR members were invited to LIBER 2011 which took place in Madrid 5-7 October:

A group of ACLAIR members were once again invited by ICEX (Instituto Español de Comercio Exterior) and the FGEE (Federación de Gremios de Editores de España) to attend the annual Feria del Libro, held in Madrid 5-7 October 2011. ACLAIR was represented by Geoff West (British Library), Christine Anderson (Senate House Library, University of London), Sonia Morcillo-García (Cambridge University Library), Emer Stubbs (Bristol University Library), and myself as the representative from Oxford University.

We arrived in Madrid on Tuesday 5th in time for the official opening of the Feria. After the inaugural speeches, we had a chance to look around the exhibition, including the creative display from guest country Romania.



On Wednesday the Feria started in earnest with a full programme of events, including lectures, seminars and discussion panels. This year there was a dedicated space – *Corner Digital* - for events relating to e-books and digital initiatives. Felipe Varela of *E-Libro*, an e-book platform concentrating on Spanish and Portuguese

language titles, gave a very informative presentation on their e-book service. The platform has a range of tools which allows users to mark up texts and make notes alongside specific section or chapters. Tools such as this could be particularly useful to academic e-book users. Antonella Fabbrini of Casalini also gave a presentation of their new e-book platform, *Torrossa.it*. The number and variety of seminars and discussions of digital media show that the publishing industry in Spain is certainly embracing new technology, and working to engage with libraries and librarians as a way of attracting new users.

However, one of the most enjoyable aspects of the book fair was the opportunity to actually browse and pick up the books at the various stands. As so much book selection is now done virtually, it highlighted the differences between the impression you might get of a book from a publisher's catalogue, and the one you get from physically flicking through the pages and being able to read a few paragraphs.



ACLAIR members were very fortunate to be invited to the Biblioteca T. Navarro Tomás, one of the libraries of CSIC (the Spanish National Research Council). The library was formed in 2008, when 8 specialist humanities and social sciences research libraries were merged. Thanks to Carolina Santamarina, who spent a month with the British Library during the summer of 2011, we were able to have a full tour of this fantastic building. The collection consists of over 1 million print and digital items, with over 300,000 books available on open shelves. Readers also have free to part of the archived collections. Thanks also go to Carmen M^a Pérez-Montes Salmerón and Pilar Martínez Olmo for conducting the tour and giving us a marvellous insight into the work involved in consolidating the collections of 8 major research libraries (all with separate classification schemes!) into one building. Lastly, we all enjoyed seeing the mode of transport used by staff when having to travel long distances around the building; only Sonia from ACLAIR was brave enough to try one out!



As always, the Feria was an excellent opportunity to meet with Spanish publishers, suppliers and distributors, particularly those smaller and regional presses that can be difficult to discover. It was also a chance to meet new colleagues as well as see some familiar faces from Europe and the US. A great time was had by all!



LIBER 2012 will take place in Barcelona in October 2012.

SECTION Four: Associations and Groups

11. JISLAC

JISLAC - Joint Initiative for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean

Conference Grants

JISLAC made eight grants of £2,000 were awarded for 2011/12 to fund seminars on Latin America and/or the Caribbean, the following five:

- Peter Clegg - 50 years of Independence: Jamaica's development and impact as a sovereign state
- Maria Cristina Fumagalli - An Island Divided and an Island Shared: Haiti and the Dominican Republic
- Sarah Barrow - Reframing the National in Hispanic Film
- Thomas Grisaffi and Alice Guimarães - 'The Return of the Indian': Class and Ethnicity in the Andes
- Catherine Davies - Women in Latin American Independence: History, Society, Culture plus three which were awarded by the Society of Caribbean Studies

Research Projects

JISLAC the following research grant awards for 2011/12:

- Peter Hulme, University of Essex - The Life and Work of W. Adolphe Roberts
- Francisco Eissa-Barroso, University of Warwick - Military officers and provincial governance in early eighteenth-century Spanish America
- Amanda Sives, University of Liverpool - The Politics of CICIG: Crime and State Sovereignty in Guatemala
- Katy Jenkins, Northumbria University - Unearthing Women's Mining Activism in Peru

Conference

A JISLAC Conference *Contours of Development: new research on migration, politics and policy between the Americas and Europe* was held on 25 February 2011 in London in Senate House.

Papers explored migration issues both from Europe to the Americas and from the Americas to Europe, the dynamics and impacts of migration and settlement, and trade relations between the two continents.

Directory

The Libraries, Museums and Archives Directory: Resources for Latin American and Caribbean Research in the UK is now available at:

http://handbook.americas.sas.ac.uk/search_library.php

The British Academy has granted another round of JISLAC funding, and some of the money is to be spent on finishing work on the *Directory*. An event is planned to launch the resource once it has been completed.

12. UK Languages Studies Library Groups

The French Studies Library Group – FSLG

<http://fslg.libr.port.ac.uk/>

The FSLG held a committee meeting at the BL on 15 June 2011.

The group's AGM and Study Day for 2011 were held on 5 September at the British Library. The AGM took place in the morning, and the afternoon featured a series of presentations ranging from issues on issues facing Modern Foreign Languages Departments in the UK, to the Culturethèque (free online multimedia library). Speakers included Professor Philip Ford (Department of French, University of Cambridge), and Ophélie Ramonatxo and Léonore Schick (Institut français). Philip Ford's presentation, 'Current Issues Facing Modern Languages Departments in the UK' can be viewed via the link provided on the FSLG webpage.

There was a tour of the BL's major exhibition *Out of this World: Science Fiction but not as you know it* led by the co-curator, Katya Rogatchevskaia.

Issue 7 of the FLSG Annual Report (2010-2011) is available to view/download from <http://fslg.libr.port.ac.uk/AnnualReview-Issue7.pdf>

The German Studies Library Group – GSLG

<http://www.gslg.org.uk/>

The GSLG held its 2011 meeting in Halle, at the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek. Various library visits took place, including a visit to the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Leipzig, and the trip included presentations on current issues such as digitization activities and web-scale discovery services.

The Italian Studies Library Group – ISLG

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelplang/italian/italstulibrgr/italistulibr.html>

The Italian Studies Library Group (ISLG) held its AGM and Annual Lecture at the British Library on 21 June 2011.

The Annual Lecture was to have been delivered by Prof. Christopher Duggan (University of Reading), but his lecture *The Risorgimento and Italian Unification: limitations and perspectives* had to be postponed because of illness. Dr Maurizio

Isabella (Queen Mary, University of London), stepped into the breach and delivered a lecture entitled *Italian exiles in Britain during the 1820s*.

Christopher Duggan's postponed lecture was been rescheduled for Monday 21 November 2011 at the British Library.

The date, venue and time of the 2012 ISLG AGM will be Monday 18 June 2012 at 2pm at the British Library.

13. WESLINE

WESLINE – The West European Studies Library and Information Network

<http://www.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/wesline/>

WESLINE is an umbrella group created to enable collaboration between the individual Library Groups for West European Languages and to facilitate the dissemination of information and discussion of issues in West European studies in the UK. The members of WESLINE are:

- ACLAIR (Advisory Council of Latin American and Iberian Information Resources)
- French Studies Library Group
- German Studies Library Group
- Italian Studies Library Group

Other language groups which may be of relevance or interest to WESLINE members include:

- COSEELIS: Council for Slavonic and East European Library and Information Services
- NACIRA: National Committee for Information Resources on Asia
- WESSWEB: Western European Studies Section: American Association of College and Research Libraries



SECTION Five: Creative and new media

14. Acquisitions

B.L.: The BL is proceeding with cuts on low-use periodicals titles, and there is a three-month moratorium on the purchase of pre-1850 books.

More money has been released for antiquarian acquisitions during the last quarter of 2011.

Hispanic has acquired the Real Academia de la Historia's *Diccionario biográfico español*;

Beth Cooper reports that “*we have just finished a small conservation project with a collection of cordel material. They have all been bound in small pamphlet bindings in order to preserve them. I also mentioned at the previous ACLAIR meeting that we acquired a late 18th century manuscript from Mexico detailing the boundaries of the quarters of Mexico city - authored by Jose Ignacio Cano y Motesuma one of the more well known scribes in the Americas for Spain.*”

Cambridge: Cambridge has recently purchased a multi-volume set on Portuguese art published in 2008-2009:

DIAS, Pedro. *Arte do Portugal no mundo*. Lisboa: Editor Público, 2008-2009. 15 vols. 9789896191399 (v. 1)

Essex: Essex has recently purchased the following 8 volume set (there would be 2 supplementary volumes):

Diccionario del cine iberoamericano : España, Portugal y América / editor y coordinador, Emilio Casares Rodicio

Instituto Cervantes: The Instituto Cervantes has purchased material for its new GCSE and 'A' – level collection.

Madrid: SGAE, Sociedad General de Autores y Editores : Fundación Autor, 2011.

Oxford: Joanne Edwards is in the process of acquiring some eighteenth-century Portuguese newspapers from Robert Heron.

Gale World Scholar – Latin America & the Caribbean has been added to the *desiderata* list.

Senate House: SHL has offered some of its periodical titles to the UKRR.

15. Online, electronic mailing lists

LATAM-INFO report

Latam-info currently (June 2011) has 376 subscribers, of which 222 subscribe from UK addresses, 109 from the United States, 9 from Latin America, 5 from Canada, 18 from Europe, 3 from Israel, 3 from Australia, and 1 from New Zealand. The list continues to function largely as a notice-board and cuttings service - the number of messages posted by list members other than the two list owners remains vanishingly small.

Rory Miller
Pat Noble
(List owners)
June 2011

IBERIA Mailing List report, July 2010-June 2011

Robert Howes, joint list-owner, submitted the following report for circulation at the 2011 AGM.

Robert informed us that he was to retire from the LSE, and wished to step down as list-owner. ACLAIR would like to thank him for all the work he has done while in post. Joanne Edwards volunteered to take his place.

The list has benefitted from posts by the Instituto Cervantes and Adán Griego, and posts from others would be greatly appreciated. As of 16 June 2011, the IBERIA mailing list had 183 members. The breakdown of the members' email addresses is as follows:

.ac.uk	79
.co.uk	9
.org.uk	2
.bl.uk	2
.edu	20
.com	38
.net	2
.org	2
.es	7
.au	6
.ie	5
.it	2
.pt	2
.ar	1
.be	1

.br. 1
.cl 1
.hu 1
.nl 1
.se 1

This means that 43% of the membership have UK academic addresses and 50% have UK addresses. Added to this, a number of the addresses ending in .com belong to people based in the UK with higher education links, so it is fair to say that a majority of the list members are linked in some way to the higher education sector in the UK. The list also has a wide international membership, with members in Europe, Australia and North and South America.

During the year from 1 July 2010 to 16 June 2011, a total of 300 messages were circulated, ranging from a low of 8 in August to a peak of 39 in February. The monthly average was something over 25 (given that only half of June 2011 is included). Many of these messages were the *Resumen de prensa* issued by the Instituto Cervantes and we are grateful to Mayte Azorín for circulating these messages. However, there were also a good number of other messages and I am glad that people are taking advantage of the list to make information available. I hope this trend will continue next year.

Robert Howes

Joint List Owner, 17 June 2011.

Robert informed the meeting that he was to retire from the LSE, and wished to step down as list-owner. The meeting expressed its thanks for all the work he had done while in post. Joanne Edwards volunteered to take his place.

The list had benefitted from posts by the Instituto Cervantes and Adán Griego. All ACLAIR colleagues are encouraged to post to the list.

The WESLINE Mailing list

The new WESLINE mailing list is up and running with over 60 subscribers. Please use the list to relay messages about items of mutual interest to people who work in (or have an interest in) the field of resources for West European languages or area studies. To join the list go to <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/WESLINE>

There was no WESLINE 2011 event as the GSLG held its 2011 meeting in Halle, and therefore could not participate.

David Lowe had planned to call a meeting on the future of WESLINE, but has not yet done so.

FSLG mailing list: FSLG@JISCMail.AC.UK

The FSLG has a JISCMail mailing list where archives of past messages may be viewed: <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/FSLG.html>

To join the mailing list click on the link above and follow "**Join or leave the JISCMail list**"

GSLG mailing list: GSLG@JISCMail.AC.UK

GSLG members are automatically added to the GSLG mailing list, but if you are not a member and wish to keep yourself informed about the group's activities, you can view or search the archives without joining.

To join the GSLG: <http://www.gslg.org.uk/membership.html>

To join the GSLG mailing list:

<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?SUBED1=GSLG&A=1>

To view/search the mailing list without joining:

<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=gslg>

The ISLG has a mailing list: ISLG@JISCMail.AC.UK

Which acts as the "*Forum for members of the Italian Studies Library Group, whose aim is to promote co-operation, discussion and exchange of information between libraries and users of Italian materials.*"

CERVANTES TV

<http://cervantestv.es/>

"Cervantes TV es la televisión por Internet del Instituto Cervantes

Difunde la actividad cultural y académica en español que se celebra en el mundo"



SECTION Six: In Memoriam

16. Obituaries 2011

Marcial Pons Abejer

Spanish publisher and bookseller who developed a specialized and independent bookstore, and helped establish the first School of Booksellers.

- b. Calatayud, Spain, 1915
- d. Madrid, Spain, 1 March 2011

Patricia Acioli

Brazilian judge shot dead in an ambush; known for taking a hard line against organized crime, as well as corrupt police officers.

- b. Brazil, 1964
- d. Niteroi, Brazil, 12 August 2011

Jose Alencar

Brazilian politician and businessman who served as vice-president from 2003-2010; Senator from Minas Gerais from 1998-2002; Minister of Defence from 2004-2006; worked closely and sometimes disagreeably with President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Brazil's first working-class leader, whose policies he did not always support.

- b. Muriaé, Minas Gerais, Brazil, 17 October 1931
- d. São Paulo, Brazil, 29 March 2011

Carlos Arguedas

Costa Rican trade union leader, principal figure in the campaign for fruit workers' rights in his country; health, safety and environment secretary of SITRAP, the trade union for plantation workers in Costa Rica, who exposed and denounced the appalling negligence of municipal companies and the adverse effects for both plantation workers and the environment.

- b. Delicias de Turubares, Costa Rica, 27 July 1948
- d. Siquirres, Costa Rica, 31 December 2010

Joe Arroyo

Colombian salsa and tropical music artist, a major figure in Caribbean music in his country since the 1970s, who sang of love, spirituality and liberation; *Rebelión*, a song about an African slave couple who rebel against their Spanish master, was one of his best-known hits.

- b. Cartajena, Colombia, 1 November 1955
- d. Barranquilla, Colombia, 26 July 2011

Juan Maria Bordaberry

Former Uruguayan president and dictator, sentenced to 30 years in prison for atrocities committed while he was in power, nearly 40 years before.

Elected to the senate in 1962; Minister of Agriculture in the government of President Jorge Pacheco from 1969-71; elected president in 1971; conceded to pressure from military leaders and became the figurehead of their coup in 1973, ruling with assistance from a new National Security Council, the Cosena; ousted by the military in 1976; arrested in 2006 and charged with murder in 2010.

- b. Montevideo, Uruguay, 17 June 1928
- d. Montevideo, Uruguay, 17 July 2011

Facundo Cabral

Argentine folk singer and songwriter shot dead in Guatemala City; enormously popular throughout Latin America; lived in exile in Mexico during Argentina's military dictatorship from 1976-83; named a United Nations Messenger of Peace in 1996.

- b. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 22 May 1937
- d. Guatemala City, Guatemala, July 9, 2011

Alfonso Cano

Colombia's Marxist FARC rebel leader killed in a military raid; former academic from Bogota; became FARC leader in 2008; recent main target of the Colombian army.

- b. Bogota, Colombia, 22 July 1948
- d. Suarez, Cauca, Colombia, 4 November 2011

Leonora Carrington OBE

English surrealist painter and novelist, regarded as a national treasure in Mexico, where she spent the majority of her life; initially eloped to Paris with the painter Max Ernst; she eventually relocated to Mexico City in the 1940s and found a home amongst its artistic émigré community; her work has since been the subject of exhibitions for over 50 years.

- b. Clayton-le-Woods, Lancashire, England, 6 April 1917
- d. Mexico City, Mexico, 25 May 2011

Fr. Edward Cleary

American priest and distinguished authority on Latin America, and especially the Catholic Church in Latin America, contributed to films on Latin America and wrote many articles, chapters, and book reviews for academic and theological publications.

Ordained in the Dominican Order of the Central Province of St. Albert the Great (Chicago) in 1957; Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1975; taught at Providence College from 1993-2011.

b. Chicago, Illinois, United States, 4 August 1929

d. Providence, Rhode Island, United States, 21 November 2011

Adrian Cowell

Chinese-born British documentary film-maker; alerted the world to the plight of the Amazon rainforest and its 'hidden' tribes.

A trustee of the World Wildlife Fund, for 50 years he made documentaries dealing with various controversial global issues, such as the heroin trade in Burma and rebellion in Tibet; his *Decade of Destruction* series in the 1980s helped to make the deforestation of the Amazon a political concern.

b. Tongshan, China, 2 February 1934

d. London, England, 11 October 2011

José Cláudio Ribeiro da Silva

Brazilian conservationist and environmentalist shot dead; fought against illegal logging and clearcutting of trees in the Amazon rainforest; had received death threats but was refused police protection; predicted his possible assassination at a TED Conference in 2010 but continued to denounce the loggers.

d. Nova Ipixuna, Pará, Brazil, 24 May 2011

Carlos Iván Degregori

Peruvian anthropologist and researcher, who was chief editor of the former Commission on Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which sought to examine the political abuses during the 1980s and 1990s; professor at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos; member of the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, Institute of Peruvian Studies (IEP).

b. Lima, Peru, 1945

d. Lima, Peru, 18 May 2011

Alberto Granado

Argentine-Cuban scientist and writer, and travelling companion of Che Guevara during their trip around Latin America in 1951-52.

Studied biochemistry in Cordoba but abandoned his work for a journey through Latin America with fellow Marxist and medical student Guevara in late 1951; Granado and Guevara parted ways in Venezuela in 1952, Guevara heading off to Miami, while Granado remained and later continued his career in biochemistry at the University of

Caracas; later moved to Cuba after an invitation from Guevara and co-founded the medical school Santiago de Cuba in Havana; helped organize an unsuccessful communist guerrilla campaign in Argentina in 1963-64; after the death of Guevara in 1967, he became the director of the genetics department of the National Health Centre for Stockbreeding and Farming in Cuba; he was often a source of anecdotes about Guevara for the rest of his life.

b. Cordoba, Argentina, 8 August 1922

d. Havana, Cuba, 5 March 2011

Dr. Richard E. Greenleaf

American scholar and Tulane University professor; important benefactor to the Latin American Studies program as well as the Latin American Library at Tulane.

Taught at the University of Albuquerque in 1953 and the University of the Americas in 1954; became Director of the Centre for Latin American Studies at Tulane in 1970, chair of the History Department in 1978 and France Vinton Scholes Chair in Colonial Latin American History in 1982; following retirement from Tulane became Adjunct Research Professor at the University of New Mexico.

b. Hot Springs, Arkansas, United States, May 6 1930

d. Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States, November 8 2011

Nisio Gomes

Indigenous Guarani leader shot dead in southern Brazil, part of the Guarani Kaiowa group attempting to reclaim their ancestral land from ranchers that evicted them.

d. Amambai, Brazil, 19 November 2011

Fr. Jorge Hourton

Chilean priest who fought for human rights, dedicated to social justice and the fight against inequality and poverty.

Ordained in 1949; Auxiliary Bishop of Puerto Montt from 1969-74; Auxiliary Bishop of Santiago from 1974-2001; retired as Auxiliary Bishop of Temuco in 2001.

b. Saubusse, France, 27 May 1926

d. Temuco, Chile, 5 December 2011

Professor Bella Jozef

Brazilian academic and literary critic specialising in Spanish American literature; spent 65 years teaching and supervising Ph.D. dissertations in the Federal University of Rio, also publishing a prolific number of journal articles.

b. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 29 January 1926

d. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 11 November 2010

Francisco Solano Lopez

Argentinean comic strip artist famous for the science-fiction epic *El Eternauta* (*The Eternal Voyager*), *Kelly's Eye* and others; his *El Eternauta Part II* was critical of Jorge Videla, who seized power in a military coup in 1976, resulting in him having to flee to Spain to avoid prosecution.

b. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26 October 1928

d. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 12 August 2011

Dr. Philip Melling

English scholar of American literature; discovered an archive of life in Cuba from the 1930s onwards while pursuing a project on Ernest Hemingway's links to Cuba.

Ph.D. at Manchester University; moved to Swansea University in 1979 and founded the American studies department; founded, with his wife, 'Study Guatemala' in 2001, a charity providing free education to children in Guatemala City.

b. Wigan, Greater Manchester, England, 14 July 1947

d. Swansea, Wales, 11 November 2011

Francisco Blake Mora

Mexican interior secretary killed in helicopter crash in Mexico City with seven others while travelling to meeting in state of Morelos; key figure in the battle against the drug cartels and corruption in the country.

b. Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, 22 May 1966

d. Mexico City, Mexico, 11 November 2011

Alan Moss

Acquisitions Librarian at the Main Library of the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies from 1966-2000, who was also very active in SALALM.

d. United Kingdom, December 2011

Professor Guillermo O'Donnell

Argentine political scientist and Helen Kellogg Professor of Government and International Studies at the University of Notre Dame in the United States.

Ph.D. in political science from Yale University in 1981; first academic director of the Kellogg Institute from 1982-1997; president of the International Political Science Association from 1988-1991; Simón Bolívar Professor at the University of Cambridge from 2002-2003.

b. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 24 February 1936

d. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29 November 2011

Laura Pollan

Cuban activist and former schoolteacher, leader of *Damas de Blanco*, the Ladies in White, who fought for the liberty of men imprisoned after a government crackdown on journalists and others involved in dissident movements against the increasingly repressive regime of Fidel Castro; her movement was universally praised by human rights groups and led to the eventual release of all prisoners by 2010, after intervention from the Catholic Church; the Ladies in White received the Human Rights Defenders award by the US government in April 2011.

- b. Manzanillo, Cuba, 13 February 1948
- d. Havana, Cuba, 14 October 2011

George Price

First Prime Minister of Belize, referred to as “the Father of the Nation”, being one of the chief architects of his country’s independence.

Won a seat on Belize City council in 1947; a founder of the People's United Party (PUP) in 1950; left as leader of the General Workers' Union in 1956 after principal leaders were jailed for sedition; mayor of Belize City from 1958-62; first minister in 1961 and later premier in 1964 under a new system of internal self-rule; became first Prime Minister in 1981, still active in politics as late as 1998.

- b. Belize City, Belize, January 15 1919
- d. Belize City, Belize, September 19 2011

Gonzalo Rojas

Chilean avant-garde poet, forced into exile by General Pinochet, whose work has been translated into countless languages.

Became a professor at the University of Concepción in 1952, later Head of the Department of Spanish and Director of Summer Courses; after Pinochet’s coup of 1973 he was denied the right to teach and therefore began to work abroad, in Europe, Mexico and the United States; awarded the Chilean National Prize for Literature and the Queen Sofia Prize of Iberian American Poetry in 1992; awarded the Cervantes Prize for 2003 in 2004.

- b. Lebu, Chile, 20 December 1917
- d. Chillán, Chile, 25 April 2011

Raul Ruiz

Chilean award-winning film-maker who became extremely popular with the French avant-garde; became well-known as a maker of experimental and eccentric films; fled to Paris after the military coup of General Pinochet; considered an outsider amongst his contemporaries due to the often surrealist nature of his work.

- b. Puerto Montt, Chile, 25 July 1941
- d. Paris, France, 19 August 2011

Rev. Samuel Ruiz

Mexican bishop and advocate of the Maya people who saw Catholicism as an instrument for fighting poverty and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize on many occasions

Served as Bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas in Chiapas from 1960-2000; he sought to integrate indigenous traditions into religious practice, an initiative that may have generated more local sympathy for the radical Zapatista guerrilla movement; Ruiz's actions in negotiating talks between the Zapatista and the government earned him his Nobel nomination, though his sympathies for the indigenous cause led to the government forcing him out of this role in 1998.

- b. Irapuato, Mexico, 3 November 1924
- d. Mexico City, Mexico, 24 January 2011

Ernesto Sabato

Argentine novelist and scientist who later headed his country's human rights commission.

Obtained his Ph.D. in physics from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in 1938; he abandoned his scientific career to become a full-time writer and painter in 1943 after suffering an "existential crisis"; his novels *El Túnel* (1947), *Sobre Héroes y Tumbas* (1961) and *Abaddón el Exterminador* (1974) earned him a good reputation abroad, especially in France, where his existentialist work was greeted enthusiastically; in the 1980s he presided over a commission to investigate the disappearances and probable killings of Argentineans during the country's military dictatorship.

- b. Rojas, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, 24 June 1911
- d. Santos Lugares, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, 30 April 2011

Sarkis Soghanalian

Armenian arms supplier to the Colombian FARC and the Argentine junta; the world's largest private arms dealer for more than two decades; involved in Lebanon, Nicaragua, Angola and the Iran-Iraq war; associated with the CIA, FBI and other US government agencies as an informant.

- b. Iskenderun, Turkey, 6 February 1929
- d. Miami, Florida, United States, 5 October 2011

Gabriel Valdes

Chilean politician and diplomat, staunchly critical of the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet, who endeavoured to protect the Chilean Christian Democratic party (PDC) from the influence of Pinochet after his coup of 1973; one of Pinochet's assassination targets.

Studied at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris; helped form the PDC, which emerged in 1957; an under-secretary general of the UN from 1971; left the PDC following Pinochet's coup but returned to lead it from 1982-87; president of the senate from 1990-96; ambassador to Italy from 2006-08.

b. Santiago, Chile, 3 July 1919

d. Santiago, Chile, September 7 2011

