

Hans Peter Kraus Collection of Spanish American Documents

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Washington, D.C.**

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms004019>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78031013>

Prepared by Michael McElderry

Collection Summary

Title: Hans Peter Kraus Collection of Spanish American Documents

Span Dates: 1433-1966

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1500-1800)

ID No.: MSS31013

Collector: Kraus, Hans Peter, 1907-1988

Extent: 300 items ; 11 containers ; 4 linear feet ; 4 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English, Spanish, French, and Italian

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Bookman, collector, and bibliophile. Letters, decrees, order books, reports, instructions, dispatches, printed material, and miscellaneous legal documents concerning the history of colonial Spanish America, including the activities of the Mexican Inquisition.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Aguirre, Lope de, -1561.

Arredondo, Antonio de.

Calderón, Antonio de.

Casas, Bartolomé de las, 1474-1566.

Céspedes Vallejo Diaz, Pedro de.

Gourgues family.

Gourgues, Dominique de, 1530?-1593.

Kraus, Hans Peter, 1907-1988.

Landa, Diego de, 1524-1579.

Mendoza, Antonio de, 1492?-1552.

Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, Alvar, active 16th century.

Pereyns, Simón, -1589.

Quiroga y Losada, Diego.

Ursúa, Pedro de, 1526-1561.

Velasco, Luis de, 1500?-1564.

Verrazzano, Giovanni da, 1485-1528.

Vespucci, Amerigo, 1451-1512.

Zumárraga, Juan de, 1468-1548.

Organizations

Catholic Church--Mexico.

Subjects

Indians, Treatment of--New Spain.

Indians--Legal status, laws, etc.--New Spain.

Inquisition--Mexico.

Taxation--New Spain.

Places

America--Discovery and exploration.

Florida--History.

France--Foreign relations--Spain.

Mexico--Politics and government.

New Spain--Politics and government.

North America--History.

Spain--Colonies--America--Economic policy.
Spain--Colonies--America.
Spain--Foreign relations--France.
Spain--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Spain.
United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
United States--History.

Occupations

Collectors.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection of Spanish American documents of Hans Peter Kraus, bookman, collector, and bibliophile, was given to the Library of Congress by Kraus in 1969. An additional item was purchased for the Library by Kraus in 1970.

Additional Guides

Preliminary arrangement and descriptions of the Kraus Collection were prepared for Kraus by Richard Boulind. The collection is also described in *Hans P. Kraus Collection of Hispanic American Manuscripts* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1974) by J. Benedict Warren.

Related Material

In addition to the Kraus material, the Library of Congress holds a collection of colonial Spanish American manuscripts in the Edward Stephen Harkness Collection which may also be consulted in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

Copyright Status

It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions.

Access and Restrictions

The collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on four reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Hans Peter Kraus Collection of Spanish American Documents, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The collection of Spanish American documents of Hans Peter Kraus (1907-1988) spans the years 1433 to 1966, with the bulk of the items dated from the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. The collection relates to the history and culture of colonial Spanish America, including the early history of territories now part of the United States. Contained in the collection are colonial documents recording the exploration of the New World, the government of New Spain (Mexico), the administration of the Inquisition, taxation and economic conditions in the colonies, Spanish relationships with Native Americans and the French, and the loss of parts of the Spanish empire to American expansion. The collection includes

material relating to explorers Amerigo Vespucci (1451-1512), Giovanni da Verrazzano (1485-1528), Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca (16th cent.), Pedro de Ursúa (d.1561), and Lope de Aguirre (d.1561). It also includes letters and documents from the archives of Juan de Zumárraga (1468-1548), bishop of Mexico, and his successors. The collection is in English, Spanish, French, and Italian and is organized in a [Spanish American Documents](#) series and a [Miscellany](#) series consisting of notes and printed matter providing descriptions and partial translations of the collection. The collection contains letters, decrees, order books, reports, instructions, dispatches, printed material, and miscellaneous legal documents arranged by number as listed in *Hans P. Kraus Collection of Hispanic American Manuscripts* prepared by J. Benedict Warren.

One of the earliest documents in the collection is a contemporary manuscript copy of Vespucci's letter to Piero Soderini (1452-1522), 10 September 1504, in which he discussed all four of his voyages (item 119). Verrazzano's explorations, including his survey of the eastern seaboard of North America, are documented in letters, documents, and transcripts relating to the explorer and his family (item 121). Contemporary narratives and a copy of a royal dispatch trace the history of Ursúa's and Aguirre's exploratory expedition down the Amazon River and the latter's subsequent mutiny (items 141-143). Three original documents highlight the family life of Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, a pioneer in the conquest of Mexico and the exploration of Florida (item 122). Other material concerning early attempts to colonize Florida and the territories north of Mexico are included in an order book maintained by Viceroy Luis de Velasco (1500?-1564) and his predecessor, Antonio de Mendoza (1492?-1552) (item 140); a volume of documents regarding Pedro de Céspedes Vallejo Diaz, a soldier who served in Florida (item 148); a letter of Diego Quiroga y Losada, governor of Florida (item 152); a treatise by Antonio de Arredondo on Spanish claims to the colony of Georgia; and the letters and documents of the Gourgues family, in particular a narrative manuscript of the expedition of Dominique de Gourgues (1530?-1593) to Florida, 1567-1568 (item 144). Five variant versions of Gourgues's narrative located in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France (Fonds Français 2145, 3884, 6124, 19899, and 20794) have been reproduced on two reels of microfilm and are available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.*

*Microfilm shelf no. 17,674

A collection of decrees and letters, a majority of which resided in the archives of Zumárraga, relates primarily, though not exclusively, to the Catholic church in New Spain (items 1-116). In addition to ecclesiastical affairs, these items also document the government and administration of Mexico including its social structure and culture, public health, education, the arts, public works, and the living conditions of its native population. The documents bear the signatures of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (1500-1558), and his wife, Isabel, Empress (1503-1539), and their son and daughter, Philip II, King of Spain (1527-1598), and Juana de Austria, Princess of Portugal (1535-1573), and their descendants, Philip III (1578-1621) and Philip IV (1605-1665), kings of Spain. Another set of documents concerning the civil administration of New Spain also illuminates the career of Zumárraga's colleague, Bartolomé de las Casas, bishop of Chiapas (items 123-139). These items reflect the development and impact of the New Laws of the Indies, 1542, and the colonists' reaction to them. Items pertaining to the Inquisition in Mexico include documents of the trial of artist Simón Pereyng (fl. 1558-1588) (item 145); material relating to Antonio and Diego Calderón and family, official printers to the Holy Office of the Inquisition (item 149); and a holograph and printed volume of the rules and regulations governing the fraternity of Saint Peter Martyr, a brotherhood consisting of members of the Inquisition (item 151).

Among the latest items in the collection are dispatches sent in 1819 from Mexico to Spain by Juan Ruiz de Apodaca which contain information on the government, condition, and defense of the Spanish territories that are now part of the United States, including Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, with references to American forces and settlements in Louisiana and Florida (item 162).

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Spanish American Documents, 1433-1877](#)
- [Miscellany, 1938-1966](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-10

REEL 1-4

Series

Spanish American Documents, 1433-1877

Letters, decrees, order books, reports, instructions, dispatches, printed material, and miscellaneous legal documents relating to the history of Spanish America.

Arranged numerically by the item number recorded in *Hans P. Kraus Collection of Hispanic American Manuscripts* by J. Benedict Warren.

BOX 10-11

not filmed

Miscellany, 1938-1966

Notes and printed material of descriptions and partial translations of the collection.

Arranged by type of material and therein numerically by item number.

Container List

Microfilm edition available. Shelf no. 14,833

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BOX 1 REEL 1	Item nos. 1-116 Decrees and letters from the archives of Juan de Zumárraga, 1527-1660 117 Alvarado Tezozómoc, Fernando, chronicle of Mexico, circa 1600 118 Vespucci, Amerigo Copybook containing an anthology of miscellaneous material including copies of letters from Vespucci to Lorenzo de' Medici and an unknown correspondent, 1500-circa 1503, circa 1547-circa 1574, undated 119 Soderini, Piero, letter, 1504, 1802
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Spanish American Documents, 1433-1877

Container

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	150	Philip IV, King of Spain, official instructions to Diego Benavides y de la Cueva, 1660-1661
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	156	Arredondo, Antonio de, treatise on Spanish rights to British claims in Georgia, 1742
	157	Blanco y Helguera, Buenaventura, 1756
BOX 9 REEL 4	158	Iturrate family, patent of nobility, 1777-1782
	159	Inquisition, records relating to investigations Unnamed penitent, 1785
	160	Oliva, Mariano de Jesús, 1796-1803
	161	Mendinueta, Pedro, report to Antonio Amar y Borbón, 1803
BOX 10 REEL 4	162	Apodaca, Juan Ruiz de, reports, 1819
BOX 10-11 not filmed		Miscellany, 1938-1966 Notes and printed material of descriptions and partial translations of the collection. Arranged by type of material and therein numerically by item number.
BOX 10		Material regarding Spanish American documents, 1938, 1954-1956, 1966, undated Nos. 1-139 (8 folders)
BOX 11		Nos. 140-145, 148-149, 151, 153, 156, 162 (10 folders) Subject compilations, undated Administrative and legal records, nos. 146-147, 150, 152 Ecclesiastical and administrative records, nos. 154, 157-158, 161 Inquisition investigations, nos. 155, 159-160