

# Harkness Collection

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2012

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014059>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lccn.loc.gov/>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Harkness Collection

**Span Dates:** 1525-1740

**ID No.:** MSS47662

**Collector:** Harkness, Edward Stephen, 1874-1940

**Extent:** 900 items ; 32 containers plus 1 oversize ; 10 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in Spanish

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

**Summary:** Philanthropist and collector. Documents and papers (1525-1609: 2,939 folios) relating to the history of the Spanish in Mexico, though chiefly pertaining to the conquistador, Hernan Cortés, and members of his family. Topics include the Cortés-Avila Conspiracy (1566); a 1531 lawsuit involving testimony from the Nahuas of Huejotzingo, Mexico; other legal matters; family lands in Oaxaca, Mexico; and proceedings of the Holy Office of the Inquisition. Also includes documents and papers (1531-1651, 1740: 1,405 folios) relating to the history of the Spanish in Peru. Includes decrees, proclamations, orders, instructions, contracts, agreements, commercial accounts and letters, minutes of municipalities, manumissions, and material on the Pizarro and Almagro families.

## 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

Almagro family.

Cortes family.

Cortés, Hernán, 1485-1547.

Harkness, Edward Stephen, 1874-1940.

Pizarro family.

### Subjects

Indians of Mexico.

Inquisition--Mexico.

Land tenure--Mexico--Oaxaca.

Nahuas--Taxation.

Spaniards--Mexico.

Spaniards--Peru.

### Places

Huejotzingo (Mexico)--History.

Mexico--History--Conquest, 1519-1540.

Mexico--History--Spanish colony, 1540-1810.

Peru--History--1548-1820.

Peru--History--Conquest, 1522-1548.

Spain--Colonies--America.

### Titles

*Huexotzinco codex.*

### Occupations

Collectors.

Philanthropists.

# Administrative Information

## Provenance

The Harkness Collection was given to the Library of Congress by Edward S. Harkness in 1928-1929 and transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Hispanic Division in 1996.

## Processing History

The collection was processed and described before its transfer to the Manuscript Division in 1996. The finding was revised in 2009 and in 2011 and again in 2012.

## Additional Guides

The Harkness Collection is described in detail in three publications: *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress: Manuscripts concerning Mexico, a Guide* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1974), *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress: Calendar of Spanish Manuscripts concerning Peru, 1531-1651* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1932), and *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress: Documents from Early Peru the Pizarros and the Almagros, 1531-1578* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1936).

## 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 ten 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.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Harkness Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

# Scope and Content Note

The Harkness Collection consists of documents and papers (1525-1609: 2,939 folios) relating to the history of the Spanish in Mexico, though chiefly pertaining to the conquistador Hernan Cortés and members of his family. Topics include the Cortés-Avila Conspiracy (1566); a 1531 lawsuit involving testimony from the Nahuas of Huejotzingo, Mexico; other legal matters; family lands in Oaxaca, Mexico; and proceedings of the Holy Office of the Inquisition.

Also included are documents and papers (1531-1651, and 1740: 1,405 folios) relating to the history of the Spanish in Peru. Included are decrees, proclamations, orders, instructions, contracts, agreements, commercial accounts and letters, minutes of municipalities, manumissions, and material on the Pizarro and Almagro families.

A full-color facsimile of the Harkness 1531 Huexotzingo codex (until 1974 known as the Codex Monteleone), part of the Harkness Collection since 1928, is also available in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library. The originals for the seventy-nine leaf manuscript, which includes the eight Indian drawings comprising the Huexotzingo codex that pertain to a lawsuit by Hernando Cortés, is located in the Library's Conservation Division.

Material relating to Mexico is described in four series. Series 1 to 3 are available on microfilm. They appear in the container list in the order in which they were filmed and thereunder by original document number. At the end of the document descriptions of the filmed items for Mexico are two numbers. The first number with the prefix HC-M refers to

calendar numbers in *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress: Manuscripts concerning Mexico, a Guide*. The second number refers to the shelf container number. Series 4 consists of positive and negative enlargement prints and photostatic copies.

Material relating to the Spanish in Peru is organized by type of material: enlargement prints, originals, and Rosenbach Company items. The enlargement prints and original documents are correlated to document numbers that appear in *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress: Calendar of Spanish Manuscripts concerning Peru, 1531-1651*.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 1](#)
- [History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 2](#)
- [History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 3](#)
- [History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 4](#)
- [History of the Spanish in Peru](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
REEL I:1-I:2	<b><u>History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 1</u></b> Organized by original document number. Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 12,542
REEL 2:1-2:6	<b><u>History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 2</u></b> Organized by original document number. Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 12,542
REEL 3:1	<b><u>History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 3</u></b> Organized by original document number. Microfilm shelf no. 15,276
not filmed	<b><u>History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 4</u></b> Organized by original document number.
BOX 1-20 not filmed	<b><u>History of the Spanish in Peru</u></b>  Organized by type of material: enlargement prints, originals, and Rosenbach Company items.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
REEL I:1-I:2	<b>History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 1</b> Organized by original document number. Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 12,542
REEL 1:1 DOC I.	Hernando Cortés v. Guzman and Lic. Matienzo and Delgadillo to recover benefits and tributes, 1531, Feb. 14-1532, May 31 <i>See also microfilm shelf no. 12,542, Reel 2:1</i> [HC-M 2; original in Conservation Division]
REEL 1:1 DOC I.	Huexotzingo Codex  [HC-M 2; original in Conservation Division; facsimile, Container 22 (oversize)] <i>The Huexotzingo Codex was filmed anew following conservation treatment; see microfilm shelf no. 19,788, one reel.</i>
REEL 1:1 DOC II.	Hernando Cortés v. Lics. Matienzo and Delgadillo—tributes of pueblo of Toluca, 1531, Apr. 4-1532, May 28 [HC-M 3; Container 23]
REEL 1:1 DOC III.	Juan Castellon v. Lics. Altamirano and Garcia de Llerena about salary, 1536, Oct. 24-1537, Mar. 21 [HC-M 4; Container 23]
REEL 1:1 DOC IV.	Alonso Morzillo v. Hernando Cortés to restrict Indians of ETLA from cultivating land, 1537, May 4-1538, Feb. 26 [HC-M 5; Container 23]
REEL 1:1 DOC V.	Hernando Cortés v. Alonso Diaz de Gibraelon – regarding lost surety document, 1543, Jan. 30-Nov. 6 [HC-M 6; Container 24]
REEL 1:1 DOC VI.	Lic. Cristobal de Benevente v. Hernado Cortés – for having exacted excessive tributes from Indians, 1544, July 21-1552, July 30 [HC-M 7; Container 24]
REEL 1:1 DOC VI.	Pages 1-64
REEL 1:2 DOC VI.	Pages 65-end
REEL 1:2 DOC VII.	Antonio de la Cadena and Isabel de Ojeda v. Hernado Cortés— regarding right to cut firewood for sugar mill, 1547, Feb. 7-1550, May 5 [HC-M 8; Container 24]
REEL 2:1-2:6	<b>History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 2</b> Organized by original document number. Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 12,542
REEL 2:1 DOC I.	Indian paintings only <i>See also microfilm shelf no. 12,542, Reel 1:1</i>  [HC-M 2; original in Conservation Division; facsimile, Container 22 (oversize)]
REEL 2:1 DOC VIII.	Martin Cortés v. Altamirano regarding payment of fine levied against Herando Cortés, 1552, 9 Feb.-9 Aug. [HC-M 9; Container 25]

## History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 2

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REEL 2:1 DOC VIII.a.	Memoranda and extract of an unidentified account book, undated  [HC-M 51; Container 25]
REEL 2:1 DOC IX.	Don Luis Cortés and Dona Guiomar de Escobar v. Dona Isabel de Lujan regarding encomienda of Cuzamala, 1556, Oct. 9-1557, Dec. 7  [HC-M 10; Container 29]
REEL 2:1 DOC X.	Court records of bond guaranteeing the management of the sequestered property of Martin Cortés, 1569, Mar. 8-May 12  [HC-M 30; Container 25]
REEL 2:1 DOC XI.	Martin Cortés petitions the Audiencia to be allowed to present evidence in refutation of accusations made against him in Spain, 1565, Sept. 27-Nov. 8  [HC-M 14; Container 25]
REEL 2:1 DOC XII.	Martin Cortés v. Ines de Leon to recover Juana, a negro slave and her two children, 1585, July 9-1587, July 21  [HC-M 39; Container 25]
REEL 2:1 DOC XIII.	Fragment – criminal proceedings against Alonso Davila Alvarado and his brother Gil Gonzalez Davila, 1566, July 16-23  [HC-M 15; Container 28]
REEL 2:2 DOC XIV.	Fragments of original court records against Don Martin Cortés– accused of conspiracy, 1566, Sept. 16-1567, Mar. 20  [HC-M 17; Container 27]
REEL 2:2 DOC XIV.a.	Fragment of a lawsuit concerning expenses incurred in guarding Martin Cortés during his imprisonment for conspiracy, 1574, Feb.-Aug.  [HC-M 34; Container 27]
REEL 2:2 DOC XIV.b.	Petition made by Gonzalo Salazar, guard in the Marques’ prison, for his salary, 1570, July 18-19  [HC-M 31; Container 27]
REEL 2:2 DOC XIV.c.	Fragment [1 page] concerning sequestering Martin Cortés’ possessions during his imprisonment from conspiracy, [1568], Jan. 156  [HC-M 29; Container 27]
REEL 2:2 DOC XIV.d.	Fragment (1 torn page) Request for transcripts of accusations made by Francisco Sande against several individuals accused of conspiracy 1574, July 5  [HC-M 35; Container 27]
REEL 2:2 DOC XIV.e.	Petition on behalf of Martin Cortés for copy of testimonies relating to Davila-Cortés conspiracy, 1574, July 9-10  [HC-M 36; Container 27]
REEL 2:3 DOC XV.	Fragments of criminal action against Don Martin Cortés, 1566, July 16-1568, Nov. 16  [HC-M 16; Container 28]
REEL 2:3 DOC XVI.	Fragments of criminal proceedings against Diego Arias de Sotelo and Baltasar de Sotelo, regarding conspiracy, 1566, Nov. 18-1567, July 30  [HC-M 18; Container 28]
REEL 2:4 DOC XVII.	Criminal proceedings against Cristobal de Oñate, regarding conspiracy (No. XVII.a. sewed in with it), 1567, May 5-1568, Jan. 8  [HC-M 19; Container 26]
REEL 2:4 DOC XVII.a.	Fragment of criminal proceedings against Baltasar and Pedro de Quesada, Baltasar de Aguilar, and Bernardino Maldonado, (sewed in with No. XVII) 1567, Nov. 26-Dec. 30  [HC-M 22; Container 26]
REEL 2:4	Fragments of criminal proceedings against Baltasar and Pedro de Quesada regarding conspiracy, 1567, Nov. 7-1570, Apr. 6

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DOC XVIII.

[HC-M 20; Container 26]

REEL 2:4

Action against Rodrigo de Carvajal, priest, for his aid to Bernardo Maldonado – who was accused of conspiracy, 1567, Nov. 12-1568, Jan. 10

DOC XIX.

[HC-M 21; Container 26]

REEL 2:4

Fragments of criminal action against Pero Gomez de Caceres, accused of conspiracy, 1566, July 26-1568, Mar. 4

DOC XX.

[HC-M 26; Container 26]

REEL 2:5

Criminal action against Juan de Valdivieso, accused of conspiracy, 1567, Nov. 4-1568, Mar. 20

DOC XXI.

[HC-M 23; Container 31]

REEL 2:5

Criminal action against Antonio Ruiz de Castañeda, accused of conspiracy, 1567, Dec. 6-1568, May 26

DOC XXII.

[HC-M 24; Container 31]

REEL 2:5

Proceedings between Viceroy Gaston de Peralta, Margues de Falces and fiscal Francisco de Saude concerning the Marques request for a Probanza de Servicios, 1567, Dec. 6-1568, Feb. 14

DOC XXIII.

[HC-M 25; Container 31]

REEL 2:5

Criminal action against Garcia de Albornoz, accused of conspiracy, 1568, Jan. 12-1576, Mar. 30

DOC XXIV.

[HC-M 28; Container 31]

REEL 2:5

Records of trial by the Inquisition of Francisco Hernandez, accused of making a statement concerning fornication, 1578, Sept. 2-Oct. 17

DOC XXV.

[HC-M 38; Container 30]

REEL 2:6

Records of trial by the Inquisitions of Negro slave Sebastian, accused of blasphemy, 1594, Aug. 16-1596, Dec. 10

DOC XXVI.

[HC-M 43; Container 30]

REEL 2:6

Fragment of trial by the Inquisitions of Diego Alonso Cepero accused of blasphemies, 1608, Oct. 11-1609, Mar. 23

DOC XXVII.

[HC-M 48; Container 30]

REEL 2:6

Trial by the Inquisition of Diego Diaz, accused of bigamy, 1608, Aug. 19-1610, Feb. 26

DOC XXVIII.

[HC-M 47; Container 30]

REEL 2:6

Proceedings concerning complaint by an Indian woman that a priest made amorous advances to her, 1608, Feb. 29-1612, Nov. 8

DOC XXIX.

[HC-M 46; Container 30]

REEL 2:6

Fragment of the trial by the Inquisition of Lorenzo Lopez Iniguez, accused of blasphemy, 1609, May 16-27

DOC XXX.

[HC-M 49; Container 30]

REEL 2:6

Records on investigation by the Inquisition of Dr. Esteban de Portillo, particularly the purity of his blood, 1571, Sept. 9-1577, Apr. 5

DOC XXXI.

[HC-M 32; Container 30]

REEL 2:6

Fragment of the proceedings by the Inquisition regarding the granting of the title of a familiar of the Holy Office to Pedro de Herrera, 1572, Aug. 20-1580, Mar. 23

DOC XXXII.

[HC-M 33; Container 30]

BOX 2:6

Decree issued in Vera Cruz concerning carrying of packages of books and images from ships, 1586, Oct. 27-28

DOC XXXIII.

[HC-M 40; Container 30]

REEL 2:6

Inspection of ships by Commissary Inquisitor Francisco Lopez Rebelledo (See No. XL), 1586, Nov.-1587, Jan.

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- DOC XXXIV. [HC-M 41; Container 30]
- REEL 2:6  
XXXV. Ledger of contributions made for responsories to Cathedral and other churches of Barcelona – by estate of Elisabet Beneta Solsina and other estates–In Catalan, 1559-1568  
[HC-M 12; Container 32]
- BOX 2:6  
DOC XXXVI. Records of proceedings concerning request of the Indians of Quitlabaca to Viceroy Martin Enriquez for permission to use a part of their tributes for construction of a church, 1578, Feb. 19-25  
[HC-M 37; Container 32]
- REEL 2:6  
DOC XXXVII. Petition by Indians of Guaxapa for aid from the royal treasure for expenditures in the Church, 1592, Sept. 9-Oct. 6  
[HC-M 42; Container 32]
- REEL 2:6  
DOC XXXVIII. Marriage applications and licenses issued by Don D. Juan de Salamanca, Treasure of the Cathedral of Mexico – 6 licenses, 1604, Jan. 14-July 19  
[HC-M 44; Container 32]
- REEL 2:6  
DOC XXXIX. Fragment of the residencia taken by the new Viceroy Don Juan de Mendoza, concerning the Viceroy Gaspar de Zuniga y Acevedo, 1604, Jan. 29  
[HC-M 45; Container 32]

REEL 3:1 **History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 3**

Organized by original document number.  
Microfilm shelf no. 15,276

- REEL 3:1  
DOC XL. Report on insurrection of the Indians of Tlapa, 1609, July 14-27  
[HC-M 50; Container 32]
- REEL 3:1  
DOC XLI. Coat of Arms to Hernando Cortés, 1525, Mar. 7  
[HC-M 1; Containers 12 and 13]
- REEL 3:1  
DOC XLII. Confirmation to D. Martin Cortés of the privilegio of 23,000 vassals and 22 pueblos in New Spain, 1560, Dec. 16  
[HC-M 13; Container 11]
- REEL 3:1  
DOC XLIII. Fragment of action against Pero Hernandez Pachero, accused of conspiracy, 1567, Dec. 20  
[HC-M 27; Container 32]
- REEL 3:1  
DOC XLIV. Alvaro Hernandez v. Alcalde Baltasar Garcia – house rent, 1557, Jan. 26-27  
[HC-M 11; Container 32]

not filmed

**History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 4**

Organized by original document number.

- DOC 10 Various positive enlargement prints from microfilm of document Nos. I-XLIV
- DOC 21 Positive photostatic copy of Hernado Cortés v. Guzman and Lic. Matienzo and Delgadillo to recover benefits and tributes, 1531, Feb. 14-1532, May 31 *For additional material see microfilm shelf no. 12,542, Reels 1:2 and 2:1*

## History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 4

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DOC 33	Positive and negative photostatic copies of the papers of Don Baltasar de Sotelo from proceedings in the trial of the Sotelo brothers in the Avila-Cortés conspiracy, Mexico, 1565-1568, dated 1857, Feb.8-1561, Jan. 30
BOX 1-20 not filmed	<b>History of the Spanish in Peru</b>  Organized by type of material: enlargement prints, originals, and Rosenbach Company items.
BOX 1	Enlargement prints of documents in containers 14-19
BOX 1	Nos. 1-299
BOX 2	Nos. 300-473
BOX 3	Nos. 474-645
BOX 4	Nos. 646-793
BOX 5	Nos. 794-900
BOX 6	Nos. 901-953
BOX 7	Nos. 954-1030
BOX 8	Nos. 1031-1200
BOX 9	Nos. 1201-1605
BOX 14	Originals
BOX 14	Notarial instruments
BOX 14	Nos. 1-390, 1531-1538
BOX 15	Nos. 391-625, 1539-1550
BOX 16	Nos. 626-797, 1543-1569
BOX 17	Nos. 798-953, 1552-1633
BOX 18	Royal cédulas and viceregal degrees, 1555-1651, 1740
BOX 19	Libro de Cabildo of frontier towns, Guamanga and Chachapoyas, 1538-1555
BOX 20	Rosenbach Company, New York, N.Y., notes, exhibit cards, and printed material