

MEXICO HISTORY STUDY CENTER AT CONDUMEX

This Center stands out because it has rescued archives and books about the history of Mexico. Hence it has collaborated in the recovery of books and manuscripts; some of them are to go abroad.

Today, the Study Center has almost one thousand documentary funds. Each fund safeguards a set of historic documents, which order has been respected. All together the books have more than two million original manuscripts. To these, we should add the rescues that have been made by microfilms or digitalization of private archives. Some of them are in the archive of the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Cathedral in Morelia or of the "Orden del Carmen". In this manner we facilitate consultation and safeguard a copy of the originals in the Study Center.

It is interesting to also note that the *Lienzo Totomixtlahuaca (the Totomixtlahuaca Canvas)*, that dates back to the 16 century was rescued in an auction held in the United States and was recovered for Mexico in 1973. It is a codex from the State of Guerrero, with presence of the Mixteca-Zapoteca culture.

Publications have been made about the most important documents in order to let the public at large know about them.

Regarding the Study Center Library, there are almost eight thousand titles. The library of the viceroyship period is outstanding and one of the richest ones in the country. We have eighteen 16-century Mexican printouts, the Puebla library, unique in Mexico, and it safeguards more than two thirds of all the material published during the Novo Hispanic viceroyship, up until 1821.

The Study Center has made known in facsimile editions, its most important and rare books. This is the case of the Hernán Cortés "*Cartas de Relación*" (*Report Letters*) published in Nuremberg in 1524, or the History of the Indies and the Conquest of Mexico written by Francisco López de Gómara, published in 1552. Also the first printed document of Puebla, the *Sumario de Indulgencias y Perdones (Summary of Indulgences and Pardons)*, dated in 1642 and the first document printed of Nueva Galicia, *la Novena de la Virgen de Aránzazu (The Novena or our Lady of Aránzazu)* from 1973.

In order to spread its cultural heritage, both documentary as well as printed material, the Study Center holds two cycles of conferences a year. It invites the most well known researchers in the country, such as young historians who are working of their PhD dissertations.

At present there is a web site, that disseminates the daily tasks of the Center as well as the catalogue of the Library and the archive, in order to facilitate consultation in Mexico and abroad to a broader public.

Congresses and symposiums with different topics are periodically held. National and foreign investigators attend them and the dissertations are about history issues that go from the viceroyship era to the middle of the 20th century. The results of these encounters are subsequently published so that the public at large may have access to them.

In order to disseminate its cultural heritage, the Museo Soumaya recently was organized an exhibition, where the most representative books and documents of the Center were exhibited to the public interested in them so that they could see the originals of these treasures of the History of Mexico.

Researchers go the Study Center to carry out their studies, whether they related to BA, Master's or PhD thesis, or individual investigations. All the material can be accessed free of charge.