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## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF LANSING B. BLOOM IN FOREIGN ARCHIVES

*By* FRANCE V. SCHOLES

The contributions of Professor Lansing B. Bloom to the field of Southwestern history were many and varied and of lasting character. Under his able editorship this REVIEW achieved recognition as one of the outstanding journals specializing in regional studies. His numerous writings, characterized by painstaking scholarship, constitute a valuable addition to the historical literature relating to the Southwest. Finally, as the result of his investigations in foreign archives, a rich collection of source materials for the history of New Mexico and adjacent areas has been made available for use by students and scholars.

Professor Bloom's first major archive "expedition" occurred in 1928-29, when he was sent to Spain under the joint auspices of the Historical Society, the School of American Research, and the Museum of New Mexico. During this year he carried on investigations in the Archivo Histórico Nacional, the Biblioteca Nacional, and the Academy of History in Madrid, the library of the Escorial, the Archivo de Simancas, and the Archivo General de Indias in Seville. The last of these collections is the richest repository of manuscripts relating to the colonial history of Spanish America, and it was here that he spent the greater part of his time. In these labors he was assisted by Mrs. Bloom, who worked side by side with him and shared the long hours of searching bundle after bundle of the old papers. Through their joint efforts a great quantity of documents were selected and listed for reproduction. Subsequently the Library of Congress obtained microfilm of a large portion of this material.

The documents from the Archivo General de Indias listed during this first visit covered a wide range, chronologically and geographically. Professor Bloom thought of his work as that of carrying forward the task begun in earlier years by Bandelier under a grant from the Carnegie

Institution of Washington. The Bandelier documents, translated and edited by Dr. C. W. Hackett, deal with New Mexico "and approaches thereto, to 1773." In a letter describing his own investigations in Spain in 1928-29 and 1938-39, Professor Bloom stated that he carried the "approaches" to the Southwest far back into sixteenth century beginnings and extended them beyond Bandelier's 1773 limits.

The bulk of the listings related, however, to New Mexico and the Southwest. Although a large part of the papers that were recorded come from well-known sections of the archive, which many students, before and after his time, have worked and reworked, it is noteworthy that Professor Bloom's search extended to other series to which most investigators have given little attention. The Sección de Contaduría contains the records of the colonial treasury offices and deals very largely with fiscal history, a less attractive subject than the story of discovery and exploration, missions and political developments. The search made by Professor and Mrs. Bloom in this section was in many respects a pioneering job, and it paid rich dividends. There they found the record of treasury payments for the province of New Mexico in the seventeenth century; itemized accounts of salaries, on the basis of which it has been possible to form an accurate chronology of provincial governors; accounts for the purchase of supplies for the mission service, listing in minute detail the multifarious items—images, altar furnishings, bells, vestments, clothing, food, building materials—sent to support the activities of the Franciscan friars.

Search in the Contaduría series is an arduous and dirty task as I can personally testify. Many of the bundles were badly burned in a fire in years past. A day's work with these manuscripts will leave the desk littered with charred paper. Parts of the record are irretrievably lost. Despite these difficulties, Professor Bloom meticulously sorted and classified the New Mexico entries. Five years later I followed his trail through these documents, and the yellow slips of paper marked "L. B. B." served to guide my own search.

In 1938 the Blooms returned to Europe under the auspices of the Bandelier Centennial Commission and the University of New Mexico. From April to August they worked in various Italian archives and libraries, devoting a large part of their time to the Vatican collections and the Laurentian library in Florence. As Dr. Hewett has noted, it was during the stay in Italy that Professor Bloom located Bandelier's sketches of New Mexico mission churches and photographed the Florentine copy of Sahagún's great treatise on the Indians of New Spain.

After his wife's return to the United States in the autumn of 1938, Professor Bloom journeyed to Seville to carry forward the work started in 1928-29 and to make a special search for Coronado material. During a stay of seven months (October, 1938-May, 1939) in the closing period of the Spanish civil war, he photographed a large corpus of documents, filling out and supplementing the materials previously obtained by the Library of Congress, and adding many new items not listed at the time of his first visit. It was on this second Seville expedition that he obtained facsimiles of the *residencia* of Coronado as governor of New Galicia.

During the years between his first and second trips to Europe Professor Bloom made three extended visits to Mexico City for the purpose of archive investigations. The first occurred in 1930 (July to December), when he was sent under commission of the University of New Mexico, the Historical Society, and the School of American Research to photograph extensive series of papers on the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries listed in Bolton's *Guide*. In 1934 and again in 1935 he made shorter visits to Mexico City to continue this work, to explore documentary series in the Archivo General de la Nación not catalogued in detailed fashion in the *Guide*, and to search for Southwestern materials in other collections, especially the papers preserved in the Museo Nacional.

Thus Professor Bloom did his share—and more—of the spading and plowing which constitutes such an important phase of historical investigations relating to the Southwest

and its environs. Over a period of eleven years he gave between thirty and forty months to work of this kind. Many people have the idea that archive research has some thrilling or romantic quality. For the veteran investigator in the field, the day-to-day work in Spanish and Mexican archives does have definite attractions and it pays satisfying rewards. But the romance soon wears off, for the task of searching for and selecting materials for study also becomes a monotonous routine, and often it is sheer drudgery. It is exacting and painstaking work. And after the searching comes the gruelling labor of reading the wretched scrawl of writers of days gone by.

But archive research in foreign cities also has many compensations. Take the case of Seville for example. There is the break in the daily routine when a group of investigators will gather at a nearby street café for a cup of coffee or a glass of sherry and exchange ideas and gossip. There are afternoon walks in Calle Sierpe or along the banks of the Guadalquivir, where the treasure ships from America dropped anchor in centuries past. There are days when all work in the archives is put aside in order to witness the pomp and panoply of the Church in the cathedral, where the stone columns rise heavenward like great trees in a forest, and there are the nights of Holy Week, when the famous *santos* of Seville—the Jesús del Gran Poder, the Virgin of Macarena, and many others—are carried through the streets, surrounded by hundreds of candles and accompanied by members of the *cofradías* garbed in their distinctive costumes. No person who has witnessed these processions can ever forget the wild, plaintive notes of the *saetas* sung by professional artists, or spontaneously by some tortured, penitent soul as the *santos* pass through the streets.

For the veteran investigator, however, the chief interest, despite all the drudgery, is the archive, housed in the building once occupied by the House of Trade. Here are kept the 40,000 bundles of papers from all parts of the Indies—the letters and reports of viceroys and bishops, conquerors and missionary friars, the treasury accounts, the *residencias*, the long series of lawsuits and other judicial

documents. Day by day the investigator interested in New Mexico history will be handling papers bearing the signatures of Coronado and Oñate, Benavides and Ayeta, Otermin and de Vargas, and the host of others who helped to found a new civilization in this region. These records of another day, torn and water stained, have a far greater attraction than all that goes on in the city outside the archive walls.

During the years of labor spent in the archives and libraries of Europe and Mexico Professor Bloom made thousands of film reproductions of documents on the Southwest "and approaches thereto." Other materials were reproduced at his request by the Library of Congress. A large part of these sources are now available for interested scholars in the Coronado Library, University of New Mexico. A brief review of the resources of this collection will further illustrate the nature and extent of Professor Bloom's contribution to Southwestern studies as an archive investigator:

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In the Coronado Library we now have some 675 bound volumes of facsimile reproductions of manuscripts in various repositories. These materials comprise the following classifications: (1) Archivo General de Indias, Sevilla, 200 volumes; (2) Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico City, 205 volumes; (3) Biblioteca Nacional and Museo Nacional, Mexico City, 40 volumes; (4) Archives of New Mexico (Spanish and Mexican periods), Santa Fé, 230 volumes. In the last category the facsimile series are complete; in the first three the reproductions comprise, of course, selected items. The materials obtained as the result of Professor Bloom's activities are found principally in the first and second groups.

Part of the facsimiles from the Archivo General de Indias, Sevilla, comprise enlargement prints from microfilm by Professor Bloom on his second visit to Spain in 1938-39; the remainder of this group consist of prints of documents photographed for the Library of Congress, many of the items being selections listed by him in 1928-29. Thus Professor Bloom deserves chief credit for the Seville ma-

terials now available in the Coronado collection. In the case of the facsimiles from the Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico City, the credit is shared by him and Dr. George P. Hammond. As already noted, Professor Bloom photographed extensive series in this archive during his trips to Mexico City in 1930 and 1934-35. In 1933-34 Dr. Hammond also obtained microfilm copies of numerous series in the same repository. To some extent their work overlapped. When enlargement prints were made for the Coronado Library the best films were used in the case of papers for which two sets of reproductions were available.

Brief descriptions of various groups of facsimiles from the Archivo General de Indias will indicate the scope and importance of Professor Bloom's work in Seville. From the Patronato section we find the *relación* of Fray Marcos de Niza (legajo 20); the lawsuit of 1540 *et seq.* concerning conflicting claims of Nuño de Guzmán, Hernán Cortés, Pedro de Alvarado, and others for the right to make explorations on the northern-frontier of New Spain (legajo 21); the extremely important series comprising legajo 22, which contains the Gallegos report of the Rodriguez-Chamuscado expedition, Luján's account of the Espejo entrada, and a mass of Oñate documents; and extensive reports on New Mexico during the governorship of Luis de Rosas, 1637-41 (legajo 247). From the Justicia section we have Coronado's *residencia* (legajo 339). The New Mexico items from the Sección de Contaduría, to which reference has already been made, fill several volumes.<sup>1</sup>

The facsimiles from the Audiencia de México section fill 65 to 70 volumes. Selections from various sub-groups may be noted as follows:

(1) "Consultas originales," 1586-1696. Various items relating to Vizcaíno, Urdiñola, Alonso de Oñate, Cristóbal de Oñate the Elder, the Bocanegra family.

(2) Letters and reports of the viceroys of New Spain, 1536-1700. In the selections from this group we find im-

1. In 1939 Professor Bloom lacked time to complete photography of all the items he had listed for this section. Transcripts of many of the missing items are in the possession of F. V. Scholes.

portant papers relating to Carvajal, Morlete, and Urdiñola, extensive reports for the Oñate period in New Mexico, lengthy documents on the New Mexico mission supply service in the seventeenth century, Florida and California papers, and a file on Otermín's attempted reconquest of New Mexico in 1681.

(3) Letters and reports of the Audiencia of Mexico, 1533-1700. Items on Córonado, Cristóbal de Oñate the Elder, Lomas de Colmenares, Carvajal, and Juan de Oñate; also an important series of letters of the *oidor* of Mexico, Del Riego.

(4) Letters and reports of secular persons (soldiers, conquistadores, minor officials, etc.), 1519-1700. The selections from this group cover a wide range, with special emphasis on Indian affairs on the frontier of New Spain. There are few New Mexico items.

(5) Letters and reports of ecclesiastical persons, 1536-1700. The most interesting item in the selections from this group relates to Benavides' activities in Spain, 1630 *et seq.*

(6) Registers of royal cédulas, 1529-1700. A wide selection on many phases of colonial administration, items relating to the Oñate family, and various decrees on the founding of New Mexico and later developments in the province.

(7) Various items on New Mexico and adjacent areas in the eighteenth century (legajos 1216-3196). In his two trips to Spain Professor Bloom concentrated on materials for the period prior to 1700, and consequently the selections dealing with later developments are less extensive.

Reproductions from the Audiencia de Guadalajara section comprise about 100 volumes. These cover a wide range of topics, audiencia letters and reports, correspondence of lesser officials, friars, etc. The most noteworthy group from the Guadalajara section consists of lengthy reports on the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and the De Vargas Reconquest (legajos 138-144, 147, 151). Many of these papers are copies of the originals in the Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico

City, and in the Santa Fé archive. The facsimiles in this group fill 60 volumes.

The Indiferente General section is a vast series containing letters and reports from all the Indies. Search in this section is a slow and tedious business. Professor Bloom selected only a limited number of items. The most important group (from legajo 416) consists of copies of royal cédulas for New Mexico (1596-1604), Nueva Vizcaya (1576-1605), and Nuevo León (1579-1583).

The following notes will give some indication of the range and extent of the selections made by Professor Bloom and Dr. Hammond from the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico City.

(1) Arzobispos, tomo 7. Two bound volumes of facsimiles of the *proceso* of the Bishop of Durango and the Franciscans of New Mexico concerning ecclesiastical jurisdiction in New Mexico (eighteenth century).

(2) Californias. 26 volumes of facsimiles containing reports on presidios, defense and fortifications, instructions to Governor Neve (tomo 13), mission establishments, communications between New Mexico and California, *reglamentos* for the Californias.

(3) Historia. At least 40 volumes of facsimiles. Among the more significant series selected from this section we find: (a) a complete copy of tomo 25, containing letters and reports for New Mexico in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; (b) series on the De Vargas period (tomos 37-39); (c) documents relating to the missions in the La Junta area (tomo 52); (d) "Jesuitas," 1681-1759 (tomo 295); Talamante copies of various documents, 1689-1778 (tomo 299).

(4) Inquisición. The selections made by Professor Bloom from this section comprise 35 volumes. They contain a complete series of Inquisition *procesos* for New Mexico in the seventeenth century, including the cases involving Governors López de Mendizabal and Peñalosa.<sup>2</sup>

2. Transcripts of these materials were made for F. V. Scholes in 1927-31. Sets of these copies are owned by the Library of Congress, the Ayer Collection, and Scholes. A partial set is in the University of Texas library.

(5) Misiones. 11 volumes of facsimiles. Items on California, Pimería, New Mexico, and Sonora; the Jesuit *Cartas annuas*, 1622-1698 (tomos 25, 26); Kino's *Favores Celestiales* (tomo 27).

(6) Provincias Internas. About 45 volumes of facsimiles. Important series from this section include: (a) New Mexico papers for the seventeenth century, Pueblo Revolt, and Reconquest (tomos 34-37); (b) "Nuevo México, Texas y Coahuila," 1776-1788 (tomo 65); (c) Croix correspondence, 1777-1779 (tomo 73, exps. 1-2); (d) "Nuevo México y Paso del Norte, Correspondencia Oficial," 1752-1774 (tomo 102); "Nuevo México, Correspondencia," 1767-1776 (tomo 103); "Californias, Varias Sumarias," 1782-1817 (tomo 120, exps. 2, 3, 4, 10, 12-19, 23, 24); official correspondence of the governors and commandancy-general of the Interior Provinces, 1787-1790 (tomo 160).

(7) Tierras. Facsimiles of tomos 3268, 3283, 3286 (comprising 12 bound volumes). These volumes contain the *residencia* of López de Mendizabal, governor of New Mexico (1659-1661) and the long *procesos* concerning the property of López de Mendizabal and Peñalosa embargoed at the time of their arrest by the Holy Office. The documents in this series have special value for the economic history of New Mexico in the second half of the seventeenth century.<sup>3</sup>

The volume (*tomo*) numbers given in parentheses in the preceding notes will enable interested students to turn to Bolton's *Guide* for a more detailed catalog of the items cited.

This brief description of the facsimile series in the Coronado Library provides some indication of the resources of the collection. Students of the colonial history of the Southwest will find here unexploited materials of great value on many phases of regional development. And the collection will serve for years to come as a memorial to the patient industry and meticulous scholarship of Professor

3. Transcripts of these materials were made for F. V. Scholes in 1930-31. Sets of these copies are available in the Library of Congress and the Coronado Library, University of New Mexico.

Bloom, his devotion to historical studies, and his love for the Southwest. All of us who have labored in the same vineyard and have had the privilege of scholarly association with him are conscious of the debt we owe him. The debt will be increased in years to come as we make continued use of the historical sources made available as the result of his arduous labors in the archives of Mexico and Spain.