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## To Be Noted

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## to be noted . . .

## THE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVE OF CIUDAD JUÁREZ

Until the 1960's a sizeable municipal archive in the Mexican border city of Juárez was virtually unknown to American historians. In 1962 Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso) micro-filmed the "Documentos de la Ciudad de Juárez," over 100,000 items in 365 volumes, reproduced on 91 reels of microfilm. More than half of the reels contain documents for the years 1846 to 1904. Texas Western was not allowed to film material of later date. The colonial period is represented by twelve reels, beginning with 1690, and the years between 1821 and 1846, by thirty-one reels. Cataloguing has just begun. As one might suppose, the bulk of the collection concerns purely local matters and is strong on criminal and civil cases, although much official correspondence between Santa Fe, Chihuahua, and El Paso is also included. The burning of the Chihuahua state archive and the looting of that in Santa Fe make the Juárez papers particularly valuable—for example, there is correspondence of Commandant Teodoro de Croix.

The microfilm is not of the highest quality. The documents were bound before the filming began, and only two months were allowed for the work. Fortunately the original documents remain at the Palacio Municipal in Juárez and, at least in this researcher's experience, are totally accessible. The originals go beyond the 1904 date and may be of interest to those studying the Mexican Revolution. This collection should shed considerable light on heretofore dark corners of borderlands history and may prove to be a valuable supplement to the New Mexico archives. Their actual worth can be determined only when historians discover and begin to exploit them.

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