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James H. Fraser

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INDIAN MISSION PRINTING IN NEW MEXICO:

A BIBLIOGRAPHY

JAMES H. FRASER

MISSIONARY activity in the area now occupied by the State of New Mexico can be dated loosely from 1539 when Fray Marcos de Niza made his explorations through Cibola. Juan Pablos was printing the *Doctrina Christiana en la lengua Mexicana e Castellana* in Mexico City in that same year, but nearly three hundred and forty years were to elapse before any known New Mexican mission printing was produced.¹

Dr. John Menaul, a Presbyterian missionary, must be given credit for being the first missionary-linguist-printer in the New Mexico Territory. Coming to Laguna in the fall of 1876,² Menaul wasted no time in beginning his study of the Laguna language and in soliciting a hand press for use in his work.³ In the summer of 1877 Menaul received the needed press from an eastern donor, and according to his second annual report to his mission board he had printed 3,875 pages of material in less than eight months from the time the press arrived.⁴ The report does not state specifically the nature of the material but it was evidently on the order of teaching aids. Although no list of Menaul's printing is known, we do know that he translated into the Laguna language and printed a catechism, teaching aids, selections from the Bible, and two editions of McGuffey's First Reader.⁵ The known Bible texts translated and printed by Menaul are included in the bibliography. Menaul is not known to have printed a hymnal, but it is quite likely that he had translated several hymns before he left Laguna in 1889.

The first New Mexican Indian hymnal of which there is any record was the work of Reverend Moses Bercovitz, also a Presbyterian missionary to the Laguna.⁶ Bercovitz refers to this hymnal in the introduction to his second hymnal (8)⁷ but provides no bibliographical information; he does give, however, an indication of the controversy which it created. Bercovitz states that there was considerable opposition on the part of:

. . . those white people who feed on the ignorance of the Indians, and who, under the mask of pretended solicitude in behalf of the English language have succeeded in stirring up the powers of the Government against the author and his Hymn Book. The Indian Agent at Santa Fe, first prohibited its use for the children, then for adults, then the use of public buildings for the purpose of worship if the Hymn Book should be used; and at last, as all this was not heeded, an edict for the ejection of the author from the pueblo was procured from the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which received the sanction of the Hon. Secretary of the Interior.

Bercovitz was ultimately suspended from his position,⁸ but before leaving Laguna, he was able to see his second hymnal printed. Judging from the types used, it was probably printed by John Menaul in Albuquerque, where he had assumed the pastorate of a Mexican church and is known to have printed tracts in Spanish.

THE NEXT PHASE in New Mexican mission translation and printing did not begin until 1930. In that year H. Carroll Whitener, a self-taught linguist and former missionary in the Far East, came to New Mexico. By 1947 Whitener, with the help of several other missionaries and several informants, had produced a number of hymnals and Bible translations in the Keresan and Zuñi languages. The translations in Keresan, however, were not widely accepted.⁹ This failure is attributed primarily to the Reverend Mr. Whitener's use of young informants who were not well acquainted with the nuances of their own language—to say nothing of their limited knowledge of English.¹⁰

The Zuñi hymnals and Bible text translations on which Whitener worked are quite another matter. The Reverend George Yff, a missionary to the Zuñi for many years, and Rex Natewa, a Zuñi Christian, directed Whitener's work, and because of their competence in Zuñi and English respectively, the translations were accepted and are still in use today.¹¹

AT THE TIME of this writing, the Wycliffe Translators are working among several of the New Mexican Indian tribes in what might be considered the third phase of New Mexican Indian mission translation and printing activity.¹² The first publication by a member of the Wycliffe group is a Tewa hymnal printed by the translator, Randall Speirs, at Española, New Mexico. Although this Tewa hymnal is the most recent, it will certainly not be the last example of printing during this third phase, for Mr. Speirs is preparing a translation of the New Testament. Mr. Curtis Cook of Zuñi is at work on a hymnal and a translation of selections from the New Testament into the Zuñi language.¹³

BIBLIOGRAPHY

KERESAN LANGUAGE MATERIALS

Bible Text Translations

The following three pieces of printing represent the first known translations of a part of the Bible printed by a New Mexican Indian mission press. These three items are no more than folded sheets without cover, title page or colophon and have been described from the copies in the E. E. Ayer Collection, Newberry Library, Chicago. Dr. John Menaul was the translator and printer. The dates of printing are unknown.

(1) "EXODUS, Chapter XX" at top of first page. Three pages of text in Laguna containing the first seventeen verses of the chapter. 14.3 x 10.9 cm.

(2) "PSALM XXIII" at top of first page. Two pages of text. The verses are given in English followed by the Laguna translation. 12.8 x 10.5 cm.

(3) "St. MATTHEW, CHAPTER V." at top of first page. Six pages of text containing the first nineteen verses of the chapter. The text is given in English followed by the Laguna translation. 15.7 x 10.5 cm.

(4) JESUS CHRISTO TSIANISHE / (row of devices) / THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST / (illus.) / National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A./H.C. Whitener/N. 4th St. and Los Griegos Rd. / Albuquerque, N.M. 13 pp.; 15 x 11 cm.; red paper covers. Cover title: same as title page but without the imprint.

This translation by Whitener of the first four chapters of the Gospel of Matthew was printed in 1930. English and Keres text are on facing pages. The number of copies, printer, and place of printing are unknown.

(5) JESUS CHRISTO / NIYA / TAWA-MANI / MATTHEW / TSIYATRANI / TRANSLATION BY / H. CARROLL WHITENER / ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. / AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY / (1 line of text) / NEW YORK. 78 pp.; 15.8 x 10.6 cm.; black cloth boards. Cover title: MATTHEW / TSIYATRANI. The cover title and the double rectangular border around it are blind stamped.

A key to the pronunciation and writing of the Keres language is given on page three.

2,976 copies were printed in 1933 by R. R. Donnelley & Sons, Chicago.

(6) JESUS CHRISTO / NIYA / TAWA-MANI / JOHN / TSIYATRANI / THE / GOSPEL OF JOHN / IN / KERES INDIAN / (rule) / Translation by / H. CARROLL WHITENER / (3 lines of text) / (rule) / ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO / 1935. 72 pp.; 15.4 x 10.1 cm.; tan paper covers. Cover title: JOHN / TSIYATRANI / THE GOSPEL OF JOHN / IN KERES INDIAN. Double black border around cover title.

The number of copies, printer, and place of printing are unknown.

(7) JESUS CHRISTO / GA-UMATSITYAIMISHI / E-TSAAPUTYISHI / (device) / AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY / (1 line of text) / NEW YORK. 79 pp.; 15.8 x 10.6 cm.; black cloth boards. Cover title: E-TSAAPUTYISHI. The cover title and the triple rectangular border around it are blind stamped.

A pronunciation and writing key is given on page three of this translation of the Book of Acts. H. Carroll Whitener was the translator.

2,000 copies printed in 1936 by R. R. Donnelley & Sons, Chicago. Despite the number of copies printed of this translation and the Gospel of Matthew (5), these texts are very scarce as the result of a storage room fire.

Hymnals

(8) HYMN BOOK / AND / APPENDIX. / In The Laguna Indian Language / by / REV. M. BERCOVITZ. / (rule) / Revised and corrected with Mr. Ulysses Paisano, / Elder of the Laguna Indian Presbyterian Church. / (rule) / (2 lines of text) / (rule) / 1898. 32 pp.; 18.3 x 12.5 cm.; tan paper covers. Cover title: Same as the title page.

Contains twenty-one hymns; the appendix contains selections in Laguna from Exodus, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Matthew, and Mark. The appendix also contains a Laguna translation of: "Prayer for forgiveness of sins;" "Apostle's Creed;" "Interrogatory for those that want to join the church."

(9) Christo / Tsiumashitanishi / Yuni Tsidyatrani / (rule) / H. Carroll Whitener / (device) / 1935 / (rule) / (6 lines of text). 12 pp.; 13.6 x 9 cm.; tan paper covers with dark-blue printing. The cover serves as the title page and is counted as page one. The Ten Commandments are printed inside the front cover and the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm are printed inside the back cover. Contains nine hymns.

Number of copies printed, printer, and place of printing are unknown.

(10) YUNI / TSIDYATRANI / (double figured lines) / (5 lines of text) / (double figured lines) / H. Carroll Whitener / 1936. 44 pp.; 14.5 x 9.8 cm.; gray paper covers. The cover has a double rectangular-ruled border and reads the same as the title page.

Contains thirty-three hymns and twelve pages of Bible texts as well as a key to pronunciation and writing of Keres.

Number of copies printed, printer, and place of printing are unknown.

(11) YUNI / TSIDYATRANI / (double figured lines) / (5 lines of text) / (double figured lines) / H. Carroll Whitener / 1943. 45 pp.; 14.9 x 10 cm.; red-brown limp cloth covers. Cover title: Same as the title page.

This item is a revision of no. 10 above.

Number of copies printed, printer, and place of printing are unknown.

TEWA LANGUAGE MATERIALS

Hymnal

(12) Ee-kha'wami / Let's Sing! / (device). 12 pp.; 21.5 x 14 cm.; yellow paper covers.

Contains seventeen hymns. The first three pages contain an introduction to Tewa and a pronunciation guide.

100 copies mimeographed by Randall H. Speirs, the translator, at Española, N.M., in 1965.

ZUNI LANGUAGE MATERIALS

Bible Text Translations

(13) JESUS CHRIST CHAWOA / (3 stars) / The Birth of Jesus Christ / (illus.). 4 pp.; 15.1 x 11.3 cm.; red paper covers.

A writing and pronunciation key is given inside the back cover. This translation of the second chapter of the Gospel of Matthew was done by George Yff, H. C. Whitener, Rex Natewa, and Cornelius Kuiper.

Ca. 500 copies printed in 1940. Printer and place of printing are unknown.

(14) JESUS CHRIST / AN PENAN' QOK'SHI / JOHN / TSINA YAAKYAKOWA / (device) / Translation by / George Yff - H. Carroll Whitener - Rex Natewa / Generally following the Greek Text / of / EBERHARD NESTLE / (double rule) / Zuni, New Mexico / 1941. 48 pp.; 17.8 x 12.6 cm.; gray-blue paper covers.

A language key is given inside the front cover.

Ca. 500 copies printed. Printer and place of printing are unknown.

Hymnals

(15) (Zuñi Hymns. Translated by George Yff, Rex Natewa and H. C. Whitener). 28 pp.; 14.8 x 9.2 cm.; light brown paper covers. There is no printing on the cover nor is there a title page or indication where, when, or by whom it was printed.

Ca. 60 copies of this first Zuñi hymnal were mimeographed by George Yff at Zuñi in the spring of 1942. Contains sixteen hymns printed on one side of the page only.

(16) ZUNI HYMNS AND CHORUSES / ASHIW' AWAN TEWUSU / TENAWA. 36 pp.; 15.3 x 10 cm.; orange paper covers. The above title was taken from the cover, there being no title page in this edition.

This revision of no. 15 (above) contains twenty-one hymns printed on one side of the page only. Translations of a few Bible verses are included.

Ca. 150 copies were mimeographed by George Yff at Zuñi in the fall of 1942.

(17) TSINA ISHOKWIN NAN / TEKOHANANE / BOOK OF LIFE / TENA TAP LAHL JESUS CHRIST AN / PENAN QOKSHI / Songs and the Gospel of

Jesus Christ / (device) / WITH THE FORM FOR / HOLY COMMUNION / (device) / Translated by / George Yff - Rex Natewa - H. Carroll Whitener / Zuni, New Mexico / Revised Edition / 1947. 65 pp.; 15.2 x 11.5 cm.; linen-backed paper covers with white rectangle containing cover title printed in red. The white rectangle is superimposed on a green and white photo of Easter lilies.

Ca. 500 copies of this revision of no. 16 were printed. Printer and place of printing are unknown.

NOTES

1. The *Cuaderno de Ortografia* by Father A. Martínez and subsequent printing by him is outside the scope of this article, as he is not known to have translated or printed any work in a New Mexican Indian language.

2. Dr. Menaul had spent two years as a missionary in West Africa before coming to the Southwest in 1870. From 1870 until 1873 he worked among the Navajo at Ft. Wingate, N. M., and continued his work at Ft. Defiance, Ariz., from 1874 to 1875. In 1876 he left Ft. Defiance for Laguna, N. M. Princeton Theological Seminary, *Necrological Report*, vol. 4 (1912), p. 165.

3. Letter from John Menaul to Sheldon Jackson, Denver, Nov. 2, 1876.

4. The Second Annual Report, March 1, 1878, is in the form of a letter. This report is in the Sheldon Jackson Scrapbook held by the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia.

5. Ruth L. Butler, ed., *A Bibliographical Checklist of North and Middle American Linguistics in the E. E. Ayer Collection* (Chicago, 1941), vol. 1, pp. [413-14].

6. Born in Constantinople and educated in Switzerland and Chile, Bercovitz was pastor of Presbyterian churches in Chile and Galena, Illinois, before coming to Laguna in 1893. Edgar Robinson, ed., *The Ministerial Directory* (Oxford, Ohio, 1898), p. 170.

7. No copy of the first hymnal has been located in either public or private collections.

8. *Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*. New Series, vol. 22 (1899), p. 537.

9. Letter to the author from Rev. Edmund D. Viser, Laguna, N. M., Oct. 6, 1966.

10. Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carillo, Winslow, Ariz., Feb. 18, 1967.

11. Interview with Rev. Cornelius Kuiper, Phoenix, Ariz., Mar. 26, 1967.

12. Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc., was organized by William Cameron Townsend in 1934 as a means for giving linguistic preparation to prospective translators working within a missionary context. Ethel E. Wallis and Mary A. Bennett, *Two Thousand Tongues to Go* (New York, 1959), pp. 45-47.

13. Although the Navajo tribe extends into New Mexico, Navajo language translation and printing is being considered in an article on Arizona Indian mission printing.