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And They Were There -- Reports of Meetings -- 49th Annual SALALM

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And They Were There

Reports of Meetings — 49th Annual SALALM

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49th Annual SALALM, 2004 — “Women in Latin American Studies: Reshaping the Boundaries.” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, June 4-8, 2004.

Report by **Sharon Moynahan** and **Wendy Pedersen** (University of New Mexico)

Women in Latin American Studies: Reshaping the Boundaries was the theme of the 49th meeting of the **Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials** held at the **University of Michigan** in Ann Arbor, June 4-8, 2004. The conference, sponsored by the **University of Michigan Library** along with the **University of Michigan Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center**, focused on the acquisition and processing of Latin American materials and their delivery via reference and bibliographic services. Monographs, serials, official publications, publications from NGO's, films & videos, databases and indexes were examined and discussed.

The opening session included welcoming remarks from SALALM president **Angela Carreño** of the **Bobst Library at New York University**. **William Gosling**, **University of Michigan Librarian**, encouraged participants to use the resources of the **University of Michigan** and to feel at home in Ann Arbor. Local Arrangements chair, **Nerea Llamas** thanked the committee for its efforts to plan the conference and acknowledged **Mary Jo Zeter**, of **Michigan State University**, was in charge of organizing the book exhibits.

Every year, during the opening session, SALALM presents an award named for the famous Latin American bibliographer **Jose Toribio Medina**. The award acknowledges scholarship and publication in the area of reference and bibliography. Winners receive certificates reckoning their publications, a \$250 honorarium, and the esteem of their colleagues. This year the award was presented to **Tony Harvel** of the **University of San Diego** for his work *Latin American Dramatists since 1945: a Bio-Bibliographical Guide*.

The opening session concluded with the keynote address delivered by **Dr. Carmen Diana Deere** of the **University of Massachusetts**. Her talk, “Empowering Women: an Intellectual History of a Book Project,” described attempts to determine the laws and cultures that have affected land ownership by women in Latin America and Spain. Of particular interest to librarians were her anecdotes about searching for information and resources both here and abroad, and her suggestions for acquiring land-holding records and laws in the area of land use and ownership.

The opening of the book exhibits has always been a festive occasion. Exhibitors from the U.S., Latin America, and Europe present a wide array of monographs, serials, microforms, and digital resources needed by researchers. This is a great opportunity to get updated information

on the latest changes and about the newest programs and services offered by vendors who operate under conditions substantially different from those in the US. It is also often the best chance to make face-to-face contact with personalities and voices known mostly through correspondence.

Too much work makes Jack a dull librarian, so after a busy day, it was time to play. The bookdealers’ annual **Libreros’ Reception**, a great time to get to know other librarians and bookdealers in a different setting, was held at **Cobblestone Farm** outside Ann Arbor. The reception-plus-dinner-plus-dance featured the annual raffle with **Lief Adelson**, owner of **Books from Mexico**, as Master of Ceremonies. SALALM members donate prizes in order to raise money for the **ENLACE** committee’s efforts to bring Latin American librarians to the annual conference. This year’s award recipients were **Gabriela Lorena Gutiérrez Schott**, from the **Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México** and **Carolina Espinosa Arango**, from **Bernal, Argentina**.

Panel presentations are central to each annual conference. Two major themes defined this year’s rich array of research and scholarship. The first was the discussion of women in Latin America, and the resources for studying women’s roles. The second theme was international cooperation and partnering among scholars and institutions.

Women in Latin America

A lively panel of librarians from the **University of the West Indies** addressed ten years of change and progress for women in **Trinidad & Tobago**. **Dr. Margaret Rouse-Jones** moderated discussions of women in **Tobago**, in **Indo-Trinidadian society**, and the role of **NGOs** in their quest for feminine empowerment and equality. Many were unaware that **T&T** is one of the three top producers of oil & gas in the world, with enormous foreign investments and a vibrant stock exchange. Other **Tobago/Trinidadians** on the panel of “Mapping Progress and Change” included **Allison Dolland**, **Floris Fraser** and **Yacooob Hosein**.

Cesar Rodríguez from **Yale University**, led a panel investigating “Women Affecting Social and Political Change.” Discussion ranged from **Karen Lindvall Larson’s** (**University of California, San Diego**) examination of **Mayan Women’s Post-Peace Accords Participation in Guatemalan Elections** to **Ruby Meraz Gutiérrez’s** (*Hispanic American Periodicals Index*) history of **Brazilian feminist periodicals**.

A particularly fun-filled panel was moder-

ated by **Lourdes Vázquez** (**Rutgers University**), entitled “Women Artists and Expression Through Image.” **Peter Bushnell** (**University of Florida**) treated attendees to a slide show of **Caribbean and Latin American postage stamps** featuring **Princess Diana**. Improbably, there was even a set from **Cuba**. As noted by the **University of New Mexico’s Russ Davidson**, these kinds of stamps are generally produced for the collectors’ market as a source of revenue, and are rarely seen on actual in-country correspondence. **Peter Stern** (**University of Massachusetts, Amherst**) sketched the lives and careers of some less well-known figures in 20th century Mexican art in his presentation, “From Revolution to Surrealism: Five Women Artists of Mexico’s ‘Golden Age’”. Stunning slides and fascinating anecdotes enlivened his discussion of **Marion and Grace Greenwood**, **María Izquierdo** (the only native Mexican), **Leonora Carrington**, and **Remedios Varo**. All five of these women were hard-working artists in various media and styles, whose careers blossomed in Mexico but spanned continents. A video clip from **Gregorio Rocha’s** film, “War and Image” demonstrated the allure of **Pancho Villa’s** revolutionary campaign for the newly developing film industry.

Hortensia Calvo, of **Tulane University**, led a spirited panel which examined “Muses, Symbols and Authors: Women in Cuban History and Culture.” **Patrick Gavilanes** of **Gavilanes Books of Indoamerica**, described the image of the sensual Cuban woman, the **jinetera** and **Rafael Taragó** from the **University of Minnesota** recounted the legend of **Mariana Grajales de Maceo**, the iron mother of humble black origin who parented **Antonio Maceo**. **Lesbia Varona** from the **University of Miami** described another independent and adventurous Cuban woman, author **Lydia Cabrera**. The final scheduled panelist, **Maritza de los Angeles Tellez Vigueaux**, from the **Biblioteca Provincial Elvira Cape**, in **Santiago de Cuba** was unable to obtain a visa in time.

Interdisciplinary Cooperation

Darlene Hull of the **University of Connecticut** moderated a panel “Covering an Interdisciplinary Field: Monitoring Trends and Collecting Strategies.” **Luis González** of **Indiana University** examined “Latin American and Latino Studies: Directions in Research and Challenges to Researchers and Librarians,” by showing the difficulties in even defining the terms. **Donna Canevari de Paredes** of the **University of Saskatchewan Library** described in detail the planning and execution of a seven year process of reviewing Latin American gender and women’s studies at that institution. Her detailed description of the steps involved was of particular interest to librarians new to the discipline. **Barbara Valk** (*Hispanic American Periodicals Index*) surveyed the treatment of women’s top-

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ics in serial publications. **Paul Losch** of the **University of Florida** presented a sample of the more than 600 items in the Brazilian Popular Groups' microfilm collection.

Cooperation

Eudora Loh (**University of California**, Los Angeles) moderated a panel with the unlikely title, "Reading Urdu in Cochabamba: Global Strategies for Library Cooperation." Starting the discussion, **Dan Hazen**, of **Harvard University**, gave an overview of the **AAU/ARL Global Resources Network**, which serves as an umbrella for a series of unrelated projects, many driven by grant funding. **Jeffrey Garrett** of the **German Resources Project** directed attention to Europe where they are eliminating duplication of efforts in a much more organized publishing environment. Finally, **James Nye** of the digital **South Asia Library** and **Mary Rader** of the **University of Michigan** described the **South Asian Federation** and what it has meant for libraries in the region. Field offices in Islamabad and Delhi, regionally established standards, cooperation and collaboration mark this not for profit endeavor.

A final look at cooperation featured a presentation by **Perry Willett** of the **Digital Library Production Service** of the **University of Michigan**. Using both in-house and vendor-supplied services, the operation has digitized important holdings. Text conversion software, use of metadata, and links with existing catalog records were discussed. While most libraries currently seem to digitize important local collections, there will be a need for some kind of registry to avoid duplication as more institutions get involved.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, a motion picture must be worth millions, and the panel, "Indigenous Film and Video: Trends and collection needs" played to a very full meeting room. Several clips from a wide variety of videos provided just a taste of the myriad, high-quality offerings available. For people collecting in this field, **Daisy Domínguez** (**Long Island University**) is the go-to librarian for finding producers, distributors and online catalogs of film and video produced by **Native Peoples**. Her site can be found at <http://homepages.nyu.edu/~dd62/cine-indigena.htm>. **Daisy** presented on **PowerPoint** Web pages and bibliographies in English, while

delivering a talk entirely in Spanish on the state of Latin American indigenous video activity. Panelist **Catherine Benamou** (**University of Michigan**) discussed the upsurge of indigenous film production in the 1980s, as technology became cheap and instruction was offered by NGOs and governmental agencies. Of particular interest in light of this year's conference theme was the aptitude and willingness of indigenous women to get behind the cameras, and taking on the role of transmitters of culture in ways the anthropologists of yore could never have imagined. Hard-working **Alexandra Halkin**, delivered details on the **Chiapas Media Project**, an undertaking in technology transfer to marginalized people. Members of the **Zapatista** movement were the first beneficiaries, in 1998, of this bi-national collective, which empowers indigenous communities in Chiapas and Guerrero states via video technology. Two of the most important objectives of the project will be to eventually turn all facilities, equipment, and administration over to the various communities, and to ensure distribution and quality archiving for these productions.

Fifty Years Old!

In 1956, librarians and Latin Americanists met at Brooksville, Florida to discuss better ways to document and acquire library materials. Preparations are under way for the celebration of **SALALM's** fiftieth anniversary. Events will include a "kick-off" party, photo displays of past meetings and participants and other events to mark this historic and festive occasion. In addition, various bibliographies and indexes will document the organization's accomplishments and publications. Incoming **SALALM** president **Pamela Howard-Reguindin**, from the Library of Congress office in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and **Richard Phillips** of the **University of Florida**, have been busy planning the anniversary recognition and celebration. All members, past members, retired **Salalmistas**, and others who have been touched by the fifty years of bibliographic efforts in Latin American library collecting are invited to come back and join the **SALALM 50 Celebration** in Gainesville, Florida, April 16-19, 2005. Newcomers will enjoy the celebration of old and new and the opportunity to visit with the people who have shaped Latin Americanist librarianship. Information about **SALALM** and the Gainesville conference can be found on the **SALALM** Web page. <http://www.library.cornell.edu/colldev/salalmhome.html>

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issue in August of 1997? Ah — it seems like yesterday! Anyway, **Web VIII** contains 57 new or revisited reviews as well as 543 reprinted reviews. Thank you, **Choice** for keeping us up-to-date on high-quality Internet resources.

And, more. The same issue contains an edi-

torial from **Irv Rockwood**, Editor and Publisher, **Choice** (who has an article in this issue, by the way; see p.38) entitled "What About Bob?" It's about **Robert Balay** who was presented with the **2004 Isadore Gilbert Mudge — R.R. Bowker Award** during the recent Orlando Annual **ALA Conference**. Congrats, Bob! And next time I get stuck on the **New York Times** crossword, I know who to call!

Building Libraries for the 21st Century The Shape of Information

Edited by T.D. Webb. 2004 [2000], \$49.95, photos, bibliography, index, 0-7864-2034-0

Library World Records

Godfrey Oswald. 2004, \$29.95, 112 photos, bibliography, index, 0-7864-1619-X

Mycenaean Civilization An Annotated Bibliography through 2002, rev. ed.

Bryan Feuer. 2004, \$75, maps, glossary, indexes, 0-7864-1748-X

Anabolic Therapy in Modern Medicine

William N. Taylor, M.D. 2002, \$55, references, index, 0-7864-1241-0

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