



ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA

425 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

Editorial Offices

July 17, 1970

Prof. Daniel Cosío Villegas
Colegio de México
Mexico, D.F.

Dear Prof. Villegas:

As the result of a reexamination of the editorial requirements of a general encyclopaedia, we are now embarked on a major reorganization of all of our articles dealing with the subject matter of history. As a part of this project, I am pleased to invite you to prepare a new article entitled MEXICO, HISTORY OF.

In the years since its founding in 1768, the Encyclopaedia Britannica has, as you know, built and maintained a reputation for scholarly authority, authenticity, and comprehensiveness. The present Britannica is the result of the cooperation of more than 10,000 eminent authorities who have accepted invitations to write its articles.

In the present reorganization of much of our content, we acknowledge our responsibility to maintain the qualities on which our reputation has been built. At the same time, we believe that we can give our readers a more coherent and comprehensive view of many subjects by reapportioning the topics with which we deal in articles that are based on a systematic organization of knowledge. Generally speaking, we believe that the elimination of fragmentation and duplication of material will result in a relative decrease in the number of articles in any one area accompanied by a relative increase in their length. A better overview of the whole is, then, a major aim.

In addition, it is our hope that we can further the educational work that a general encyclopaedia can do by making certain that every article in the Britannica is as understandable as is possible to the curious, intelligent -- non-specialized -- reader.

Finally, it is our fixed intention to render the Britannica as international in its outlook as we can make it.

July 17, 1970

I am enclosing a general outline of the article you are being asked to write. You will note that it indicates the topics that we believe ought to be covered under this title, the topics that will be dealt with only briefly and developed more fully elsewhere, an approximate indication of proportions, and one possible ordering of the material.

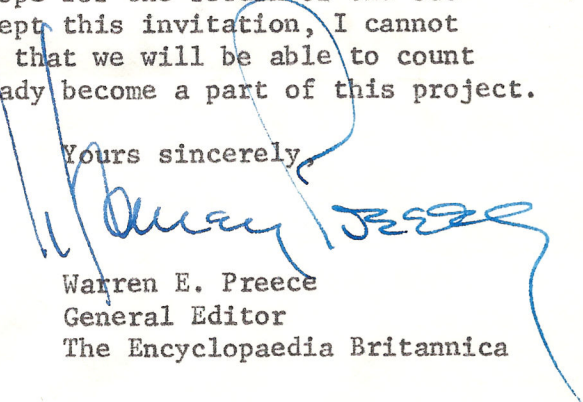
The outline represents a part of an editorial plan designed to meet the ends outlined at the beginning of this letter. It need not be considered final at this stage but it does represent the scope of the article we require. If you are able to accept my invitation, you may propose variations of the topics, the proportioning, or the ordering of the outline, but since the content of other articles will be affected by your ultimate treatment of this one, it is necessary that we have a mutually accepted outline before you begin work.

We have allocated space for 13,500 words for this article, payment for which will be \$700 and a set of the 1971 printing of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. The fee is payable upon receipt of your completed manuscript. At your request, we will also provide you with 25 copies of your contribution, bound in paper covers. We should wish to have your manuscript no later than March 31, 1971.

If you accept this invitation, Mr. John F. Robinson, the Associate Editor for articles in your subject area, will provide further information concerning illustration and bibliographic matters, and will deal with problems regarding the enclosed outline.

Though I am enclosing an addressed envelope for the return of the outline in the event that you are unable to accept this invitation, I cannot end this letter without expressing our hopes that we will be able to count you among the many authorities who have already become a part of this project.

Yours sincerely,


Warren E. Preece
General Editor
The Encyclopaedia Britannica

WEP/mc

Enclosures: Article Outline--MEXICO, HISTORY OF
Memo
Self-addressed envelope

Outline for MEXICO, HISTORY OF

- A. Brief historical survey of Mexican history from the earliest times through the War of Independence (5%)
- B. Mexico from Independence to Revolution (1821-1920)
 - 1. The early years of the Republic interwoven with the career of Santa Anna (1821-55)
 - 2. The reform period (1855-76) under the leadership of Juarez
 - 3. The Diaz regime (1876-1911)
 - 4. The Mexican Revolution (1910-1920)
- C. Mexico since the Revolution 1910-20
 - 1. The aftermath of the Revolution and the presidency of Obregon
 - 2. The era of Plutarcho Calles
 - 3. The revival of reform under Lazaro Cardenas 1934-1940
 - 4. The retrenchment of the revolution (1940 to the present)
 - 5. Contemporary Mexico: problems of population and urban growth; U.S.-Mexican relations; the economy, education, the arts etc.

NOTE: Mexican history prior to 1821 will be detailed in a separate article on Colonial Latin America.

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The enclosed outline is intended to be a guide to the particular requirements and limitations of subject matter and space. It has been generated within the framework of a larger plan, both to avoid redundancy and to make sure that no important topics are overlooked. The outline is not meant to be restrictive in any other sense than this. If you would prefer a different arrangement or emphasis of your topics, we would be glad to discuss these matters with you. Please let us know if we have omitted anything significant. We have tried to indicate the extent to which certain subtopics will be discussed in more detail elsewhere. Changes of article length may be possible but are not easily arranged if they are extensive.

The level at which your article is written should be appropriate both to the subject matter and to the general level of the intended readers. The Britannica is a general encyclopaedia for use by students and the intelligent, curious layman. It is not primarily intended to be a technical reference work for use by specialists. On controversial matters, we would appreciate your presenting the various viewpoints in a reasonably balanced way. Areas of uncertainty or incomplete knowledge could be shown as part of the unfinished business or opportunities of the discipline. We expect to have the text of all our articles checked in detail for accuracy by our research editors. If you include any material such as recently-determined numerical data or specific quotations from other authors, it would be extremely helpful if you would give the source or literature citation for each item.

México, D.F. August 7, 1970.

Mr. Warren E. Preece
General Editor
The Encyclopaedia Britannica
425 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Preece:

Your good letter of July 17, reached me a bit late, due perhaps to its incomplete address.

I am flattered to be invited by your Britannica to write an article on the history of Mexico for the new edition you are preparing. Unfortunately, I am under a very heavy and rather inflexible schedule.

With my appreciation,

Yours truly

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México, D. F.

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