

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK 20

THE HUMANITIES

CHARLES B. FAHS, DIRECTOR
EDWARD F. D'ARMS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
CHADBOURNE GILPATRIC, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
JOHN MARSHALL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
JOHN P. HARRISON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ROBERT W. JULY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CABLE ADDRESS:
ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE:
COLUMBUS 5-8100

January 9, 1957

Dear Don Alfonso Reyes:

Your letter of December 19th arrived at the Foundation between the Christmas and New Years holidays. As I was absent from New York until after the first of the year, perhaps you will excuse this delayed answer.

In regard to your suggestion that The Rockefeller Foundation consider helping El Colegio de Mexico in its support of creative writers, I am not certain whether El Colegio plans to assist only the particular writers listed and for a period of one year, or whether you consider this as something more than a temporary program. If the latter is the case, The Rockefeller Foundation would like to know the standards used to select the writers to whom assistance would be given. Also, if El Colegio is thinking in terms of an extended grant, the question would arise here as to whether all of the assistance to these writers would be covered by Rockefeller Foundation funds, or whether El Colegio would contribute a part. If there is no immediate urgency on the part of El Colegio to have this request acted upon, perhaps we could discuss it and the whole problem of how best to encourage creative writing in Mexico, during my next visit which will be the first three weeks in April.

In response

I think I ought to say, in reference to the opening paragraph of your letter, that somehow Mr. Fahs or I must have given you a mistaken impression of The Rockefeller Foundation interests in the Humanities, for while we are deeply concerned with the creative process we certainly believe that this includes the writing of history as is indicated by our past support to El Colegio. Similarly, at the present time we would be happy to receive a formal request from El Colegio asking us to support the proposal of Lic. Daniel Cosío Villegas to evaluate the sources for the History of the Mexican Revolution as the necessary first step to a basic and objective study of contemporary Mexican history.

January 9, 1957

There is no provision in this project, as outlined for Mr. Fahs and me when we were in Mexico, for a salary for Cosío. While there are advantages to his not being formally connected with the project in this two year interim period, we would appreciate your telling us frankly if you believe that this arrangement will work any financial hardship on the Cosío family. Don Daniel remarked that he will be badly in need of a vacation after the final volume of the Historia Moderna de Mexico is in press, when he expects to go to Europe with his wife. Many advantages would accrue to Latin American scholarship in Europe as well as in America should Cosío visit the several centers of Latin American studies in France, England, Germany, and Sweden. Also, Mexico and Asia might be the mutual beneficiaries, should Cosío extend his travels to include two months in India, a month in The Philippines, and whatever time he may want to spend in Japan and other parts of the Orient. Should El Colegio de Mexico care to request aid to make such a trip by Cosío and his wife possible, The Rockefeller Foundation would be glad to receive it. You could work out the precise form of the aid with Cosío, but it might be something like two round-the-world air tickets (approximately \$4,500) and a per diem of \$25 for 180 days (another \$4,500). This proposal would have him spend two months in India and one month in The Philippines, and would give him three months to travel in other parts of Asia should he wish to do so, and to visit the European centers of Latin American studies. Such an arrangement would allow the Cosíos full freedom to vacation in Europe as they may have planned; it will make it possible for Cosío to accept fees for whatever European lectures he may be invited to give, and still be of substantial help in permitting him to extend the scope of his travels. The Rockefeller Foundation will be happy to furnish Cosío with letters of introduction in India and The Philippines, and of course for any other places he may feel they would be helpful.

If, for any reason, it will not be convenient for you to see me between April 1-20, could you suggest a more satisfactory time for my visit? ~~It would be~~ difficult to arrange an earlier date, but I could postpone my stay in Mexico until May.

May I say what a privilege it was to talk with one whose works I have read, heard discussed, and read about, since my student

Don Alfonso Reyes

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January 9, 1957

days, and how especially pleasant it was to have these impressions heightened by personal encounter -- something that, unfortunately does always happen.

not
Sincerely yours,

John D. Harrison

Don Alfonso Reyes
President, El Colegio de Mexico
Durango 93
Mexico 7, D. F., Mexico

JPH:ebh

México, D. F., 17 de enero de 1957.

Dr. John P. Harrison,
The Rockefeller Foundation,
49 West 49th Street,
New York 20, N. Y.
E. U. A.


Mi muy estimado señor Harrison:

En respuesta a su grata carta del 9 del actual, envío a usted anexa a la presente una solicitud en forma, donde, como verá usted, acepto (en mi nombre y también en el de don Daniel Cosío Villegas) las sugerencias de usted relativas al posible viaje de don Daniel con su esposa.

El Colegio está también enteramente de acuerdo en el plan del Sr. Cosío Villegas para el trabajo de dos años aplicado al esclarecimiento y recopilación de las fuentes sobre la Historia Contemporánea de México (Revolución, etc.).

Por cuanto a la posible ayuda a los becarios del Colegio de México, me parece en efecto preferible esperar el viaje de usted para el próximo mes de abril, y desde ahora le manifiesto que del 1 al 20 lo esperaré aquí con el mayor gusto.

Al dar a usted las gracias por el interés que le merecen nuestros investigadores y nuestra institución, le envío mi cordial saludo y quedo su amigo y servidor afectísimo.


Alfonso Reyes
Presidente.

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January 18, 1957

Dear Dr. Reyes:

Mr. Charles B. Fahs is absent from New York for a few days, and I should therefore like to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 15th concerning the proposal for a guide to Mexican contemporary history.

Mr. Fahs will see your letter when he returns to this office next week.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. John D. Keenan
Secretary to Mr. Fahs

Dr. Alfonso Reyes
President
El Colegio de Mexico
Durango 93
Mexico 7, D.F.

lk

ROOM 5500
49 WEST 49TH STREET
NEW YORK 20

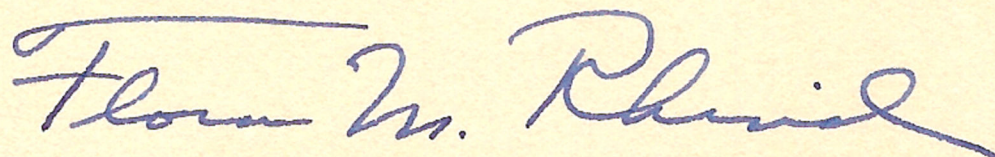
January 24, 1957

Dear Don Alfonso:

One of my pleasantest memories of my recent trip to Mexico is the visit with you in your lovely library. I was especially happy, therefore, that this picture turned out reasonably well. It is a little shadowy but fortunately the shadows are on Burton Fahs and me.

Burton and John Harrison join me in greetings and warm best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,



Flora M. Rhind

Dr. Alfonso Reyes
President, El Colegio de Mexico
Durango, 93
Mexico 7, D.F., Mexico

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January 25, 1957

*Mr. Cosío y
Revolución*
Dear Don Alfonso Reyes:

Thank you for your letter asking The Rockefeller Foundation to participate with El Colegio de Mexico in the preparation of a basic survey of printed and manuscript sources for Mexican history after 1910; and also for the request to help make it possible for Don Daniel Cosío Villegas to visit Europe and Asia with his wife. I will present these requests for formal consideration by the Foundation, and will write you of the decision as soon as it is made.

Thank you also for your kindness in agreeing to wait until my April visit to discuss possible Rockefeller Foundation assistance to El Colegio's program of aid to creative writers. Incidentally, did you see the interesting discussion of Octavio Paz' recent book in "The Times Literary Supplement" of December 28th?

With every respect and warmest personal regards,

John P. Harrison

Don Alfonso Reyes
President
El Colegio de Mexico
Durango 93
Mexico 7, D. F.
Mexico

JPH:ebh

México, D. F., January 29th, 1957.

Miss Flora M. Rhind,
The Rockefeller Foundation,
49 West 49th Street,
New York 20, N. Y.
U. S. A.

Dear Miss Rhind:

I am really delighted with the photo, for which I
thank you very mucho. It is indeed a pleasant souvenir
of your kind visit.

I beg you to receive also my greetings and warm
best wishes for you, for Mr. Fahs and Mr. Harrison for
the New Year.

Sincerely yours,



Alfonso Reyes

México, D. F., 31 de enero de 1957.

Mr. John P. Harrison,
The Rockefeller Foundation,
49 West 49th Street,
New York 20, N. Y.
U. S. A.

Mi muy estimado señor y amigo:

Recibo y leo siempre The Times Literary Supplement, con el que tengo algunas relaciones y que considero la mejor revista de libros del mundo. Leí, en efecto, la reseña del libro de Octavio Paz, y me dio mucho gusto ver la importancia y categoría que le conceden. Esa reseña está hecha por mi amigo J. M. Cohen, a quien yo mismo he puesto en contacto, desde hace más de un año, con la nueva literatura mexicana. Él manifiesta un vivo interés por Hispanoamérica. Es autor de una Antología poética española y una Historia de la literatura occidental, obras ambas publicadas en las Penguin Editions, y por desgracia algo ligeras y objetables.

Gracias por su grata carta del 25 de enero.

Suyo cordialmente


Alfonso Reyes.

Dr. John P. Harrison
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th St.
New York 20, N. Y. - E. U. A.

Dear Mr. Harrison:

As you know,
Don Daniel Friot Villegas will soon be
through with the Historia Moderna
de Mexico, and before ^{taking} up another
major project, he wishes to revisit
Europe and get acquainted with
some other parts of the world of
such significance nowadays as India,
Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines.

It seems to
me that the Foundation might
care to support partially this

plans through a grant to El Colegio
of some 9,000 dollars to allow
Mr. and Mrs. Josio Villegas to
meet the expenses involved in
two round-the-world air tickets
and a per diem of \$25 for 180
days for travelling in the places
outlined.

Mr. Josio Villegas will visit
in Europe the several centers of
Latin American studies, and
with the advice and ^{with the advice} of
the Foundation ~~the~~ the most
worthwhile institutions and people
in the Far East.

Hoping that you may
consider this project sympathetically,

I am,

Sincerely yours,



Dear Mr. Fahs:

The old project of the Modern History of Mexico is quite over as far as research is concerned, and four-sixths over as to publishing, since the publisher~~s~~ already has in his hands the manuscript of volume IV. In fact, there only rem~~ains~~ains to be done the adjustment of the text of volumes V and VI so as to reach the final draft. >

← This seems to be, then, the time to consider whether there is ~~some other~~ ^{some other} ~~another~~ project worthwhile by itself and in whose achievement we may take advantage of the experience and knowledge so far gained.

A contemporary history of Mexico suggests itself as a logical sequence, but the ²sources for such a history are so abundant and scattered and their value so uneven, that it seems ^{imperative} ~~advisable~~ to tackle first the question of the localization, evaluation and availability of those sources as a separate and independent project. The final goal would be to publish a guide to the sources of Mexican Contemporary History for the use and profit of any person interested in ^{is} ~~this~~ period. ~~of our History.~~

We believe ^e that the ^{wg} ~~owrk~~ could be completed in two years by a team of five researchers, two of them working full time and the other three part time. The work has to be carried out not only in Mexico City, ^t ~~but~~ in some other thirteen places, and in some fifteen American Localities.

←---The main expenses involved, ^{then}, would be allowance for research, transportation costs and a per ~~diem~~ diem cost while travelling.

I am then ~~submitting~~ ^{submitting} for your kind consideration this new ^{project} ~~project~~ under the ^{basis} ~~basis~~ of your Foudation meeting two thirds of the cost of reaser^{arch} ~~research~~ and the ^{entire} ~~etire~~ cost of tranportation and travelling expenses within the United States, while El Colegio will meet the reamining third for research and the cost of transportation and travelling expenses within Mexico, as follows:

	Total	Foundation	El Colegio
Research:			
Transportation and travelling expenses			
Research			
Travel:			
in the U.S.			
	TOTAL	Foundation	El Colegio
	Dls. 16,800	11,200	5,600
	9,100	7,100	2,000
total	Dls. 25,900	18,300	7600

The whole project will be under the responsibility of the whole project will be in the hands of Mr. Manuel F. Villagosa, but no allowance is to be made for him since he is not going to work directly on it.

Yours sincerely