

Hispanic American Historical
Review XLV, No 2 Feb 1965. Review by
Dr W. Ray Gilmore (pp. 128-28)

In English works on Mexico the
Mexican viewpoint is all too often either
not expressed or not adequately presented.
The diplomatic problems here described are
enhanced by the author's perception of Mex-
ican motives and his insight into national
character which would be difficult for an
American to achieve. The book is also
particularly valuable for the insight it
gives us about the attitude of a ~~modern~~ modern
Mexican historian and his of letters
towards the U.S.

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México, D.F., febrero 25, 1966.

Dr. Robert E. Quirk
Department of History
University of Indiana
Bloomington, Indiana
E.U.A.

Querido amigo Quirk:

Como nuevo editor de la Hispanic American Historical Review, quisiera hablarle de un problema que en su tiempo le plantié a Lewis Hanke y sus sucesores en la editorship de la Hispanic American. Es este.

Para fines de marzo estará impresa una nueva colección de ensayos y notas míos. Aun cuando no rigurosamente históricos, pueden tener algún interés para el historiador. Quizás, entonces, la Hispanic American Historical Review quisiera hacer una nota crítica de ellos. El problema, entonces, sería este: ¿quiere usted que yo le envíe un ejemplar del libro, para que usted, a su vez, se lo haga llegar al crítico que usted elija? Por el contrario, ¿quiere usted que yo se lo mande directamente a ese crítico, y, en ese caso me daría usted su nombre y dirección?

Con mis mejores deseos de siempre, suyo, amigo.

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D.F.

DCV/meh.-

HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW

(A publication of Duke University Press)

ROBERT E. QUIRK, MANAGING EDITOR
DAVID M. FLETCHER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BALLANTINE HALL
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47405

March 2, 1966

Sr. Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D. F.

Estimado amigo:

I would be more than pleased to receive a copy of your new book for review in the Hispanic American Historical Review. We would want someone in this country to review it, perhaps Stanley Ross, so it would be best if you sent it directly to me at Indiana University. Also do you know now when the last volume of your Historia moderna will appear? We are especially concerned to identify and to obtain books published in the various Latin American countries. I would say that this is the principal difficulty in our review program. Mexican publishers, particularly the Fondo, are very cooperative. But often a Latin American book of a limited edition is out of print before we have learned of it. ✓ I have talked with Lewis Hanke about reviving the custom of appointing advisory editors in foreign countries to help us in the identification of important books in the history field. ✓ I thought, though, that I would prefer young people who would more likely be active in informing us of publishing news. We could offer only a subscription to the Review and occasionally a book or two as compensation, but I did hope you might suggest a young man or woman in Mexico with a budding reputation who might be willing to serve as an advisory or corresponding editor. ✓

✓ Also I hope to call upon the historical profession in Mexico for reviews and for articles. ✓ We would not be able to pay for them as Historia Mexicana does, but it would give Mexican scholars an outlet for their work in this country. ✓ We would have the articles and reviews translated here, so language is no barrier to publication. How can I best get my message before the scholarly community there? ✓

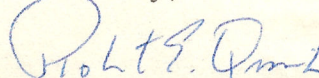
And finally, I listened with great interest to the paper Ross read for you at San Francisco. Though it was perhaps prepared not so much for publication as for public reading, it might well be a fine addition to the HAHR

Sr. Daniel Cosío Villegas
March 2, 1966
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later this year. Would you send it to me so we could see how it would look in print? And I would deem it a great honor if you would consider doing a special article on your perspective--a "think piece," as it were on your philosophy of history. It is my hope that I can get from a few leading historians seminal articles such as that of Frederick Jackson Turner on the American West.

On a recent trip to Mexico I called your office, but found you were out of town. Perhaps I shall have better luck next time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. E. Quirk".

Robert E. Quirk

REQ/ft

México, D.F., marzo 12, 1966.

Dr. Robert E. Quirk
Hispanic American Historical Review
Ballantine Hall
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana. 47405
E.U.A.

Querido amigo Quirk:

Contesto su buena carta de marzo 2.

En cuanto tenga yo ejemplares de los dos tomos de mis Ensayos y Notas, le mandaré a usted uno para los efectos de crítica.

En cuanto a volver a la idea de tener en otros países "advisory editors", me parece una excelente idea. Aun cuando no conozco las razones de su supresión, supongo que algunos de los editores de la H.A.H.R. se dio cuenta de que no habían servido para nada. Como yo fui alguna vez uno de ellos, puedo decir que, en efecto, nunca le presté servicio alguno a la revista; pero puedo decir honestamente que eso se debió a que nunca se me explicó qué esperaba la revista de mí. De haber recibido estas indicaciones, estoy seguro que me habría esforzado por satisfacerlas. De modo que sigo creyendo que son necesarios esos consultores, pero más necesario todavía explicarles lo que se espera de ellos. En todo caso, siguiendo las indicaciones de usted, me permitiría sugerirle el nombre de Luis González (El Colegio de México.- Guanajuato 125.- México 7, D.F.) para esa tarea. Luis González es joven, gran lector de libros nuevos y comparte ahora con Stanley Ross la sección de historia moderna de México para las reseñas del Hand Book of Latin American Studies.

También me parece excelente idea la de invitar a los historiadores mexicanos a que reseñen libros y escriban artículos para la H.A.H.R., sin que crea yo que sea impedimento para obtenerlos el que no se les pagara su trabajo, como ocurre con Historia Mexicana.

Como no tenía yo lista copia de mi trabajo de San Francisco, la he mandado hacer; en cuanto la tenga, se la enviaré. Y no echaré en saco roto su petición de escribir alguna vez algún artículo, aun cuando el que usted sugiere, mi filosofía de la historia, no deja de aterrarme.

Como no me dice usted la fecha aproximada en que ocurrió su última visita a México, no puedo comprobar la veracidad del informe de que estaba yo fuera de la ciudad cuando usted llamó a mi oficina. De todos modos, podríamos precavernos para el futuro: si usted me avisa con

unos días de anticipación su llegada, yo me las arreglaré para estar presente.

Entre tanto, con mis mejores deseos de $\frac{1}{2}$ siempre, suyo, amigo.

Daniel Coío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D.F.

DCV/meh.-

Nueva historiografía política del México moderno. By DANIEL COSÍO VILLEGAS. México, 1965. Editorial del Colegio Nacional. Index. Pp. 176. Paper.

In 1949 Daniel Cosío Villegas pub-

THE HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW

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has been released to press and no
corrections or changes can be made.

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lished an essay on the historiography of the *Porfiriato* which contained 256 listings. He expanded this in 1953 to a total of 858 books and articles. The flood of publication on Mexico's recent history led him to add to the bibliography, and this revision (which includes the Revolution) appeared in 1965. It has 1,276 items and at first glance would appear to be fairly comprehensive. A check of the alphabetical index, however, shows some curious omissions, particularly of books published in the United States. Always alert to the interests of the *HAHR* editors, I looked for Pletcher and Quirk in the index. The name of the associate editor was missing, and so was a reference to his *Rails, Mines, and Progress*. I was pleased to find my dissertation included, but wondered why the two books on the 1910s were left out. Alfred Tischen-
dorf was cited for his *HAHR* article (1957), but not the subsequent book, *Great Britain and Mexico in the Era of Porfirio Díaz*. Similarly, there was an article by Robert E. Scott, but not the *Mexican Government in Transition*.

Other outstanding books which failed to make the list were E. David Cronon's *Josephus Daniels in Mexico*, Howard F. Cline's *Revolution to Evolution*, Ernest H. Gruening's *Mexico and Its Heritage*, John W. F. Dulles' *Yesterday in Mexico*, Frank Tannenbaum's *Mexico: The Struggle for Peace and Bread*, and Eyler Simpson's *The Ejido: Mexico's Way Out*. The only American writer who is well represented on the list is Stanley R. Ross, who worked with Cosío Villegas at the Colegio de México. On the other hand, the Mexican historiography was fairly complete. The only important writer I could not find was Pablo González Casanova.

These (and many other) omissions would seem to indicate that Mexican historians are less aware of American scholarship in their country than they should be. Or perhaps they consider it less significant than their own work. Cosío Villegas has provided an introductory essay, but the listings are made without critical comments.

R. E. Q. 8

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9 R. E. Q.

Quirk

México, D.F., August 23, 1967.

Editor
The Hispanic American Historical Review
Ballantine Hall
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
E.U.A.

Dear Editor:

Not just once, but repeatedly, have I stated in writing that when a book is published, its author unrestrictibly puts himself in the hands of critics and readers as well. In line with this principle, it has indeed been in exceptional occasions that I have replied to criticisms made to my publications, even though in several such instances they have seemed to me unfounded.

I feel that one of those exceptional cases is the review signed by "R.E.Q." on my book Nueva Historiografía Política del México Moderno, published in the August issue of the Hispanic American Historical Review. I am therefore asking you, Mr. Editor, that you please have this reply published in the forthcoming issue of the Review.

"R.E.Q.", in criticizing my book has resorted to the well discredited procedure, unbecoming to a scholar, of pointing out some omissions in the bibliography that I include in that publication, instead of considering whether its substance fits in with the aim for which the same was made up. Moreover, according to his own confession, Mr. "R.E.Q." has judged mine by just going over the index, without reading the entries themselves, and even overlooking the 32-page foreword preceding them.

The very title of my publication conveys the two aims I proposed to accomplish: a political bibliography of Modern Mexico, i.e., of that Mexico comprised between the triumph of the Republic over Maximilian's empire in 1867, and Porfirio Diaz downfall in 1911.

Had Mr. "R.E.Q." in making his criticisms taken into consideration those two limitations imposed by me in the bibliography, he would have abstained himself from making such criticisms. In fact, he maintains that he found many "curious" omissions of North American authored books, which he lists. Let us see them severally. Fletcher's and Tischendorf's books refer, it is true, to Modern Mexico, but they deal with economic history and not with political history. Quirk's thesis to obtain his Doctor's degree is included because it is on political history and starts with 1910, which actually falls within the historical era I was discussing; whereas exclusion was made of Doctor Quirk's two books because they refer to historical episodes that took place in 1914 and 1915, which belong to Mexico's contemporary and not

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modern history. On these same grounds there were excluded the books of Scott, Cronon, Cline, Gruening, Dulles, Tannenbaum and Simpson. As a matter of fact they all refer to events occurred after the Porfirio Diaz downfall. Consequently, none of the omissions of the North American authors remains valid.

In a more benevolent vein Mr. "R.E.Q." pronounces by bibliography to be fairly complete when referring to Mexican authors, for he only finds the omission of Mr. Pablo González Casanova. I wonder if Mr. "R.E.Q." could say what book on modern history of Mexico has Mr. Pablo González Casanova published. He could mention none, because he has not written any on the subject.

Mr. "R.E.Q." concludes his review by assuring that I present a bibliography without any critical comments. It is true that he admits that it is preceded by an "essay", but it is quite definite that he did not read it, for, had he done so, he would have noticed that the whole of it is devoted to describe the peculiar qualities and evaluate the bibliography. Even more, he would have realized (for I say so in the essay) that this is the third time I am undertaking that characterization and evaluation, wherefore, all in all, I have written 79 pages on this subject. Wouldn't this effort be commendable in Mr. "R.E.Q."s opinion?

The most serious part of Mr. "R.E.Q."s review (and this is the real reason for my reply) is the fact that he makes two malicious statements that require an explanation. After affirming that Professor Stanley R. Ross is the only North American writer who is well represented in my bibliography, he explains: Ross worked with me at the Colegio de México, or, in other words, that I have been partial in making out my bibliography. I should state that Mr. Ross has never worked with me; he worked at the Colegio de México when I was the president or secretary of that institution, in the same manner as he has continued to work there after I retired from it. Hence, there has only been a physical coincidence: we both worked at the same building, although each performing different tasks: he was devoted to his research work, while I was working in administrative matters of the Colegio. If Mr. "R.E.Q." desires to satisfy himself that neither in this case, nor in any other, there has been no partiality, he may give a perusal to the entries showing Mr. Ross' publications, and he will see that all and each of them refer to the political history of modern Mexico.

The other malevolent statement I must object is the one that Mexican historians overlook the North American contribution to Mexico's history because they consider it of an inferior quality to that of their own. Evidently, I cannot act as the spokesman of Mexican historians, wherefore I have to limit myself to speak exclusively of my personal case. In many lectures, delivered in Mexico, the United States, and in various Latin American countries; in essays and articles, even in disagreement with North American historians themselves, I have always maintained that the latter's contribution has always been useful, generally of a great quality, and indeed of an overwhelming volume. It is evident, however, that the publication of criticisms

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such as the one I have commented herein, does not contribute mucho to prove my thesis.

Please accept, Mr. Editor, my acknowledgment for the publication of these lines.

Sincerely yours

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D.F.

DCV/meh.-

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México, D. F., January 16, 1968.

Mr. Robert E. Quirk
The Hispanic American Historical Review
Ballantine Hall
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
E.U.A.

Dear Professor Quirk:

I am rather baffled about this. On August 23rd. I wrote you a letter asking the favor of publishing some remarks of mine on a review of one of my recent publications which was to appear in HAHR's August issue. Since then, that is to say, almost three months after, my letter has not been even acknowledged, and much less, I suppose, publish.

Will you please write me a word about this?

Yours cordially

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D.F.

DCV/meh.-

HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW

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ROBERT E. QUIRK, MANAGING EDITOR
DAVID M. PLETCHER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BALLANTINE HALL
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47405

February 29, 1968

Dr. Daniel Cosío Villegas:
Apartado 2123
México 1, D.F.
México

Dear Dr. Cosío Villegas:

Your letter to the HAHR came while I was on an extended trip to Europe, and I had thought that an acknowledgement had been sent at that time. We do, of course, intend to print your letter with what I hope is an appropriate reply. Unfortunately two issues were already with the printer by the time I had returned to Bloomington, so it was impossible to make room for the letter until our May 1968 issue. You can be assured that it will appear then.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Quirk

The Editor
Hispanic American Historical Review
...
U.S.A.

Señor Editor:

No una, sino varias veces, he dicho por escrito que al publicar un libro, su autor se pone sin reservas en manos del crítico y del lector. Consecuente con este principio, ha sido verdaderamente excepcional la ocasión en que he contestado las críticas hechas a mis publicaciones, a pesar de que varias de ellas me parecieron infundadas.

Creo que uno de esos casos de excepción es la reseña firmada por "R.E.Q." acerca de mi publicación: Nueva Historiografía Política del México Moderno, que aparece en el número , volumen de The Hispanic American Historical Review. Por eso, le ruego a usted, señor Editor, se sirva disponer que en el próximo número de la revista se publique esta respuesta.

"R.E.Q." ha usado para censurar mi publicación el procedimiento bien desacreditado, impropio de un scholar, de señalar algunas omisiones en la bibliografía que presento en esa publicación, en lugar de considerar si en lo principal corresponde ella al propósito para el cual fue compuesta. Más todavía: según su propia confesión, el señor "R.E.Q.", ha juzgado de la mía repasando tan sólo el índice de autores, sin leer las fichas mismas,

y menos las 32 páginas del prólogo que las precede.

El título mismo de mi publicación indica con toda claridad los dos fines que me propuse alcanzar: una bibliografía política del México Moderno, es decir, del México que va del triunfo de la República sobre el imperio de Maximiliano en 1867, a la caída de Porfirio Díaz en 1911.

Si el señor "R.E.Q." hubiera tomado en cuenta para hacer su crítica esos dos limitaciones que impuse a mi bibliografía, no habría hecho las críticas que hizo. Mantiene, en efecto, que halló muchas e inexplicables omisiones de obras de autores norteamericanos, y las señala. Veámoslas una por una. Los libros de Fletcher y Tischendorf se refieren, en efecto, al México Moderno, pero son de historia económica y no de política. Se incluye la tesis de doctorado del profesor Quirk porque es de historia política y arranca de 1910, es decir, cae dentro de la época histórica que yo consideraba; pero fueron excluidos los dos libros del mismo profesor porque se refieren a episodios históricos de 1914 y 1915, es decir, que pertenecen a la historia contemporánea, y no la moderna, de México. Por esta misma razón quedaron excluidos los libros de Scott, Cronon, Cline, Gruening, Dulles, Tannenbaum y Simpson. Todos ellos, en efecto, se refieren a hechos posteriores a la caída de Porfirio Díaz. No queda en pie, pues, ninguna de las omisiones de autores norteamericanos.

Más magnánimamente, el señor "R.E.Q." juzga que mi bibliografía es bastante completa en cuanto a autores mexicanos, pues solo advierte la exclusión de don Pablo González Casanova. ¿Podría decir el señor "R.E.Q." qué libro de historia moderna de México ha publicado Pablo González Casanova? No lo podrá señalar porque no ha escrito ninguno.

El señor "R.E.Q." concluye su reseña asegurando que presento una bibliografía sin comentarios críticos. Es verdad que alude a que ésta va precedida de "un ~~ex~~ ensayo", pero parece indudable que no lo leyó, pues, de lo contrario, se habría dado cuenta de que todo él se dedica precisamente a caracterizar y valorar la bibliografía. Más todavía, se habría dado cuenta (porque en el ensayo lo digo) que es ésta la tercera vez que intento esa caracterización y esa valoración, de modo que, en conjunto, he escrito sobre este tema 79 páginas ¿no le parece al señor "R.E.Q." encomiable ese esfuerzo?

Lo más grave de la reseña del señor "R.E.Q." (y éste es el verdadero motivo de mi respuesta) es que no deja de haber en ella dos notas malévolas que exigen una aclaración. Tras de asegurar que el único escritor norteamericano que está bien representado en mi bibliografía es el profesor Stanley R. Ross, da la explicación: Ross trabajó conmigo en El Colegio de México, o sea, que yo he sido parcial al componer mi bibliografía. Debo

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decir que el señor Ross jamás ha trabajado conmigo; trabajó en El Colegio de México cuando yo era el secretario o el presidente de esa institución, como ha trabajado después de que yo me retiré de ella. No ha habido, pues, sino una coincidencia física: ambos trabajamos dentro del mismo edificio, aunque cada uno en tareas diferentes: él en sus investigaciones y yo en la administración del Colegio. Si el señor "R.E.Q." quiere convencerse de que no ha habido en este caso (ni en ninguno otro) parcialidad, repase las fichas en que aparecen publicaciones del señor Ross, y verá que todas y cada una de ellas se refieren a la historia política del México moderno.

La otra afirmación malévola que debo recoger es la de que los historiadores mexicanos descuidan la contribución norteamericana a la historia de México porque la consideran inferior a la propia de ellos. No puedo, por supuesto, hacerme pasar como vocero de los historiadores mexicanos, de modo que debo limitarme a hablar exclusivamente de mi caso personal. En muchas conferencias, dadas en México, en Estados Unidos y en varios países latinoamericanos; en ensayos y en artículos, aun en contra de la opinión de los propios historiadores norteamericanos, he sostenido que la contribución de éstos ha sido siempre útil, en general de gran calidad y de un volumen de verdad abrumador. Naturalmente que no ayuda mucho a demostrar mi tesis la publicación de críticas como la que he comentado aquí.

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~~Anticipándole a usted, señor Editor, mi agradecimiento por la publicación de estas líneas, quedo suyo, amigo y servidor.~~

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DCV

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Ed

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I feel that one of those exceptional cases is the review signed by "R.E.Q." on my book "Nueva Historiografía Política del México Moderno", published in the August issue of the Hispanic American Historical Review, number _____, volume _____ (fecha?) I am therefore asking you, Mr. Editor, that you please have this reply published in the forthcoming issue of the Review.

"R.E.Q."; in criticizing my book has resorted to the well discredited procedure, unbecoming to a scholar, of pointing out some omissions in the bibliography that I include in that publication, instead of considering whether its substance fits in with the aim for which the same was ^{made up.} ~~purported~~ Moreover,

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only been a physical coincidence: we both worked at the same building, although each performing different tasks: he was devoted to his research work, while I was working in administrative matters of the Colegio. If Mr. "R.E.Q." desires to satisfy himself that neither in this case, nor in any other, there has been no partiality, he may give a perusal to the ^{entries}~~index-cards~~ showing Mr. Ross' publications, and he will see that all and each of them refer to the political history of modern Mexico.

The other malevolent statement I must ^{object}~~point out~~ is the one that Mexican historians overlook the North American contribution to Mexico's history because they consider it of an inferior quality to~~that~~ that of their own. Evidently, I cannot act as the spokesman of Mexican historians, wherefore I have to limit myself to speak exclusively of my personal case. In many lectures, delivered in Mexico, the United States, and in various Latin American ~~countries~~ countries; in ~~an~~ essays and articles, even in disagreement with North American historians themselves, I have always maintained that the ~~latters~~' contribution has always been

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indeed
useful, generally of a great quality, and/of an overwhelming
however,
volume. It is evident, that the publication ~~on my behalf~~ of
criticisms such as the one I have commented herein, does not
contribute much to prove my thesis.

Please accept, Mr. Editor, my acknowledgment for
the ~~xx~~ publication of these lines.

Sincerely yours,

DCV

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