

EDITORS' NOTE

It is our hope to present histories of the regional associations, the first two of which appear here. We believe that this will contribute to their continued growth and vigor while strengthening the relations between the regional organizations and LASA. For those associations which have not yet been directly contacted, we enthusiastically invite contributions similar to the following.

THE PACIFIC COAST COUNCIL ON LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES: THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

Eugene K. Chamberlin
San Diego City College

During the academic year 1974–75, the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies (PCCLAS) is commemorating its twentieth anniversary. A summary of its origins and some of the highlights of its development may give current participants in its affairs that breadth of vision which historians assert is helpful in evaluating such human institutions.

Although the 1920s and 1930s brought a great rise in Latin American studies, the 1940s witnessed the start of a decline in enrollments at a time when the numbers of well trained and experienced teachers were quite high. Seemingly reflecting the shift in U.S. attention from Latin America to Europe and then to the Far East and Africa, this decrease in enrollment led to reconsideration of the position of Latin American studies in the American educational system. In 1949, Jorge Basadre, director of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Pan American Union (PAU), summarized the concern of specialists in his introduction to *Courses on Latin America*, published by the PAU. He hoped that the period of reconsideration would bring "greater depth and authenticity" to the courses offered; that after refining, adapting, testing, and amplifying them there would be a raising of the level of both teaching and research. He hoped for closer cooperation and interchange between institutions,

professors, and specialists "on both continents" towards the progress of their studies and wished for "more effective contacts between the thousands of Latin-America-minded men and women on the campuses of this great country and the Organization of American States, through the Pan American Union."

After preliminary surveys, a round table was convened at the PAU in Washington, 1–2 April 1952, to explore problems in teaching Latin American studies. This led to a series of regional "round tables" at Columbia (1952), Delaware (1953), New Mexico (1954), and Duke (1954). The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and the PAU sponsored a fifth regional conference for the Pacific Coast region (12–14 May 1955). Since the earlier meetings had brought formation of councils to further Latin American studies in the Northeast, Middle Atlantic, and Rocky Mountain regions, it was logical to expect a similar outcome following the UCLA round table. On 12 May sixty-four participants registered, with twenty-three institutions represented (Lewis and Clark College of Portland, Oregon was the only non-California entity). An inter-American flavor was provided by representatives from the National University of Mexico, the National Library of Guatemala, and two from the PAU: Theo R. Crevenna and Erico Verissimo, then director of the Department of Cultural Affairs. Twenty-one of the sixty-four were from UCLA, four from Occidental, and four from the University of Southern California; six represented northern California institutions and five participants listed no institutional affiliation.

Ralph L. Beals of UCLA, serving as temporary chairman, opened the first plenary session. Dean Verne O. Knudsen of the UCLA Graduate Division welcomed the participants, and Erico Verissimo responded with a long and inspired plea for fuller and freer teaching about all aspects of Latin America, not economic or political matters alone. Reflecting in part the recent McCarthyite era of attacks on intellectuals by the "right," Verissimo warned that this had merely repeated lessons taught by two earlier teachers, "Professor-Emeritus Hitler, Professor-Emeritus Stalin." Pursuit of international intellectual freedom through yet another period of acute political and social crises, he argued, called for determined teaching of truths and values to make real the spiritual unity of the American Hemisphere.

Beals was elected chairman and Robert N. Burr of the UCLA History Department became secretary. Theo Crevenna noted the recent drop of enrollments in Latin American studies and committed PAU efforts to a reinvigoration of the field. Area committees for social sciences, language and literature, and history met later in the day and reports were

distributed to all participants the next morning. The Friday organization was by topics: Libraries, research, and area programs; these were also followed by summaries of their discussions. At the Saturday morning closing plenary session, fourteen wide-ranging resolutions were adopted, and a fifteenth instructed Beals as chairman of the round table and first chairman of the PCCLAS "to appoint a Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies." The council was to explore methods of strengthening ties between Latin Americanists, consider the founding of a newsletter or quarterly, and distribute to press agencies news items of interest to Latin Americanists. With a covering letter from Verissimo dated 29 August, the forty page official report of the round table was mailed to participants and other invitees unable to attend. Beals had appointed a council and the resolutions of the round table were being implemented.

Almost a year and a half passed before the Second Meeting of the PCCLAS, which convened at the University of Southern California (USC) 25–27 October 1956 and the pattern of fall meetings thus begun has continued to date. Paul E. Hadley of USC served as chairman for 1956–57, and since that time all presiding officers have been faculty members of the host institution for the annual meetings. Until the end of the Seventeenth Meeting, the presiding officer was termed chairman; since then he has been president of the council. Two women have served as president: Gabriele Von Munk Benton of Occidental (1962–63) and Gwendolin B. Cobb of Fresno State (1963–64); and except for Carl Johannessen of the University of Oregon (1967–68) and Renato Rosaldo of the University of Arizona (1971–72), presiding officers have come from California. Though founded as the Pacific Coast Council, this regional group has virtually evolved into a "Pacific Southwest Council," possibly due to its initial strength coming from southern California (where over half of all meetings have taken place). Efforts have been made, however, to include on the governing board representatives covering the whole geographical area of the PCCLAS, and when the Nineteenth Meeting held its banquet in Tijuana, Baja California, and then added peninsular California to the PCCLAS empire, it set a precedent for a future Vancouver, B.C., meeting. Only the Thirteenth Meeting at the University of Oregon (26–28 October 1967) and the Seventeenth at the University of Arizona (18–20 November 1971) have convened outside of California. Both of these were notably successful and the council hopes to encourage more such meetings. Following the 1975 meeting at California State University (Fresno), under the presidency of Robert M. Smetherman, the twenty-second will be convened at Arizona State University in 1976. Such geographical broadening will serve to strengthen one of the council's original purposes: The

promotion of greater interest in Latin American studies and more effective teaching in the field throughout this large geographical area.

The Second Meeting (1956) began with a dinner for the "members of the council and executive committee," which in more recent years would be labeled "governing board and executive committee." This has become a regular feature of annual meetings. The Friday sessions followed registration with a plenary session for an executive committee report, then a two-hour panel, a luncheon with guest speaker, an afternoon divided between two more panels, and a meeting of the committee on library cooperation. The pattern of sessions, luncheons, and dinners noted for the Second Meeting has varied little in subsequent years. The Third Meeting (24–26 October 1957) convened at Berkeley, with James F. King as chairman; the Fourth (October 1958) came at the Santa Barbara College of the University of California (UCSB) with Philip W. Powell as chairman; the Fifth met at Stanford, 9–11 October 1959, with Ronald Hilton presiding. The next Friday to Sunday meeting was the Sixth at Long Beach State, 7–9 October 1960, under Theodore E. Nichols. Thereafter, all meetings were Thursday through Saturday until the Twentieth at UCLA, which returned to the Friday-Sunday schedule (18–20 October 1974). The Sixteenth (UCSB, 5–7 November 1970) and the Seventeenth were the only sessions held in November; the Nineteenth (San Diego State University, 27–29 September 1973) was the only one convening in September; fifteen of the first twenty meetings have been scheduled in October.

Meetings seven through twelve alternated between northern and southern California: San Francisco State, 12–14 October 1961, (Theodore E. Treutlein); Occidental, 25–27 October 1962, (Gabriele Benton); Fresno State, 10–12 October 1963, (Gwendolin B. Cobb); San Diego State, 22–24 October 1964, (Abraham P. Nasatir); University of Santa Clara, 21–23 October 1965, (Matt S. Meier); and San Fernando Valley State, 20–22 October 1966, (Julian Nava). During the summer of 1965, before the Santa Clara meeting, Martin H. Sable began the long-planned *Newsletter*, which he continued to promote and edit through volume 4, number 3, Autumn 1968. Publication of the *Newsletter* helped to solidify the council, make its efforts more widely known, and keep its members better informed of PCCLAS progress. The Thirteenth Meeting finally took the participants to Eugene, Oregon. The full program began on Thursday evening with an address by ex-Governor Carlos Lacerda of the State of Guanabara, Brazil. Friday panels included contemporary educational values and investment in Latin America, along with a "humor-through-language" linguistics panel. Kalman Silvert of New York University spoke at the

Friday banquet and again on Saturday morning, when he spoke on the Latin American Studies Association. The business meeting began the awarding of two annual prizes, one for a monographic study and the second for a published article, both consisting of cash honoraria. The Fourteenth Meeting at Elbert Covell College, University of the Pacific, 24–26 October 1968, (Larry L. Pippin) was followed by two in southern California: Fullerton State 23–25 October 1969, (David M. Feldman) and UCSB (Donald M. Dozer). Then came the second venture outside California, the Seventeenth Meeting at the University of Arizona under Renato Rosaldo. His efforts to collect and publish papers presented at that meeting began the *Proceedings* of the PCCLAS. This pioneer effort was followed with publication of volume two in 1973 by the San Diego State University Press, covering the papers of the Eighteenth Meeting (26–28 October 1972) at the Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies, under Philip Brian Johnson. Though an item of considerable expense, the *Proceedings* demonstrated the maturity of the council as it celebrated its twentieth year and returned to its UCLA birthplace, 18–20 October 1974, under the presidency of E. Bradford Burns.

APPENDIX

<i>Year</i>	<i>PCCLAS Chairmen/Presidents</i>
1955–56	Ralph L. Beals, University of California, Los Angeles
1956–57	Paul E. Hadley, University of Southern California
1957–58	James F. King, University of California, Berkeley
1958–59	Philip W. Powell, University of California, Santa Barbara
1959–60	Ronald Hilton, Stanford University
1960–61	Theodore E. Nichols, Long Beach State College
1961–62	Theodore E. Treutlein, San Francisco State College
1962–63	Gabriele Von Munk Benton, Occidental College
1963–64	Gwendolin B. Cobb, Fresno State College
1964–65	Abraham P. Nasatir, San Diego State University
1965–66	Matt S. Meier, University of Santa Clara
1966–67	Julian Nava, San Fernando Valley State University
1967–68	Carl Johannessen, University of Oregon
1968–69	Larry L. Pippin, Elbert Covell College, University of the Pacific
1969–70	David M. Feldman, Fullerton State University
1970–71	Donald M. Dozer, University of California, Santa Barbara
1971–72	Renato Rosaldo, University of Arizona
1972–73	Philip Brian Johnson, Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies
1973–74	Roger L. Cunniff, San Diego State University
1974–75	E. Bradford Burns, University of California, Los Angeles
1975–76	Robert M. Smetherman, California State University, Fresno