



The Bibliographic Patrimonial Collection from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (UC)

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121 — Rare and special collections depending on history: Latin America and the Caribbean — Rare Books and Manuscripts Section with Latin America and the Caribbean

Abstract:

The purpose of this document consists of an exposition of the main criteria applied by SIBUC to establish, protect and spread its patrimonial collection. It also provides antecedents related to the application of a descriptive index card, additional to the traditional cataloging, contributing to the teaching and research activity.

1. INTRODUCTION

The first published work appeared in Chile in 1776, a little leaflet of six pages *Modo de Ganar el Jubileo Santo*, which had several print runs. This is considered the earliest precedent of print industry in Chile. Towards the end of 1811 arrived to the country the first printing press and, a year later, the first Chilean newspaper *la Aurora de Chile* was printed.

In the 1840s an institutionalization of the culture under the influence of the republican ideas took place, contributing to settlement of the printing press, which motivated the acquisition of European ideas and practices. Thus, between 1840 and 1841 the first Spanish publishers established in our country and begin the spread of the works by Spanish and French authors, beginning the book trade in Chile.

The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile has assumed the task of protecting and spreading of the cultural heritage available in its collections.

The print materials considered Patrimonial Collections has 13.615 titles, equivalent to 29.446 book volumes, while the manuscripts are more than 1000.

We consider as part of the Patrimonial Collection Chilean and foreign texts published included between 1500 and 1899, and the manuscripts corresponding to historically

valuable books, also known as Old Books Collection, which requires special protection measures.

This document emphasizes the criteria used by the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile Library System (SIBUC) to establish this collection and define the parameters and categories that must have a determinate title, in order to integrate this heritage, how to protect it from the damage, and how to contribute to the diffusion of it for research.

2. CRITERIA APPLIED FOR THE INCLUSION OF TITLES INTO THIS COLLECTION

The current policy to be part of this collection within the SIBUC dates from 1982 and was updated in 1998.

These parameters were established through a collaborative academic bibliotecological work, which allowed to define rare and valuable materials and what should be finally kept within the Patrimonial Collection, a recently adopted concept by the SIBUC.

The criteria have been described by Professor Ricardo Couyoumdjian (1998), from the History Institute of our University and can be summarized as follows¹:

2.1 Age and antiquity of the materials

It was considered at first to incorporate into the Patrimonial Collection, the European books until 1700, the Latin American until 1850 and the books published in Chile until 1859. The SIBUC has a collection of Chilean printed materials until that year, created by Alamiro de Ávila Martel, a Chilean historian, bibliographer and numismatic, who was born in 1918.

In this category are also included certain topics such as travel writing, specially related to Chile and America in general, volumes on geography and maps, books related to Chile or Hispanic America printed in Europe until 1850 and other works of Natural Science and Exact Science and Technology—disciplines in which the old bibliographic production is limited, on the contrary to what happens with religious works, philosophical deputations, law, biographies and history.

It was decided later, however, to limit the criteria of inclusion to these collections to the last year of the XIX century, without distinction of the place of edition, because our expert witnessed a growing tendency to separate and protect books published before 1900, coinciding with the recommendation coming from the academic Juan de Dios Vial Correa, ex Rector of our University (1984-2000).

2.2 Works interest

First editions of classic works which have been reprinted many times were considered when we designed the selection criteria for this collection. First editions of Voltaire works in his original language, *Oeuvres* (1817-1819), is an example of this category. In Chile, the first editions of Alberto Blest Gana, *Martín Rivas* (1862),

¹ Couyoumdjian, Ricardo. *Proposed guidelines for the development of a special collection of rare and valuable books*. Santiago, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 1998. p.7

published in France, or *Durante la Reconquista* (1863), published in Santiago de Chile and other first editions of novels by Chilean authors are other examples. There are other works within this category, like the Diderot and D'Alembert *Encyclopedie* (1751). We added works presenting territorial explorations and travellers narratives describing unknown regions.

2.3 Exceptional editions of important work

18th -century limited print-run works, which are commonly numbered and indicate the total amount of books published in the edition, like the volume *Modo de Ganar el Jubileo Santo* of 1776, whose edition had a print run of 500 copies.

2.4 Original engravings and lithographies

In this case we include all the 18th-century books that have this kind of illustrations, together with a high bibliotecological interest. Also antique pictures and maps.

2.5 Special dedications and bindings or other peculiarities that make the document unique.

Luxury bindings, handmade or very elaborated leather bindings, autographed books and dedicated to/by their original owners, are also included.

Particularly important, and considered of a special interest, **manuscript** works are included if considered as unique and irreplaceable materials.

Finally, periodical publications have also a place in this collection, so those publications whose edition date begins the second half of the XIX century, are also included.

It is necessary to enumerate some significant works which belong to the literary production of the first years of our country:

- The *Histórica relación del Reino de Chile* by Alonso de Ovalle (1646), stored in the Humanities Library, constitutes the first historical and descriptive work of Chile in Europe, with testimonies and letters which were its source of information.
- *El Cautiverio feliz y razón de las guerras dilatadas en Chile* by Francisco Núñez de Pineda y Bascañán, written in 1643, published in 1863, which is a narrative of the author's condition, as a captive of the Araucanos. Stored in the Humanities Library.
- The *Monitor Araucano*, a newspaper published very early in Chile, in 1813, marks the birth, together with its predecessor, the *Aurora de Chile*, of the printing press arrival to our country.
- *Historia física y política de Chile* by Claudio Gay, published in Paris in 1850.

Other titles are also remarkable:

- *Cosmos* by Alexandre de Humboldt. 4 vol., from 1866-1867
- *Les dix livres d'architecture* by Marco Vitruvio Polión, 1603.
- *Biblia magna commentariorumliterarium*, 1643.

- *Biblioteca selecta de rationestudiorum: ad disciplinas & ad salutem omnium Gentium procurandam* by Antonio Possevino, 1603.

3. PROCESSING

The collections (printed copies and manuscripts) are catalogued and information about this catalogue is available for the public at the on-line catalogue http://aleph.uc.cl/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b.

In 2010, with the cooperation of an academic expert, Professor Pablo Chiuminatto from the Arts Faculty, a descriptive index card was redesigned, which records elements from old books, useful to the researcher in order to report where and under what circumstances the knowledge was created or from where it came to our time. This index card has been already built for the titles published in 1500; it had a first version which was later complemented, using internationally recognized models, like:

Istituto Centrales per il Catalogo Unico delle Biblioteche italiane e per le Informazioni Bibliografiche. In: <http://www.sbn.it/opacsbn/opac/iccu/antico.jsp>

Contacto con el Catalogo Colectivo del Patrimonio Bibliográfico. In: <http://www.mcu.es/patrimoniobibliografico/cargarFiltroPatrimonioBibliografico.do?cache=init&layout=catBibliografico&language=es>

Marche Tipografiche Editoriali.

In: <http://193.206.215.10/marte/opacmarteen.php>

For place names in Latin:

<http://net.lib.byu.edu/~catalog/people/rlm/latin/c/0cnames.htm#Coloniae%20Agrippinae>

Finally, the Bibliographic Standards Committee de la [Association of College and Research Libraries / Rare Books and Manuscripts Section](#) for Latin place names.

This special processing, additional to the traditional cataloging, relates the texts to their precedents, contributing to the teaching and the research activity.

The process was started at the Theology Library, which had the greatest quantity of old works within the SIBUC. The task was collaborative, participating librarians and assistant students of our University and the professor mentioned before.

The descriptive index card—included as an appendix—considers as main elements, apart from the identification work, its cataloging elements and marks such as:

- Filigree, defined as a transparent mark made on the paper when manufactured.
- Frontispiece: ornamental illustration on the page that precedes the title page or on the same title page.
- Frieze: ornamentation or design generally found on the first pages of the books.

4. STORAGE AND PRESERVATION

Most of these books are stored inside separated physical spaces, with temperature and relative humidity controlled (temperature between 18 and 22 degrees Celsius and humidity between 50 and 55%). The collection has restricted access, mainly for researchers.

The materials are protected inside packing cases, envelopes and folders free from acid. The label and the bar code are external, so the search of a requested particular item or a possible inventory do not imply excessive manipulation.

The SIBUC laboratory for the treatment material infected with fungus applies a strict methodology, that allows to protect people and guarantees the recovery collections, in those cases where some of the volumes are affected.

5. INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT THE COLLECTION

The information about the books and manuscripts included in this catalogue is available on internet, at the Institutional Repository and the on-line Catalogue, including in this last one, a digital image and the descriptive index card when appropriate. Additionally there have been exhibitions of old works and specific informative posters, in order to make the collection well know within the university community. For example, we had a bibliographic poster for the spread of the work and the personal archive of the Chilean writer Pedro Prado (1886-1952), material which was donated by the family to the SIBUC.

Finally, the SIBUC has started to digitalize hand-written and printed works with patrimonial value, up to the moment 840 manuscripts, 102 books and magazines, and will join the World Digital Library, in 2011, with letters by Gabriela Mistral, Literature Nobel Prize, 1945.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The SIBUC Patrimonial Collection from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile is constituted according to specific criteria stated in this document, which are summarized in Appendix 1.

The work has been carried out by different university bodies.

Most of this collection is stored within a protected environment and it is consulted by researchers with a minimum and careful manipulation.

The descriptive index card (Appendix 2), associated to the catalogued document work, adds value to the catalographic work and it has been elaborated with available information from recognized international catalogues.

Finally, this task started on the SIBUC within its collections, is innovative in our country and implies new knowledge and skills for the librarian staff related to these collections.

APPENDIX 1

BIBLIOGRAPHIC PATRIMONIAL COLLECTION CRITERIA APPLIED		
AGE AND ANTIQUITY OF MATERIALS	European books	Until 1700
	Latin American Books	Until 1850
	Chilean Books	Until 1859
WORKS INTEREST	First Edition: * Classic works, universal culture history, territorial explorations and travellers narratives	
EXCEPTIONAL EDITIONS OF IMPORTANT WORK	Limited print-run works	
ORIGINAL ENGRAVINGS AND LITHOGRAPHIES	All the books 18 th century	
SPECIAL DEDICATIONS AND BINDINGS OR OTHER PECULIARITIES THAT MAKE THE DOCUMENTS	Luxury bindings , autographed books and special dedications	

APPENDIX 2

Nivel bibliográfico:	Monografía
Tipo de documento:	Texto impreso
Autor:	Basilio, Santo, Obispo de Cesarea <ca. 329-379>
Título:	Omnia D. Basilii Magni Archiepiscopi Caesaree Cappadociae quae extant opera / a Iano Cornario... et Adamo Fumano latinitate donata...
Pie Imprenta:	Venetiis: Ad Signum Spei, 1548 (Venetiis : ad signum Spei, 1548)
Descripción:	4°; [24] p., 551 h.
Notas generales:	En port. papel quemado ox. ferr. tachado "a Iano Cornario... et Adamo Fumano latinitate donata... " Ex. Libris orig. [?] ms. C. Montero. Roma C.P.S.A. 1896. Re-enc. mod. ex. libris lomo y timbre en port. Bibliotheca Arzobispal de Santiago
Marca editorial:	En port. fig. xil.: mujer sobre pedestal, delante de una ciudad. Alrededor de fig. lema: "beatus vir, cuius est dominus/ spes eius: & non respexit/ in vanitates, & infanias falsas"
Tema	Literatura Cristiana primitiva -- Autores Latinos.
Lugar de publicación:	Venecia, Italia
Idioma de publicación:	Latín
Biblioteca:	Biblioteca de Teología
Colección:	Patrimonial. RARO1
N° pedido:	270.2 B312o 1548 c.1
Código de barra:	0123449000011