

It was, on motion,

EL COLEGIO
DE MEXICO

RESOLVED that the sum of One hundred twenty-three thousand
RF 58216 six hundred ninety-two dollars (\$123,692), or as
much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it hereby is,
appropriated to the COLEGIO DE MEXICO, Mexico, D.F.,
toward support of a research and training seminar in
contemporary Mexican history and the preparation of an (
analytical study of the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1952,
this sum to be available during the five-year period
beginning July 1, 1959.

The above action was taken after an oral presentation of the
project by Mr. Fahs and following discussion.

Among the considerations presented were:

Humanities: History

Previous Interest: Since 1942 grants totaling \$295,532 have been made
to the Colegio de México for various projects in history, literature,
and linguistics. Of these, a grant in aid of \$2,700 enabled the
historian, Daniel Cosío Villegas, to study in the United States in
1945-46. Since 1948, \$79,872 has been appropriated to the Colegio
de México for its research seminar on modern Mexican history. Of
this sum, \$61,572 supported the preparation of a six-volume politi-
cal, economic, and social history of Mexico, 1867-1911; and a sepa-
rate grant of \$18,300 was for assistance in locating and evaluating
sources for the history of the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1940, over
the two-year period ending June 30, 1959. A grant was also approved
in 1957 for \$9,000 toward the travel expenses of Daniel Cosío Villegas
and his wife to visit European centers of Latin American studies and
to spend approximately four months in Asia for observation and lec-
turing. Dr. Cosío is now planning to start his trip to Asia in
November, 1959.

General Description: The special function of the Colegio de México within the structure of higher education in Mexico is to develop intellectual leaders by offering research opportunities to the fully trained humanist and social scientist of demonstrated competence and by providing young university graduates with their only opportunity in Mexico to acquire intensive training within such disciplines as history and philology. Since 1948, with Rockefeller Foundation assistance, it has conducted a seminar on modern Mexican history under the direction of Daniel Cosío Villegas, an eminent Mexican historian, economist, and essayist. This experiment was without Latin American precedent, all previous research seminars in history, both at the Colegio and elsewhere in Spanish America, having emphasized either the colonial or independence periods. None had ever coped with the technical difficulties of present-day documentation; all have shunned the dangers of objective comment on the recent activities of contemporary governments. The concept behind this seminar was that a critical and realistic appraisal of the Mexican Revolution was essential to future research concerned with twentieth-century Mexico, to realistic national planning, and to public comprehension of political actions. But first a similar study of the regime of Porfirio Díaz immediately preceding the Revolution was needed and a group of scholars capable of handling the research had to be trained. This has now been done. The Historia Moderna de México (four volumes in print, one to be published next spring, and the manuscript of the sixth to be in the printer's hands by June, 1959), is a major landmark and possible turning point in the writing of Latin American history; the seminar has trained a small number of historians competent to handle and to interpret contemporary source material.

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In June, 1957, the seminar, under the direction of Luis Gonzalez Gonzalez, again with partial Rockefeller Foundation support, began in anticipation of the present proposal, a two-year program of locating and evaluating the sources for Mexican history, 1910-1940. In the course of this work it became apparent that to give full

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meaning to any interpretation of the Revolution, the study would have to continue past 1940, when the direction of the revolutionary movement was so radically altered, through 1952. An annotated bibliography of printed literature other than newspapers has been prepared through 1952; the examination of newspapers will be complete through the same date by September of next year. But the description of archival and manuscript sources, while sufficiently complete to support research on the early years of the Revolution, will require substantial further work before the extended date of 1952 is reached. The grant under consideration accordingly includes support needed to complete this necessary guide to archival and manuscript sources for the Mexican Revolution.

For the writing of the history of the Mexican Revolution, the seminar would be divided into four teams of six scholars, each group responsible for searching the sources, analyzing and drafting one volume on the political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of the Revolution, respectively. Cosío would give over-all direction, do the final editing and serve also as the leader of the group making the political study. The present stage of planning has not permitted either definite offers or commitments, but preliminary conversations make it clear that the other three group leaders would be mature scholars such as Victor Urquidi or Francisco Calderon for the economic study; Luis Villoro or Moises Gonzalez Navarro for social history; and probably Luis Gonzalez Gonzalez for cultural history. Each team would also include two researchers who have completed their graduate training and have demonstrated their ability to write monographic studies, and three junior but outstanding university graduates who want to prepare themselves for careers as teachers and writers of history. This organization is similar to that used for the Historia Moderna, except that more experienced team leaders are now available, the over-all strength has been increased to make more rapid progress possible, and culture has been given separate treatment in view of the important role of art and literature during this period.

The volumes of the Historia Moderna were printed in an illustrated edition without a publication subsidy, and have proven to be a financial success. There is no question, under the circumstances, that the Colegio would have its choice of publishers for its proposed four-volume history of the Mexican Revolution.

Finances: The proposed grant of \$123,692 would provide half of an estimated total budget of \$247,384, for use over a five-year period. The other half would be provided by the Colegio de México, the Banco de México, and other Mexican sources. The allocation of the total estimated budget would be approximately as follows:

Salary of Director	\$ 24,000
Salaries of three group leaders.	57,600
Salaries of eight researchers.	76,800
Support of twelve readers (graduate students).	28,800
Salaries of stenographers and typists. . .	34,400
Purchase of materials, principally microfilm.	5,000
Mexican travel of group leaders and researchers.	5,000
Bibliographical research after 1940. . . .	<u>15,784</u>
Total	\$247,384

The item for bibliographical research would be expended during the first year, July, 1959 - July, 1960. The remainder of the grant would be prorated almost equally throughout the five-year period. Payments would be made on the basis of annual budgets to be approved by Foundation officers.

Comment: The Revolution in Mexico began in 1910 and was institutionalized in 1917 into a political party which, despite changes in structure and name, has remained ever since the official custodian and the interpreter of the principles of the Revolution without, since the late 1920's, any serious challenge to its power. This most significant and continuous of all national movements in Spanish America has never been examined thoroughly and critically by competent scholars using any reasonable proportion of the available

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sources. No Spanish American country has looked critically at its national development during this century with the breadth and depth proposed by the contemporary history seminar of the Colegio de México. All previous attempts at general interpretative accounts of contemporary society are impressionistic. The few studies based on careful use of source material are either narrowly monographic without relation to the whole of recent experience, or are directed at the short-term solution of an immediately pressing problem with scant regard to long-term situations or policy implications. The seminar will welcome both observers and active scholars from the rest of Spanish America: it would be well if its work could be copied elsewhere. The stature of the Colegio de México seminar - already considerable - will undoubtedly be such that graduate students from universities in the United States will be able to complete part of their graduate requirements in the field of Latin American history at the Colegio de México. Daniel Cosío Villegas has recently replaced Alfonso Reyes as the active head of the Colegio. This step assures a continued emphasis on the seminar on contemporary Mexican history in the Colegio's long-range plans for research and training. It is expected that most of the researchers and graduate students who might participate in this program would continue research, after its termination, on specialized aspects of recent Mexican history, either at the Colegio or as professors at Mexican universities.

Future Implications: The five-year schedule for completing the proposed study of the Mexican Revolution appears to be realistic. It is based on the experience of Daniel Cosío Villegas in directing the seminar of modern Mexican history during the past decade. Half of the full-time staff of twenty-four will be well-trained scholars, familiar with the techniques of handling modern documentation, and with unparalleled data on the sources of twentieth-century Mexico readily available to them. Nevertheless, it would be unrealistic to assume that in an undertaking as important as

this all will go according to schedule. The officers may wish to recommend further support to bring to a logical conclusion our concern with the Colegio de México's work on contemporary history.

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