MANUSCRIPTA

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SOME NOTES ON THE PASTELLS COLLECTION AT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

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Since the early 1950's Saint Louis University has been acquiring on microfilm a large body of primary source materials dealing with the Jesuits and their work in North and South America and the Philippines. Several previous articles have dealt with various areas of these collections,¹ and the present article will treat of a collection of great use to Latin American scholars who are interested chiefly in the history of the Spanish Indies. This collection was assembled by P. Pablo Pastells during the last decade of the nineteenth and the first thirty years of the twentieth centuries. Fr. Francisco Mateos, S.J., has written a lengthy description and history of the collection in his article, "La colección Pastells de documentos sobre América y Filipinas," and in it has included a sketch of Pastells' life and work.²

Pablo Pastells was born in Figueras of the Spanish province of Gerona in 1846, and after his early schooling went on to Barcelona, entering a seminary there in 1861. After some years of study he enrolled as a Jesuit novice in the noviciate at Balaguer in 1866. His further years of study were often interrupted by various civil uprisings which often seemed to bring in tow the immediate expulsion of the Jesuits. Thus Pastells had to flee to France due to the revolutionary uprising of 1866 and then back to Spain after the revolution in France of 1870. He was ordained a priest in 1871 but then the Carlist wars and further uprisings in Spain once again forced him to seek refuge in France. Finally by 1875 he had finished all his religious formation studies and was assigned to work as a missionary in the Philippines.

Pastells remained on this assignment for eighteen years, preaching and converting the natives and establishing settlements much after

² Revista de Indias, Núm. 27 (Enero-Marzo 1947), 7-52.
the fashion of the Paraguay reductions, but the climate and heavy work load told on his health and he was sent back to Spain to recuperate in 1893. At this point in life he began what might seem a second career and one which would occupy him until his death in 1932. But this second career was in some ways a continuation of previous work, for during his many years as a missionary, Pastells had found time to delve into the historical backgrounds of the Spanish Jesuits' work in the Islands and to gather materials. He had noted that there was much documentary material available to the historian and that in books mentioning the work of the Jesuits, there were many deficiencies, and so he began his work in Manila, choosing to re-edit classical histories which had become rare and out-of-print. However, he not only republished these histories but added the royal decrees, the missionary letters, etc., on which their narrative was based. By reason of this method his edition became more important and helpful than the original work. For some years after his return to Spain Pastells continued to investigate various archives in addition to the other work which had been assigned to him and to concentrate on materials referring to the Philippines. It was during these years that his Barcelona collection began to be formed, and he received monetary support for such work from the Compañía General de Tabacos which was much interested in the history of the Islands for their own reasons.

In 1905 Pastells was assigned by his Jesuit superiors to the task which would occupy him until his death. Some years before P. Antonio Astrain, S.J., had been chosen to prepare a history of the Spanish Jesuits, and as the magnitude of the task became evident he was given additional personnel. P. Pablo Hernández gathered materials for the volumes from the archives of Latin America and P. Pastells did the same in the Spanish Archivo de Indias in Seville. For some twenty-five years he researched, sifted and selected such documents and in this huge task he had at first two assistants and later a staff of twelve. But the end of his life, like his earlier years of study, was complicated by civil troubles, and the Spanish Revolution of 1931 brought his work to an end. But even during the last months of his life he continued working on the publication of volumes in his history of Paraguay and of that of the Philippines. Pablo Pastells died in August of 1932 at the age of eighty-six. A full list of his publications will be found in the article of Mateos referred to above, and it is interesting to note that for one of them, exhibited at the World's Fair in St. Louis in 1904, he received
the gold medal award and a special commendation from President Taft. A

In his magisterial article Fr. Mateos divides the collections assembled by Fr. Pastells into two large groups, the "Seville Collection" and the "Barcelona Collection." Then he subdivides the Seville Collection into a collection of documents fully copied out ("Serie Primera"), a series of smaller volumes of extracts from documents and thirdly a mass of additional unbound documents and photographs. The collection of documents formed in Seville was kept there for some time but is now housed in a private Jesuit library in Madrid. It is a much larger and richer collection than the one housed at San Cugat which is termed the "Barcelona Collection." The portion of the collection discussed here, and available for consultation at the Pius XII Memorial Library of Saint Louis University is the Serie Primera, (the Seville Collection of documents fully copied out) and the indices to those documents.

It was in 1905, as we have seen, that Pastells was given the much larger task of gathering documentation to aid Fr. Astrain in the publication of his monumental history of the Spanish Assistancy of the Society of Jesus. This was part of a project sponsored by the then General of the Jesuits, Fr. Luis Martín, to publish modern scientifically written histories of the Jesuits and their work in different countries, specifically Italy, Germany, France, Belgium and the United States, in addition to the volumes to be produced by Fr. Astrain for Spain. As a result of the task assigned to Fr. Pastells, Fr. Astrain was able to complete the many volumes of his history and at the same time the Seville Collection of Pastells took shape.

The Seville Collection is drawn chiefly from the Archivo de Indias in Seville, but in addition contains documents about Jesuits and their work from other Spanish archival collections, both public and private, and especially from Jesuit archives. The collection concentrates on the history of the Jesuits and their work in America and the Philippines, but it does include other documents pertaining to the history of the Church or to civil history if such documents are about persons or projects connected with the work of the Jesuits. Of the 126 volumes of documents 57 are from the Secretaría del Perú and the rest from the Secretaría de Nueva España (46 volumes

3 Mateos, art. cit., p. 15. It was for his new edition of Francisco Colin's Labor evangelica de los Obreros de la Compañía de Jesús en las Islas Filipinas.

4 Mateos, art. cit., No. 5, p. 28; No. 6, p. 37; No. 7, p. 43.

5 A. Astrain, S.J., Historia de la Compañía de Jesús en la Asistencia de España, 7 vols. (Madrid, 1902-25).
for Mexico and 23 for the Philippines). Within the viceroyalty division the materials are grouped by audiencia—Lima, Charcas, Chile, Quito and Santa Fe; then Mexico-Guadalajara and the Philippines. Each of the volumes has between 600 and 700 folios on the average and most of them are handwritten, although some documents were typed. Each volume is preceded by a calendar-index of the seventy-five to a hundred documents which it contains, and each copied document was checked by Pastells against the original and has a note to that effect in his hand. Fr. Bannon has pointed out that the documents themselves are "royal cédulas, letters and reports of royal officials in the colonies and of Jesuit superiors to the Crown, replies of the Crown, requests and petitions of various sorts, accounts of the state of the missions, polemic pieces connected with the not infrequent frictions between the Jesuits and officialdom (royal and ecclesiastical), the Jesuits and other religious orders, the Jesuits and the colonial universities." As one can see, the documents are of an official or semi-official nature which one would expect to find in a collection made from the royal archives. In addition to the materials on the missions there is much documentation related to the Patronato Real and to colonial education.

From the preceding description of the Seville Collection, it is readily apparent that it is no easy task to consult, much less explore in depth, this vast collection of documents with any degree of speed or efficiency. In order, therefore, to adequately exploit the wealth of such a rich resource, one needs a good index. Fortunately, the basis for such an index exists in the form of Pastells' own summaries, which he placed at the beginning, or, in some cases, at the conclusion of each volume of transcripts.

In perhaps ten or twelve lines Pastells deftly summarized the contents of a document which may run to sixty or more pages of handwriting. These summaries, which provide the user with a key to the original document, were later transcribed in typewritten form on specially designed cards to produce an index to the collection. A photostatic duplicate of the card index was obtained for use with the microfilm copy of the Seville Collection, but users of the photostatic copy soon discovered that the index was far from complete. To complete the index, a facsimile of the original indexing card was prepared and some thousands of summaries not appearing in the photostatic copy are being transcribed in typescript onto the facsimile cards and interfiled chronologically with the available photostatically copied cards under the headings of the various Virreinatos or

6 Bannon, art. cit., p. 84.
Audiencias. Thus, in the card catalogue located in the Vatican Film Library at St. Louis University, we find under the heading Secretaría del Perú, the following subdivisions: Virreinato del Perú; Audiencia de Lima; Audiencia de Charcas o La Plata; Audiencia de Chile; Audiencia de Quito; and Virreinato de Santa Fé. Under the heading Secretaría de Nueva España, we find the subdivisions: Audiencia de Mexico y Guadalajara and Audiencia de Filipinas.

Each index card contains the following information. In the upper left-hand corner there is the heading Archivo General de Indias - Sevilla. Beneath this heading, on the next two lines, are the Regimiento and the Audiencia. In the upper right-hand corner, the Fecha, beneath which, on the next two lines, are entries marked Lugar and Diócesis. Next follows a summary of the document’s contents in perhaps ten or twelve lines. Then, in the lower left-hand corner of the index card, there appears the Signatura antigua, which includes Estante, Cajón, and Legado of the document in the Archives of the Indies in Seville. Beneath the Signatura antigua there is an entry referring to the Colección Pastells, including Tomo and Páginas. Finally, in the lower right-hand corner of the index card, there is an entry space for the Signatura moderna. For the most part, however, there are few entries under Regimiento, which may be deduced from the Audiencia, and even fewer under the Signatura moderna. The accompanying samples of cards will illustrate.

Archivo Gen. de Indias - Sevilla. Fecha 1657 Enero 18
Reg. Nueva España Lugar Madrid
Aud. Sto. Domingo Dioc. Puerto Rico
Virreinato de Nueva España
Consulta de la Junta de Guerra de Indias a S.M. e sobre las fortificaciones, socorros Misioneros y otras cosas tocantes a las provincias de la Trinidad y la Guayana.

Sign. ant. Est. 141 Caj. 2 Leg. 12
Col. Pastells Tom. 45 Pag. 220-226
Sign. mod.

Archivo Gen. de Indias - Sevilla. Fecha 1749 Feb. 1
Reg. Perú Lugar Madrid
Aud. Id. Dioc. Toledo
Extracto del expediente seguido en la Secretaría del Perú en el Consejo de Indias, sobre que contribuyan o no los Eclesiásticos derechos reales y sobre adquisición de bienes por las religiones de Indias.

Sign. ant. Est. 116 Caj. 1 Leg. 6
Col. Pastells Tom. 7 Pag. 430-449.
Sign. mod.
The section of the Pastells collection which deals with documentary materials about the Philippines is at Barcelona and is part of the archives of the Jesuit Province of Aragon. It comprises some 119 large folio volumes which average out to about 800 pages each; at present 93 of these volumes are available for research at Saint Louis University. Pastells gathered the major portion of this collection during the years 1894 to 1905, and the vast majority of the documents were copies from the Archivo de Indias, although some are extracted from other archives, for example, those of Simancas or various Jesuit archives. Also, sometimes he had copied rare printed materials, as for example materials about Japan. The documents of this section of the collection treat of the Philippines, both the civil and religious history of the Islands and with special emphasis, as would be expected, on documents referring to the work of the Jesuits. The rich library of the Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas was sold to the Philippine Government in 1913 and is located in the Biblioteca Municipal de Manila, and a great part of the Barcelona section of the Pastells collection consists of duplicates of the manuscript copies of that collection, and the final part of the Barcelona collection pertains to the years after 1905 when Pastells was living in Seville.

The documents are similar to those of the Seville collection, i.e., royal decrees, letters of missionaries, etc., and the 95,000 pages in folio are a lasting monument to the indefatigable zeal of Pastells as well as being a collection of documents important not only for the history of the Philippines, but also for the surrounding lands, containing as it does documents about Japan, China, Siam, Indostan, etc. At present there is no index for the Barcelona section similar to the one for the Seville collection described above.

The series of smaller books which are composed of extracts from the documents, and which were not microfilmed, seem to have come about in this fashion. Fr. Pastells began to realize that he could not keep up with the actual writing of Fr. Astrain and so decided to make summaries and extracts from the documents as a guide for Fr. Astrain. For example, sometimes a controversy which might occupy more than a hundred pages of original documentation would be summarized in three or four pages in this series of extracts. The card index described above does have many cards referring to this series which are helpful when one cannot consult the series itself.

As will have been realized by the reader, the Seville section with its extensive indices offers the best resources for research of the microfilmed Pastells collection at the present time. Scholars i-
interested in such documentation should contact the Librarian of the Vatican Microfilm Library (Pius XII Memorial Library, 3655 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108) for further details and for information about the post-doctoral Andrew Mellon fellowships which are available to qualified researchers.