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Founded and incorporated, January 1974, at St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands as a non-profit, scientific organization.

The object for which this corporate society is formed is to bring together those persons having a serious interest in archaeology, history and related studies; to explore, excavate (under the aegis and direction of the appropriate authorities), chart and study the cultures of primitive peoples who once inhabited our Islands; to publish the Society's findings; to communicate with other archaeological and historical societies and disseminate knowledge acquired through such activities.

Membership in the Society is open to all persons having an abiding interest in the objectives of the Society and who adhere to the Society's Code of Ethics.

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A FIRST CENTENARY FOR THE EARLIEST ANTHROPOLOGICAL JOURNAL IN THE WEST INDIES

By Alfredo E. Figueredo

Introduction

It is well known by scholars that the *Boletín de la Sociedad Antropológica de la Isla de Cuba* (1879-1885) is the first anthropological journal to be published in the West Indies. Unfortunately, over the years most complete collections have disappeared, and today even single issues are a rarity. Outside of perhaps one complete set in Havana, it is possible that there may be no more complete sets anywhere.

This Index was compiled by examining three collections—two that are, and one that was. Harvard College has the first two issues of the *Boletín*, acquired from the personal library of the Cuban naturalist Francisco Jimeno and kept decorously in the Alfred M. Tozzer Library of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. The Library of Congress has the first six issues of the *Boletín* (all but the seventh) kept in disgraceful abandon by an indifferent staff. The National Library of Medicine had a complete set of the *Boletín* (all seven issues), but in an enlightened move someone resolved to shuck it all as obsolete literature, luckily remembering to microfilm it first. This film is the only copy of *Boletín* number seven left in the United States.

It is painful to contrast the civil responsibility of Harvard College to the abominable example set by the two government libraries. Where in one place whatever is entrusted to its care is served well, in the other two far too many persons scurry about aimlessly, cheerfully expecting their advancement at the expense of society. The loss incurred daily is appalling! Let us pray that most librarians will be persuaded some day to return to their one main task—the care of books.

In *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, vol. XVI (1887), p. 143, it can be seen that issues one through six of the *Boletín* were received in London. Hopefully, they are kept in better condition than is the case on our side of the water.

Seven issues, then, were printed. They were all meant to form part of one tome, and the pages were numbered consecutively from the titlepage of the first fascicle [1] to page 168 at the end of the seventh. The first imprint, however, is dated '1.º de Setiembre de 1879' and the last 'Mayo 1885' (following the issue for November!). *Boletín* numbers two, three, and four can not be dated securely. Number five is dated 'Abril 1885', and number six is dated

'Noviembre 1885'. Number two reads only '15 de Marzo', no year being given.

Internal evidence suggests that *Boletín* number two was printed on or about 15 March 1880; numbers three and four are bound together, and, while much of number three indicates 1880 as a printing date, and '1879' appears on the cover, the date of one item on page 78 of number four ('3 de Febrero de 1884') seems to place the printing of the latter and, certainly, the publication of both number three and number four no earlier than February 1884 nor later than April 1885. A publication date within 1885 is very likely.

Of the 26 articles which can be assigned to modern subfields of anthropology, it can be said that 54% (14) deal with ethnography and ethnology, 20% (5) with physical anthropology, 15% (4) with medical anthropology, and 11% (3) with archaeology and prehistory.

Why the *Boletín* ceased to be published is about as mysterious as why it began to be published in the first place. Manuel Rivero de la Calle has made available in printed form the *Actas* of the Sociedad Antropológica de la Isla de Cuba, and in them one can trace a growing enthusiasm abruptly cut off. Perhaps the illusions of a new era for Cuba brought about by the peace of 1878 were shattered wholly by 1885, and the specter of war rose again. Whatever happened, 1894 is the last year we can register for the Sociedad, and in 1895 the whole unbalanced structure of Cuban colonial society came tumbling down in bewildering disarray. The slaughter had begun.

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