Mexican Inquisition Papers

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Mexican Inquisition Papers

Dates: 1525-1822

Collection Number: mssHM 35095-35182, mssFAC 14-17

Extent: 49 volumes, 8 boxes, 4 facsimiles

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Language of Material: The records are in Spanish.

Access

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Mexican Inquisition papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Acquisition Information

Series I manuscripts were a gift of Walter Douglas in 1944.
Series II manuscripts were a gift of W.F. Stuart-Menteth in 1932.
Photostatic copies were received through G.R.G. Conway on February 26, 1927.

Historical Note

The Mexican Inquisition was an extension of the institution in Spain which had been originated by the papal bull of Sixtus IV in 1478. The Supreme Council of the Spanish Inquisition originally controlled both the local tribunals in Spain and those in the colonies. In 1571 the Holy Office was established as a separate body in Mexico. The purpose was to detect and try heretics or persons guilty of any offense against the church (including violations by priests) and to investigate the blood lines and genealogy of individuals aspiring to positions of trust in the Church or government.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of the original records of 93 trials from the archives of the Holy Office of the Inquisition in Mexico. The testimony of these trials (for heresy, blasphemy, violation of ecclesiastical vows, witchcraft, Judaism, and other charges) reveals much information about ethnic groups and manners and customs in colonial Mexico. Also included are facsimiles of portions of the Libro Primero de Votos. The entire collection is in Spanish.

A list of volumes in Series I was published in Hispanic American Historical Review, Nov. 1964, pp.565-567.
Many of the case files were listed for sale in Blake's Catalogue of Autographs and Manuscripts, Printed Books on the Inquisition, and Associated Books, no.8 (1909).

Note: HM 35129, Part I, f.22, was missing from the collection as of March 20, 2012.

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Arrangement
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