

THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP

INFORMATION BULLETIN : NO.3

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Editorial

The smaller attendance (about 40) at the second social meeting held in March together with helpful comments from some of those who did attend have indicated the limitations to this kind of activity and the drawbacks to having an informal group lacking both organisational structure and clearly defined objectives. After a year's experience of this status, therefore, there now seem to be two possible lines of action - either "to call the whole thing off" or to proceed immediately to a more formal arrangement.

The fact that there are some 50 to 60 scholars who have shown their support for a continuing means of exchanging ideas and information about Latin America has persuaded the committee to recommend the formation of a "Society for Latin American Studies" (the name is only a suggestion - other ideas are welcome). With the formation of a properly constituted body, aiming at "the advancement of Latin American studies by providing facilities for the interchange of information and ideas and the co-ordination of activities by and between persons concerned with the study of Latin America", there would seem to be opportunities for effective work. It will, for example, be possible to initiate a Journal of Latin American Studies - the idea of which was broached in the last issue of the bulletin and which received support in principle from a large number of recipients - once there is an organisational hook on which to hang it.

With these ideas in mind the Committee invites you to an all-day conference on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26th to be held at CHATHAM HOUSE, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1. by kind invitation of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Please complete and return the form below. Additionally, on the previous evening, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25th, members of the Group are invited to a Wine and Cheese Party at CANNING HOUSE whose Director and staff are taking a keen interest in the progress of the Group. You will be receiving this invitation directly from Canning House within the next few days.

The programme for the Saturday conference is as follows:

- 10.30 a.m. Coffee.
- 11.00 a.m. Talk by Dr. J. H. Parry, Principal of the University College of Swansea, on "The Present State of Latin American Studies".
- 12.45 p.m. Lunch at Chatham House.
- 2.15 p.m. J. C. Crossley of the University of Leicester will introduce a discussion on "Agrarian Reform in Latin America".
(The topic of agrarian reform has been chosen for discussion as it will be of interest to scholars in a wide range of disciplines and thus suitable for an exchange of ideas. Will members who wish to make an initial contribution to the discussion please indicate on the form below.)
- 3.45 p.m. Tea.
- 4.15 p.m. Business meeting to approve or otherwise the formation of a Society for Latin American Studies. (Copies of the proposed constitution will be available for study during the day.)

In the remainder of this bulletin we continue the survey of recent British contributions to Latin American studies. This bibliography of studies in Latin American geography has been prepared by Mr. C. T. Smith of the University of Cambridge. He would be pleased to receive comments and suggestions for additions which can be included in a future publication. Should the October conference agree to the formation of the proposed society, then it is hoped to continue this survey and the next bulletin will include a bibliography of studies on Latin American literature. Mrs. J. Franco of Queen Mary College, London will be preparing this and would like to have details for inclusion.

Mrs. Franco has also provided a note on Spanish American novels which are concerned with agrarian reform and its associated problems. It was felt that this might be of interest to those studying the subject from the social or economic standpoints etc. but who are not familiar with the writings of local novelists. The selection is appended to this bulletin.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CURRENT BRITISH
WRITINGS ON LATIN AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY.

Items are classified as follows:

1. Work in the press or in advanced stage of preparation.
2. Work published.

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Dr. M. M. Cole, Keele University.

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Dr. R. A. Donkin, University of Birmingham.

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A Memorandum on Caribbean maps, Caribbean studies, 3, 1962.
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Dr. P. R. Odell, London School of Economics.

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