



Date : 02/07/2008

The “Biblioteca Histórica” (Historical Library) of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and its travel book collection

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Meeting: 8I. Rare Books and Manuscripts
Simultaneous Interpretation: English, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Russian and Spanish

WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS: 74TH IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL

10-14 August 2008, Québec, Canada
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm>

1. The Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid

The Biblioteca Histórica “Marqués de Valdecilla” of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid is part of the library network that constitutes the library system of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid’s Library, considered Spain's second largest library in regard to the number of items (over three million) and services.

Madrid’s Biblioteca Histórica “Marqués de Valdecilla” was created in the year 2001 at centrally-located Noviciado street n. 3, with the aim of assembling the collections of rare books (dating before 1830), manuscripts and special materials belonging to those institutions of learning which, along its history, have been part of the conformation of present-day Universidad Complutense. The building, nowadays completely refurbished, was erected in 1928 under the patronage of the Marquis of Valdecilla, Ramón Pelayo de la Torre, and is well-equipped with modern facilities and the best conditions for the conservation and preservation of the collection.

The Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense is Madrid’s second library in terms of books dated before the XIXth century, next only to the Biblioteca Nacional and prominent among Spain and Europe’s most important libraries. Its bibliographical collection includes over 6,000 manuscripts, 732 incunabula and approximately 100,000 printed works dating between the XVIth and XVIIIth centuries, along with a small collection of engravings and illustrated books¹.

¹ Santos Aramburu, Ana, “La “Biblioteca Histórica Marqués de Valdecilla” de la Universidad Complutense: un centro de apoyo a la investigación y a la docencia” in *Cuadernos de Historia Moderna*, 2006, 31, p.141-159. Torres Santo Domingo, Marta, “Las bibliotecas históricas como depósitos de la memoria: el proyecto de la Universidad Complutense para el siglo XXI”, in *II Jornadas de Bibliotecas de Defensa organizadas por el Ministerio de Defensa*, 2007, San Fernando, Cádiz.
<http://www.ucm.es/BUCM/foa/21496.php>

1. 1. A long history throughout five centuries

The Universidad Complutense de Madrid is heir to the different institutions and educational establishments that pioneered Madrilian college education for the past five centuries and its history explains the provenance and distinctive features of the bibliographical collections which integrate it².

The Colegio Mayor San Ildefonso, founded by Cardinal Cisneros in Alcalá de Henares at the end of the XVth century, had an important library whose endowment, done in accordance to the teachings imparted and to the need of compiling sources for the edition of the *Biblia Políglota Complutense*, was the Cardinal's own concern. New, smaller colleges, soon started to spring under the aegis of the Colegio Mayor, and their well-assorted libraries were all transferred to the Universidad de Madrid upon its foundation in 1836.

The Colegio Imperial de los Jesuitas -founded in Madrid in 1609- became, due to the absence of a university at the capital, the most important learning centre for Madrilian nobility until the expulsion of the Compañía de Jesús in 1767. A special interest was cast, since its foundation, in gathering treatises and scientific works covering every subject matter, in order to assemble a well supplied library that would turn out to be one of Madrid's most important libraries during the Austria's period. After the expulsion of the Jesuits, the college was renamed Reales Estudios de San Isidro, becoming part of the Universidad Literaria de Madrid in 1845 through the reformation accomplished by Pedro José Pidal's Public Instruction Plan.

The Real Colegio de Medicina y Cirugía de San Carlos, founded by Charles III in 1785, was Spain's principal medical school until its conversion into the Facultad de Medicina in 1843. In 1799 it was ascribed to the Real Estudio de Medicina Práctica and the libraries of both institutions, whose formation had been subject to special care, blended together, giving way to an extremely rich library.

Together with these three great institutions, other centres, along with their libraries, joined the University: the Real Colegio de Farmacia de San Fernando, the Escuela de Veterinaria, the Escuela Superior de Diplomática and the Escuela Superior de Pintura, Escultura y Grabado.

Still, not only institutional provenances can be held accountable for the endowment of the present collection of the Biblioteca Histórica. Among many other personal contributions we can point out the addition of the Countess of Campo de Alange's library, initiated in the XVIIIth century, and of those belonging to Juan Francisco Camacho (1817-1896), Anastasio Chinchilla (1801-1876), Rafael Conde y Luque (1835-1922), Antonio Hernández Morejón (1773-1836), Pedro Sáinz de Baranda (1797-1853), Julián Sanz del Río (1814-1869), Luis Simarro y Lacabra (1851-1921), Rafael de Ureña y Smenjaud (1852-1930), José Simón Díaz, etc. In the year 2006 the

² *Historia de la Biblioteca de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid*, Madrid, Universidad Complutense, 2007.

Biblioteca Histórica received the last of its great private collections, that of the doctor and bibliophile Francisco Guerra, especially rich in matters of history of medicine, travel books and products of the Mexican press.

1. 2. A Treasure Trove

Within the collection of manuscripts, where the library's most valuable works can be found, the most ancient is the Carolingian codex *De laudibus Crucis*, by Rhabano Mauro, a beautiful calligraphic poem copied in the IXth century. The Biblioteca Histórica also treasures the original codex of Alphonse X the Learned's *Libros del Saber de astronomía*, product of the Alphonsine scriptorium. Equally remarkable are the codexes purchased by Cardinal Cisneros for the edition of the Polyglot, as the XIIIth-century Toledan *Biblia Hebraea*. Latin codexes, XVIth and XVIIth-century manuscripts and a vast amount of XVIIIth-century dissertations and papers complete the collection.

Amid the collection of incunabula we can find representative examples of the early days of Hispanic printing, such as some of the works printed by Juan Parix, amongst which the *Modus Confitendi* [1472-74] (the only copy known to exist in the world) or the *Fasciculus temporum* by Rolewinck (printed in 1480 and considered the first illustrated book printed in Spain) stand out.

Equally significant are those prints belonging to the XVIth, XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries, which provide us with examples of the majority of Spanish and European typographies. An estimable number of scientific books published outside Spain, such as the beautiful Venetian editions of Aldo Manuzio's printing house or those done by the Plantin Press at Antwerp appear too. Among the books that were printed in Spain we can find works on the subjects taught at the Complutensian colleges, namely Theology, Medicine, Arts, Moral Philosophy, Mathematics, Rhetoric, Grammar, Greek and Hebrew. The Jesuit's library contributed a rich fund of literary works, mainly Spanish: editions of our Golden Age's classics, such as Lope de Vega, Quevedo, Tirso de Molina, as well as works by scientists, both Spanish (Cristóbal de Montemayor, Bartolomé Hidalgo de Agüero, Juan Sorapán de Rieros) and foreign (Newton, Paracelsus, Kepler, Descartes, Athanasius Kircher). From the Colegio de San Carlos we can point out the editions of classics of medicine such as Galen, Hippocrates, Dioscorides or Vesalius, together with works by Spanish authors as Bartolomé Hidalgo de Agüero, Cristóbal de Montemayor or Benito Daza Valdés. The library also owns important editions of works on other subject matter, specifically architecture, military art, alchemy, cosmography, navigation or music.

The Biblioteca Histórica also curates a unique collection of engravings, composed of loose prints of engravers from the Real Calcografía, such as Carnicero, Manuel Salvador Carmona and Fernando Selma; works like the *Monumentos Arquitectónicos de España* and books of engravings amongst which we can highlight the complete collection of art prints by Giambattista and Francesco Piranesi or Francisco de Goya's *Los Desastres de la Guerra*.

2. The travel book collection

One of the most singular and precious collections held by the Biblioteca Histórica and other libraries of the UCM is the travel book collection, with more than 2,300 works in editions ranging from the XVth to the XIXth century, more than half of which were printed before 1800³. The set of works belonging to doctor and bibliophile Francisco Guerra's personal library is certainly worthy of notice within this collection.

To be a reader and a travel book collector means, above all, to be curious about the way our knowledge of the world has been shaped up throughout the centuries. Contributing to the design of our perception of the world is one of the most enthralling feats any man can accomplish. Therefore, to accompany those travelers that dared to break the confines of known space through the books they themselves wrote becomes, undoubtedly, one of the major intellectual adventures into which modern man can launch himself.

To make a thorough assessment of the Biblioteca Histórica's collection of travel books upon a first approach, like the one presented here, is not an easy task. All epochs, from the XVth century onwards, are represented: the first Portuguese discoveries in Africa and the Indies, the arrival of the Spaniards to America, the entrance of the English within the colonial panorama, the penetration of the Jesuits into the Far East, Preste Juan's quest in Ethiopia, the great scientific voyages of the Enlightenment period, the arrival to the poles or to the heart of Africa or the tales of pilgrimage to the Holy Land. And any imaginable destination has its place among the shelves: China, Angola, Australia, Philippines, California, Tibet, Egypt, Senegal, the Conchinchina, the Orinoco, Japan, Paraguay, Russia, the Amazon, Spain, Persia, etc. We travel to all of these places in the company of explorers, pirates, missionaries, pilgrims, scientists, colonists, spies, martyrs, servicemen, kings, buccaneers and many other characters who, through their stories, open our eyes to vivid experiences of knowledge, full of teachings for modern man.

But, furthermore, this knowledge is offered to us in books that were contemporary to the adventures described, first editions, copies that are unique in Spain, extremely rare works, books full of magnificent engravings with views of landscapes and maps, beautifully bound, having illustrious former owners, published in Europe's foremost presses, books that in many cases Spanish researchers find difficult to access and, all things considered, of singular importance for the bibliographer and the science historian. Because science, in the broadest of its meanings, is what travel books speak of. A science that seamlessly conjoins scientific knowledge to the development of humanistic thought and reflection from a social standpoint to technological adventure.

³ Torres Santo Domingo, Marta, "Viajes de papel: la Biblioteca Histórica de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid y su colección de libros de viajes", in *Sociedad Geográfica Española*, January 2008, p. 64-74.

2.1. The Spanish expansion and the discovery of America

The section of American books within the Biblioteca Histórica is very complete, comprehending several different aspects⁴. First of all, there are many prints related to the early days of the discovery, for instance the *Ordenanzas reales para la Casa de Contratación de Sevilla* (Sevilla, 1553), a compilation of all the rules and regulations promulgated by the most important Spanish institution in charge of the American expansion. Christopher Columbus's biography, written by his son Hernando and including substantive documents and classical informations about his plan of discovery and his different journeys, appeared for the first time in Venice in 1571. The BH owns this first edition, as well as the second (Milan, 1614), together with another Venetian edition, dated 1676. From this first stage in the exploration of America two other very relevant works are Martin Waldseemüller's *Cosmographiae* (Strasbourg, 1509) and Simon Grynaeus's *Novus Orbis* (Basel, 1555), with one of the most interesting maps of the New World done in the XVIth century. Among the names of travellers and chroniclers partaking in this initial stage we can stand out Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo, Cristóbal Acosta and Antonio de Herrera y Tordesillas.

Descriptive works intending to throw new light on the portrayal of the New World soon begin to appear. Amid them, those written for the purpose of evangelization by members of different religious orders are preeminent. Juan Patricio Fernández takes us to Paraguay with his *Relacion historial de las misiones de los Indios, que llaman Chiquitos, que están à cargo de los padres de la Compañia de Jesus de la provincia del Paraguay* (Madrid, Manuel Fernandez, 1726); Alonso de Ovalle to Chile with his *Historica relacion del Reyno de Chile* (Roma, Francisco Cauallo, 1648); Miguel de Venegas to California with his *Noticia de la California* (Madrid, en la imprenta de la Viuda de Manuel Fernandez y del Supremo Consejo de la Inquisicion, 1757). Together with that, many more missionaries provide informations of great importance for the understanding of the continent, as the Jesuit José Cassani on the New Kingdom of Granada, the Agustine Antonio de Calancha on Perú, or the Franciscan Antonio Caulín on the New Andalusia, Guayana and Orinoco, which gives the first details of how to intercommunicate the Orinoco and Negro rivers through the Casiquiare. Other noteworthy authors represented in the Biblioteca Histórica are: Pedro Lozano, Bartolomé and Gonzalo García Nodal, Juan Ignacio Molina or Francisco Xavier Clavijero, whose edition of the *Storia antica de Mexico* (Cesena, 1780-81) is full of magnificent engravings. The Biblioteca Histórica also keeps a XIXth-century manuscript copy of this last work.

Other works are open to debate, such as the *Brevisima relacion de la destrucción de las Indias* by Bartolomé de Las Casas (Seville, 1552); or cull all the facts reaching us from America, such as Pedro Martín de Anglería's *Decadas del Orbe Novo*, or give us a first-person account of their adventures there, as in Bernal Díaz del Castillo's *Historia verdadera de la conquista de la Nueva España* (Madrid, 1632). With Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa's *Viage al Estrecho de Magallanes* (Madrid, 1768) we embark ourselves amid the perils of storms and reefs to cross the Strait of Magellan. And we penetrate the

⁴ Cuesta Domingo, Mariano, "Libros sobre América", in *Una biblioteca ejemplar: tesoros de la colección Francisco Guerra en la Biblioteca Complutense*, Madrid, Ollero, 2007, p. 67-110.

Amazon rainforest in the company of Jorge Juan and Antonio de Ulloa, who were extremely young at the time, in order to carry out scientific experiments and measure the arch of the meridian, thus contributing to the discovery that the Earth was flattened at the poles and not at the Equator⁵.

North America is also represented within the collection by examples as emblematic as John Smith's *The generall historie of Virginia* (London, Edgard Blackmore, 1632), which describes the first British settlement in the Colonies and narrates, amongst others, the now famous adventure of Pocahontas; or Lewis and Clark's extraordinary enterprise, traversing the whole continent from ocean to ocean, as told in *The travels of Capts. Lewis and Clarke* (London, Longman, 1809). Undoubtedly, Humboldt's works can be regarded as one of the stars within the collection and, paramount among them, is the *Vue des cordilleras et monumens des peuples indigenes de l'Amerique* (Paris, F. Schoell, 1810), one of the finest ventures of the European press, published at the author's own expense and brimful with full-colour engravings such as the attractive print of the view of the Chimborazo from the platform of Tapia.

Among the travelogues of the journeys to the territories that today constitute Canada and the United States, we can find in the Biblioteca Histórica many first editions of travellers' originals, as those belonging to John John Josselyn, Pierre François Xavier de Charlevoix, John Long, Jacques-Pierre Brissot de Warville, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, William Beresford, Jean Bernard Vous, Le Page du Pratz, viscount of Chateaubriand, François Alexandre Frederic La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt, Thomas Anburey, Jonathan Carver, Charles Waterton, Emile Jonveaux, Cullen Bryant, Jean Pierre Oscar Comettant, Emile de Danseaux, etc.

Another remarkable set of works on America is the one related to missionary linguistics⁶. Though the preaching of the Gospel constituted the theological basis of the conquest of the Western Indies, the Word of God became dumb before the American Babel, so that being able to make use of the appropriate instruments with which to adequately present Faith to the indigenous peoples became one of the most urgent duties to be dealt with. While the use of interpreters was common practice among the conquerors and the colonist agents, missionaries needed to communicate with clarity, permanence and depth, even more so when their discourse was plagued with complex subjects and concepts whose translation was venturesome. Hence, one of the first difficulties they came across was putting one of their great theological and missionary principles into practice: that the Gospel be preached to each people in their own native tongue. In this fashion, missionaries devoted themselves to learning vernacular languages, thus becoming grammarians, lexicographers and translators. Domingo de Santo Tomás's *Gramática o arte de la lengua general de los indios de los reynos del Perú* (Valladolid, 1560), Juan de Figueredo's *Arte y vocabulario de la lengua quichua* (Lima, 1754), Andrés Febres Oms's *Arte de la lengua general del reyno de Chile* (Lima,

⁵ Torres Santo Domingo, Marta, "Los viajeros de la expedición para medir el arco del meridiano: testimonios bibliográficos en la Biblioteca Histórica de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid", in *Biblio 3W, Revista Bibliográfica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales*, Universidad de Barcelona, Vol. VII, n. 389, July 30th 2002. <http://www.ub.es/geocrit/b3w-389.htm>

⁶ Gil García, Francisco M., "Lingüística misionera en América", in *Una biblioteca ejemplar: tesoros de la colección Francisco Guerra en la Biblioteca Complutense*, Madrid, Ollero, 2007, p. 111-123

1765), Bartolomé Roldán's *Catecismo en lengua chuchona y castellana* (c. 1885) or Jerónimo Martínez de Ripalda's *Catecismo mexicano* (Mexico, 1758) are some of the most relevant examples of the editions kept in the Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Another exceptional set of works within the American section is the one comprising Mexican prints, greatly enlarged by the addition of Francisco Guerra's collection⁷. It comprises over 400 prints of all sorts dating before 1830, the majority of which corresponds to Mexico city and a lesser number, nonetheless important, to Puebla de Los Ángeles. According to content they are varied, though three great topic areas stand out –Science, History and Religion. Through these prints we can analyze the industriousness displayed in American soil by the colonists in every active front. This activity was recorded by the printing presses, first in the Metropoli, later on in those territories. The earliest edition is that of Alonso de Molina's *Vocabulario*, printed by Juan Pablos in 1555. Another edition is that of Agustín Farfán's *Tratado breve de medicina y de todas las enfermedades*, printed in Mexico by Pedro Ocharte in the year 1592. Among the works of the XVIIth century we can single out Eusebio Francisco Kino's *Exposición astronómica de el cometa que el año de 1680 por los meses de noviembre y diciembre, y este año de 1681 por los meses de enero y febrero, se ha visto en todo el mundo y le ha observado en la Ciudad de Cádiz* (Mexico, Francisco Rodríguez Lupercio, 1681), a pamphlet regarded as the first book on Astronomy printed in America.

The Biblioteca Histórica also keeps some manuscripts of Mexican subject-matter from the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries. Particularly significant are the two XVIIth-century ones, Fernando Alva Ixtlilxochitl's *Sumaria relación de todos los casos que han sucedido en la Nueva España* (dated in Otumba in 1610) and Luis Barrio's *Informe del mero beneficio de metales por azogue*, a manuscript dealing with metallurgy, a topic which would be resumed by prints, dated in miner Taxco in 1643.

2.2. Portuguese discoveries and the route to the Orient

The Portuguese colonial experience, as well as its Hispanic counterpart, made a decisive contribution to the transformation of the image and understanding of the world that the Europeans of the Modern Era shared. The transit of people and goods within the different realms under the Portuguese crown favoured the intense circulation of information and the development of a remarkable written, figurative and cartographic heritage related to the Orient, the African Continent and Portuguese America. Chronicles, mission relations, treatises on natural history and the art of navigation or scientific writings made up a literary corpus capable of articulating –sometimes simultaneously- discourses of different tenor: political, religious, ethnographic, geographic, etc. Authors as Joao do Barros, Diogo do Couto, Faria e Sousa, Linschoten

⁷ Reyes Gómez, Fermín de los, "La imprenta mejicana en la biblioteca de Don Francisco Guerra", in *Pecia Complutense*, year 4, n. 6, January 2007.

or clergymen António de Gouveia and João dos Santos are very representative of the richness of the written heritage animated by the Portuguese maritime expansion⁸.

We should single out the extraordinary copy of Jan Huygen van Linschoten's *Itinerario*, the only copy known to exist in Spain, in which, through the compilation of more than twenty engravings and numerous travellers' accounts, recollected from both printed and oral sources, we are provided with a general insight into the state of knowledge at the end of the XVIth century concerning the expansion to the Orient.

European understanding of the romantic Far East increases during the XVIth century as the accounts of scholars, missionaries and martyrs coming from China, Cambodia, Japan or the Conchinchina begin to be published⁹. They are books that surprise us with the quality of their observations and the amount of knowledge they spread. The role of the Spanish and the Portuguese in this task was pivotal, with economic and political interests coexisting alongside characters capable of bearing all kinds of difficulties thanks to their profound beliefs, sharing with others what they believed to be their most precious treasure, their faith. These publications tried to satisfy the curiosity of the ruling elite and the upper circles, offering less dreamlike, more authoritative and conscientious visions of the reality of those places.

The journeys to the most diverse spots within the Orient impulsed heterogenous naturalists such as Kaempfer, travellers such as Houtman or Schouten and ambassadors such as González de Clavijo or Adam Olearius to write books that would garner the results of their experiences, their studies and the analysis of the environment in which they found themselves, aided from time to time by excellent maps and illustrations. These books contributed to the development of many scientific advances, to the discovery of new travel routes, to the assimilation of new practices and varied gastronomical habits and, very specifically, to the creation of new commercial and political empires that changed the course of History within a few years.

Readers that want to travel around the world from one of our library's comfortable armchairs can sort through a selected choice of narrative and start out, for example, by becoming part of the retinue of Ruy González de Clavijo, ambassador to Castilian king Henry III, and, so, traverse across Asia through the first edition of the work published in Seville by Andrea Pescioni in 1582 or through Sancha's 1782 Madrilian edition, to reach Samarkand and meet the Court of the Great Khan. Or maybe they will choose to accompany Jesuits Mateo Ricci or Martino Martín on their way to China and collect the informations that helped to outline the magnificent maps that the Blaeu house would publish later on, in 1655. Gabriel de San Antonio can take us to

⁸ Palomo, Federico, "Conquistar, convertir, describir: libros sobre la expansión marítima portuguesa de los siglos XVI y XVII", in *Una biblioteca ejemplar: tesoros de la colección Francisco Guerra en la Biblioteca Complutense*, Madrid, Ollero, 2007, p. 125-143

⁹ Cabañas Moreno, Pilar, "Libros sobre Oriente: eruditos, misioneros y mártires", in *Una biblioteca ejemplar: tesoros de la colección Francisco Guerra en la Biblioteca Complutense*, Madrid, Ollero, 2007, p. 163-178. Ferro, María Jesús, "Libros sobre Oriente: naturalistas, viajeros y embajadores", in *Una biblioteca ejemplar: tesoros de la colección Francisco Guerra en la Biblioteca Complutense*, Madrid, Ollero, 2007, p. 179-190.

Cambodia (Valladolid, Pedro Lasso, 1604), Father Tachard to Siam (Paris, Daniel Tóemeles, 1689), John Chardin to Persia (London, Christopher Bateman, 1691) and Jean Baptiste Tavernier to Turkey, Persia and India (Paris, Gervais Clouzier et Claude Barbin, 1676).

Other visions of the Orient are brought to us by the relations of different pilgrims, such as Bernard von Breydenbach in his *Viaje a Tierra Santa* (Zaragoza, Pablo Hurus, 1498), one of the most beautiful incunabula ever come out of the Spanish press, full of engravings of cities and attires; Antonio del Castillo in *El Devoto peregrino* (Madrid, Imprenta Real, 1654); Pedro Cubero Sebastián with the *Breve relacion de la peregrinacion que ha hecho a la mayor parte del mundo don Pedro Cubero Sebastián* (Madrid, Iuan Garcia Infanzon, 1680); or the adventures and ill fates of Portuguese Fernao Méndes Pinto (Lisboa, Pedro Crasbeeck, 1614). The Near East is also depicted by José Moreno's superb *Viaje a Constantinopla*, (Madrid, Imprenta Real, 1790) or Volney's splendid work on his travels to Egypt, Syria and the Holy Land (Paris, Volland, Desenne, 1789). The XVIIIth century could conclude, for example, with the account offered to us by Lord Macartney -British ambassador to China- in Aeneas Anderson's narrative (Madrid, en la imprenta de los señores Torres y Brugada, 1798). And, key among the works of the XIXth century, are those of the great explorer John Lewis Burckhardt, telling us of his travels in Arabia.

Among the rich heritage collection of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid's Library, we can identify a set of works related to the Philippines in which several aspects concerned with their discovery and exploration, their history, religious orders, travel books, medicine, works on navigation, economic issues, etc. are examined. Furthermore, an important Phillipine section has been consolidated with the incorporation to the Biblioteca Histórica of doctor and bibliophile D. Francisco Guerra's collection. On the one hand, this incorporation has completed and enriched the already existing holdings and, on the other, it has contributed to the identification of an important series consisting in thirty-two copies of works printed in Philippines between the years 1625 and 1814¹⁰.

The first books printed in Philippines were produced between the years 1593-1640. They are the so-called Phillipine incunabula, out of which fifty-seven titles have been identified and very few copies have been preserved. The Biblioteca Histórica has the privilege of curating two of these titles, evidence of the first Phillipine press: the *Vocabulario del Iapon* (Manila, Tomas Pimpín y Jacinto Magaullua, 1630) and the *Historia de la provincia del Sancto Rosario de la Orden de Predicadores en Philipinas, Japón y China* (Manila, Luis Beltran, 1640).

2.3. Drawing the map of the African continent

The *Periplo de Hannon*, the narrative of the voyage of a Carthaginian seaman who, somewhere around the VIth or Vth centuries B.C., commanded an expedition counting thousands of people along the western coast of Africa in order to find lands in

¹⁰ Díez Baños, Aurora, "Biblioteca Filipina: bibliografía de las obras impresas en Filipinas y relativas a Filipinas, hasta 1830, depositadas en la Biblioteca de la Universidad Complutense", in *Pecia Complutense*, year 5, n. 8, January 2008.

which to establish new colonies and, perhaps, open a new commercial route for the trade of gold and other inland products, is considered to be the first African exploration whose written testimonies have reached us.

Following the steps of the Arab travellers, two of which, among the most important, were Al-Idrisi and Ibn Batuta, the Portuguese explorers were the next ones to reconnoitre the African continent, bearing the privilege of having been the first to circumnavigate Africa on their way to the Orient. The works of the chroniclers and historians aforementioned are the most relevant bibliographic testimonies of Portuguese advancements. Franciscan missionary Francisco Alvares's adventure in Inner Africa is epoch-making. He travelled throughout all of Ethiopia, visited the holy city of Lalibela and explored the south. On his return to Europe, he wrote a great work which became the first description in detail of Ethiopia. It was published in Lisbon by the house of Luis Rodríguez in 1540 as *Ho Preste Ioam das Indias: verdadeira informaçam das terras do Preste Ioam*, collecting the first information about Ethiopia that reached Europe. The Biblioteca Histórica owns a magnificent copy of its first edition.

During the XVIth and XVIIth centuries, the largest and most important European penetration in Africa took place in the north, due to the Spanish and Portuguese expansion south of the Mediterranean, in the context of the rivalry originated against the Ottoman Empire. This Africanist adventure bore fruit in a series of descriptive works written by first-hand witnesses which, over the course of time, became indispensable sources for the understanding of this part of Africa. The Biblioteca Histórica keeps copies of the *Descripción de África* by Carlos V's historian Luis Mármol y Carvajal (Granada y Málaga, Rene Rabat y Iuan Rene, 1573-1599); *Historia de los cherifes* by Diego de Torres (Sevilla, Francisco Pérez, 1586); *Topographia e Historia general de Argel* by Diego de Haedo (Sevilla, 1602), etc.

The fascination for Egypt is not a recent phenomenon; many travellers, since long ago, have found its civilization awe-inspiring. The Biblioteca Histórica keeps many books that tell of their voyages: Herodotus, Leon the African, Pietro Della Valle, Gemelli Careri, Pierre Belon, Antonio del Castillo, etc. Various works of the XVIIIth century are specially significant: French consul Benoit de Maillet's *Description de l'Egypte*, (Paris, 1735); the writings of the Jesuit Claude Sicard, one of the first Egyptologist scientists, published in several volumes of the series *Nouveaux memoires des missions de la Compagnie de Jesús dans le Levant*, partly translated into Spanish in the *Cartas edificantes y curiosas*; the account of the French traveller and Orientalist Claude Etienne Savary *Lettres sur L'Egypte*; or the description of the erudite Count of Volney in his *Voyage en Syrie et en Egypte pendant les années 1783, 1784 & 1785*.

Dated also in the XVIIIth century is James Bruce's adventure, whose explorations in Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia earned him his fame. He was subject to great controversy when he presented himself as the first European to have seen the source of the Nile, thus erasing the name of the Spanish Pedro Páez, true discoverer of the origin of the Blue Nile. Nevertheless, his work *Travels to discover the source of the Nile, in the years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771 and 1773* (Edinburg, J. Ruthven, 1790) has great literary qualities and is particularly interesting because of its rythm, exotism and scientific contributions. The first edition, of which the Biblioteca Histórica keeps a copy, is accompanied by engravings of plants, animals, hieroglyphics, Ethiopian dialects, etc.

In spite of these voyages, the map of Africa drawn by Europe at the beginning of the XVIIIth century was limited, with few exceptions, to its coastline. The inland, meanwhile, remained empty, and its exploration would begin during this century, its most spectacular landmarks taking place during the XIXth century, after the creation of the African Association in London in 1788. Several are the books belonging to this period kept in the Biblioteca Complutense, fruit of scientists, naturalists, missionaries and adventurers setting out in journeys that would lead them to inner Africa: Thomas Shaw, Jean Louis Marie Poiret, Michel Adanson, Nicolas Louis de La Caille, William Paterson, Paul Erdmann Isert, Mungo Park, Hermenegildo Carlos de Brito Capello and Robert Ivens, Serpa Pinto, David Livingstone, George Schweinfurth, P. Dutrieux, Manuel Iradier, Ali Bey (Domigo Badía), etc. In addition to this, the Biblioteca Histórica keeps fifty very interesting XIXth-century works on Morocco, whose history is so intimately linked to Spain's.

2.4. Touring around the world

One of modern man's eternal obsessions was to become able of accomplishing a world tour, conceived to be, without any doubt, the great adventure, the ultimate journey. The Biblioteca Histórica also holds some specially important testimonies of these adventures.

Standing out among the rest is the account of Sir Francis Drake's circumnavigation, twelve unnumbered pages inserted between pages 643 and 644 of Richard Hakluyt's work *The principall navigations* (London, George Bishop and Ralph Newberie, 1589). Hakluyt's work is one of the most exhaustive sources of information of all times for the history of exploration, commerce and navigation -written, obviously, from a XVIth-century English viewpoint. It also includes portrayals on the Armada Invencible or English attacks to the coasts of Coruña and Cádiz. The inclusion of Drake's account in the copy kept at the Biblioteca Histórica, whose provenance is Francisco Guerra's collection, is particularly interesting, both historically and bibliographically, as its publication was not intended in the original plan for the work. The work also includes a map of the known world, the *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, a copy of the one engraved by Franciscus Hogenberg for the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, published by Abraham Ortelius in 1570. The Biblioteca Histórica also owns the London edition of Drake's travels printed by Nicholas Bourne in 1653.

But we cannot mention Hakluyt without previously referring to Gian Battista Ramusio, whose work *Delle navegazione e viaggi* (Venezia, Lucantonio Giunti, 1550) is regarded as the founding text for travel literature. With the aim of rediscovering the great voyages of the past and studying the explorations of his contemporaries, he picks out some of the most important texts of the XVIth century, rescuing many others from antiquity. We have to bring to mind that, for instance, he was the true creator of the myth of Marco Polo.

If our spirit demands further adventure, the work of "The Great Filibuster", William Dampier, *A new voyage round the world* (London, James Knapton, 1697), one of the most famous pirate books of the XVIIth century, is there to guide us, as are Alexander Olivier Exquemelin's *Histoire des aventuriers* (Paris, Jacques Le Febure, 1688) and many other editions by great travellers: Wooden Rogers, Pedro Cubero,

Francisco Gemelli Careri, Pedro Ordoñez de Ceballos, François La Boullaye Le Gouz, etc. But, above all, the Biblioteca Histórica is rich in copies of the first editions of the great voyages of the XVIIIth century, those undertaken by John Byron, George Anson, James Cook, Louis Antoine de Bouganville and George Vancouver. We can state that, surely, the set of works on this subject matter kept at the Biblioteca Histórica is one of the most complete existent in Spain¹¹.

2.5. Travels around Europe, the Grand Tour, Spain

Travels around Spain are, of course, widely represented in the Biblioteca Complutense and, as they are well known, we shall not dwell on them, but mention instead some names: Estrabon, Al Idrisi, Pedro de Medina, Ambrosio de Morales, François Bertaut, Calvete de Estrella, Juan Álvares de Colmenar, Antonio de Ubilla, Christian August Fischer, William Dalrymple, Durret, Antonio Ponz, Bernardo Espinalt, Jaime de Villanueva, Isidoro Bosarte, etc. Our library also holds an extensive representation of the accounts of many foreign travellers who traversed Spain during the XIXth century and contributed to forge the idea of Spain as different and romantic. Among them we can mention, specifically, the works of Alexandre de Laborde, Alexandre Dumas, Edgard E. Hale, George Borrow, Charles Didier, Dupont-Delporte, Ambroise Tardieu, Jauber de Passa, Lady Herbert, Richard Ford, etc.

In the travelling panorama of Modern Europe the classical trip par excellence was the one leading to Rome, whether as the final stage of pilgrimage in mediaeval times or as the symbol of the essence of classicism during the Renaissance, or as the search for art and culture in the modern and romantic ages. Fruit of this journey, described as the *Grand Tour*, are a series of works where Rome is protagonist and in which, as in travel guides, the *mirabilia urbis Romae*, the marvels of the city, are displayed. These works belong to a very ancient typology which became modernized through the years and the Biblioteca Histórica owns a great number of such editions, which are currently being studied¹².

As an iconographic colophon to the *Grand Tour* we have to note that the Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense keeps a complete collection of the engravings by Giambattista Piranesi, the most important among Italian engravers, who chose Rome and its ruins as symbolic theme for the representation of his melancholy

¹¹ Torres Santo Domingo, Marta, “Los viajes del capitán Cook en el siglo XVIII: una revisión bibliográfica”, in *Biblio 3W, Revista Bibliográfica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales*, Universidad de Barcelona, Vol. VIII, n. 441, April 20th, 2003. <http://www.ub.es/geocrit/b3w-441.htm>. Torres Santo Domingo, Marta, “Un bestseller del siglo XVIII: el viaje de George Anson alrededor del mundo”, in *Biblio 3W, Revista Bibliográfica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales*, Universidad de Barcelona, Vol. IX, n. 531, August 30th, 2004. <http://www.ub.es/geocrit/b3w-531.htm>.

¹² José María Riello Velasco, “Allá donde las piedras son el tiempo”, in *Anales de Historia del Arte*, 2006, 16, p. 151-183. Diego Suarez Quevedo (dir.), “Arquitectura y Ciudad, siglo XVI y XVII”, in *Pecia Complutense: Boletín de la Biblioteca Histórica de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid*, year 3, n. 5, June 2006.

idea of man¹³. Other *veduta* imprints, that shall soon be presented to the public, are also unified under this collection.

Europe is, unquestionably, the territory that the European printing press visited most. The transit of people of all nature and condition, from servicemen to clergymen, scholars, artists, aristocrats or pilgrims, gives way to an immense series of books whose aim is to make the image, habits or ideas of each particular region known to the rest of the Europeans. From the series of engravings in the *Civitas orbis terrarum* or the little XVIIth-century *Elzeviers* to the narratives of royal voyages, so characteristic of the Baroque, the scholarly journeys of the Enlightenment period -whether describing monuments or searching for manuscripts, or the explorer adventures towards the known confines of Europe, European libraries become true repositories of knowledge. And choosing something truly representative out of all this material is practically an impossible task. However, and at the risk of being very partial, we shall single out some of the Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid's most important treasures.

The *Civitas Orbis Terrarum* is a six-volume collection of engravings with over five hundred views of European cities and maps, many of them engraved by Franz Hogenberg for what can be regarded as the first European visual enciclopaedia. They were published by Georg Braun between 1572 and 1617 to serve as accompaniment for Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*. The Biblioteca Histórica owns several copies, some of them coloured by hand, as was customary with works destined to rich owners. Another of the great lines of exploration of the confines of Europe was that headed towards the Orient and, thus, travels to the Russian territory and its eastern and polar boundaries became a symbol for European explorers, as well as expeditions full of strategic significance. Many are the names of those travelers whose accounts are kept in their original editions in the Biblioteca Histórica: Sigmund Herberstein, Cornelys de Bruyn, Peter Henry Bruce, Adam Olearius, Jean Struys, Jean Baptiste Lesseps, William Coxe, Stepan Petrovich Krasheninnikov, Pierre-Nicolas Chantreau, Andrew Swinton.

2.6. Geographical works and other sources of information for explorations and travels

The traveler, before heading on, needed to read and study a vast number of reference works that would aid him in his periplus. Thus, European libraries keep a great number of works dealing with seamanship and instruments for navigation, geography and cartography, guides of cities and countries, works of apademic art, general histories of travels, books on routes, roads, inns, etc.

Spain was, during the XVIth century, and due to its brilliant race towards the Indies, the most important power in regard to the study of seamanship, and it exported its science to the rest of Europe through printed books, some of which became the most notable treatises on navigation for the XVIth and early XVIIth centuries. Three of them, all part of the Biblioteca Histórica's collection, are particularly noteworthy: the *Arte de*

¹³ Marta Torres Santo Domingo, "Giambattista Piranesi en la Biblioteca Histórica de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid: catálogo de estampas", in *Documentos de Trabajo UCM Biblioteca Histórica*, 2004/07

Navegar by Pedro de Medina (Valladolid, Francisco Fernández de Córdoba, 1545), the *Breve compendio de la sphaera y de la arte de la navegación* (2nd ed. Sevilla, Antón Álvarez, 1556) and the *Regimiento de navegación* by Andrés García de Céspedes (Madrid, Juan de la Cuesta, 1606).

The study of geography was also consubstantial to travelling. And the Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense keeps copies of the most important geographical works printed in Europe from the XVth century onwards. For instance, one of our most treasured pieces is the incunable edition of Ptolemy's *Cosmographia*, printed in Ulmae by Johannes Reger in 1486, the most complete copy amongst those belonging to this edition kept in Spain, beautifully hand-coloured. Also remarkable are the classical works by Estrabon, Pomponius Mela and Petrus Apianus, together with the works by the great cartographers Mercator, Ortelius or Blaeu, whose maps in grand format outline the world as it was known in the XVIIth century¹⁴.

The traveller also read everything that had been written about other travellers in the territories towards which he headed himself. Moreover, from the XVIth century onwards, works that compile narratives of travels, such as aforementioned Hayklut's or Ramusio's, begin to be written. To this we have to add the fact that, in the wake of the XVIIIth century, the more educated classes start to develop a great interest on becoming acquainted with the new discovered lands and, so, a new public is born for the travelbook genre. The explosion of this typology is responsible for the surge of another subgenre, the general histories of travels. To Haykluyt and Ramusio's works we can add other works also kept in the Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense: *Navigantium et itinerantium or a compleat collection of voyages and travels* by John Harris (London, 1705), Antoine François Prevost's *Histoire general des voyages*, published in different formats and translated to various languages, the Italian edition of Thomas Salmon's *Lo stato presente di tutti paesi*, Jean Pierre Berenguer's *Collection de tous les voyages*, *El viajero universal*, Pedro de Estala's Spanish edition of the work by Joseh de Laporte, Jean François de La Harpe's *Abrege* or, to summarize, the magnificent and extremely interesting relations of the Jesuit missions in the different editions and translations of the *Cartas edificantes y curiosas*.

3. Accessibility and dissemination of the travel book collection of the Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid

3.1. The catalogue¹⁵

The first point of access to the bibliographic collection of the Biblioteca Complutense is, naturally, its Internet-accessible automated catalogue, "CISNE", which operates with INNOPAC-Millennium, the library management system developed by

¹⁴ *Libros de geografía en la Universidad Complutense desde la antigüedad hasta el siglo XVIII*, Madrid, Universidad Complutense, 2001.

¹⁵ Cabello Martín, Mercedes, "El programa de gestión de la colección de la Biblioteca Histórica: una propuesta", in *Documentos de Trabajo de la Biblioteca Histórica de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid*, n. 2007/05.

Innovative Interfaces¹⁶. The information contained within the bibliographic records is stored in Marc 21 format.

At present, the retrospective conversion plan for the holdings of the Biblioteca Histórica is well-advanced. Its centralisation started off in the year 2000, as before that catalogues were not automated and the library only counted with manual catalogues consisting of irregular bibliographic descriptions. The retrospective conversion is one of the specific targets comprised in the “Plan Estratégico de la Biblioteca Complutense¹⁷ (Strategic Plan for the Complutense Library) and it is expected that it shall be completed by 2009-2010.

Rare books, manuscripts and special collections kept in the Biblioteca Complutense have their own specific search within CISNE¹⁸. In addition to the traditional author, title or subject searches, others of special interest for historical and bibliographical research can be conducted, such as searches by printing places or call numbers.

Author field searching enables us to retrieve all personal and institutional authors related to the authorship of the edition (authors, translators, commentators, engravers, illustrators, etc.), as well as names of printers, specially relevant for the description of early printed books.

Items bearing marks of ownership can also be retrieved through author field searching. The function “ant. Pos.” (“antiguo poseedor” –former owner) distinguishes previous owners from other responsibilities. In this sense, the retrieval of former provenances, both institutional and personal, has been considered a specific target by the Biblioteca Histórica, as it is a fundamental instrument for research dealing with the history of the Universidad Complutense and its library, as well as for research having to do with the history of books and reading over the centuries¹⁹. The work accomplished by the Biblioteca Complutense has recently been included in CERL’s portal, whose Thesaurus gathers more than 1,200 personal and institutional provenances belonging to the Biblioteca Histórica²⁰.

The works derived from the compilation and systematic treatment of the data concerning former ownerships will facilitate our discernment of a great part of the information concerning each item’s concrete history. Such is the case of one of the books within the travel book collection, which is known to have been the personal copy belonging to the XVIIIth-century French geographer and explorer Charles Marie de La

¹⁶ <http://cisne.sim.ucm.es/>

¹⁷ <http://www.ucmc.es/BUCM/intranet/doc7519.pdf>

¹⁸ http://cisne.sim.ucm.es/search*spl~S1

¹⁹ Santos Aramburu, Ana and Torres Santo Domingo, Marta, “La Biblioteca Histórica de la Universidad Complutense: una primera aproximación a sus procedencias, in *La Memoria de los libros: Estudios sobre la historia del escrito y de la lectura en Europa y América*, Salamanca, Instituto de Historia del Libro y la Lectura, 2004, Volume II, p. 265-286

²⁰ <http://cerl.sub.uni-goettingen.de/ct/>

Condamine²¹. Another work, *Noticias americanas* (Madrid, 1772), was given by the author himself, Antonio de Ulloa, as a gift to one of his friends, Manuel Sanz de Casafonda. And the copy of John Harris's work *Navigatium atque itinerarium bibliotheca* (London, 1705), part of Francisco Guerra's collection, once belonged to the well known bibliophile and bibliographer James P.R. Lyell.

In relation to the travel book collection, and obeying to the special significance of these holdings, the bibliographic description for the fields detailed below is more exhaustive than that for the rest of the collections.

Subject field description is standardized according to the list of subject headings ("Encabezamientos de materia") accepted by the Biblioteca Complutense, specifying as many topical headings as possible and itemizing with special care any geographical areas related to them. "Viajes" (travels), "Exploradores" (explorers), "Viajeros" (travellers), "Descubrimientos geográficos" (geographical discoveries), "Peregrinos y peregrinaciones" (pilgrims and pilgrimages), "Viajes regio" (royal journeys), "Viajes por mar" (travels by sea), "Viajes alrededor del mundo" (world tours), "Caminos" (roads), "Viajes imaginarios" (imaginary voyages), "Expediciones científicas" (scientific expeditions), "Viajes de estudio" (field trips), etc. are some of the headings used. For the subheadings that follow geographical areas traditional ones such as "Descripción y viajes" (description and travels), "Descubrimiento y exploración" (discovery and exploration), "Usos y costumbres" (customs and manners), "Misiones" (missions), "Guías" (guides), etc. are used. Whenever judged necessary, an entry by "Libros de viajes" (travel books) has been added, allowing us to group together the whole collection. Semantic retrieval is completed by keyword searching, which delivers the information included in the note fields in addition to that of the fields mentioned above.

Those bibliographic references which document the edition's bibliographic history are recorded in the note fields in label 510.4. Classical repertoires related with travel books, such as the Sabin, the Cox or, for Spanish matters, the works of García Romeral²², are used for that task. For works belonging to the Spanish press and works of particular significance, such as those belonging to the period comprised between the XVth and XVIIIth centuries, references of specialized typobibliographies are included whenever possible.

The topic of illustrations, mostly engravings, deserves another chapter. Engravings are elements that provide essential aid to scientific books and, consequently, to travel books. They describe and display the first informations about new routes for

²¹ The work discussed is *Voyage de l'Italie*, [s.l., s.n., s.a.] (BH FLL30099).

²² Sabin, Joseph, *A dictionary of books relating to America from its discovery to the present time*, Mansfield Centre, Martino Publishing, 2002. [Facsimile reproduction of the New York edition, 1868-1939]. Cox, Edward Godfrey, *Reference guide to the literature of travel : including voyages, geographical descriptions, adventures, shipwrecks and expeditions*, Seattle, 1935. García Romeral, Carlos, *Biobibliografía de viajeros por España y Portugal...*, *Biobibliografía de viajeros españoles...*, in several volumes, Madrid, Julio Ollero, 1995-2004.

exploration, the first maps of territories, often acting as snapshots of a concrete moment in time, comparable to photography or movies nowadays. Faced with the impossibility of exhaustively cataloguing each and every one of the engravings included in the travel book collection, and in order to avoid leaving any relevant information behind, the description of the engravings of the work -title and author when these are available, general content and other valuable informations, specially those related to geographic names- is being included within a specific note, in field label 597 01. As this note can be retrieved through a keyword search, it can be very useful for researchers even when its description is not formulated correctly. Moreover, it is a valuable instrument for the control and security of items against possible thefts of loose engravings.

Other note fields, which we shall not specify in more detail, include, for some of the most interesting travel books, varied information concerning different aspects: summary and contents of the work's different indexes, data on its bibliographic history, translations, facsimile editions, availability of digital or photographic copies, a link to the complete digital text through field label 856, etc.

To end with the chapter on catalogue-based access to the travel book collection we have to mention that the Biblioteca Complutense participates in several union catalogues: the Catálogo Colectivo del Patrimonio Bibliográfico Español (CCPB; Bibliographical Heritage Union Catalogue), coordinated by the Ministerio de Cultura del Gobierno de España (Ministry of Culture of the Spanish Government); Catálogo Colectivo de las Bibliotecas Universitarias Españolas (REBIUN; Spanish University Libraries Union Catalogue), coordinated by the Red de Bibliotecas Universitarias Españolas (Spanish Universities Library Network); and Hand Press Book, coordinated by the CERL.

3.2. Full-text digital access

Amongst other projects for technological development carried out by the Biblioteca Complutense, and linked directly to the travel book collection, is the Biblioteca Digital Dioscórides (Dioscorides Digital Library)²³.

The Biblioteca Digital Dioscórides is a digitization project born in the year 1995 that currently delivers the complete text for over 3,000 digitized books. It is totally Internet-accessible via the library's catalogue, and can be browsed by the traditional author, title and subject concepts as well as by groups of subjects, one of which is "Libros de viajes" (travel books)²⁴. This subject collection, currently limited to 69 digitized works, will experience a significant increase over the next years. Among those works that have already been rendered in digital format, the Spanish incunable *Viaje de la Tierra Santa* by Bernard von Breydenbach (Zaragoza, Pablo Hurus, 1498) stands out for its rareness and beauty.

²³ Moreno García, Pilar, Herráiz, Juan Carlos, Miguel, Aurora, "El Proyecto Dioscórides: una biblioteca electrónica en la Universidad Complutense de Madrid", in: *VI Jornadas de Información y Documentación de las Ciencias de la Salud (Actas)*, Madrid, November 15th, 16th, 17th, 1995, p. 151-158. Moreno García, Pilar (coord.), "Proyecto Dioscórides : una biblioteca digital en la Universidad Complutense de Madrid", in: *Educación y Biblioteca*, 80, 1997, p. 48-52

²⁴ [http://cisne.sim.ucm.es/search*spl?/ebiblioteca+digital/ebiblioteca+digital/1%2C29%2C2546%](http://cisne.sim.ucm.es/search*spl?/ebiblioteca+digital/ebiblioteca+digital/1%2C29%2C2546%2C)

The configuration of the Biblioteca Digital Dioscórides is particularly interesting in regard to this type of works. A guide or index to each work, reflecting its internal structure, is built through an indexing process carried out after its digitization, thus providing direct access to the most significant parts of the digitized item: title-page, index, preliminaries, colophon, engravings, etc. This indexing process has given rise to an independent engravings database where searches by illustrators, subjects or years can be conducted.

Concomitantly, the Biblioteca of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Google signed a collaborative partnership in 2006 for the digitization of all the out-of-copyright materials kept in the Biblioteca Complutense. This means that the Colección Digital Complutense (the university's digital collection) will enjoy a great dissemination, contributing at the same time to a notable increase in the quantity of information available to the public worldwide²⁵. This places the Biblioteca Complutense in a strategic position for further cooperation with some of the world's foremost libraries. In relation to the travel book collection, we invite you to browse the *Cartas edificantes y curiosas*, one of the most interesting works on this subject, through Google Book Search.

3.3 The dissemination of the travel book collection of the Biblioteca Complutense

The Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense carries out its mission as university library by supporting teaching and research; at the same time, as general reference centre in matters of Spanish Bibliographic Heritage it has designed, among its objectives, a complete plan for Cultural Dissemination and Library Extension Activities (plan de Difusión y Extensión Cultural)²⁶. This plan includes exhibitions, publications, conferences, presentations, guided tours, facsimiles, etc.

In some of the activities carried out to comply with this objective of reaching out to the public the travel book collection plays a leading role, as we shall see next.

Every year, the Biblioteca Histórica participates in the “Semana de la Ciencia” (a one-week science fair), organized by the Comunidad de Madrid's local government. It is an open house day where all citizens are invited to tour our facilities and get in touch with our workshops, our collections and our work, and it is very successful in regard to the number of visitors. A conference series is organized around the Semana de la Ciencia, dedicated each year to a different topic. In the case of 2007, the series was dedicated to travel books as scientific testimonies (“Los libros de viajes como testimonios científicos”), counting with the participation of specialists Mariano Cuesta, Pilar Cabañas, María Jesús Ferro y Marta Torres.

²⁵ Proyecto BUC-Google. <http://www.ucm.es/BUCM/biblioteca/11979.php>

²⁶ Díez Baños, Aurora, “Acceso y difusión del patrimonio bibliográfico de la Biblioteca de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid”, in *Documentos de Trabajo de la Biblioteca Histórica de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid*, n. 2007/06.

Among the publications issued by the Biblioteca, our Library's electronic Bulletin, *Pecia Complutense*, stands out²⁷. Several articles, mentioned throughout these pages, have been devoted during these last years to increasing the knowledge about travel and geography books.

Bibliographic exhibitions are undoubtedly, the activities of dissemination that allow for a more in-depth study of a particular subject. Several have already offered, in one way or another, a chance to contemplate and enjoy beautiful, rich copies of travel books. Among them, we can mention *Libros de Geografía en la Universidad Complutense: desde la antigüedad hasta el siglo XVIII* (2001), *Athanasius Kircher y la ciencia del siglo XVII* (2002), *La Historia del libro a través de las colecciones de la Biblioteca Complutense* (2004), *Una biblioteca ejemplar: Tesoros de la colección Francisco Guerra en la Biblioteca Complutense* (2007). A virtual version²⁸, as well as a documented catalogue in paper²⁹, exist for all of them. In addition to this, the programme set for the next few years plans to dedicate an exhibition exclusively to travel books.

To finish, another line of dissemination for the bibliographic holdings of the Biblioteca Complutense is the publication of facsimiles, both in the university's own editions or collaboratively with commercial editors. One of the last facsimiles has been a beautiful copy of a travel book, the work *Viage a Constantinopla* (Madrid, Imprenta Real, 1790), published in collaboration with Extramuros. Curiously enough, it has been the edition offered to the Turkish Noble prize-winner Orhan Pamuk upon his visit to the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in 2008 for his investiture as Doctor Honoris Causa.

And it is with the *Viage a Constantinopla* that we put an end to this brief presentation of the Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense's travel book collection. Nevertheless, the journey has but started. Hundreds of copies of masterpieces of travel literature, written centuries ago, await the moment of being discovered, read and enjoyed by XXIst-century researchers. And with each discovery, the world will become enlarged, open to more spaces for knowledge. Travel literature is, since long ago, one of the most active lines of research for those who are interested in the history of science and humanities in Spain. But this line of work needs primary sources upon which hypothesis can be built, wrongs can be undone and our sense of historical reality can be expanded. Our deepest gratitude towards the legacy with which the centuries have endowed the Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid encourages and motivates us to put it at the disposal of the interested public whilst committing us, as a multi-centenarian institution, to preserving it and making it known to the coming generations.

²⁷ <http://www.ucm.es/BUCM/foa/pecia/Portada/portada1.htm>

²⁸ <http://www.ucm.es/BUCM/foa/10564.php>

²⁹ <http://www.ucm.es/BUCM/foa/11790.php>