

Bolivia's second Feria del Libro took place at the end of August 1997 in the Calacoto district of La Paz. In an interesting role reversal, the second fair was much more an International exposition, with the Spaniards making an impressive showing and the Argentines and French doing the same. The Embajada Espanola and Camara Argentina del Libro booths showed a variety of books and magazines published in those countries. And Francia en Bolivia was demonstrating several CD products, a yet-untitled history of the life of the 19th century savant, Alcide d'Orbigny and some marvelous recordings of recently discovered music of the Chiquitos missions, San Ignacio, la opera perdu. Colombia (Oveja Negra, Plaza y Valdez), Mexico (El Colegio de Mexico), Brazil (Camara Brasileira del Libro) and Cuba (Ediciones Cubanas) also showed their publications.

Werner Guttentag estimates that his country now publishes between 1,000 and 1,500 works per year, some 800 of which are captured in his Bibliografia bolivina. However, Bolivian works were not as well represented at the Feria as they had been the year before. Rumor had it that booths cost \$900 and up, which gave all but the largest Bolivian publishers and distributors pause. Nevertheless a total of seventy-one national and international exhibitors purchased space, including old friends Los Amigos del Libro and Libreria Gisbert of La Paz who were offering promotional discounts and doing brisk sales.

Among Bolivian publishers, two stood out. In only five years, Editorial Plural has established an impressive presence in publishing and distribution; they have bookstores in La Paz, Cochabamba and Sucre. Its recent offerings feature Javier Mendoza's La mesa coja, which has generated interest and controversy by challenging the prevailing version of Bolivia's foundation. Other Plural publications include a pioneering study of Bolivian Protestantism by Amalia Prado and a revisionist interpretation of Tiahuanaco, Tiwanaku arqueologia regional. Plural has an Internet address, plural@wara.bolnet.bo, and will furnish lists of its available publications there. The other news of excitement was the national statistical bureau's (Instituto Nacional de Estadistica, a.k.a. INE) release of three compact disks: Anuario estadistico 1996, Encuesta de presupuestos familiares and Indicadores sociodemograficos proyecciones de poblacion. I purchased only the first of these at the fair and found it solid and technically sophisticated, though still something of a work in progress. These products mark a significant departure for Bolivia, for it demonstrates the technical capacity and the will to distribute in digital formats information produced and stored by computers for at least the last two decades. By the way, the prices for the CDs are quite reasonable, ca \$75.

While certainly not on a Frankfurt (or Guadalajara) scale, the fair represents an excellent opportunity to see what is new and emerging. Evenings featured rounds of awards, book

signings, homenajes and cocktails. Edmundo Paz Soldan's Alrededor de la Torre was praised to the skies, and I could not find a copy until a friend took pity and gave me his. For those interested, Edmundo can be reached for the next two years, at least, at <jep29@cornell.edu>.

I append rough notes of items of interest taken at the fair.

Editorial Plural (plural@wara.bolnet.bo)

Perez Alcala o los melancolicos senderos del tiempo

Bolivia moderna como es empobredores

Tiwanaku arqueologia regional

Debates poscoloniales

La Mesa coja

Revistas of Interest:

Procampo

Revista unitas

Escarmenar, revista boliviana de estudios culturales

Naciones Unidas

Amanecer en los Andes

Historia y cuestiones en las relaciones entre Bolivia y las Naciones Unidas

La Fuerza de la equidad

La energia despues de Rio

Asociacion de Periodistas

Mariano Baptista Gamucio, Alcides d'Orbigny en la tierra prometida

Esplendor y grandeza de Potosi

EGTK: la guerilla aymara en Bolivia

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H. Alcaldia de La Paz

Khana (nos. 46, 47)

Otrantati (no. 1)

Desarrollo humano en las montanas

UMSA

Kollasuyo (4 epoca, no 4, 1994)

Ciudad y territorio (1996)

La coca liberal

Textos antropologicos (nos, 5,6,7)

Aportes, revista de la ciencia social (no. 1)

Francia en Bolivia (de varios editores)

Alcide d'Orbigny (CD, no en distribucion comercial hasta la fecha,

Alain Pacquier, Les chemins du baroque dans la nouveau monde (Fayard, 1997)

San Ignacio, l'Opera perdu (CD de musica)

INE

CDs :

Anario estadístico 1996

Encuesta de presupuestos familiares

Indicadores sociodemográficos proyecciones de población

Seen in Museo Nacional de Arte (La Paz)

Oruro y su patrimonio

El retorno de los Angeles

Arquitectura andina (Jose de Mesa y Teresa Gisbert)

Seen in Santa Cruz Airport

Saul Suarez Medina, Almanaque Oriental

Alemanes en el oriente boliviano

La Historia a través de las calles de Santa Cruz de la Sierra

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