Collection Summary

Title: Hans Peter Kraus Collection of Spanish American Documents

Inclusive Dates: 1433-1966
Bulk Dates: 1500-1800
ID No.: MSS31013
Collector: Kraus, Hans Peter, 1907-1988
Extent: 300 items
Extent: 11 containers
Extent: 4 linear feet
Extent: 4 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English, Spanish, French, and Italian.
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78031013

Summary: Bookman, collector, and bibliophile. Letters, decrees, order books, reports, instructions, dispatches, printed material, and miscellaneous legal documents concerning the history of colonial Spanish America, including the activities of the Mexican Inquisition.

Online Content: The Hans Peter Kraus Collection of Spanish American Documents is available on the Library of Congress Web site at http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000116. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Aguirre, Lope de, -1561.
Arredondo, Antonio de.
Calderón, Antonio de.
Casas, Bartolomé de las, 1484-1566.
Céspedes Vallejo Díaz, Pedro de.
Gourgues family.
Gourgues, Dominique de, 1530?-1593.
Kraus, Hans Peter, 1907-1988.
Landa, Diego de, 1524-1579.
Mendoza, Antonio de, 1492?-1552.
Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, Alvar, active 16th century.
Pereyns, Simón, -1589.
Quiroga y Losada, Diego.
Ursúa, Pedro de, 1526-1561.
Velasco, Luis de, 1500?-1564.
Verrazzano, Giovanni da, 1485-1528.
Vespucci, Amerigo, 1451-1512.
Zumárraga, Juan de, 1468-1548.

Organizations
Catholic Church--Mexico.

Subjects
Indians, Treatment of--New Spain.
Indians--Legal status, laws, etc.--New Spain.
Inquisition--Mexico.
Taxation--New Spain.
Places
America--Discovery and exploration.
Florida--History.
France--Foreign relations--Spain.
Mexico--Politics and government.
New Spain--Politics and government.
North America--History.
Spain--Colonies--America--Economic policy.
Spain--Colonies--America.
Spain--Foreign relations--France.
Spain--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Spain.
United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
United States--History.

Titles
Hans Peter Kraus Collection of Spanish American Documents at the Library of Congress

Occupations
Collectors.

Acquisition Information
The collection of Spanish American documents of Hans Peter Kraus, bookman, collector, and bibliophile, was given to the Library of Congress by Kraus in 1969. An additional item was purchased for the Library by Kraus in 1970.

Processing History
The Kraus Collection was arranged by Michael McElderry in 2004. The collection description was revised and expanded and links added to digital content in 2021.

Additional Guides
Preliminary arrangement and descriptions of the Kraus Collection were prepared for Kraus by Richard Boulind. The collection is also described in Hans P. Kraus Collection of Hispanic American Manuscripts (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1974) by J. Benedict Warren, available online at https://www.loc.gov/item/74001097/.

Related Material
In addition to the Kraus material, the Manuscript Division holds a collection of colonial Spanish American manuscripts in the Edward Stephen Harkness Collection.

Copyright Status
It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions.

Access and Restrictions
The collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.
Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on four reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Online Content

The Hans Peter Kraus Collection of Spanish American Documents is available on the Library of Congress Web site at http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000116. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Hans Peter Kraus Collection of Spanish American Documents, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The collection of Spanish American documents of Hans Peter Kraus (1907-1988) spans the years 1433 to 1966, with the bulk of the items dated from the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. The collection relates to the history and culture of colonial Spanish America, including the early history of territories now part of the United States. Contained in the collection are colonial documents recording the exploration of the New World, the government of New Spain (Mexico), the administration of the Inquisition, taxation and economic conditions in the colonies, Spanish relationships with Native Americans and the French, and the loss of parts of the Spanish empire to American expansion. The collection includes material relating to explorers Amerigo Vespucci (1451-1512), Giovanni da Verrazzano (1485-1528), Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca (16th cent.), Pedro de Ursúa (d.1561), and Lope de Aguirre (d.1561). It also includes letters and documents from the archives of Juan de Zumárraga (1468-1548), bishop of Mexico, and his successors. The collection is in English, Spanish, French, and Italian and is organized in a Spanish American Documents series and a Miscellany series consisting of notes and printed matter providing descriptions and partial translations of the collection. The collection contains letters, decrees, order books, reports, instructions, dispatches, printed material, and miscellaneous legal documents arranged by number as listed in Hans P. Kraus Collection of Hispanic American Manuscripts prepared by J. Benedict Warren.

One of the earliest documents in the collection is a contemporary manuscript copy of Vespucci's letter to Piero Soderini (1452-1522), 10 September 1504, in which he discussed all four of his voyages (item 119). Verrazzano's explorations, including his survey of the eastern seaboard of North America, are documented in letters, documents, and transcripts relating to the explorer and his family (item 121). Contemporary narratives and a copy of a royal dispatch trace the history of Ursúa's and Aguirre's exploratory expedition down the Amazon River and the latter's subsequent mutiny (items 141-143). Three original documents highlight the family life of Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, a pioneer in the conquest of Mexico and the exploration of Florida (item 122). Other material concerning early attempts to colonize Florida and the territories north of Mexico are included in an order book maintained by Viceroy Luis de Velasco (1500?-1564) and his predecessor, Antonio de Mendoza (1492?-1552) (item 140); a volume of documents regarding Pedro de Céspedes Vallejo Díaz, a soldier who served in Florida (item 148); a letter of Diego Quiroga y Losada, governor of Florida (item 152); a treatise by Antonio de Arredondo on Spanish claims to the colony of Georgia; and the letters and documents of the Gourgues family, in particular a narrative manuscript of the expedition of Dominique de Gourgues (1530?-1593) to Florida, 1567-1568 (item 144). Five variant versions of Gourgues's narrative located in the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, France (Fonds Français 2145, 3884, 6124, 19899, and 20794) have been reproduced on two reels of microfilm and are available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. (Microfilm shelf no. 17,674)

A collection of decrees and letters, a majority of which resided in the archives of Zumárraga, relates primarily, though not exclusively, to the Catholic church in New Spain (items 1-116). In addition to ecclesiastical affairs, these items also document the government and administration of Mexico including its social structure and culture, public health, education, the arts, public works, and the living conditions of its native population. The documents bear the signatures of Charles
V, Holy Roman Emperor (1500-1558), and his wife, Isabel, Empress (1503-1539), and their son and daughter, Philip II, King of Spain (1527-1598), and Juana de Austria, Princess of Portugal (1535-1573), and their descendants, Philip III (1578-1621) and Philip IV (1605-1665), kings of Spain. Another set of documents concerning the civil administration of New Spain also illuminates the career of Zumárraga's colleague, Bartolomé de las Casas, bishop of Chiapas (items 123-139). These items reflect the development and impact of the New Laws of the Indies, 1542, and the colonists' reaction to them. Items pertaining to the Inquisition in Mexico include documents of the trial of artist Simón Pereyns (fl. 1558-1588) (item 145); material relating to Antonio and Diego Calderón and family, official printers to the Holy Office of the Inquisition (item 149); and a holograph and printed volume of the rules and regulations governing the fraternity of Saint Peter Martyr, a brotherhood consisting of members of the Inquisition (item 151).

Among the latest items in the collection are dispatches sent in 1819 from Mexico to Spain by Juan Ruiz de Apodaca which contain information on the government, condition, and defense of the Spanish territories that are now part of the United States, including Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, with references to American forces and settlements in Louisiana and Florida (item 162).

**Organization of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in two series:

- Spanish American Documents, 1433-1877
- Miscellany, 1938-1966
## Description of Series

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<th>Container</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1-10 REEL 1-4</td>
<td><strong>Spanish American Documents, 1433-1877</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters, decrees, order books, reports, instructions, dispatches, printed material, and miscellaneous legal documents relating to the history of Spanish America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged numerically by the item number recorded in <em>Hans P. Kraus Collection of Hispanic American Manuscripts</em> by J. Benedict Warren.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10-11 not filmed</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1938-1966</strong></td>
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<td>Notes and printed material of descriptions and partial translations of the collection.</td>
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<td>Arranged by type of material and therein numerically by item number.</td>
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## Container List

Microfilm edition available. Shelf no. 14,833

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<th>Container</th>
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| **BOX 1-10 REEL 1-4** | **Spanish American Documents, 1433-1877**  
Letters, decrees, order books, reports, instructions, dispatches, printed material, and miscellaneous legal documents relating to the history of Spanish America.  
Arranged numerically by the item number recorded in *Hans P. Kraus Collection of Hispanic American Manuscripts* by J. Benedict Warren. |
| **BOX 1 REEL 1** | Item nos.  
1-116, Decrees and letters from the archives of Juan de Zumárraga, 1527-1660  
1, Royal cedula to the audiencia of the Island of Española  
[Digital content available](#)  
2, Royal cedula to the [Royal Treasury] officials of New Spain  
[Digital content available](#)  
3, Duplicate of a royal cedula to the audiencia of New Spain issued in Toledo, August 24, 1529  
[Digital content available](#)  
4, Royal cedula to Juan de Zumárraga, confirmed bishop-elect of Mexico  
[Digital content available](#)  
5, Royal cedula to the audiencia of New Spain  
[Digital content available](#)  
6, Royal cedula to Juan de Zumárraga, bishop-elect of Mexico  
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13, Royal cedula to the audiencia of New Spain  
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14, Royal letter to Juan de Zumárraga, bishop of Mexico  
[Digital content available](#)  
15, Royal cedula to Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain  
[Digital content available](#)  
16, Royal letter to Juan de Zumárraga, bishop of Mexico  
[Digital content available](#)  

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>19A</td>
<td>Letter to His Imperial Catholic Majesty [Charles I of Spain] [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>Royal cedula to Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>Royal cedula to the provincial of the Franciscan Order in New Spain [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>Royal cedula to the audiencia of New Spain and to [Juan de Zumárraga], bishop of Mexico [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Royal cedula to Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>Copy of a royal cedula to Juan de Zumárraga, bishop of Mexico [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>Royal cedula to Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>Cedula to Juan de Zumárraga, bishop of Mexico [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>Notarized copy of a royal cedula to Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain [Digital content available]</td>
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43. Notarized copy of a royal cedula to the audiencias of New Spain, Guatemala, and New Galicia
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45. Royal letter to Alonso de Montúfar, archbishop of Mexico
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46. Royal cedula to the audiencia of Mexico
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47. Royal cedula to the audiencia of Mexico
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48. Royal cedula to [Alonso de Montúfar], archbishop of Mexico
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49. Notarized copy of a power of attorney to Bachiller Juan de la Riba, vicar general
    of the archdiocese of Mexico, or to his successor, to Juan de Salazar and Francisco
    Ramirez, attorneys for cases in the audiencia of New Spain, and to Juan Ruiz Rubio,
    canon of the cathedral of Mexico, and Juan Ortiz de Oribe, the last two of whom were at
    the royal court
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51. Royal cedula to the audiencia of New Spain
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52. Royal cedula to [Luis de Velasco], Viceroy of New Spain
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53. Royal cedula to [Luis de Velasco], Viceroy of New Spain
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54. Copy of a royal cedula to [Alonso de Montúfar], archbishop of Mexico
   Digital content available
55. Copy of a royal cedula to the archbishops and bishops and other archdiocesan and
    diocesan officials of the islands and mainland of the Ocean Sea. Toledo, August 27,
    1560. Also, copy of the response of the archdiocesan authorities of Mexico to the cedula
   Digital content available
56. Copy of a royal cedula to the archbishop and bishops of the Spanish Indies
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58. Royal cedula to [Luis de Velasco], Viceroy of New Spain
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<td>Royal cedula to [Alonso de Montúfar], archbishop of Mexico</td>
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<td>Royal cedula to [Pedro Moya de Contreras], archbishop of Mexico</td>
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103, Royal cedula to [Pedro Moya de Contreras], archbishop of Mexico and to the vicar-general and the oldest canon or dignitary
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104, Viceregal order
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105, Royal cedula to the archbishop of Mexico
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106, Royal license
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107, Royal cedula to [García Guerra], archbishop of Mexico
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108, Royal cedula to [Juan de Mañosca], archbishop of Mexico or, if the see is vacant, to the cathedral chapter
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109, Royal cedula to the Count of Alva de Aliste y Villaflor, Viceroy of New Spain (or to the person or persons who might be in charge of the government)
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110, Royal letter to the Count of Alva de Aliste de Villaflor, Viceroy of New Spain
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111, Royal cedula to the Count of Alva de Aliste, Viceroy of New Spain
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112, Royal letter to the Count of Alva de Aliste, Viceroy of New Spain
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113, Royal cedula to the Count Alva de Aliste, Viceroy of New Spain (or to the person or persons who have charge of the government of New Spain)
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114, Royal cedula to the Count of Alva de Aliste, Viceroy of New Spain
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116, Royal order for the archbishops and bishops of the Spanish New World
Digital content available
117, Alvarado Tezozómoc, Fernando, chronicle of Mexico, circa 1600
Digital content available
117, La corónica Mexicana
Digital content available
118, Vespucci, Amerigo, Copybook containing an anthology of miscellaneous material including copies of letters from Vespucci to Lorenzo de' Medici and an unknown correspondent, 1500-circa 1503, circa 1547-circa 1574, undated
Digital content available
118/1, Anotazione de certi particolari tratti dalle storie del guicardine
Digital content available
118/2, Lettere di Amerigo Vespucci. [Copy of a letter to Lorenzo di Pier Francesco de' Medici]
Digital content available
118/3, Copia d'una parte d una lettera d'Amerigo Vespucci
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118/4, Tratto da Lucio Anneo senacha: sopra lira
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119, Vespucci, Amerigo, Soderini, Piero, letter, 1504, 1802
119/1, Letter[a] de Americo. Vespucci. pro viagio a chalicut. [Copy of letter to Piero Soderini, Gonfaloniere of the Republic of Florence.]

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120, Copy of a narrative of merits and services [to Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain. Mexico, circa 1544]

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142, Unknown narrative, circa 1561-1600
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143, Philip II, King of Spain, copy of royal dispatch, 1550, 1562
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143, Copy of a royal cedula to the audiencia of Los Reyes [Lima], Peru. Madrid, October 3, 1562. With an appended list of those involved in the Lope de Aguirre revolt and a paragraph of a royal letter to Pedro de la Gasca
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144, Gourgue, Dominique de, and family, 1558-1593, 1838-1866, undated
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145, Pereyns, Simón, 1568
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146, Mexico, Tepeaca (Town), 1581-1583
146, Autos hechos sobre las tres cauallerías de tierra que esta cibdad vendio a Luis Hernández
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147, Mexico, Yucatan (State), circa 1631
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148, Diaz, Pedro de Cépedes Vallejo, 1627-1641
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148/26, Order to Pedro de Céspedes Vallejo
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149, Calderón, Antonio and Diego and family, documents of the Inquisition in Mexico, 1649-1682
149, Petición y Genealogía del Br. Antonio Calderón y Br. Diego Calderón su hermano
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150, Philip IV, King of Spain, official instructions to Diego Benavides y de la Cueva, 1660-1661
150, Ynstruccion que se da a los Virreyes del Peru
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151, Fraternity of Saint Peter Martyr, rules, regulations, and minutes of meetings, Holograph volume (151A), 1657-1820
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151, Fraternity of Saint Peter Martyr, rules, regulations, and minutes of meetings, Printed copy (151B), 1659
151B, Reglas y constituciones, que han de guardar los señores Inquisidores, fiscales, secretarios, oficiales, calificadores, consultores, abogados, comisarios, notarios, honestas personas, capellanes, familiares, y otros cualesquier ministros del tribunal del Santo Oficio de la Inquisicion de esta Ciudad de Mexico ...
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152, Quiroga y Losada, Diego, letter to Marqués de Montealegre, 1688
152, Letter to the Marqués de Montealegre
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153, Adame y Arriaga, Joseph, treatise regarding the Cruzada, 1692
153, Manifiesto Chronologico de las Cruzadas, y sus concesiones Pontificias, queen la nueva España, sus Obispados sufraganeos y el de Campeche, y los de las Yslas
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Philipinas, se han practicado desde su Origen. Con varias noticias concernientes a su curso legal de Bullas Pontificias ...

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154, Villa Sánchez, Juan de, holograph volume, 1714

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155, Inquisition, case of Eustachio Pérez de Avilés, 1725-1727

155, El S[eñor] fiscal de este s[ant]o oficio Eustachio Pérez de Aviles, Presbitero Confesor y Capellan menor del Santuario de nuestra s[en]ora de la soledad de dicha ciudad por Solicitante Expontaneo

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156, Arredondo, Antonio de, treatise on Spanish rights to British claims in Georgia, 1742

156, Demostracion historiografica del derecho que tiene el Rey Catholico al territorio que oy posee el Rey Britanico con el nombre de nueva Georgia en las Provincias y continente de la Florida en la que se prueba el dominio positivo que tiene el Rey de España

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157, Blanco y Helguera, Buenaventura, 1756

157, Auto f[ec]hos consulta del Yllustrísimo señor obispo de la Ciudad de Oaxaca en horden a que se le conceda licencia para fabricar nueva Yglesia, la que le había avisado el cura de Chacaltianguis era necesario hacer en nuevo paraje del que al presente tenía la Mitra ...

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158/2, Decree in the name of King Charles to the corregidores, assistant governors, alcaldes mayores, alcaldes ordinarios, and other judges and justices of the city of Ica and of all the cities, towns, and places of the realms of the King

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159, Inquisition, records relating to investigations, Unnamed penitent, 1785

159, Facultad, que el Confessor Fr. Mariano Cassas Religioso Francisco Conventual en Puebla, solicitó del Tribunal para absolver á un Penitente que incurrió en el Crimen de Heregia, y no quiso expontanearse, la que se le concedió, y fué; absuelta ad cautelam

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160, Inquisition, records relating to investigations, Oliva, Mariano de Jesús, 1796-1803

160, El S[eníor] Fiscal del Santo oficio contra El P. Ft. Mariano Oliva, del orden de San Francisco, y cura de Gueiteupam por Concultante de Ymages, y obscenidades

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161, Mendinueta, Pedro, report to Antonio Amar y Borbón, 1803

161, Instruction to his successor, Antonio Amar y Borgón

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