Collection Summary
Title: Harkness Collection
Inclusive Dates: 1525-1740
ID No.: MSS47662
Collector: Harkness, Edward Stephen, 1874-1940
Extent: 900 items
Extent: 33 containers plus 1 oversize
Extent: 10 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in Spanish
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm80047662
Summary: Philanthropist and collector. Documents and papers (1525-1609: 2,939 folios) relating to the history of the Spanish in Mexico, though chiefly pertaining to the conquistador, Hernan Cortés, and members of his family. Topics include the Cortés-Avila Conspiracy (1566); a 1531 lawsuit involving testimony from the Nahuas of Huejotzingo, Mexico; other legal matters; family lands in Oaxaca, Mexico; and proceedings of the Holy Office of the Inquisition. Also includes documents and papers (1531-1651, 1740: 1,405 folios) relating to the history of the Spanish in Peru. Includes decrees, proclamations, orders, instructions, contracts, agreements, commercial accounts and letters, minutes of municipalities, manumissions, and material on the Pizarro and Almagro families.
Online Content: The Huexotzingo Codex in the Harkness Collection is available on the Library of Congress Web site at http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000113. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.

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
Almagro family.
Cortes family.
Cortés, Hernán, 1485-1547.
Harkness, Edward Stephen, 1874-1940.
Pizarro family.

Subjects
Indians of Mexico.
Inquisition--Mexico.
Land tenure--Mexico--Oaxaca.
Nahuas--Taxation.
Spaniards--Mexico.
Spaniards--Peru.

Places
Huejotzingo (Mexico)--History.
Mexico--History--Conquest, 1519-1540.
Mexico--History--Spanish colony, 1540-1810.
Peru--History--1548-1820.
Peru--History--Conquest, 1522-1548.
Spain--Colonies--America.

Titles
Edward Stephen Harkness papers
Huexotzinco codex.

Occupations
Collectors.
Philanthropists.

Provenance
The Harkness Collection was given to the Library of Congress by Edward S. Harkness in 1928-1929 and transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Hispanic Division in 1996.

Processing History
The collection was processed and described before its transfer to the Manuscript Division in 1996. The finding was revised in 2009 and in 2011 and again in 2012.

Additional Guides

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 ten 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.

Online Content
The Huexotzingo Codex in the Harkness Collection is available on the Library of Congress Web site at http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000113. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Harkness Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Scope and Content Note

The Harkness Collection consists of documents and papers (1525-1609: 2,939 folios) relating to the history of the Spanish in Mexico, though chiefly pertaining to the conquistador Hernan Cortés and members of his family. Topics include the Cortés-Avila Conspiracy (1566); a 1531 lawsuit involving testimony from the Nahuas of Huejotzingo, Mexico; other legal matters; family lands in Oaxaca, Mexico; and proceedings of the Holy Office of the Inquisition.

Also included are documents and papers (1531-1651, and 1740: 1,405 folios) relating to the history of the Spanish in Peru. Included are decrees, proclamations, orders, instructions, contracts, agreements, commercial accounts and letters, minutes of municipalities, manumissions, and material on the Pizarro and Almagro families.

A full-color facsimile of the Harkness 1531 Huexotzingo codex (until 1974 known as the Codex Monteleone), part of the Harkness Collection since 1928, is also available in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library. The originals for the seventy-nine leaf manuscript, which includes the eight Indian drawings comprising the Huexotzingo codex that pertain to a lawsuit by Hernando Cortés, is located in the Library’s Conservation Division.

Material relating to Mexico is described in four series. Series 1 to 3 are available on microfilm. They appear in the container list in the order in which they were filmed and thereunder by original document number. At the end of the document descriptions of the filmed items for Mexico are two numbers. The first number with the prefix HC-M refers to calendar numbers in *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress: Manuscripts concerning Mexico, a Guide*. The second number refers to the shelf container number. Series 4 consists of positive and negative enlargement prints and photostatic copies.

Material relating to the Spanish in Peru is organized by type of material: enlargement prints, originals, and Rosenbach Company items. The enlargement prints and original documents are correlated to document numbers that appear in *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress: Calendar of Spanish Manuscripts concerning Peru, 1531-1651*.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 1
- History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 2
- History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 3
- History of the Spanish in Mexico: Series 4
- History of the Spanish in Peru
# Description of Series

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## Container List

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1531, Feb. 14-1532, May 31  
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| **REEL 1:1 DOC I.** | Huexotzingo Codex  
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| **REEL 1:1 DOC II.** | Hernando Cortés v. Lics. Matienzo and Delgadillo–tributes of pueblo of Toluca, 1531, Apr. 4-1532, May 28  
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