TITLE OF THE EXHIBIT

THE “CODICES”.
THE SURVIVING AZTEC LIBRARY AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

The Dartmouth College Library is very pleased to present here a small selection of the complete collection of Mexican codices recently acquired.

INTRODUCTION

Aztec sacred books and works, which were kept in the temples, and other native books have become known in Western scholarship as codices.

Sacred books were written (or rather, painted) on deerskin or agave-fibre paper by scribes (tlacuiloanime), who used a combination of pictography, ideograms, and phonetic symbols and dealt with the ritual calendar, divination, ceremonies, and speculations on the gods and the universe. Because of their religious content only a small fraction of these escaped destruction by the Spaniards; the few specimens that have survived—such as the Codex Borbonicus, the Codex Borgia, the Codex Fejérváry-Mayer, and the Codex Cospi—usually come accompanied by Spanish notations.

These sources are limited in scope and subject matter but nevertheless are valuable documents. Their interpretation is far from easy. Only a few of them, such as the Borbonicus, are truly Aztec, while others, such as the Borgia, seem to emanate from the priestly colleges of the "Mexica-Puebla" area, between the central highlands and the Oaxaca Mountains. Other native books, either pre-Cortesian or post-Cortesian, also afford valuable material. Examples include such manuscripts as the Codex Telleriano-Remensis, the Azcatitlan, and the Codex of 1576, which describe the history of the Aztec tribe and state and occasionally depict religious scenes and events; the Codex Badianus, an herbal with magnificent drawings of medicinal plants; and the Codex Mendoza and the Matrícula de tributos, both tax documents of the Aztec empire. A number of books were written in the Latin alphabet—either in Náhuatl or in Spanish—by learned Aztec chroniclers, who used ancient pictographic manuscripts as their basis. Among those that were prepared in central Mexico are the Codex Chimalpopoca (also called the Anales de Cuauhtitlán; "Annals of Cuauhtitlán"), in Náhuatl, and the Codex Ramírez (also called the Historia de los mexicanos por sus pinturas; "History of the Mexicans Through Their Paintings"), in Spanish; both are anonymous compilations. Official ecclesiastical and government records. Much of this literature is unpublished. Its purpose was administrative rather than intellectual, but it has provided an extraordinarily rich source of information for all 16th-century ethnic groups. The documents vary from tax lists, censuses, and marriage and baptismal records to broad geographic-economic surveys. Among the most valuable of the last type are the Relaciones geográficas of 1579-85, a series of surveys ordered by Philip II of his overseas possessions. Formal questionnaires were drawn up that demanded information from each town in the empire on virtually all aspects of Meso-American life: questions on the natural environment and resources, crops, population history, settlement patterns, taxes paid, markets and trade, the language, native history and customs, and progress of the missionization program.
**Codice Zouche-Nuttall**


Art, Special F/1219.56/C6253/C63/1992

Codex Nuttall.; Tuhun nana jiin sehe sihi.; Spanish & Mixtec.; Crónica mixteca

1 folded strip (47 leaves): p., col. facsim.; 19 x 1,141 cm. folded to 19 x 25 cm. + 1 set of loose leaves (84 [i.e. 86] leaves: facsim.; 17 x 20 cm.) + 1 accompanying volume (256 p.: ill., fold. geneal. table; 23 cm.)

Issued in a case, 30 x 31 cm. The full-col. facsim. is, like the original, folded accordion fashion to form quasi-leaves, numbered p. 1-41 on recto and 42-84 on verso. The set of 84 [i.e. 86] loose leaves contains black-and-white pictorial replicas of the facsim. pages. The unbound accompanying commentary volume has t.p.: Crónica mixteca: el rey 8 Venado, Garra de Jaguar, y la dinastía de Teozacualco-Zaachila: libro explicativo del llamado Codice Zouche-Nuttall, ms. 39671 British Museum, Londres.

The facsim. reproduces in the original pictorial script the contents of the pre-conquest manuscript, a collection of texts pertaining to the history of the Mixtec; the commentary volume includes Spanish translations of all of these, and Mixtec-language transcription of Tuhun nana jiin sehe sihi, from p. 14-22 of the codex

**Codice borbonico.**

[Madrid, España: Sociedad Estatal Quinto Centenario; Austria: Akademische Druck- und Verlagsanstalt; Mexico: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1991]

Art, Special F/1219.56/C43C6/1991

Language: Nahual; Nahual and Spanish

1 folded strip (38 [i.e. 36] leaves): p., col. facsim.; 40 x 1,440 cm. folded to 40 x 40 cm. + 1 accompanying volume (251 p.: ill., facsim., map; 23 cm.)

Issued in a case, 42 x 46 cm. The full-col. facsim. is, like the original, folded accordion fashion to form quasi-leaves, numbered 3-38. The unbound accompanying commentary volume has t.p.: El libro del ciuacoatl, homenaje para el año del Fuego Nuevo: libro explicativo del llamado Códice Borbónico, codex du corps legislatif, Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale française, Paris, Y 120 / introducción y explicación, Ferdinand Anders, Maarten Jansen, Gabina Aurora Pérez Jiménez. At head of title: Ferdinand Anders (Viena), Maarten Jansen (Leiden), Luis Reyes García (México), Comisión Técnica Investigadora. The facsim. reproduces the manuscript (believed to be a copy made ca. 152- of a lost original) composed originally for a celebration of the year 1507; the Spanish title Libro del ciuacoatl (the year's name) used in the commentary volume represents the intellectual content of the ms., viewed as a Nahual text written in pictorial script. The commentary volume includes tentative Nahual transcription with Spanish translation or interpretation. Includes bibliographical references.

**Codice Cospi**


Art, Special F/1219.56/C72/A54/1994
Vol. 1 is a facsim. of the original Nahuatl Mss. (Códice Cospi) which consists of 1 sheet (38 p.) 22 x 380 cm. folded to 19 x 22 cm. Vol. 2. (346 p. ; 23 cm.) has special title: Calendario de pronósticos y ofrendas : libro explicativo del llamado Códice Cospi, Biblioteca Universitaria de Bolonia, 4093

Codice Laud

The contents of the reproduced codex, pictorial throughout, may be viewed, wholly or in part, as pictographic writing expressing Aztec (Nahuatl) concepts; the interpretive commentary is in Spanish (it includes also some thematically related texts in modern Mixtec with Spanish translation)./ Issued in a case, 30 x 30 cm./ Title from case; imprint from the accompanying commentary volume./ The full-col. facsim. is, like the original, folded accordion-style to form 24 quasi-leaves; the facsim. carries on its added border the modern pagination 1(24)-24(1) on one side and 25(46)-46(25) on the other in the reverse direction, omitting blank versos of pp. 1(24) and 24(1)./ The unbound commentary volume has t.p.: La pintura de la muerte y de los destinos : libro explicativo del llamado Códice Laud, Misc. 678, Bodleian Library, Oxford, Inglaterra / introducción y explicacion: Ferdinand Anders, Maarten Jansen ; con una contribucion de Alejandra Cruz Ortiz. At head of title: Ferdinand Anders (Viena), Maarten Jansen (Leiden), Luis Reyes Garcia (México): (Comisión Técnica Investigadora)./ "Xiku ña chanu, Uipil de novia" (by Alejandra Cruz Ortiz, in modern Mixtec with Spanish translation): commentary vol., p. 140-146./ Includes bibliographical references (commentary vol., p. 299-315).

Codice Borgia

The contents of the reproduced codex, pictorial throughout, may be viewed, wholly or in part, as pictographic writing expressing 13th-cent. Nahuatl concepts; the interpretive commentary is in Spanish./ Issued in a case, 31 x 31 cm./ Title from case; imprint from the accompanying commentary volume./ The full-col. facsim. is, like the original, folded accordion-style to form 39 quasi-leaves; the facsim. carries on added border the modern pagination 1-38 on one side and 39-76 on the other in the reverse direction, omitting blank recto of p. 76 and blank verso of p. 38./ The unbound commentary volume has t.p.: Los templos del cielo y de la oscuridad : oráculos y liturgia : libro explicativo del llamado Códice Borgia ... / introducción y explicacion, Ferdinand Anders, Maarten Jansen, Luis Reyes Garcia. At head of title: Ferdinand Anders (Viena), Maarten Jansen (Leiden), Luis Reyes García (México), Comisión Técnica Investigadora./ Includes bibliographical references.

Codice Ixtiilxochitl.

Vol. 1 is a facsim. of the original Nahuatl ms. which consists of 7 sheets (28 p. ; 71 x 51 cm. folded to 33 x 26 cm.).
This book include an Apendice.

Explicacion del codice geroglifico de mr. Aubin, por Alfredo Chavero" (172 p. at end of vol. II) The Atlas contains the reproductions of the colored designs in the 3 parts of the manuscript, and facsimile of the "Codice geroglifico de mr. Aubin" (known as the "Codex Ixtilxochitl," now in the Bibliotheque nationale in Paris, Mss. mex. 65-71)