

**Hans Peter Kraus**

**A Register of His Collection of Spanish American  
Documents in the Library of Congress**

**Prepared by Michael McElderry**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2004**

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Collection of Spanish American Documents of Hans Peter Kraus

**Span Dates:** 1433-1966

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1500-1800)

**ID No.:** MSS31013

**Creator:** Kraus, Hans Peter, 1907-1988

**Extent:** 300 items; 11 containers; 4 linear feet; 4 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English, Spanish, French, and Italian

**Repository:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Abstract:** 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.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Names:

Kraus, Hans Peter, 1907-

Aguirre, Lope de, d. 1561

Arredondo, Antonio de

Casas, Bartolomé de las, 1474-1566

Calderón, Antonio de

Céspedes Vallejo Diaz, Pedro de

Gourgues, Dominique de, 1530?-1593

Landa, Diego de, 1524-1579

Mendoza, Antonio de, 1492?-1552

Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, Alvar, 16th cent.

Pereyns, Simón, d. 1589

Quiroga y Losada, Diego

Ursa, Pedro de, d. 1561

Velasco, Luis de, 1500?-1564

Verrazzano, Giovanni da, 1485-1528

Vespucci, Amerigo, 1451-1512

Zumárraga, Juan de, 1468-1548

Gourgues family

Catholic Church--Mexico

### Subjects:

Indians--Legal status, laws, etc.--New Spain

Indians, Treatment of--New Spain

Inquisition--Mexico

Taxation--New Spain

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.

Spain--Colonies--America--Economic policy

Spain--Foreign relations--France

Spain--Foreign relations--United States

United States--Foreign relations--Spain  
United States--History  
United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775

**Occupation:**

Collectors

## Administrative Information

**Provenance:**

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:**

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.

**Copyright Status:**

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

**Microfilm:**

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on four reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

**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 Diaz, 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 Pereyñs (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).

## Related Material

In addition to the Kraus material, the Library of Congress holds a collection of colonial Spanish American manuscripts in the Edward Stephen Harkness Collection which may also be consulted in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Spanish American Documents, 1433-1877, n.d.](#)
- [Miscellany, 1938-1966, n.d.](#)

## Description of Series

*Container*

BOX 1-10

REEL 1-4

*Series*

**Spanish American Documents, 1433-1877, n.d.**

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 10-11

not filmed

**Miscellany, 1938-1966, n.d.**

Notes and printed material of descriptions and partial translations of the collection.

Arranged by type of material and therein numerically by item number.

# Container List

Microfilm edition available. Shelf no. 14,833

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-10</b> <b>REEL 1-4</b>	<b>Spanish American Documents, 1433-1877, n.d.</b>  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 <i>Hans P. Kraus Collection of Hispanic American Manuscripts</i> by J. Benedict Warren.
<b>BOX 1</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	Item nos.  1-116                    Decrees and letters from the archives of Juan de Zumárraga, 1527-1660 117                      Alvarado Tezozómoc, Fernando, chronicle of Mexico, ca. 1600 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-ca. 1503, ca. 1547-ca. 1574, n.d. 119                      Soderini, Piero, letter, 1504, 1802
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	120                      Vázquez de Tapia, Bernardino, narrative of merits and services, ca. 1544, ca. 1630  121                      Verrazzano, Giovanni da, and family, letters, documents, and transcripts, 1433-1768, n.d.  (2 folders) 122                      Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, Alvar, 1512, 1530, 1557 123-139                Decrees, letters, instructions, reports, and other documents concerning legislation for Spanish America  Miscellany, 1877, n.d. Numbered items, 1526-1567 Nos. 123-131 Nos. 132-139
<b>BOX 3</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	
<b>BOX 4</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	140                      Velasco, Luis de, and Antonio de Mendoza, viceregal order book, 1548-1552
<b>BOX 5</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	141                      Ursúa, Pedro de, and Lope de Aguirre expedition  Ipori, Gerónimo de, report, ca. 1580-1600 142                      Unknown narrative, ca. 1561-1600 143                      Philip II, King of Spain, copy of royal dispatch, 1550, 1562 144                      Gourgues, Dominique de, and family, 1558-1593, 1838-1866, n.d. 145                      Pereyns, Simón, 1568 146                      Mexico Tepeaca (Town), 1581-1583 147                      Yucatan (State), ca. 1631
<b>BOX 6</b> <b>REEL 3</b>	148                      Díaz, Pedro de Cépedes Vallejo, 1627-1641

**Spanish American Documents, 1433-1877, n.d.**

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	149 Calderón, Antonio and Diego and family, documents of the Inquisition in Mexico, 1649-1682
	150 Philip IV, King of Spain, official instructions to Diego Benavides y de la Cueva, 1660-1661
<b>BOX 7</b> <b>REEL 3</b>	151 Fraternity of Saint Peter Martyr, rules, regulations, and minutes of meetings Holograph volume (151A), 1657-1820 Printed copy (151B), 1659
<b>BOX 8</b> <b>REEL 3</b>	152 Quiroga y Losada, Diego, letter to Marqués de Montealegre, 1688
	153 Adame y Arriaga, Joseph, treatise regarding the Cruzada, 1692
	154 Villa Sánchez, Juan de, holograph volume, 1714
	155 Inquisition, case of Eustachio Pérez de Avilés, 1725-1727
	156 Arredondo, Antonio de, treatise on Spanish rights to British claims in Georgia, 1742
	157 Blanco y Helguera, Buenaventura, 1756
<b>BOX 9</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	158 Iturrate family, patent of nobility, 1777-1782
	159 Inquisition, records relating to investigations Unnamed penitent, 1785
	160 Oliva, Mariano de Jesús, 1796-1803
	161 Mendinueta, Pedro, report to Antonio Amar y Borbón, 1803
<b>BOX 10</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	162 Apodaca, Juan Ruiz de, reports, 1819
<b>BOX 10-11</b> not filmed	<b>Miscellany, 1938-1966, n.d.</b>  Notes and printed material of descriptions and partial translations of the collection. Arranged by type of material and therein numerically by item number.
<b>BOX 10</b>	Material regarding Spanish American documents, 1938, 1954-1956, 1966, n.d. Nos. 1-139 (8 folders)
<b>BOX 11</b>	Nos. 140-145, 148-149, 151, 153, 156, 162 (10 folders) Subject compilations, n.d. Administrative and legal records, nos. 146-147, 150, 152 Ecclesiastical and administrative records, nos. 154, 157-158, 161 Inquisition investigations, nos. 155, 159-160