The Story of a Center: 1964-2004
Latin America Invades Pittsburgh
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On the Occasion of the Center’s 40th Anniversary
Faculty were not of much use without a library and a library was not of much use without faculty. Compared to what it became later, the University’s library in 1964 was a pathetic space. I can remember shuffling through dog-eared cards in drawers at its location on a lower floor of the Cathedral of Learning. Even later, after our new librarian came to Pitt, we looked mournfully at one another. Our morale received a big boost when Henry Hillman helped finance a handsome new library building in honor of his father.

Assembling impressive library resources on Latin America was the Center’s essential route to respectability. Soon after my arrival I asked Harold Lancel, then Dean of the Library School, and Jay Dailey, on its faculty, to recommend librarians with Latin American credentials. They suggested Eduardo Lozano—a librarian from Argentina.

When I was in Santiago, Chile not long thereafter, I telephoned Lozano in Argentina. He made a good impression and seemed interested. A practical question was whether his English was sufficient to work in our library. It was adequate and I recommended him to the Library which hired him. As we confirmed later, he commanded authoritatively the literature on history, culture, and society. He was also a shrewd judge of politics.

Before Lozano’s appointment, Pitt’s library resources on Latin America were understandably thin. We needed to build a broader base, emphasizing the twentieth century. Alfredo Roggiano of the Hispanic department

recommended that we buy the collection of a bookseller in Mexico City who was selling his business. I looked through the titles, many books, but most valuable, all kinds of articles, pamphlets and the like. Vice Chancellor Charles Peake broke out $26,000 to purchase the Andreana collection named for the collector.

Eduardo Lozano took over from there and built what became one of the nation’s strongest collections on twentieth century Latin America. His method was unorthodox. Instead of making purchases exclusively through dealers, he made extended annual trips to Latin America to buy directly from books stores. He was able to judge each item on the spot, saving commissions paid to agents that were more than enough to offset his travel expenses. No one was better than Lozano at choosing what faculty needed. The personal burdens of air travel arrangements, local transportation, physical purchase, packaging, and shipping, and long periods away from home were his.

My relationship with him was one of the closest in the Center. I tried to support him in every possible way. Lozano knew us all, our projects and needs. Later his name began to appear on the masthead directly under that of the director, a symbol of the importance that we all attached to his work. Another was that the University named the Latin American collection and a reading room at the Hillman Library in his honor.

Eduardo Lozano Collection
Lozano explains that the collection supports teaching and research on Latin America in the humanities, social sciences, and professions. Materials related to the region are in all languages, but mainly Spanish, Portuguese, and English. An extensive collection of Indian language materials supports studies and research in Native American life and culture.

The library holdings have been collected systematically and comprehensively through individual purchases and periodic buying trips to the area. Extensive files, including catalogs and addresses of publishers and vendors, are available. One of the major sources for collecting has been a vast exchange program. The collection maintains exchange agreements with more than 400 libraries, research centers, universities, and governmental departments all over the world.

The Bolivian Collection is one of the most comprehensive in the world with its own author and subject catalogue. There is also a unique collection of 1,200 pamphlets and 2,500 monographs on microforms. The collection on contemporary Cuba is also exceptional and even larger in books, periodicals, and newspapers. A guide, “Cuban Periodicals at the University of
Pittsburgh," lists 552 titles. Acquisitions from the Southern Cone, Brazil, and the Andean countries reflect the profusion of publishing there as well as frequent buying trips. The collections on Central America and the Caribbean are also extensive.

The microform section is one of the richest and largest sources of Latin America-related microforms in the United States, including a vast array of U.S. government records. The Library is a member of several cooperative organizations collecting materials on Latin America. The Library has published half-a-dozen guides to its collections in film, video, periodicals, recordings, and microforms.

The Collection currently contains over 450,000 volumes, 12,000 periodical titles, 110,000 reels of microfilms, 540 films and video recordings, and 630 sound recordings. Twenty-seven daily newspapers are received.

*de estudios sobre Cuba* at the Center's offices. We called Kalman Silvert, then of the Ford Foundation, whom I knew as a student in Chile and through LASA. He provided a small grant to get us off the ground. In 1975, it became a journal and in 1986 a yearbook published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. This work is not only a publication, it's an institution. By 2005, there had been 35 volumes of *Cuban Studies*, the most important periodical in the field.

Mesa Lago also laid a foundation for an entire field of study with the publication of *Social Security in Latin America: Pressure Groups, Stratification, and Inequality*, which was followed by *Ascent to Bankruptcy: Financing Social Security in Latin America, and Do Options Exist? The Reform of Pensions and Health Care Systems in Latin America*. Malloy wrote a related study on the politics of social security in Brazil.

My articles and books, especially *The Hovering Giant: U.S. Responses to Revolutionary Change in Latin America*, were widely used in American universities and abroad. A companion volume, *The Giant's Rival: The USSR in Latin America*, reached US academics in Russian studies and Soviet specialists on Latin America. Both books in multiple printings and editions were academic best sellers.

With the financial support of the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and under the sponsorship of the Latin American Studies Association, I organized the US/USSR exchange in Latin American Studies in the early 1980s. Many US Latin Americanists visited the USSR (Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Erevan) and Soviet Latin Americanists visited the United States (Washington, Pittsburgh, Bloomington, Miami), an active exchange over a five-year period. Two Pitt graduates published books on Soviet topics: Aldo Vacs on Soviet relations with Argentina and William Richardson on Soviet views of Mexico.

Pitt scholars have also been active in writing books about Mexico. Hugo Nutini has written about kinship and family structure, among other topics, and Hal Sims about the role of the Spanish at the end and after the war for independence. He also collaborated with Magnus Mørner on migration in Latin America.

Many of the above studies were published during the early years of the Center. By the 1980s, George Reid Andrews began a change of focus toward other sociopolitical themes, such as Africans in Argentina and Brazil. Reid's work was part of a shift in the Center's research orientation when Mitchell Seligson became director.