

**MOSETENO
VOCABULARY AND
TREATISES, PP.1-139**

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BENIGNO BIBOLOTTI & RUDOLPH SCHULLER

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Moseteno Vocabulary and Treatises

By

BENIGNO BIBOLOTTI

PRIEST OF THE FRANCISCAN MISSION OF INMACULADA
CONCEPCIÓN DE COVENDO IN BOLIVIA

*From an Unpublished Manuscript
in possession of Northwestern University Library*

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

RUDOLPH SCHULLER

FORMERLY OF THE MUSEU GOELDI, PARÁ, BRAZIL



EVANSTON AND CHICAGO
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

1917

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NOTE

The disruption of diplomatic relations between the United States and Austria-Hungary made it necessary for Dr. Schuller to leave this country. He was granted a safe conduct to return to his native land and sailed from New York on May 4th.

At the time Dr. Schuller left Evanston he had completed only a rough draft of the Introduction which is here published. Fortunately, Professor Franz Boas of Columbia University was able to recommend Dr. Truman Michelson of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., as one well fitted to undertake the final revision of the important linguistic part of Dr. Schuller's Introduction, which is to be found on pages xxxviii to xcv. The historical part of the Introduction was revised by my colleague, Professor Georg Edward, and myself. To both Dr. Michelson and Professor Edward the University owes thanks for the successful accomplishment of their task.

Dr. Schuller had supplied an English translation of the whole vocabulary, but it did not seem to me that such a translation added anything of value. I have, therefore, omitted it. It seemed to me also desirable to reproduce the manuscript exactly as Bibolotti left it with all its errors and mistakes. Bibolotti was not a highly educated man and, as he tells us himself, was not writing for scholars, but for future missionaries among the Mosetenos. Dr. Schuller had undertaken to correct many of Bibolotti's errors and supply omissions. At my request Professor Edward and my assistant, Miss Agnes L. Mowbray, were kind enough to undertake the very laborious task of making the changes in the printed proof needed to make the reproduction of the manuscript correspond to the original.

Gothenburg
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It does not fall within my province to discuss the value of the manuscript discovered by Dr. Schuller and the importance of his work. The most important part of the material was submitted to Professor Franz Boas of Columbia University, the leading authority in this country in the field of American anthropology and ethnology. Under date of April 3d, Professor Boas wrote: "Dr. Schuller has evidently done a very large amount of work in extracting characteristic grammatical features, and although I am sure that he would be the last to claim that this is a complete grammar of the language, it is much more than we ever knew before. It is difficult to convince any one who has not done work of this sort how laborious is the work that Dr. Schuller has undertaken." In view of the opinion of Professor Boas I did not hesitate to order the publication of this book. As stated by Dr. Schuller in his Preface, the publication was made possible by the generosity of the constant benefactor of Northwestern University, Mr. James A. Patten.

It may not be amiss to express here the hope that it will be possible at some later date to publish some of the other manuscript material relating to South America, now in possession of Northwestern University. This material is chiefly of importance for modern Bolivian history, the most interesting section being the correspondence for the years 1841 to 1852 of General José Ballivian, President of Bolivia from 1839 to 1848.

WALTER LICHTENSTEIN.

Northwestern University Library
Evanston, Illinois
July 1, 1917

PREFACE

Northwestern University Library possesses a fairly large collection of unpublished Spanish manuscripts which are probably unique in the United States. They are specially noteworthy as far as they relate to the modern development and internal political life of Bolivia. Professor Lichtenstein, Librarian of Northwestern University, acquired this material, consisting of books, pamphlets, early periodicals and the like, from Señor Donato Lanza y Lanza during a sojourn in Bolivia.¹

In September 1916, Professor Lichtenstein asked me to arrange and collate the manuscripts and prepare them for the binder. While examining the different packages² in order to make a preliminary selection of the papers according to the subjects treated in them, I found Biboletti's manuscript dealing with the Moseveno language.

The unexpected discovery is all the more important since it concerns extensive materials gathered together by a yet unknown author of a relatively little studied Bolivian aboriginal idiom spoken by Indians who have almost vanished. If there are still a few of them remaining without foreign admixture, they are destined to be absorbed completely in the near future by the process of amalgamation. This phenomenon has been going on slowly but infallibly everywhere in South America. The reasons are palpable. It is due partly to the continuous and irresistible advance of modern civilization, and partly to the fact that the primitive cis-andine fishing and hunting tribes have little capacity for resistance. These Indians, although strong, healthy and relatively happy, as long as enjoying un-

¹ For further details, see "A Trip to South America," Northwestern University Bulletin, Vol. XVI, No. 1, September 3, 1915.

² The folders of these packages were labeled: "Banco Hipotecario de Bolivia."

bounded liberty far off from the temptations of civilized life, upon the slightest contact with the latter begin at once to degenerate. The physical and moral conditions of these people so badly treated by fate become gradually undermined. They are condemned to irremediable destruction. Within a few years the name of the Moseño will be added to the alarmingly long list of extinct South American Indian tribes.

It was my desire to have the manuscript published. Mr. James A. Patten, President of the Board of Trustees of Northwestern University, became interested in this work, and he generously furnished the funds necessary for the publication of this book.

RUDOLPH SCHULLER.

Evanston, Illinois
February 23, 1917