

## Preface

The role of Russian letters in the foreign readings of the Spanish and Spanish-American public since the nineteenth century is very well known. Indeed, a bibliography of allusions to such readings and to their supposedly belated influence as well as to the likelihood of affinities between the Slavic and the Hispanic world would exceed by several times the size of the present book. There exists hardly a work of literary history, either general or scholarly, which does not at least mention readings of Russian authors. But in spite of the large number of such references, there still is no thorough, systematic study of the diffusion of Russian works throughout the Spanish-speaking world. The only work still on the market (George Portnoff's *La literatura rusa en España*, New York 1932) is both incomplete and outdated.

Until now we have lacked the bibliographical basis which would make it possible to investigate when the diffusion started, where it first occurred, how it reached the Hispanic world, and who were its intermediaries in Spain and in Spanish America. I believe that the present work is the first serious effort to fill this gap. Some of my articles, the first published eighteen years ago (no. 21260), as well as a few items, likewise short, by other authors, have to be considered piecemeal efforts (e.g. 'Ensayo de bibliografía de la novela rusa ...' by Mrs Datshkovsky, see *Libraries Sources*, p. xxxviii) which confirm the need for a detailed if not complete bibliography for use by Hispanists, Slavists, librarians, and students of comparative literature. Obviously this is merely a starting point, though of revolutionary scope and indispensable for future investigations of real and individual influences.

In a work of this type one can merely try to be as complete as possible; I believe that the listings of books and monographs are reasonably thorough, but a complete listing of periodical articles has been altogether impossible. The magnitude of the undertaking, as regards the number of items and the quantity of data included in each case, suggested the use of a computer which can store immense quantities of information and retrieve it rapidly according to any predetermined plan. A further advantage is that a computer can provide a ready electronic means of incorporating new material as it becomes available.

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Thus the same program can serve for revised and enlarged editions. In the search for additional material I solicit the co-operation of any users of this bibliography who may note significant omissions. As a matter of fact, a considerable number of data, of both new and old vintage, have accumulated since the compilation of the material which follows was concluded.

It is clear that the accumulation of these data, collected in two continents over a span of twenty years, would not have been possible without the help of many organizations and the active assistance of many individuals in almost all Spanish-speaking countries and in the United States. I wish to express my special gratitude to: the United States government, for a 'Buenos Aires Convention Grant,' 1947-8, for Montevideo, Uruguay, and a Fulbright, 1962-3, for Spain; St John's University, New York, for a sabbatical the same year; the Research Foundation of the State University of New York, for a grant-in-aid, 1965, for the elaboration of data, and the State University of New York at Buffalo for a travel grant in 1966 for a tour of libraries in Latin America; the former Department of Modern Languages, the present Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, the Faculty of Arts and Letters, and the Computer Center, all of SUNY at Buffalo, for clerical assistance and the use of the latest IBM and CDC equipment; George Gaidasz, of the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratories, for the programming of this project, the supervision of its production, and the innovations in electronic bibliography devised three years ago; Don Justo García Morales, of the National Library in Madrid, for putting all facilities at my disposal and for circularizing all libraries in Spain to verify the existence of certain editions; the administration of the Biblioteca Lázaro Galdiano in Madrid, the Central de Cataluña in Barcelona, the Ateneo of Madrid, Barcelona, and Valencia, the university libraries of these cities, and the library of the Consejo Superior, the archives of *Novelas y cuentos*, and the Hemeroteca Municipal, all in Madrid, for the innumerable special permissions and privileges granted; the staffs of the National Libraries of Mexico, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Venezuela, of the university libraries in Mexico (UNAM) and Lima (San Marcos), of the Luis Angel Arango Library of Bogotá, the archives of *El tiempo* in the same city, the Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana in Quito, and many more, for the extraordinary help given, for data furnished, questions answered, photocopies provided, etc.; the United States libraries which readily provided assistance.

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