

PUZZLE PIECES OF THE PAST

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Spanish Abbreviations
1500-1700

A. Roberta Carlin

FOREWORD BY MEREDITH D. DODGE



Universal-Publishers
Boca Raton

Puzzle Pieces of the Past: Spanish Abbreviations 1500-1700

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Universal-Publishers
Boca Raton, Florida • USA
2014

ISBN-10: 1-62734-005-X
ISBN-13: 978-1-62734-005-2

www.universal-publishers.com

Cover design by Ivana T. Starcevic

The cover is a reproduction of a manuscript held at the Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas at Austin: Genaro Garcia ms. 71 (Tira de Tepatepec) circa 1599, G71. Original Codex.
A record of expenses kept by an Indian Scribe.

To my husband, Jim

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Producing this book was like taking a very long cross- country trip by myself in an old car. The day my trip started I had high hopes for an exciting and rewarding adventure. Realistically, I knew I might have some vehicle issues, my GPS might occasionally lead me astray, and I would have moments of great frustration. Many times I questioned my decision to involve myself in such a risky undertaking and whether to continue. After numerous mechanical and psychological events including but not limited to flat tires, dead ends, and potholes, I happily arrived at my destination. I want to thank the many people who in a variety of ways helped me finish my trip successfully.

Dr. Meredith D. Dodge is my friend and mentor. She took me under her wing as an intern at the Vargas Project and patiently taught me to use the tools of my new craft. She continues as my trusted counselor offering encouragement and direction as I pursue a career as an independent scholar.

Dr. Jerry R. Craddock inspired me with his scholarly devotion to Spanish colonial history and his contagious enthusiasm for the subject. To help me with my research, he freely shared with me photocopies of Spanish colonial handwritten manuscripts held by the Cibola Project at the University of California Berkely.

Special thanks to Miguel Ángel Hechavarría, my Spanish-language consultant and research assistant, for his insightful suggestions, which contributed greatly to my work.

I consider the following people, my three sisters, and my brother, my cheering section. They all in their own special way contributed their time and effort to make it possible for me to finish this book. Many times I felt like giving up, but this great group of relatives would not allow it. They are listed alphabetically by first names: Babara E Locke, D. Linn Urban, Elizabeth A. Watson and Thomas W. Selleck.

Athena H. Saunders and James H. Ausem II, my children, always supported and continue to enthusiastically support my scholarly endeavors. Also I have had a lot of help from my grandchildren, Alexis R. Germany, Alex W. Germany and Lawren Saunders who not only are my inspiration but also my technical support.

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My husband James F. Carlin, MD, to whom I dedicate this book, has for many years tolerated but also encouraged my obsessive pursuit of Spanish history. He has edited all three of my books, and when I went to retrieve certain Spanish manuscripts at the Vatican Historical Library he acted as my Italian translator. Jim is the pillar of this family and has contributed to the success of all its members.

Finally, every author needs a dedicated and talented deconstructionist and for me that was and is Laury T. Phelps.

FOREWORD

Reproduced from

A Paleographic Guide to Spanish Abbreviations 1500-1700 (2003)

After they had restrained their tears somewhat, those chiefs replied that they held him as their lord and had sworn to do all he commanded, and that for this reason and on account of what he had said they were very pleased to obey, and from then on they submitted themselves as Your Highness's vassals. Then all together and each one by himself they promised to obey and comply with all that was demanded of them in the name of Your Majesty, as true and loyal vassals must do, and to provide all the tributes and services which formerly they paid to Montezuma and whatever else might be required of them in Your Highness's name. All of this was said before a notary public, who set it down in a formal document, which I asked for, attested by the presence of many Spaniards who served as witnesses.

—Hernán Cortés receiving the vassalage of
Montezuma in the name of Charles V, 1519¹

Every student of Latin American history has at least a passing familiarity with Cortés as the conqueror of Mexico. Unknown to many, though, is that he began his career in the Indies rather humbly, serving as a municipal notary in Hispaniola, in 1504.² Historians seeking to reconstruct the history of Latin America through its documentary sources might be hard pressed to decide for which role he should be best remembered.

The importance of the conquest as historical fact is beyond dispute, though whether it was an event to be praised or vilified remains a matter of opinion. What continues to be of interest to historians is not so much the event itself, but what came in its wake. Everyday life and the stories of those who lived it, history writ small as it were, are the real grit of the historian's mill, and this is where the lowly scribe and his archive of documents assume their true significance. If the recoverable past can be found anywhere, it is in the cumulative record of individual actions noted in the scribe's hand.

Language aside, what is most daunting for the beginning historian and paleographer is the document itself. Every researcher who has entered an archive with the highest hopes has felt them evaporate when faced with a document that will not yield to the most de-

terminated efforts to unlock it. Whether in relatively clear *chancillería real* or recalcitrant *procesal encadenada*, a document that cannot be read is scarcely worth the paper it is written on.

Of everything at hand to frustrate the aspiring paleographer—lack of punctuation, syntactical complexity, and orthographic chaos—the most maddening is the widespread use of abbreviations. The logic of abbreviations is straightforward. Since words used most frequently are those most often abbreviated, the superfluous elements, such as vowels, are the first to be suppressed. Although the necessary components of a word, such as the initial and terminal letters are usually present, because the beginning of a word has a higher recognition value, the end can be dispensed with, since it is easily inferred from context.³

However useful theory may be, however, it is no substitute for experience. That is why the present volume, *A Paleographic Guide to Spanish Abbreviations, 1500-1700*, is so timely. As a *vade mecum*, it is a gift to the researcher of what is most needed at the critical moment: a way into the documentary record. While it is true that real paleographic ability only develops over time and with exposure to many kinds of documents, Carlin has provided a powerful tool for correctly identifying hundreds of abbreviations, thus saving hours of effort that would have been expended on reinventing the linguistic wheel.

The *Guide*, based on years of extensive, comparative work in the documents and in archives, represents the most readily accessible handbook available in English for those researching the Hispanic legacy in the Americas.⁴ The abbreviations have been compiled from a wide variety of sources and reflect the myriad variations likely to be encountered. For ease of use, they appear alphabetically in modern Spanish, accompanied by their abbreviated forms and scribal renderings. The comprehensive index further facilitates consultation.

If documents never lie, and historians sometimes do, it may be said in their defense that it is rarely a sin of commission. Paleographic ignorance and sheer lack of experience can waylay any historian, the integrity of intentions notwithstanding. Carlin's *Guide* thus comes as a welcome and necessary aid to those who have undertaken the most formidable of human tasks: to disseminate the truth preserved in the written record.

Meredith D. Dodge

Notes

¹ Anthony Padgen, trans, and ed., *Hernán Cortés: Letters from Mexico*, with an introduction by J.H. Elliott (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1988),99.

² Padgen, *Hernán Cortés*, xlix.

³ For a discussion of the historical, linguistic, and psychological aspects of abbreviation, see Archivo General de la Nación. *Introducción a la paleografía*, Serie de Información de Archivos 12 (Mexico City: Archivo General de la Nación. 1990), 43-59.

⁴ Although several paleographic manuals exist for speakers of Spanish, they are not widely available in the United States, largely because of very limited press runs and concomitant high prices. Aside from the *Introducción a la paleografía*, mentioned above, is Agustín Millares Carlo's *Album de paleografía hispanoamericana de los siglos xvi y xvii*, 2 vols. (Barcelona: El Albir, 1975), the standard against which any paleographic guide, English or Spanish, must be judged. In *La escritura y lo escrito: Paleografía y diplomática de España y América en los siglos xvi y xvii* (Madrid: Ediciones Cultura Hispánica; Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana, 1986), Vicenta Cortés Alonso provides both an analysis of documentary types and an invaluable discussion of diplomatics.

PREFACE

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A Paleographic Guide to Spanish Abbreviations 1500-1700 (2003)

How does one learn to read and transcribe the original handwritten documents of the Spanish colonial period? I used to ask myself this question and now answer it for others. The answer is simple but it is not easy: read thousands of pages of manuscript. Study the various handwriting styles of the time. Make friends with Spanish dictionaries, Latin dictionaries, and Native American dictionaries. Study Spanish colonial history. Acquire a working knowledge of the developmental history of the Spanish language. Learn from Spanish and Latin paleographic texts to understand both traditional and innovative uses of abbreviations. Finally, approach each manuscript page as if it were a letter from your mother, a lover or spouse, a son or daughter, a page on which you are desperate to understand everything that has been written.

This book was not available when I needed it most but it can now help others transcribe Spanish colonial abbreviations. To all the possessors of unread Spanish colonial documents, be they national archives, universities, old Spanish families, or Pueblo tribal councils, and to all those determined to read them, be they historians, genealogists, or curious intellectuals this book is fondly presented.

A. Roberta Carlin

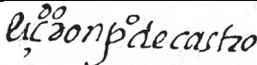
INTRODUCTION

As every Spanish paleographer and Spanish linguist knows, documents from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries present a series of special problems. The Spanish writers of this time, unconstrained by modern rules of grammar or orthography, wrote with great syntactic and orthographic latitude. As a result, spelling was inconsistent and variable. Punctuation did not exist in any useful form. Several very different handwriting styles added to the confusion. At this same time when Latin terms were being retained and used both correctly and incorrectly, exploration in the New World was introducing a multitude of new words from the indigenous tongues and from Africa. In addition, the scribes made extensive use of original, creative, and curious abbreviations.

The most difficult and most crucial abbreviations to identify are the abbreviated names of people, places and things. Without solving these puzzles the reader cannot discover the who, what, where, why and when of the manuscript.

Puzzle Pieces of the Past deals with the perplexing problem of abbreviations. The abbreviations appearing here were scanned from photocopies of extant Spanish documents written between 1500 and 1700. Each abbreviation entry is contextually displayed and includes a source citation. Also, abbreviations from my previous two books, in addition to those appearing here, are incorporated in a Dictionary of Abbreviations, Appendix F.

Each abbreviation appears within the context of a three-column four-line entry. The following is an example of an entry.

Licenciado	licenciado don pedro de castro	WBS
		480/134
liçdo"	liçdo" don po' de castro	line 10
liç<encia>do	liç<encia>do don p<edr>o de castro	

PUZZLE PIECES OF THE PAST

- Line one,** **Column one:** the capitalized word signals a new entry.
Column two: demonstrates context.
Column three: contains a reference letter or letters indicating the source archive of the manuscript.
Appendix C is the source reference.
- Line two,** **Column one:** the handwritten abbreviation.
Column two: an abbreviation within a context.
Column three: the manuscript reference name.
- Line three,** **Column one:** the printed abbreviation.
Column two: printed abbreviation within a context.
Column three: line or page number in the manuscript.
- Line four,** **Column one:** expansion of the abbreviation.
Column two: expanded abbreviation within context.
Column three: may contain line or page numbers.

There are six appendices:

Appendix A: an index referencing by page number the line one, column one Spanish words or phrases in modernized Spanish spelling.

Appendix B: an index referencing by page number the line two, column two letters represented in the abbreviations.

Appendix C: Is an alphabetical listing of the reference material found in column three lines 1-4.

Appendix D: a listing of works consulted.

Appendix E: a Selected Bibliography with emphasis on the study of Spanish documents.

Appendix F: a forty-five page Dictionary of Abbreviations containing over one thousand abbreviations presented with editorial expansions and modern word spelling.

Only three editorial symbols are used throughout:

Angle brackets <> enclose editorially expanded scribal abbreviations. q = q<ue>

Parentheses () are used to indicate exclusion of text that from an editorial standpoint is superfluous or erroneous. hera = (h)era

Tick/ed. mark ' indicates superscript graphs usually found to the right and slightly above an abbreviated word. p^{te} = p<ar>te"

There are approximately two entries on each page of the book. Beneath each entry is an empty space labeled *Anotación*. This space is for the reader to add notes, comments, or new abbreviation discoveries.

A

Abundamiento	a mayor abundamiento	R
		fol. 95
abundamyto"	a mayor abundamyto"	line 5
abundamy<en>to	a mayor abundamy<en>to	

Anotación: _____

Acatamiento	con el acatamiento que deva	OD
		fol. 24v
acatamio'	con el acatamio' que deva	line 23
acatami<ent>o	con el acatami<ent>o que deva	

Anotación: _____

Administración	a cuyo cargo esta la administración	R
<i>adm^{on}</i>	<i>a cuyo Cargo esta la adm^{on}</i>	fol. 91
admon"	a cuyo cargo esta la admon"	line 33
adm<inistraci>on	a cuyo cargo esta la adm<inistraci>on	

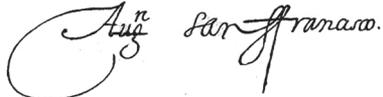
Anotación: _____

Afirmo	se afirmo y ratifico	OD
<i>affzmo</i>	<i>Seaffzmo y Ratifico</i>	fol. 20v
affrmo	se affrmo y ratifico	line1
aff<i>rmo	se aff<i>rmo y ratifico	

Anotación: _____

Augmento	miran al mayor aumento	WBS
		389
augmto"	miran al mayor augmto"	page 487
augm<en>to	miran al mayor augm<en>to	line 3

Anotación: _____

Augustín	augustín san francisco	WBS
		389
augn'	augn' san ffrancisco	page 423
aug<ustí>n	aug<ustí>n san ffrancis- co	line 3

Anotación: _____

Agosto	primero día del mes de agosto de año	WBS
<i>ag</i>	<i>primº dia del mes de agosto de año</i>	480/136
ago'	primo' dia del mes de ago' de año	line 14
ag<ost>o	prim<er>o dia del mes de ag<ost>o de año	

Anotación: _____

Alférez	el alférez pedro sánchez	OD
<i>alfz</i>	<i>el alfz Pedro sñ</i>	fol.23r
alfz'	el alfz' po' ss	line 4
alf<ére>z	el alf<ére>z p<edr>o s<anche>s	

Anotación: _____

Algunas Personas	algunas personas entre las quales era	OD
		fol. 31v
alga'spa's	alga'spa's entre las quales hera	line 8
alg<un>as p<erson>as	alg<un>as p<erson>as entre las quales (h)era	

Anotación: _____

Alonso	el dicho almirante don alonso	C
		fol. 1v
ao'	el dicho almye' don ao'	line 1
a<lons>o	el dicho almy<rant>e don a<lons>o	

Anotación: _____