

The Hispanic-Anglosphere from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century

An Introduction

**Edited by
Graciela Iglesias-Rogers**

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Afterword: The Way Ahead

Graciela Iglesias-Rogers

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Afterword: The Way Ahead

Graciela Iglesias-Rogers

The purpose of this book was to offer an introduction to the Hispanic-Anglosphere in terms of the concept and of the opportunities that offers for the study of the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. The ten case studies, 25 biographies and seven articles on material culture were meant to be suggestive of the kind of material that can be produced applying this framework rather than to provide a definitive history of the individuals, transnational networks and global communities that contributed to turn the British Isles into a key hub for the global Hispanic world, a launching-pad to and a bridge between Spanish Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. To achieve such an ambitious goal will require many more hours of in-depth research, engagement with the public and peer-reviewed publications.

Here are a few suggestions for the way ahead in this endeavour. As I am writing these lines, I can see queuing in the inbox of the Hispanic-Anglosphere network email account messages from the public with information and proposals, particularly for additions to the list in our online platform of key women and men who either operated within or contributed to shaping the Hispanic-Anglosphere and that is just about to pass the 100 mark.¹ One of the correspondents is offering data to study the activities of 250 British (mainly Scottish) residents in the Department of Chañaral, region of Atacama (north of Chile) during the nineteenth century. A relative of the man who planted the first 10,000 coffee trees on the steep slopes of the Quebrada Guacaica in Colombia, Antonio Pinzón, tells us that he was also the first producer to export coffee to the London market. The claim deserves to be verified because, according to Charles W. Bequist, the first contract for the sale of this commodity was the one signed by Rafael Uribe Uribe with the firm *Arbuthnot Latham & Co* of London on 10 June 1897 and the leading commercial house in that trade was that of Enrique Cortés.² Ian Davies, from Southampton, who wrote a few days earlier confessing that he was ‘on something of a mission’ to earn a rightful place in history for his ancestor William Edward Petty Hartnell, also known as *Guillermo Arnel* (1798–1854), is replying to a query I made about the female Mexican’s side of the family. The answer is powerfully revealing. Born in Lancashire (England), Hartnell worked for practically

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all the administrations that governed California during the transition from Mexican to US rule and was the author of the first compendium of Mexican laws translated into English to be adapted for their use in the region from its accession to the Union in 1850.³ He started his working life in the firm *John Begg & Co.* trading between ports in Chile and Liverpool, but a colleague persuaded him to try his luck in a business venture in California where he settled in 1822. In a matter of three years, he adopted the Spanish-sounding name of *Guillermo Arnel*, became a Catholic and married Maria Teresa de la Guerra, daughter of José de la Guerra y Noriega, a senior Spanish military officer, who was commandant of the Santa Barbara Presidio and one of the wealthiest Californios through trading and ranching activities. By looking into Maria Teresa's side of the family, it emerges that soon after their marriage, her brother Juan de la Guerra was sent to be educated in England and at his return, around 1832, his father suggested to his son-in-law that he should open a school where young Californios could receive a similar education. The school was opened in January 1834 in Monterey and it seems that both Hartnell and Juan de la Guerra imparted classes there for at least two years. We have seen in Chapters 4 and 8 that short-lived experiments in the adaptation of English educational schemes had profound consequences in other areas of the Hispanic world, so this information could open interesting avenues of research in the area of education as well as of languages and family relations. It also provides an example of the kind of reward that can be obtained by becoming 'female aware' during our research. Not only we have to add more women to our list of key individuals, like the travel writer Maria Dundas Graham, Lady Callcott (1785–1842) or Adela Breton (1849–1923), internationally renowned for her paintings of pre-Columbian sites and images in Mexico,⁴ but also we have to weigh the importance of the female presence within the life of most men.

Keeping true to an agenda of diversity should also encourage us to persevere in following the trail of a possible Hispanic-Afro slave presence in the British Isles mentioned in the Introduction. Much needs to be investigated about Anglo interactions with Spanish Guinea (present-day Equatorial Guinea) that until 1810 was administered from Buenos Aires, and particularly the island of Fernando Po that the British used as a base to suppress the slave transatlantic trade from 1827 to 1843 and where the British consulate for the Bight of Biafra was established in 1849. Known as 'African Cuba' due to its continuous contact with the Caribbean island, it was also home to distinct African populations and a meeting place for Abakuá and Ékpe merchants. As a result, it seems, for example, that the word 'Panyá' is a rendering of *España* (Spain) into some local varieties of the English language in Nigeria and Cameroon.⁵ Michal Friedman, who has been investigating Jewish Sephardic communities in the Modern Hispanic world for a few years and attended one of our workshops, although sadly unable to contribute to this volume, has

provided enough pointers to back the impression that looking into the outcome of contacts between Spanish, Spanish American and British Jews from mid-nineteenth century onwards could provide surprising results. Similarly, we should not lose sight of the role played by indigenous American peoples and cultures in the Hispanic-Anglosphere both directly and through the transmission of knowledge.⁶

There is also a good deal to gain from continuing our collaboration with NT Tyntesfield as well as mapping and studying many other key locations, sites of heritage and memory both in the Hispanic world and in the British Isles. To mention just a few, Avery Hill House and its 86 acres of grounds, in Greenwich, London where John Thomas North (1842–96), nicknamed ‘the nitrate king’ for the wealth he accumulated dealing in sodium nitrate from Chile, devoted much of his fortune in building it in 1891;⁷ Cowdray House, in the West Sussex countryside, the ancestral home of the Pearson family that made much of its fortune in Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Spain, now better known for their investments in publishing, media and education;⁸ Giggleswick school in Yorkshire which it has been said had its chapel built from timber brought from the Argentine province of Tucuman by Walter Morrison (1836–1921), chair of the board of the Central Argentine Railway,⁹ and not to forget Basildon Park (under the care of the National Trust) where he grew up with his brother Alfred Morrison (1821–97), himself responsible for instigating the revival of Spanish Damascene Metalwork.¹⁰ In Scotland, the home of the Fourth Earl of Fife in Banff, Duff House, that as we have seen in his biography in Section II, was visited by General San Martin in 1824; also Gartmore House, the country house and estate in the village of Gartmore, Stirling that was home of Robert Bontine Cunninghame Graham about whom we also read earlier in this book. In Ireland, Derrynane National Park, Gardens and House, the ancestral home of Daniel O’Connell, the Irish *Liberator*, whose son Morgan O’Connell (1804–85) served in the Irish Legion of Simon Bolivar,¹¹ and also the birthplace of Admiral William Brown (1777–1857), founder of the Argentine Navy, in Foxford, county Mayo.¹² As we have seen with the Quinta Waddington in Chile and the home and office of Thomas Conroy in Peru, it is likely that some buildings no longer stand or that are under threat of disappearing, and if the latter, then a strong case could be made to prepare a ‘list of endangered sites’ with a view to campaign for their preservation.

Living under the shadow of the Covid-19 crisis, all these suggestions may sound as a pipe dream. The amount of time academics can devote to research has shrunk considerable, if not banished altogether, because the shift to online learning has meant an increased amount of hours being devoted to teaching, assessment and administration to ensure students continue to receive the best possible quality of education. The ability to conduct research under lockdown and international travel restrictions presents also challenges – only a small fraction of documents and objects

held in archives have been digitalized and made available through the Internet. Curatorial and conservation experts have also seen their positions placed under threat within cash-starved cultural institutions. Perhaps the time has arrived to draw a deep breath and, in the words of Natalie Zemon Davis, to ‘let the imagination be guided by evidence’.¹³ The stories of endurance, survival and ingenuity amid all odds laid out in the previous pages should afford us with enough precedents from which to draw courage and inspiration as we start forging a new path.

Notes

- 1 The list is available under the rubric ‘Individuals,’ <https://hispanic-anglosphere.com/individuals/>.
- 2 Charles W. Bergquist, *Coffee and Conflict in Colombia, 1886–1910* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1986), 26–8. On Antonio Pinzón, see James J. Parsons, *Antioqueno Colonization in Western Colombia. Revised Edition* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2021), 139.
- 3 W. E. P. Hartnell, *Translation and Digest of Such Portions of The Mexican Laws of March 20th and May 23rd, 1837, as Are Supposed to be Still in Force and Adapted to the Present Condition of California, with an Introduction and Notes by J. Halleck, Attorney at Law, and W. E. P. Hartnell, Government Translator* (San Francisco: The Office of the Alta California, 1849). See also Susanna Bryant Dakin, *The Lives of William Hartnell* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1949).
- 4 Rosemary Mitchell, ‘Callcott [née Dundas; other married name Graham], Maria, Lady Callcott (1785–1842), Traveller and Author,’ *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB) online*, 23 September 2004, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/4399>, accessed 8 August 2020; Mary Frech McVicker, *Adela Breton: A Victorian Artist Amid Mexico’s Ruins* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005).
- 5 Ivor L. Miller, *Voice of the Leopard: African Secret Societies and Cuba* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2009), 127–9; Ibrahim K. Sundiata, *From Slaving to Neoslavery: The Bight of Biafra and Fernando Po in the Era of Abolition, 1827–1930* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1996), *passim*; Kofi Yakpo, *A Grammar of Pichi* (Berlin: Language Science Press, 2019), 21.
- 6 Ralph Bauer and Marcy Norton, ‘Introduction: Entangled Trajectories: Indigenous and European Histories,’ *Colonial Latin American Review* 26, no. 1–17 (2017): 9.
- 7 William Edmundson, *The Nitrate King: A Biography of “Colonel” John Thomas North* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).
- 8 Including *The Financial Times*, *The Economist*, Penguin and Longman (UK), the Gredos publishing group (Spain), and educational publishers Addison Wesley and Simon & Schuster (US), see Paul Garner, ‘Pearson, Weetman Dickson, First Viscount Cowdray (1856–1927),’ in *The Hispanic-Anglosphere: Transnational Networks, Global Communities (Late 18th to Early 20th Centuries)*, and *idem*, Paul Garner, *British Lions and Mexican Eagles: Business, Politics and Empire in the Career of Weetman Pearson in Mexico 1889–1919* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2011).
- 9 I am grateful to Dr Charles Jones for this information. See also Geoffrey Dawson and Charles Jones, ‘Morrison, Walter (1836–1921), Businessman, Politician, and Benefactor,’ *ODNB*, 23 September 2004, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/35122>, accessed 20 May 2020.

- 10 Dror Elkivity and James D. Lavin, 'Spanish Damascene Metalwork (1850–1900),' The Khalili Collections, catalogue. Retrieved from <https://www.khalilicollections.org/all-collections/spanish-damascene-metalwork/#read-more>, accessed 30 August 2020.
- 11 Matthew Brown, 'Adventurers, Foreign Women and Masculinity in the Colombian Wars of Independence,' *Feminist Review* 79 (2005): 36–51, esp. 39.
- 12 John de Courcy Ireland, *The Admiral from Mayo – A Life of Almirante William Brown of Foxford* (Dublin: Edmund Burke Publisher, 1995).
- 13 Natalie Zemon Davis, 'Movie or Monograph? A Historian/Filmmaker's Perspective,' *The Public Historian* 25, no. 3 (Summer 2003): 45–8.

