

Fight for a future.

Parallel Session 11. *Agriculture and the Food Industry Heritage.*

MARIANO E. TORRES-BAUTISTA. UAEH-BUAP. MEXICO

INTRODUCTION

We present the case of a New Mexican association that has as main objective to conserve for the investigation files of private companies. Officially it has adopted the name of "Business Archives in Atlixco."

Actually, the central nucleus of the collection includes the file records of the San Mateo Flourmill Company, from what its centennial building subsists. (1) This important collection contains from the accounting books of the San Mateo flourmill (in a brief period it was also mill of rice) to the file records of works in the rural properties that belonged him. They are also the accounting books of the textile, real estate and agricultural companies of the Matienzo family.

I've classified the documents belonging to the Mill of San Mateo, corresponding to the XVI centuries and first half of the XX century, between 1982 and 1984.

The documents produced in the following years were deposited near the places of use likes the accounting offices, the wheat's laboratory, (2) etc.

The mill had to close operations because the tremor of June 1999 that damaged the building. Later on, the lack of maintenance and its disuse produced the collapse of some roofs. The documents that were in those areas were transferred emergently in different rooms. (3)

Indeed, the recently formed association has as initial task the conditioning of the selected space inside the group of buildings of the old mill. This place gathers the characteristics that will allow assuring the protection, the work conditions for the classification, as well as the consultation with cultural ends or scientific investigation in the companies' files or economic character.

Certainly, a long term objective is to receive as custody as donation for care and classification purposes the files of other companies. We are attempting to make links whit companies what don't have space for the conservation of the produced documents considered as historical archives since they don't have administrative utility.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MAIN DOCUMENTAL COLLECTION

This archive contains documents that give notice on agricultural possessions in the valley of Atlixco from the year of 1536. This is the beginning date of integration by the conquering Diego of Ordaz of their great rural propriety. Other documents give facts about different rural properties between the XVII and first half of the XIX centuries.

The files are continued along the vice regal period, although in an intermittent way. Indeed, the main collection begins in 1867 and subsists in a continuous way, up to 1999. This is due to the fact that the main material took place starting from the establishment and development of the Mill of San Mateo in the country property of which took their name. The collection already classified she is integrated according to the following outline.

MAURER COMPANY ARCHIVES

Part 1 Accounting

Series

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. San Mateo Flourmill | 1. Main book |
| 2. Hacienda La Sabana | 2. Diary of expenses |
| 3. Ranch Atlayehualco | 3. Cashier |
| 4. Hacienda El Portezuelo | 4. State book |
| 5. Hacienda Champusco | 5. Salaries |
| 6. Hacienda Chilhuacán | 6. Special topics |
| 7. Hacienda Raboso | |

Section II Correspondence

1. Sended
2. Recived
3. Personal

Series

Haciendas

Emilio Maurer
Emilio A. Maurer
Pablo Maurer
Eugenio Maurer

Section III Files and papers

- 0 Vice regal
1. Chilhuacán
2. San Mateo
3. Champusco-Huiluco
4. Sabana-Atlayehualco
5. Portezuelo
6. Raboso

7. Topics Various	Successors Trial
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- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8. Pablo Maurer | Roberto Maurer |
| 9. Luis, Pablo y Eugenio | Contract |
| | President Calles |
| | María Gambu de Maurer testament |
| | Emilio A. Maurer |
| | José Parrés |
| | Cantarranas river water rights |
| | Water taxes |
| | Champusco Contract |
| | Newspapers |

Section IV Planes, Maps and Photographs

As it's indicated up, this place conserves several plane, aerial pictures and pictures during one century with relative topics to the life of the company. (4) The group of buildings (5) machinery (6) and instruments (7) they constitute another important collection with big possibilities of exploitation from different topics. This place has the possibility to be developed as a true Echo-museum or thematic park. Evidently, this possibility can be given insured once the sustainability of the file and other collections. We know that it is in process the project of transforming this group into a hotel to cover the high maintenance cost of the gardens and buildings.

CURRENT NECESSITIES

To guarantee the conservation of this important documental collection, we work the formation of the association responsible for the general project. This is just de first part of the settled strategy. In a second time we consider the concentration of the documents in a sure place. Next of that we will take care of the total classification. Finally, the target will be the elaboration of the catalogue. In this way we works in create contacts for the linking with special institutions to achieve the exact realization of the rescue of this valuable wealth and to assure the implied material costs. To determine the legal covering of the responsible organism it was constituted as private association just in August 29, 2006. This organism will be in charge of the rescue project and later setting in service the stock files building.

A necessary step to resolve is that the place designated for the concentration and conservation of the documental collection requires to be restored for the new designated use. The foreseen works consist basically in: the floor cleaning, the closing of the adjacent wall in order of securing, and finally the construction of a wall that will define the area of public consultation, and it will protect the archives inside. (8) The environment of this beautiful building is gradually prepared to become a "Hotel Boutique" for tourism in general and of course, to receive specialist from anywhere. (9, 10) We invite the interested ones in carrying out comparative studies, to the consultation of these central Mexico companies' files.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS AND LINKING

Actually we have 3 sources of external financing additional to the association resources. For the reorganization and cataloguing we have History students of the University of Puebla. For the training, furniture and edition of catalogues is possible to get resources from the Association for the Development of Files and Libraries of Mexico (ADABI). Also the Mexican Federal Government brings funds for social development projects like this.

However, a concern of our Association continues to be the reception of resources for the daily and long term maintenance that they can allow in a permanent way the operation of consultation areas, maintenance of personal of custody and service to the public. This paper looks for spread the knowing of our association, to obtain information about other experiences, new contacts, and financing possibilities that can help us to

solve the different problems and necessities for the operation of this business archives collection.