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Father Aurelio Espinosa Polit, who himself was an internationally known classical scholar. Over a period of several decades, he painstakingly gathered together a library of documents which covered the history of Ecuador from shortly before the period of Independence down to the twentieth century. His collection contains books, newspapers, journal articles, but most important of all, a series of government documents of wide extent and great importance. The formal title of the library is Biblioteca Ecuatoriana "Aurelio Espinosa Polit."

A team of historians from Saint Louis University did the actual microfilming with the very helpful assistance of Fr. Julian

manuscripts were transported each day by taxi and then returned to the Biblioteca Ecuatoriana immediately after they had been filmed. Additional technical difficulties had to be overcome, such as the possible variation of electrical current and the problem of the development of the microfilm, for there were then no facilities readily available for developing this type of microfilm. After some test strips had been made, it was decided to film the materials at one definite light meter reading and to send all the exposed microfilm to Graphic Microfilm of New York for special processing there. This plan worked out excellently and all the processed rolls came out quite well.

Four copies of the materials have been made to date, one for Saint Louis University, one for Vanderbilt, one for the Library at Cotocollao, and one for Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois. A brief index has been made for the chief divisions of the materials so that the researcher has something with which to begin. As noted before, the divisions of the collection thus far microfilmed are chiefly chronological beginning with 1800 and continuing down to 1894. The number of *piezeas* or documents vary greatly for the different years; and, as has been noted, the word "piezea" itself gives no indication of the number of pages involved in each one of the documents. A second section of the Biblioteca Ecuatoriana is composed of special collections of materials about various important persons in the history of Ecuador. Probably the most important of them is the collection of materials about Garcia Moreno which is comprised largely of letters to, from and about him. This is a fairly large collection and contains several hundred items and is of considerable importance.

The materials which have thus far been described constitute the larger and more important part of the Biblioteca Ecuatoriana "Aurelio Espinosa Polit." However, there is still a considerable amount of unphotographed documentation referring to the colonial period as well as to that of "Liberalismo." Within the next two or three years the universities involved hope to conduct further expeditions in order to microfilm these remaining parts of the collection and thus to bring them back to the United States for the use of American scholars who otherwise would probably never have access to these important documents.

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