

MISCELLANEOUS STUDIES
SERIES I NO. 7

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEXICAN POST

1933 - 1934

INSTITUTE OF CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS
MEXICO CITY - SEPTEMBER 1934

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEXICAN POST
OF THE INSTITUTE OF CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS
September 1, 1933 - September 30, 1934

In accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Institute of Current World Affairs, Inc., and Eyer N. Simpson, of October 31, 1931, the following report is respectfully submitted to the Trustees and the Director of the Institute. The report is divided into two sections:

I. A summary review of the activities of the Senior Associate in Mexico during the period covered by the dates September 1, 1933 to September 30, 1934.

II. An inventory of all property purchased and owned by the Institute in Mexico.

I SUMMARY REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

1. Trip to the United States

During the period Sept. 28 - Nov. 29, 1933, I was absent from my post in Mexico on a trip to the United States. The principal purpose of this trip was to present to the Trustees a memorandum which, following instructions received in November 1932 from the Director of the Institute, I had prepared reviewing at some length the whole question of my past and possible future work for the Institute.

The memorandum in question was duly presented at the regular annual meeting of the Trustees on Oct. 10, 1933.

As the result of the discussion which took place at the annual meeting and several subsequent conversations with the Director of the Institute I was requested by the Director to prepare

another memorandum which would: (a) further clarify the various general proposals contained in my annual report concerning my future conduct as an Associate of the Institute and at the same time indicate more clearly my own personal preference as between the several possible procedures suggested, and (b) specify more concretely and in greater detail (cost, time, subject of investigation, etc.) the specific proposal made in my annual report for spending a period of time in Spain.

In preparing the above mentioned memorandum I spent several weeks in New York, Washington and Chicago interviewing individuals acquainted with Spain and working up a bibliography of approximately 150 titles on the subject of Spain in general and on the Spanish agrarian problem (the question which I had planned to study) in particular.

The results of my investigations and thought were embodied in a letter to the Director of the Institute, dated Oct. 27, 1933.

On Nov. 21, I was informed by the Director that my letter of Oct. 27 had been submitted to the Trustees and that the consensus of opinion of the Trustees was that the Institute should withdraw from the Mexican field. As stated in a letter to me dated Nov. 22, 1933, the essential reason given for this decision was that the Trustees, in view of the general world conditions and of the conditions in Mexico, did not believe that any developments were likely to take place in that country of sufficient world importance to justify the expense of maintaining a representative there. In the same letter it was further stated that the Trustees hoped that I would "gather together my knowledge

about Mexico" and that to make this possible they were disposed to continue the support of the Mexican post for several months. In subsequent conversations with the Director the last mentioned was interpreted as meaning that I should return to Mexico and, for a period of ten months beginning Dec. 1, 1933, devote myself to writing a book on the Mexican agrarian problem.

On Nov. 29, I arrived in Mexico and immediately started to work on the book in question.

2. Reports and Publications

In view of the special nature of the work in which I have been engaged during the current year I have made no additions to my list of published and unpublished articles and reports. However, at the end of the period covered by the present annual report (Sept. 30, 1934) I had completed the writing of approximately 300 pages of typescript of my book on the Mexican agrarian problem and had gathered materials for the writing of some 300 pages more.

The monographic report entitled The Mexican Agrarian Reform - Problems and Progress which I wrote last year was photostated and approximately 200 copies were distributed in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Numerous letters concerning this study were received. A few of the more representative of these letters will be found in Appendix A of the present report.

3. Field Trips in Mexico

As part of the work of gathering materials for my book I have made during the past year a number of field trips to various parts of Mexico. Specifically, these trips were for the pur-

pose of undertaking relatively detailed case studies of typical agrarian villages. The principal places visited were: Mixquiahuala and Estancia in the state of Hidalgo; Guadalupe Victoria, Durango; Tarajero, Michoacán; Pachuca, Hidalgo; and Cuautla, Morelos.

4. Other Activities


In order to devote my whole time and energy to writing, I have endeavored in so far as possible to restrict to a minimum all activities of the Mexican post of the type which have been recorded in previous annual reports. There have been the usual number of visitors to Mexico with letters of introduction from individuals associated in one way or another with the Institute. To these visitors I have, of course, extended such assistance and hospitality as lay within my power. Aside from this, perhaps the only outside activity worthy of recording is the fact that I served as a member of the Mexican Advisory Committee of the Guggenheim Foundation.

II INVENTORY

A complete inventory of the property purchased and owned by the Institute in Mexico will be found in Appendix B. The value assigned to the various items listed is the original price in each case and no effort has been made to take account of depreciation.

Although I hope when I return to the United States to give a more personal and adequate expression to the matter, I do not feel that I can close this, my last official report, without some reference to my deep sense of gratitude to the Trustees and

the Officers for the unusual opportunities which I have enjoyed as an Associate of the Institute during the past seven years and more. I would be less than human if I did not regret the decision to withdraw from Mexico. Given the new conception of the Institute which, it would appear, has developed during the past several years, I cannot, however, find it in my heart to doubt the wisdom of the course which has been chosen. My indebtedness to the Institute can never be liquidated; I trust, however, that I will be allowed from time to time to pay a small installment on account by being of any service that lies within my power.


Euler N. Simpson

APPENDIX A

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce
Washington

August 28, 1934

Mr. Walter S. Rogers, Director,
Institute of Current World Affairs,
522 Fifth Avenue, New York

Dear Mr. Rogers:

This is to thank you for your kind communication of August 24, and for transmitting to us a copy of "Agricultural Study - Series I, No. 9, The Mexican Agrarian Reform Problems".

We have found this publication extremely useful in studying and determining the extent of Mexican agrarian policies and laws, and therefore we are extremely pleased to have a copy thereof in our library. We understand that Mr. Simpson proposes to continue his study of Mexican agrarian laws and to publish a supplement of the above-mentioned publication in view of the numerous laws enacted since the early part of 1933. If this be true, we would appreciate receiving a copy.

...

Very truly yours,

W. E. Dunn,
Chief, Division of Commercial Laws.

COPY

CARNEGIE CORPORATION
of New York
522 Fifth Avenue
New York

Office of the President

October 5, 1933

Mr. Eyer N. Simpson
Apartado Postal 538
Mexico, D.F., Mexico

Dear Mr. Simpson:

I am very glad to have the copy of "The Mexican Agrarian Reform Problems and Progress" which Mr. Rogers has sent me. Since I saw you, we have acquired an office pundit whose job it is to appraise the material which comes in. You may be interested in his comment on your report. Please let me have it back at your convenience.

With congratulations for having learned as much as you have and for telling what you have learned so clearly,

Sincerely yours,

F. P. Keppel

FPK/h

Mexican Agrarian Problem. By Eyer N. Simpson, Institute of
Current World Affairs.

An intensive examination of the legal, economic, educational aspects of the problem. The evolution of the land laws is traced and some evaluation attempted of the results of the effort for more equitable distribution. A case study of a simple village gives a vivid example of the working of the law. Something is told of the beginnings of rural education, which are far from the goal aimed at but not unimpressive. Technical questions of production are also examined, as well as problems of agricultural credit.

As with all revolutions, there is great discrepancy between aspiration and realization. There is a surfeit of plans, laws, manifestos, with deficit in administrative skill and thoroughness in execution. The net appears to be gain nevertheless.

This is a painstaking study in a field in which exact information is scarce and hard to obtain. Its use is limited to specialists, but for those in American universities intending to work in Latin America it should have high value.

N.P.

10/4/33.

FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

National Headquarters, 18 East 41st Street, New York

November 15, 1933

Dr. Eyer Simpson
Apartado 538
Mexico City, Mexico

Dear Doctor Simpson:

For some time I have wanted to thank you for your kindness in sending me copies of your study of "Mexican Agrarian Reform" and also your "dope sheet" on the coming presidential campaign. I have read the latter with great interest, and congratulate you on putting out a political analysis couched in real political argot. You give a very vivid picture of the coming line-up. I am looking forward to reading your agrarian study at the first opportunity.

I shall much appreciate your keeping me on your mailing list. ...

With every good wish for an enjoyable year,

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Thomson

THE NATIONAL CITY BANK
of New York
Established 1812

P.O.Box 87bis

Mexico City

November 7, 1933

Mr. Eyer N. Simpson
Institute of Current World Affairs
Apartado Postal 538
Mexico, D.F.

Dear Mr. Simpson:

Acknowledgment is made of your letter of October 31st with which I received copy No. 209 of a study which you have completed entitled "The Mexican Agrarian Reform - Problems and Progress".

The Institute of Current World Affairs is to be congratulated upon the very able and thorough manner in which you have prepared this report on problems of such vital importance in Mexico. I have perused it with great interest.

Thanking you, I am

Yours sincerely,

W.B.Richardson,

Manager.

SEAL

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

November 7, 1933.

Dear Simpson:

Please accept my thanks for your very timely and valuable study "The Agrarian Reform", a copy of which has just been received by me.

You are to be congratulated for such an important contribution on a subject that is so vital and interesting, and concerning which there is not much printed in English.

I also want to thank you for the opportunity you gave me to review the original manuscript.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Aristides Moreno.

To-
Dr. Eyler N. Simpson,
Apartado 538,
Mexico, D.F.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES

November 6, 1933.

Dr. Eyer N. Simpson
Institute of Current World Affairs
522 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Simpson:

It is with much pleasure that I have received your report on "The Mexican Agrarian Reform: Problems and Progress." It will serve to bring up to date the discussion of Mexico's fundamental land reforms. I was particularly interested in the detailed description of the one village and its land problems. I hope you will go on with further investigations of that character. It all helps us to understand the real Mexico.

Very truly yours,

George M. McBride.

GMM:HDB

APPENDIX B

INVENTORY OF
FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT -- MEXICAN POST OF THE
INSTITUTE OF CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS
as of Sept. 30, 1934

OFFICE FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT

2	open bookcases of five shelves each	59.00
1	large oak stenographer's table	43.50
1	revolving stenographer's chair	38.00
1	small steel filing cabinet -- two drawers	29.00
1	chair -- red with woven fiber seat	12.00
1	cedar table -- two carved drawers with glass top	183.50
1	storage cabinet with carved doors	175.00
1	fiber doormat	4.00
1	wall display rack	105.60
1	"Berloy" steel filing cabinet -- 4 drawers	85.00
1	small stenographer's table	8.00
2	small bookcases of four shelves each	10.00
1	chair covered with red brocade	30.00
2	large chairs -- red leather cushions	160.00
1	desk lamp	8.50
1	postage scale	6.00
1	paper punch	5.00
1	stationery rack -- mahogany finish	10.00
1	"Leica" camera No. 31846 - lens F-3:5	200.00
1	wastebasket	4.00
1	electric heater	12.35
	sundry books and maps #	
		1,188.45

Note: All books and maps belonging to the ICWA are marked as follows: INSTITUTE OF CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS

Note: The following articles in the Mexican office have been "loaned" indefinitely to the I.C.W.A. (See page 5 of Annual Report for 1932-33.)

1	"Artmetal" filing cabinet-four drawers	80.00
2	swivel desk chairs	80.00
1	large green rug	195.00
1	Underwood typewriter No. 356786-11	300.79
1	paper clip machine	12.00
1	steel storage cabinet	150.00

HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENTLiving Room and Entrance Hall

1	small oriental rug	80.00	
1	pine end-table -- red	2.00	
1	yellow brocade chair and slip cover	20.00	
1	yellow brocade armchair and slip cover	30.00	
1	gate-leg table	50.00	
1	combination victrola and radio, model RE57	951.20	
1	standing lamp	10.00	
1	sofa	75.00	
3	sofa pillows	5.00	
1	firescreen	20.00	
2	round reed tray tables	15.00	
1	floor lamp -- two lights	35.00	
1	bookcase - duco finish	80.00	
1	small mahogany chair	12.00	
3	pairs cretonne curtains	65.00	
1	table runner	10.00	
1	carved cigarette box	8.00	
1	laquer cigarette box	7.00	
2	copper ashtrays	7.50	
1	bookend	9.00	
1	Guadalajara jar	10.00	
1	end-table with drawer	20.00	
1	green lounge chair	126.05	
1	green lounge chair with pillow back	198.60	
1	rug No. 1346 "Koraran"	262.00	
1	Guadalajara jar	5.00	
1	paneled screen (wall board)	40.00	
1	sarape rug -- blue and yellow	32.00	
1	hall bench	125.00	
1	picture -- antique virgin	30.00	
1	tin lamp	10.00	
1	paneled Colonial screen	160.00	
1	wire fire screen	15.00	
1	small oval mirror	25.00	2,550.35

Breakfast Room

1	bookcase	30.00	
1	Cuernavaca leather chair	10.00	
1	dish and ornament rack	2.50	
2	pictures -- old prints of Mexican ports	25.00	
1	folding card table	10.00	
1	sarape rug	24.00	
1	lacquer cigarette box	14.00	
2	native fiber-bottom chairs	8.50	124.00

Dining Room

1	1 serving table, two carved drawers	80.00	
1	1 large gray rug	210.00	
1	1 diningroom table	125.00	
6	6 diningroom chairs, leather covered	240.00	
1	1 dish cabinet	90.00	
1	1 small pine end-table	3.00	
1	1 cretonne curtains	11.00	
1	1 silver plated serving tray	20.00	
1	1 copper tray	18.00	
	sundry breakfast dishes -- yellow	30.00	
	sundry gold leaf crystal glasses	37.00	
	sundry Mexican glassware	26.00	
	miscellaneous table china	65.00	
	sundry serving and salad plates	47.00	
	Dresden tea-set and coffee pot	36.00	
	sundry table linen	125.00	1,163.00

Kitchen

1	1 icebox	76.00	
1	1 electric waffleiron	25.00	
1	1 kitchen table	12.00	
3	3 kitchen chairs	27.00	
1	1 electric stove - Hotpoint	588.20	
1	1 kitchen cabinet	99.00	
	sundry pots and pans	75.00	
	sundry cleaning equipment	30.00	932.20

Bedroom I

1	1 armchair -- yellow brocade with slip cover	32.00	
1	1 round end-table -- dull cedar finish	12.00	
1	1 wastebasket	3.00	
1	1 desk -- dull cedar finish, spool legs	60.00	
1	1 mahogany framed mirror with drawer	35.00	
1	1 pine bed-table	7.00	
1	1 round mahogany table	30.00	
1	1 green brocade table cover	10.00	
1	1 rug -- No. 1483 "Dozaran"	327.50	
2	2 small yellow rag rugs	10.00	
3	3 pairs pink chintz curtains	17.80	
1	1 window shade	14.00	
1	1 purple brocaded dresser scarf	7.00	
1	1 bed -- mahogany finish	90.00	
1	1 mattress	25.00	
1	1 bed springs	10.00	
1	1 white wool blanket	15.00	
2	2 sofa pillows	5.00	
1	1 mosquito net	14.00	
1	1 dresser	175.00	
1	1 Spanish dressing table and mirror	150.00	
2	2 small mahogany chairs	45.00	
1	1 brass table lampstand	32.00	
1	1 table lamp parchment shade	17.90	1,144.20

Bedroom II

1 wardrobe with carved doors	150.00	
1 desk -- imitation leather top -- 5-drawer	100.00	
1 gray sarape rug	50.00	
1 dark cedar drop leaf table	50.00	
1 pine bedframe	10.00	
1 bedsprings	15.00	
1 mattress	25.00	
1 white wool blanket	60.00	
1 pillow	6.00	
1 bedside bookcase	7.00	
1 gold wooden framed mirror	45.00	
2 sofa pillows	6.00	
1 plaid steamer rug blanket	10.00	
1 bedsprings and mattress	125.00	
3 pairs gray rep window curtains	40.00	
1 red leather antique armchair	80.00	
1 reading lamp - portable	8.20	787.20

Bedroom III

1 standing lamp	12.00	
2 small walnut chairs	24.00	
2 white sarape rugs	80.00	
1 stool -- red leather cover	8.00	
1 mattress	60.00	
1 white and lavender blanket	28.00	
3 pairs of organdy curtains	12.00	
1 wastebasket	4.00	228.00

Nursery

2 small Kashmir rugs	34.66	
1 large pine table	7.00	
1 child's bed and mattress	60.00	
1 electric stove	30.00	
1 child's wardrobe	53.00	
1 highchair	20.00	204.66

Bathroom

1 bathstool	2.00	
2 bathrugs	10.00	
1 wastebasket	2.50	
2 towel racks	7.00	
1 toilet paper rack	2.00	
1 medicine chest	16.00	
1 metal clothes hamper	12.00	
sundry towels and bedlinen	80.00	131.50

Maid's room

1	iron cot and mattress	20.00	
1	washstand	7.00	
1	chair	15.00	
1	iron cot	<u>17.94</u>	59.94

Miscellaneous

1	Ford car model A. Motor No. 4227753 and owner's license	2,586.38	
1	white pine ironing table	4.00	
1	electric iron	15.00	
1	hall rug	40.00	
4	window shades	40.00	
1	telephone stool	10.00	
1	lawn mower	27.00	
1	henequen hammock	4.50	
	sundry curtain rods	65.00	
	sundry carpenter's tools	15.00	
	sundry garden tools	7.00	
2	camp chairs	26.00	
1	Singer sewing machine	50.00	
	sundry electric fixtures	<u>61.10</u>	2,950.98

PERSONAL PROPERTY OF E. N. S.

1

<u>Acquired with Institute Funds</u>	<u>Pesos</u>
1 small copper jug	1.50
1 small picture -- Degas Dancing Girls	11.50
1 Oaxaca sarape, black and gray	10.00
1 picture -- pencil drawing of Indian girl	18.50
3 small copper pots	20.00
1 iron stirrup bookholder	5.00
1 large copper pot	15.00
1 large picture -- Degas Dancing Girls	45.00
1 double-headed eagle mirror	10.00
1 picture -- water color Carlos Merida	10.00
1 carved cedar chest	18.00
1 silver flower bowl	23.00
1 silver bonbon dish	18.00
6 silver butter plates	74.00
6 silver ashtrays	20.00
1 silver pitcher	20.00
8 silver butter knives	15.85
1 silver serving spoon and fork	14.00
6 silver coffee spoons	26.00
6 silver soup spoons	30.00
6 silver desert forks	36.00
1 large silver serving platter	118.00
1 silver bucket	45.00
2 silver service plates	80.00
sundry Victrola records	
sundry books	

Acquired with Other Funds, Gifts, etc.

1 pair small brass candlesticks
2 olive drab army blankets
1 student flexible desk lamp
1 cobra candlestick
1 desk picture frame
1 carved stone bear
1 etching -- Yucatecan scene
1 etching -- tree
1 large brass candlestick
1 iron wall ornament -- holy water container
1 sahumador
1 electric toaster
1 round serving dish -- silver plated with top
1 oval serving dish -- silver plated with top

(1) See paragraph 4 of Memorandum of Agreement between the Institute of Current World Affairs and Eyer N. Simpson, October 1, 1931.

- 1 round silver serving tray
- 1 oriental rug - No. 828 "Atchar"
- 1 oriental rug X
- 1 set of flat table silver
- 1 silver meat tray
- 1 silver coffee set -- pot, pitcher and bowl
- 1 wrought iron wall ornament and forks
- 1 carved wardrobe
- 1 oil painting (of flowers)
- 2 silver service plates
- 1 picture - Diego Rivera landscape
- 1 antique carved cabinet
- 1 large studio mirror
- 1 square gold studio mirror
- 1 desk table
- 6 Michoacán red chairs
- 1 wax dancing statue
- 2 old silver candle sticks
- sundry Victrola records
- sundry personal photographs and pictures

SCRIPPS COLLEGE
CLAREMONT · CALIFORNIA

GEOGRAPHY

Nov. 12, 1932

The Director
Institute of Current World Affairs
New York

Dear Sir:

I have had the pleasure of meeting and talking with Dr. Eyer N. Simpson this week in Claremont and learned of the work of the "Institute of Current World Affairs". I am very interested in the kind of thing that Dr. Simpson is doing in Mexico and would like an opportunity to do similar work elsewhere.

I was trained at the London School of Economics where I took an honors degree in Economics. I have since specialized in Economic Geography and approached world affairs from that angle. I took my Ph.D. at Chicago in 1925. I studied for some time in France.

I have travelled extensively all my life and have resided for considerable periods in Europe, Africa, The Near East, and in various parts of North America. Active participation in the World War as a Cavalry and Flying Officer from 1914-1919 prevented my graduation in London University until 1922. I became an American Citizen in 1929.

As a modern Geographer I am interested I am approaching World Affairs from an economic, political, social, as well as a Geographic point of view. I have done considerable field work in America, Europe, and Africa (North), and most of my publications have been based on these field studies.

I am wondering if my training, experience in foreign lands, and achievements would fit me for service with your Institute. I shall be glad to forward full details concerning myself, references, and copies of my publications should you be interested in pursuing this matter further.

Awaiting your favor,

Yours truly,

John B. Appleton

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

October 17, 1932

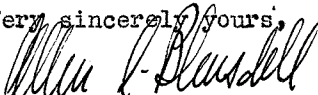
PIEDMONT AVENUE
AND
BANCROFT WAY

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
Institute of Current World Affairs
522 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

I want to thank you for the introduction to your organization which was rendered to us through the courtesy of Dr. Eyer N. Simpson. Dr. Simpson has been a guest at International House during the past week, and our students have appreciated the opportunity of meeting him personally. More than that, he delivered a very fine lecture last evening to our group of students. This group numbered some three hundred and fifty students representing thirty-five racial and national groups. They spoke highly in his praise. I have expressed our appreciation to him personally, but as you are more or less responsible for making this service possible, I wish to pass that gratitude along. If at any time we can be of any service to representatives of your group who are coming west, I hope you will let us know.

Very sincerely yours,



Allen C. Blaisdell

Allen C. Blaisdell
Director

ACB:K