

# MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

## Biblioteca Palafoxiana / Puebla

*REF N0 2004-20*

### **PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**

#### **1) SUMMARY**

The Palafoxiana Library of Puebla (Biblioteca Palafoxiana) -the only library in America - that reflects European inheritance and its bloom faithfully in America today, has as its objective to make accessible, to the widest possible public, the information that is contained in its more than 41 thousand books and unique manuscripts; part of a selected bibliographical collection extending from 1473 to 1821 (19,172 records).

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana, founded in 1646, is the first public library in America and faithfully conserves its tradition of intellectual and cultural European heritage. The library seeks a true link with the society that saw its establishment and to be integrated in the universe of information that similar institutions offer in other parts of the world by means of the use of the most modern communication techniques like the Internet ([www.bpm.gob.mx](http://www.bpm.gob.mx)) and the multimedia technology. The Biblioteca Palafoxiana is an open library for knowledge.

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana of Puebla is noted for its authenticity and bibliographical wealth, building and bookcases, with more than 41,000 volumes among those that the library preserves as well as world unique manuscripts, there are 9 incunabula:

It has a unique wealth that has yet to be determined by the world scientific community. As it is still located in the same building since 1646 it is the only existing testimony in America.

#### Rareness and integrity

- The distribution and order of the library is distinguished for a collection that responds to a classification of books for more than 200 years

#### Universal accessibility:

o Internet and multimedia technology ([www.bpm.gob.mx](http://www.bpm.gob.mx))

- The web page works from March of 2003 with more than 9,000 virtual visits offers direct communication with the library, virtual visits, exhibitions, history, and complete catalogue of the Library and future and present projects of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana. The web page and the multimedia elements are generated under the consultancy of specialized institutions.

o Exhibition room and reference room \_ Approaches the bibliographical treasures through an exhibition room under the strictest norms of security, conservation and divulge; inaugurated in July 2003 to the date has received more than 25,000 spectators o Interactive room \_ it offers a real and tangible approach to the historical and cultural patrimony of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana. More than 29 thousand people of all ages have lived the experience of knowing the world of the book, through exhibitions and workshops for all public.

o Palafoxiana mobile \_ In an effort of cultural democratization, the mobile Palafoxiana travels to economically excluded communities of difficult access, the essence of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana, in a vehicle created especially to wake up the interest of children and youths on its patrimony.

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana of Puebla through its internal actions has the goal of accessibility of the

information in it contained through the suitable methods for the different visitors, researchers and public interested in this Library.

## **2) DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR**

### **2.1 Person's name or organization**

Government of State of Puebla, Mexico through the Ministry of Culture.

### **2.2 Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated**

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana is part of the Government of the State of Puebla, for long as it remains part of the House of Culture "casa de la cultura", according to the statute of its creation, promulgated by the Federal Decree of 21 December 1973. It is directly administrated by the Ministry of Culture.

The proposal has been elaborated by Mtro. Alejandro E. Montiel Bonilla, Vice Minister of Culture. Since 1999, the Project Biblioteca Palafoxiana of the Third Millennium is developed, with the main goal of applying measures and politics on the administration, diffusion and preservation of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana, this project is on direct supervision of Mtro. Alejandro E. Montiel Bonilla in character of General Coordinator of the Project.

### **2.3 Contact person**

Mtro. Alejandro E. Montiel Bonilla, Vice Minister of Culture and General Coordinator of the Project Biblioteca Palafoxiana of the Third Millennium.

### **2.4 Contact details**

Avenida 3 oriente # 209

Centro Histórico

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## **3) IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE**

### **3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated**

**Name:** Biblioteca Palafoxiana de Puebla: Bibliographical Wealth and objects.  
(The details are integrated in the corresponding part)

**Owner:** Government of the State of Puebla, México.

**Custodian:** Ministry of Culture of the Government of the State of Puebla.

Mtro. Alejandro E. Montiel Bonilla, Vice Minister of Culture and General Coordinator of the Project Biblioteca Palafoxiana of the Third Millennium.

**Address:** 5 oriente # 5, Centro Histórico, C. P. 72000, Puebla, Puebla, México.

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(222) 2321227, 2466922

### **3.2 Description**

Biblioteca Palafoxiana is the name of the bibliographical, documental collection, piece of furniture and building located in the second floor of the address 5 oriente # 5 downtown of the city Puebla, in the State of

Puebla, México. It has the character library with an ancient bibliographical wealth, according to the conventions adopted internationally by the competent organisms in the matter.

It is the tangible expression of the permanency of a conception of the science and of the knowledge characteristic of the modern world, conception that is a very intangible one and that it can only be appreciated through collections as Biblioteca Palafoxiana.

This proposal considers a part of the collection of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana, conformed by the literary pieces, editions and printings between the years 1473 through 1821, properly classified in 19402 registrations corresponding to other so many pieces and editions, which are included in the annexed catalogue.

The books printed before, during and after the colonial period that sustains the order of the library, embraces from the year 1473 up 1821.

In the Library 4234 pieces and editions that were generated between the year 1822 and 1910 exist. These last ones give testimony of the attachment observed by the Library, during its growth in the XIX century, because of the primary order and were integrated according to the existent organization or they were only added toward the end, without altering the order of the subjects. Neither this incorporation, neither the changes in the scientific conception, as the positivism, altered the order settled down in the colonial period. Corresponding to the conceptualization characteristic of the colonial period, is the distribution, organization and order of the collection, the physical structure in which is placed this bibliographical patrimony and the instruments that complement and manifest the prevalent idea of the science and the culture in those times.

It is important to highlight that the enclosure where the Biblioteca Palafoxiana is sheltered is in the same area that was destined for the Library since 1646 and it expresses the conception of a library in the colonial period of the Nueva España, this fortifies its character of patrimonial jewel.

The components of this whole are the following ones:

a) Bibliographical Wealth that is detailed in the corresponding electronic Catalogue (annex I), which has been elaborated recently (2000-2003), according to the Normalized International Bibliographical Description for Ancient Monographic Publications, ISBD (A). The 100% of the bibliographical wealth has been classified and it can be consulted through internet ([www.bpm.gob.mx](http://www.bpm.gob.mx)).

The variables that integrate the descriptive record of second level are:

Author

Title

Mention of responsibility

Edition

Foot notes

Physical description

Notes

Subject

Localization number

Topographical location.

In the area of notes of the catalographic file it is described:

- The physical state of the book: mutilations, humidity, insect damages etc.
- The type of illustrations with the technique employed: xylography, chalcography, lithographs or fototipia.
- The origin: in reason of the ex libris (seal, manuscript or stamp) and fire mark.
- The historical process: to transcribe hand written notes, notes of I expurgatory measures or censorship.

- The content.

It is also described the state of binding of the book and some historical particularities of the work were also consigned by means of the bibliographical note.

Handwritten bibliographical record of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana

Bibliographical record of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana

Nine incunabular (annex II) can be recognized, 7 novohispanos printings of the XVI century and 1875 colonial printings from Puebla.

### **Incunabula:**

- \_ Herodoto. The nine history books. Venice: Nicolás Rubea, 1473.
- \_ San Agustín. The city of God. Venice: Nicolás Jennson, 1475.
- \_ Peregrino (provincial of Poland). Season Sermons and of saints. Colonia: Henricus Quentell, 1481.
- \_ Francisco de Bobio. Treaty of the fevers. Papia: Antonio of Charchano, 1486.
- \_ Hartmann Schedel. Book of chronic or Chronicle of Nüremberg. Nüremberg: Antón Koberger, 1493.
- Gauberto Fabricio de Vagdad. Chronicle of Aragon. Zaragoza: Paulo Hurus, 1499.
- San Antonio de Florencia. Total Summa. Lyon: Johannem Cleyn, 1500.
- Jacobo Vorágine. Sermons. Lyon: Joannes Treschel, 1500.
- Angeli Politani. The whole work of Angeli Politani. Venice. Aldo Manuzio, 1498

### **Printings:**

- Alonso de Molina: Vocabulary of Castilian and Mexican language. México: Antonio de Espinosa, 1571.
- Juan de la Anunciación. Christian doctrine. Mexico: Pedro Balli, 1575.
- Juan de la Anunciación. Sermonario in Mexican language. México: Antonio Ricardo, 1577.
- Agustín Farfán. Brief treaty of medicine and of all the illnesses. México: Pedro of Ocharte, 1592.
- Francisco Alvarado. Vocabulary in Mexican language. Mexico: Pedro Balli, 1593.
- Enrique Martínez. Repertoire of the times and natural history of the New Spain. Mexico: the author's printing, 1696.
- Gothic Mass or Mozarábica. Puebla: Seminar Palafoxiano, 1770.

### **Bibliographical wealth:**

#### **b) Objects belonging to the Library.**

Are proposed for registration: six globes, three terrestrial and three celestial globes that form part of the teaching instruments and investigation for the users of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana. Also two engravings of the year 1773 whose author is José de Nava, which reproduce the state in which the Library was in its foundation and that subsists until today. (Annex III)

A description of the building and of the bookcase is added:

Dimensions and construction material. Annex of the report provided by the Director of Artistic and Cultural Wealth of the Ministry of Culture. (Annex IV)

### Antecedents and historical context

During the whole novohispano period the Biblioteca Palafoxiana belonged to centers of superior education which fundamental purpose was the formation of the Catholic clergy. The first of these colleges that later integrated the Conciliar Seminar, was San Juan's Evangelist College. Founded by initiative of Juan de Larios whom also donated a lot, economic resources for its construction and the endowment of 12 schoolboys. Protocolized the foundation on December 15 of 1595, the works began to the following year. In the XVII century, San Juan's College began the formation of men to consent to the priesthood and to assist the parishes of the Diocese of Tlaxcala-Puebla. The place where the college was constructed is the same one where today the Biblioteca Palafoxiana is.

Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, ninth Bishop of Tlaxcala, decided to carry out with more fidelity the canonical precepts, on the formation centres of the diocesan clergy for that which he created a Conciliar Seminar. This institution was integrated initially for San Juan's Evangelist College and San Pedro's College, founded by

Palafox on February 22, 1644.

It was the first seminar of the New Spain; it was approved by the King of Spain by the Royal Identification Card of December 30, 1647 and obtained the confirmation and approval of the Apostolic Headquarters on May 22, 1648 by the Pope's brief *Supremi nostri apostolatus* of Inocencio X.

This is the immediate historical context of the origins of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana. San Juan's College had a simple library that was not at the height of the expectations that the Bishop Palafox put in the Seminar, reason why he decided to donate his personal library with other scientific instruments for use of this formation centre. The 5th of September, 1646 protocolized before Nicolás de Valdivia the donation of his books and instruments later enabled a wider space to place the library and it endowed it of a normative body. 21 Engraving 1773, José de Nava The successors of Palafox in the bishopric and other clergymen, contributed to the growth of the bibliographical collection with donations and special acquisitions. In the XVIII century, the Bishop Francisco Fabián y Fuero, with cultured ideas, gave a definitive impulse to the library modernizing it with the scientific and cultural development of the time, he donated his personal library to increase the one of the Seminar, he remodelled the building of the library, he left the structure of the property that conserves until today's day and the bookcase that at the moment corresponds to the first and second floor. He edited the Ordinances of the Library, with a spirit and similar ideas of those dictated by Juan de Palafox, which were promulgated March 11, 1773 in San José de Chiapa.

Other contribution to the bibliographical wealth, one of the most significant was the one of the Bishop Francisco Pablo Vázquez.

With the nationalization of the ecclesiastical goods, the group of buildings that occupied the Seminar passed to the state government's property and during a time worked as Palace of Government.

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana was declared historical monument on July 31st, 1981 according to statute published in the Official Newspaper of the Federation, in the same date.

#### *Bibliography on the Biblioteca Palafoxiana*

-) Brescia, Michel M.; Material and Cultural dimensions of Episcopal authority: Tridentine donation and the Biblioteca Palafoxiana in seventeenth-century Puebla de los Angeles, Mexico, artículo publicado en *CLAHR (Colonial Latin American Historical Review)*, Vol. 8, Núm. 2, spring 1999, Albuquerque, University of Nuevo Mexico.

-) Castro Morales, Efraín; *La Biblioteca Palafoxiana*, Puebla, Gobierno del Estado de Puebla, 1981.

-) De la Torre Villar, Ernesto; *Historia de la educación en Puebla*, México, UAP, 1987.

-) Márquez Rodilez, Ignacio; *La Biblioteca Palafoxiana*, Puebla, Junta de Mejoramiento Moral, Cívico y Material del Municipio de Puebla, 1989.

-) Palou Pérez, Pedro Ángel; *Breve noticia histórica de la Biblioteca Palafoxiana y de su fundador Juan de Palafox y Mendoza y los Colegios de San Juan, San Pedro, San Pablo y San Pantaleón*, Puebla, Gobierno del Estado de Puebla, 2002.

#### *23 Analysis of the status of conservation and the material conditions*

The status that reports the bibliographical wealth is annexed as a report elaborated by the Quím. Samuel Lozada Rodríguez, Head Chief of the Department of Conservation of the Autonomous University of Puebla. (Annex V).

As for the status of the bookcase and of the building, we remit ourselves to the report that presents the Director of Artistic and Cultural Wealth. (Annex IV)

#### **References:**

Letters of recommendation of the following personalities and institutions are annexed:

Dr. Daniel Restrepo Manrique. Director Fundación Mapfre-Tavera

Dra. Elisa Vargaslugo. Investigadora emérita de la UNAM

Dra. Stella María González Cicero. Directora ADABI

Dra. María Isabel Grañén Porrúa. Directora Biblioteca Francisco de Burgoa

Dr. Ricardo Fernández Gracia. Depto. de Arte, Universidad de Navarra

Dr. Michael Brescia. Coordinador de Estudios Latinoamericanos,

Departamento de Historia, State University of New York Collage  
(annex VI: a, b, c, d, e, f)

#### **4) JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA**

##### **4.1 Authenticity and origin of the proposed patrimony:**

The bibliographical, documentary collection, building and bookcase are authentic and they correspond to the following historical moments.

The building that lodges the library at the moment is the same since the foundation of San Juan's College. This consists for the donation writing that made the Pbro. Juan of Larios in 1595.

The donation made by the Bishop Palafox consists in the writing of September 5, 1646.

The donation made by the Bishop Fabián y Fuero consists by the donation writing of December 9, 1771.

The remodelling of the space, its characteristics and the bookcase in its first and second level correspond to the last third of the XVIII century. (Archivo General de la Nación, Section of Microfilms, Collection Genaro García, roll 22)

The third level of the bookcase was built towards 1850 to be able to give space to the books that had been acquired, overalls those coming from the Bishop's libraries of Francisco Pablo Vázquez and of the Canon Francisco de Irigoyen. Due to this addition, to support the third level columns were placed in the second floor.

By means of these testimonies, as well as through the partial inventories from late XVIII century, we know that the thematic order that the books keep corresponds to the years of that century, which was conserved inserting only those that entered along the XIX century.

Elements to identify that part of this collection belonged to the Seminar and the Jesuit schools of Puebla: the fire marks that exists in the loins of diverse books accusing their ownership to San Juan's College, the ex libris in print pointing out to have belonged to other libraries of prelates who donated the books to this library and the hand written ex libris that point out the ownership from some books to the Jesuit schools of the city of Puebla and that they entered to the Library after their expulsion in 1767.

These data are consigned in each catalographic record.

(Annex VII: to, b, c, d, e)

##### **4.2 The universal, national and regional interest:**

The unique character and irreplaceable.

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana has universal, regional and national interest. In these environments its interest resides in diverse aspects:

1. - it is the only surviving library that conserves the concept and a typical structure of a colonial library. In first place for the bibliographical collection, the integration of the same one, the disposition of its subjects and the physical structure. Without refusing that the pattern of a colonial library should have taken many elements of Europe, it has only arrived until our 27 days the Biblioteca Palafoxiana to appreciate the general characteristics of the libraries of this period.

The books that determine this composition embrace a period of time from 1473 up to 1821 (19172 bibliographical records).

Which show the constant relationship between Europe and America, particularly because they exhibit the appropriation process and original adaptation that America made of the western culture. The books of works and editions, generated starting from 1822 that were integrated to the Library, give testimony that the works of the XIX century did not altered the order of the Library, on the contrary, they were already organized according to the existent or added at the end, prevailing this way the character of novohispano.

The viceroyalty of the New Spain understood the territories corresponding to the Audiencias of Mexico, Santo Domingo, Guadalajara, Guatemala and Philippines, with that which we consider the captaincies and governments under these jurisdictions. In the current nations that occupy the territories of those jurisdictions another library that accuses the following characteristic does not exist:

- a) Conserves the category of library since it was founded and works as one.
- b) Conserves the order of the books and disposition of the subjects according to a structure of knowledge of the novohispano world and of the universal thought of the end of the XVIII century.
- c) Remains in the same building in that it was founded.
- d) To be located in the same enclosure in which was developed and it grew along the Spanish administration, in spite of the processes of national emancipation and of consolidation of the republican systems of the XIX century.
- e) Conserve the entire structure and furniture, overalls of the bookcase that it was endowed in the moments of more splendour, final of the XVIII century.
- f) To have survived in its order, the furniture and the wealth over the political and social sways of the XIX Century. In spite of the gunfires that suffered the city in 1856, 1862 and 1867, the Biblioteca Palafoxiana

2. - a particularity that distinguished it of other libraries of its time: its declared character of public library, in the base of a social vocation.

3. - it had a corresponding normative system, the one which declares the idea that Palafox had of the library, a group of ordinances that was perfected one century later by the Bishop Fabián y Fuero. These norms constitute an example of the librarian chores according to the rules of that time.

These features transform it into a unique element and irremplazable.

This condition involves all of its structure: bibliographical wealth, enclosure and furniture, because it is the group that responds to a particular conception of knowledge and the form of transmitting it through the books, peculiar conception of a fundamental time for the history of the Spanish America and of Mexico in particular.

The recognition to the quality of this library, in a colonial time, was captured in authors like Echeverría y Veytia who affirmed: "... and it contained many modern and appreciable books, being so supplied and complete that it does not have equal in the Kingdom and even in Spain they will be few (outside of the real ones) those that can compete with it, in the group of the circumstances."

In the case that for some action of nature or of a negligent or deliberate act of the man's hand, this Library disappeared, it would get lost the only existent testimony in Mexico and in Latin American region of a colonial library. This matter would affect the tangible expression of the way in that a society and an entire determined time, their education models were conceived, transmission of the knowledge, human formation, the use of the book and its transcendency in the religious spirit.

#### **Items that integrate the universal culture of any society:**

It would be a regreatable the loss of this bibliographical and artistic patrimony. The Biblioteca Palafoxiana like an all hegemonic, believes in the necessary communication bridges in and with the present time between the present and the past; necessary bridges for the understanding of our history.

Since 1999, the project Biblioteca Palafoxiana of the Third Millennium is implemented, project with specific action lines as regards conservation, restoration and divulging. Thanks to it the consultation has been increased notably. The Library has been visited by 27 national and international investigators, 342 have made some consultation by electronic media and 7300 revenues have been made to the page web. (Annex VIII)

#### **4.3 One or several approaches of the time, the place, people, of the subject, the topic, the form and the style.**

##### **Relevance in its time**

1. - There is a feature that makes the Library Palafoxiana different to others in the time in that it was conformed: being established with a declared and open vocation of a public library.

2. - in the donation and in the ordinances that Juan de Palafox dictated for the library of the Seminar, he

settles down with clarity that:

"One of the things that have judged for very necessary in these counties and bishopric is a public and common bookstore where the poor and others that don't have copy of books comfortably can study and this for the following reasons..."

This conception distinguished it of the rest of the colonial libraries, because they restricted its access to those who were not linked with the institutions to which belonged and they maybe facilitated the access to the books for schoolboys of other formation spaces. There was not another library that has been conceived and normed with the clear and specific objective of working as a public library with the purpose of contributing to the construction of society. Although the concept of the public thing is to debate in historiography, the aims of Palafox establish a fundamental precedent in the chore of the librarian and its patrimonial wealth.

3. - as other libraries of its time, the Biblioteca Palafoxiana, had a normative body, from 1646. In those ordinances its was arranged the schedule of service, the rules for the consultation and reading of the books with their respective sanctions, instructions about the material maintenance and the security of the books, dispositions about the acquisition and the librarian's obligations.

These norms were the base for the regulation that promulgated Fabián y Fuero in 1771 which worked up to 1851, when new regulation dispositions were settled down. (Annex IX)

### **Place**

The city of Puebla de los Ángeles was the second in importance in the Kingdom of the New Spain and of great importance for the whole viceroyalty for social, economic and political reasons. In the ecclesiastical structure, the Diocese of Tlaxcala-Puebla had an extreme importance and in order of importance it was placed immediately after the arzobispal headquarters of Mexico.

This prestige, in a corporate society and marked by the concept of the honour like the novohispana, was transmitted to the dependent and existent institutions in the city. The Seminar and its library shared this distinction.

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana is constituted in synthesis and expression of the transatlantic cultural relationships, as well as of those happened among the American towns, acquiring a place highlighted in the order of the universal culture, American and of Mexico. These cultural relationships expressed in the library involved to all the social sectors, because in its bibliographical wealth the same texts exist for the erudites' dissertations as work instruments in the catequización of the natives, mestizos and all the components of the social building.

At the present time there is a particular recognition, because the city of Puebla was declared by the UNESCO like Patrimony of the Humanity in December of 1987.

People The existence of characters totally linked to the creation, development and invigoration of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana are in the first place the pioneer instigator that was Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, character that from the XVII century and until our days it is object of acuciosos studies for different disciplines, as much in America as in Europe.

Another great instigator was the Bishop Fabián y Fuero, filled of cultured ideas, whom applied measures that transformed the social and religious life in Puebla, actions for those that later on was designated for the Archdiocese of Valencia in Spain.

The Bishop Francisco Pablo Vázquez enriched with part of his personal library to the Biblioteca Palafoxiana, this character was one of the main Mexican diplomats of the first half of the XIX century who achieved the recognition of the Mexican independence by Rome.

Another character linked to those colleges is José Guridi y Alcocer who was provincial deputy in the Cortes of Cádiz. This character imparted the first class of modern philosophy in these colleges, incorporating the cultured knowledge to his teaching.

### **Matter and topic**

The bibliographical wealth that integrates the patrimony proposed is an expression of the universal thought

with a wide sense of knowledge and space.

The subjects of the books they embrace all the expressions of knowledge:

- Natural Science
- Exact Science
- Astronomy
- Law
- Technology
- Religious Science

It is being carried out the identification of subjects of the bibliographical wealth, up to now it has been made on 23163 works and editions classifying them in 57 thematic items, with the following results:

Theme Number	Theme Number
Agriculture 139	Homiletic 2490
Apologetic 1707	Languages 171
Arts 182	Industry 72
Ascetic 766	Inquisition 24
Astronomy 96	Literature 1700
Bible 925	Liturgy 466
Bibliography 71	Magic 19
Biography 432	Mariology 221
Biology 3	Medicine 268
Botanic 43	Matematics 138
Pastoral letters 239	Militia 28
Catechesis 146	Moral 210
Science 210	Numismatic 10
Commerce 33	Pastoral 358
Concilios 144	Patrology 75
Accounting 6	Pedagogy 131
Civil Law 2203	Politics 191
Religious Law 1291	Pontiff 205
Dictionaries 413	Chemistry 27
Economic 76	Religious 360
Statistic 7	Civil Magazine 318
Philosophy 615	
Ecclesiastical Magazine 32	
Physic 70	Simbology 19
Physiology 13	Synods 35
Geography 269	Sociology 7
Hagiography 405	Theology 1033
Civil History 2330	Moral Theology 834
Ecclesiastic History 768	Zoology 35
Natural History 84	

The places of origin of the material are multiple, ranging from those printed in Puebla de los Ángeles, to places in Spanish America or in European cities.

### **Form and style:**

The transcendency of form and style is in fact the only surviving example of the concepts of model, forms and structure of the colonial libraries. This is also clearly seen in the aesthetic values of the printing. The

Biblioteca Palafoxiana contains engravings made by means of xylography, chalcography and lithography techniques. The quantity of novohispanos printings provides a wealth of information concerning printers and engravers of that time.

The library is an expression of the Baroque, a feature shared with other Latin American spaces whose bibliographical fonds were altered.

#### **4.4. Aspects of rarity and integrity**

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana is the only colonial library that has survived until today. The arrangement of the Library has remained intact from the second half of the XIX century.

In the bibliographical collection the integration of the development of European and American thought can be appreciated with clarity and forcefulness, in the organization of subjects showings European medieval or classical authors, or thinkers from the American continent. The Biblioteca Palafoxiana is, a cultural expression where the formation of the modern world is synthesized, for it its structure transcends at the time and the space of its time.

Thanks to recent cataloguing the disposition and arrangement of the books is known now with certainty, as well as from partial inventories of the library which date the end of the XVIII century. With the comparison of both instruments it has been able to identify:

1) the permanency of the distribution and order of the matters, through the already integrated books which had been donated to the library during the XIX century, to whose order was maintained, so that they

2) conserve the physical distribution according to the areas of the bookcase in the way that it had been organized in the XVIII century. (annex X)

To mention an example: the inventories record that the copies of the Bible and works referred to as the Sacred matters were in the first pigeonholes of the low bookcase on the side of the Epistle. At present, this area continues to cover the same thematic texts. (Current pigeonholes 477 at the 548).

a) This confirms that the concept and organizational principles of the colonial library maintain. The 1947 catalogue is testimony that with the cataloguing process carried out during the years 2000 at 2003, the order of the books was not affected.

b) The printed works with posteriority at 1821, and that they were being integrated along the XIX century, they reinforce this composition, because in spite of being generated in a different context in the scientific and humanistic development, they were incorporate according to the colonial organization.

c) This particular situation offers diverse investigation options about the bibliographical and patrimonial culture in the history of Hispanoamérica. Fear as the library concept, institutional development, standardization, conformation and transmission of the thought, the organization of a library, among other, they would throw a lot of light about the human being formation in the New World. It is to glimpse the possibility to study the library for itself, beyond the content peculiar of each one of their books.

d) For the preservation of this patrimony, administration and preservation plans are developed (more details are in the corresponding part of this form).

3) Under the aspect of rarity and integrity, the Biblioteca Palafoxiana inside its bibliographical wealth contains copies that are the only in the world considered as bibliographical jewels as example:

Nominal author: Antonio de Vieyra Title: Clavis Prophetarum, year 17... General note: Book manuscript No. localization R182 General subject: homiletic A lot it has been speculated on the scarce number of hand written copies of this work, in Mexico the only copy is in custody of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana and its manuscript character makes it singular; this work doesn't appear in the bibliography of the XVII and XIX

centuries it does not appear printed neither in the modern registrations of the European national libraries.

## **5) LEGAL INFORMATION**

### **5.1 Owner of the documentary heritage**

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C. P. 72000  
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Tel. 2428073, 2428074 exts. 2211, 2212

### **5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage**

Mtro. Alejandro E. Montiel Bonilla, Vice Minister of Culture  
Dra. Estela Galicia Domínguez, Director of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana.

### **5.3 Legal status**

#### **a) Category of ownership**

1) It is a public library.

3) The Government of the State of Puebla is the proprietor of all the goods furniture, properties, bibliographical and documental of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana. At the moment, according to the ordinance of creation of the Casa de la Cultura promulgated by the State Executive December 21, 1973, it is part of the "Casa de la Cultura". (Annex XI). As a government belonging it has a public character and it is under the direct administration of the Ministry of Culture, dependence of the Executive Power of the State of Puebla.

4) The Library has the status of Historical Monument of Mexico, by ordinance of the President of the Republic José López Portillo, of date of July 31 1981. (Annex XII)

5) As patrimonial wealth of Mexico, the rights correspond to the Mexican nation. The rights of photographic, digital reproduction or for some other means, of the bibliographical collection, of the property and the furniture correspond to the Government of the State of Puebla, Mexico. This public instance recognizes that the rights of intellectual responsibility and material correspond to those who generated each piece of the bibliographical collection in the mark of that prescribed by the legislation. The reproduction of that considered material of the public domain is authorized in the General Law of National Goods.

#### **b) Accessibly:**

To fulfil its mission, it is indispensable to develop an intense diffusion activity that attracts toward the library to the biggest number possible of people, whichever it is their social condition and intellectual formation. The diffusion actions, consults and guided visits are sustained in a deep vocation of social linking, where the universal knowledge that expresses and contains the Biblioteca Palafoxiana, it is put on within reach of all offering the respect to the books and in general to the documental patrimony of our city, region, country and the world.

The bibliographical material and documentary wealth is available for consulting of those interested users that have the methodological tools, for its reading, analysis and its safeguards. A Regulation that determines the conditions of the consultation of the material exists.

Towards a democratic access For the Biblioteca Palafoxiana is momentous to respond to one of the biggest challenges of archives and libraries with ancient funds:

How do we establish knots among a group of books of more than 500 years of antiquity with the adults, youths and children of these first years of the XXI century? For what reason does it serve to present our

catalogues, restoration works, facsimiles and other encomiables efforts if the public in general will never see neither touch those materials? We have accepted the challenge that our function should be wide, from the scientific interests of the specialists up to the children of basic education. In this sense there is a coincidence between the spirit in which Palafox founded the library and the current politics of social linking.

With the Project Biblioteca Palafoxiana of the Third Millennium four basic action lines are worked: the rescue and recognition of the historical-cultural patrimony, the formation of publics, the linking with the society and the popularization and preservation of the documental and architectural wealth.

As tangible product a catalogue of the bibliographical material has been elaborated. In spite of the importance of this library, it did not have a reliable catalogue, because the previous immediate classification process dated of 1947, it is an inventory formed by 5 volumes in 1641 sheets with registrations that did not incorporate the whole existent material. As part of the recent cataloguing work partial inventories of the XVIII century have been located that have allowed us to know the order of the books at the end of this century. The new catalogue has been placed in the Internet to facilitate the consultation to the investigators, the address of the page web is: [www.bpm.gob.mx](http://www.bpm.gob.mx) co

**NÚMERO DE CONTROL** 019676

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**245**[Relacion muy puntual, y veridica de la que ocurri• en Madrid el dia veinte de mayo de 1691 en la celebracion de la canonizacion de los Santos, San Lorençõ, Justiniano, San Juan Capistrano, San Juan de Sahagun, San Juan de Dios, y San Pasqual Baylon. Publicada sabado á 26 de mayo de 1691.

**260**por Sebastian de Armendariz en la imprenta Antonio Rom...n]

**270**en Madrid

**300**11 p. ; 4ø

**500**Falta portada Datos tomados del incipit opus Pie de imprenta tomado del colofón Marca de fuego: Colegio de San Juan Número de localización: 31855-Ww

**501**Encuadernado con 63 obras

**650**Historia civil

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana, as a museum, foments the culture of the book through its wealth, building and temporary exhibitions. The exhibitions have the objective of bringing towards the documental patrimony to all the social sectors, reason why they are designed in the base of the social and cultural politics characteristic of the library and of the public administration.

It is also a goal to put to the library in contact with other communities through the program Palafoxiana mobile, with the objective of establishing a bond with the population that inhabits far away geographical areas, with the purpose of letting know and to value the cultural patrimony of the Library.

A special attention exists to the children and youth, with the purpose of favouring a culture of the book that generates in the society the respect and appreciation to the bibliographical and documental patrimony, for it was created the Interactive Room, space in which didactic activities and ingenious and technically appropriate workshops are developed so that the children and youths find identification points with the ancient books.

(annex XIII)

#### **d) Responsible administration:**

Mtro. Alejandro E. Montiel Bonilla, Vice Minister of Culture and Coordinator of the Project Biblioteca Palafoxiana of the Third Millennium. - He is responsible for the coordination, supervision and decision of the cataloguing works, preservation and diffusion of the bibliographical collection, as well as the works of restoration of the property and bookcase.

Dra. Estela Galicia Domínguez like Director of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana, is responsible for the security of the bibliographical patrimony, the control of the access and the consultation of the library.

Institutions legally involved in the safeguard of the patrimony According to the Federal Law of Artistic,

Archaeological and Historical Monuments of the Mexican United States, promulgated in 1972, the National Institute of Anthropology and History has responsibilities that this law details, in the case of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana.

## **6) MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**6.1** The material to elaborate the Regulation and the Manual of Organization and Procedures exists, both are in the project phase and they are revision object and definition (annex XIV). Also a Plan of Contingencies exists. (Annex XV).

It is mission of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana the conserving, to administrate, to classify, to catalogue, to restore and to protect the bibliographical, documental patrimony, pieces of furniture and property of the whole group that it integrates, as well as to spread its content to all the social sectors and everybody, to contribute to the invigoration of the basic and superior educational process and the development of the science and the technology.

The administration plan rests in the following fundamental lines:

- a) The preservation of the original patrimony without alterations or innovations.
- b) The social linking. To apply the necessary activities that facilitate the universal access to the Biblioteca Palafoxiana; to all the social and cultural levels, without age distinction, intellectual formation, sex, religion, ethnic groups. This involves to the local, regional, national and international society.
- c) The formation of a sensibility towards the patrimony, as fundamental purpose of the current administration plan. It is looked for to promote a sensibility of educational, historical and aesthetic character, where relevance is given to the materiality of the bibliographical patrimony and of the property, like to the contents and its historical transcendency in the construction of our society.

Institutions and experts involved in the administration activities, preservation, restoration and communication

- National Institute of Anthropology and History (consultantship and supervision of the works of restoration of the property and bookcase)
- Fomento Cultural Banamex (economic patronage)
- World Monuments Fund (economic patronage)
- National Library of Mexico (consultantship)
- National Library of Spain (cooperation agreement)
- National Library of Portugal (cooperation agreement)
- Association for the development of Archives and Libraries of Mexico, ADABI (consultantship)

Members of the Cultural Palafoxiano Council (consultantship)

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Bonnie Burnham Presidente del World Monuments Fund

Celia Zaher, Directora del Centro de Procesos Biblioteca Nacional de Brasil

César Moheno, Director de la Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia

Devorah Novotny, Jefe de Preservación de la Biblioteca Británica

Eduardo Lizalde, Director General Biblioteca José Vasconcelos

Efraín Castro Morales, Investigador

Elias Trabulse, Investigador COLMEX

Elisa Vargaslugo, Investigadora del Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas de la UNAM

Elodia Sofia Landa de Jenkins, Vicepresidente del patronato de la Fundación Jenkins

Elsa Cecilia Frost del Valle, Catedrática del Posgrado en la UNAM, investigadora del pensamiento del siglo XVI

Ernesto de la Torre Villa, Academia Mexicana de la Lengua

Guillermo Palacios Olivares, Director del Centro de Estudios Históricos COLMEX

Guillermo Tovar y de Teresa, Investigador  
Herón Pérez Martínez, Coordinador Centro de Estudios de las Tradiciones, Colegio de Michoacán  
Ignacio González Casanovas, Director Centro de Referencias Fundación MAPFRE, TAVERA  
Isabel Grañén Porrua, Directora de la Biblioteca Francisco Burgoa Oaxaca  
Jean Meyer, Investigador  
Luis Racionero Grau, Director General de la Biblioteca Nacional de España  
Marie Thérèse Varlamoff, Preservación y conservación División, IFLA  
Michael M. Brescia, Profesor asistente de Historia, Coordinador de EstudiosLatinos  
Moisés Rosas, Secretario Técnico del INAH  
Montserrat Galí Boadella, Investigadora del Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades, BUAP  
Pascual Buxó, Investigador  
Rafael Tovar y de Teresa, Embajador de México en Italia  
Ricardo Elizondo Elizondo, Director de Patrimonio Cultural y Bibliotecas Especiales, ITESM  
Ricardo Fernández Gracia, Investigador del Departamento de Arte de la Universidad de Navarra  
Roger Chartier, Investigador  
Rosa María Fernández de Zamora, Coordinadora de la Biblioteca Nacional de México, Presidenta del Comité Mexicano Memoria del Mundo  
Stella María González Cicero, Directora de Apoyo al Desarrollo de Archivos y Bibliotecas de México  
Vicki Humphrey, Jefe de Conservación de la Biblioteca Británica

## **7) CONSULTATION**

Consultations were held with the Memory of the World national committee, particularly Mtra. Rosa María Fernández de Zamora, President of the committee and Lic. Rosa Casanova who kindly provided us the information concerning the form and the guide, as well as suggestions and comments on the process. Mtra. María del Pilar Pacheco Zamudio, oversaw the process of revising the proposal which was presented to the session of the Mexican Memory of the World Committee meeting on February 27, 2004 in which approval was received.

## **PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION**

### **8) Assessment of risk:**

#### Social context:

The current social situation of the city, the region and the country do not present any risk for the Biblioteca Palafoxiana. Its physical location is remote from governmental buildings which are subject to damage during public demonstration or protest marches, or which generate large amounts of garbage. Historically the Biblioteca Palafoxiana has withstood the changes of the local and national history. Still in the most difficult moments such as the gunfires that erupted the city in 1856, 1862 and 1867, no damage occurred to the building on to the library. The most severe damage resulted in 1999 from an earthquake.

#### Context of the physical space:

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana is in a protected environment since it is located in a site inscribed on the List of UNESCO World Patrimony. In the vicinity of the library, there are no establishments that handle corrosive or inflammable substances.

#### Risks linked to the natural environment:

The city of Puebla is located in an area of high seismic activity which therefore exposes the Biblioteca Palafoxiana to high risk in this regard as witnessed by the earthquake of June 1999 which gave urgency to restoration works, because of the threat of collapse of the property with all its content. The damage due to the earthquake is shown in the corresponding report. (annex IV). Despite consolidation work to the building

and the whole bookcase, no guarantees exist that the library will survive in the event of an earthquake of much higher intensity.

Regarding issues of humidity and temperature, the city of Puebla is in a temperate area subject to relative abrupt changes of temperature are relative. Preventive measures are also applied to conserve appropriate controls for the preservation of the bibliographical material. Puebla is not area of hurricanes, nor one susceptible to flooding.

Catastrophe:

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana is highly vulnerable to fire. Paper, leather, cardboard and wood constitute the supports of this heritage. Although the necessary preventive measures are applied, a catastrophe can be generated by flaws in the electric supply.

**9) Assessment of preservation:**

Bibliographical collection:

The bibliographical material is paper-based, with inks and mechanical methods developed during the XV to the XVIII centuries. In general, the conservation state is good and any particular damage corresponds to the natural process of degradation of the material and the use to which these books have been subject over these centuries.

For the details of the statute of preservation, see the report of the Quím. Samuel Lozada R. (Annex V)

Preservation actions:

As a preservation measure, the introduction of an automated catalogue ensures greater safeguarding of material. Part of the restoration work has been developed to improve storage conditions, especially in the bookstacks. Part of the challenges in the future is to ensure a more stable and controlled environment.

To provide greater access to the Library, once the property and the bookcase restoration works have been completed access actions will concentrate on the books and content transfer by means of digital formats.

**PART C – PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL**

Proposal form presented by:

Mtro. Alejandro E. Montiel Bonilla, Vice Minister of Culture and Coordinator of the Project Biblioteca Palafoxiana of the Third Millennium.

H. Puebla de Zaragoza, June 30, 2004