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Wilder/Dargent Collection about Peruvian Author Ricardo Palma (1833-1919)

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Inventory of the Wilder/Dargent Collection about Peruvian Author Ricardo Palma (1833-1919)

Collection Number SC 37
Blume Library Special Collections

StMU

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Descriptive Summary

Repository Blume Library, Saint Mary's University of San Antonio, Texas
Donor Brother William R. Wilder, SM (Donor number 1966.1)
Creator William R. Wilder with Eduardo Dargent Chamot of Lima
Title Wilder/Dargent Collection about Peruvian Author Ricardo Palma (1833-1919)
Inclusive Dates 1860-1991
Bulk Dates 1948-1984
Reference Code SC 37
Languages Spanish primarily but with English, French, and German
Extent 34 linear inches of books; 5 linear inches of file folders, 5 linear inches of singleton journals, 5 linear inches of photographs (mostly of Palma's first editions)

Abstract Ricardo Palma (1833-1919) was literary figure in Peru as well as a leader in culture and politics. He played a role in the War of the Pacific (1879-1883), in the rebuilding of the National Library of Peru destroyed in that war, and the founding of the Peruvian Academy of Language. His principal work, the *Tradiciones Peruanas* was read widely throughout Iberian America and influenced writing style. The Wilder/Dargent Collection assembles all of the published writings of Palma either as facsimiles of first editions or as later republications. Added to this is a gathering of scholarly and journalistic writing on the Palma legacy during the century after his death.

Administrative Information

Restrictions to Access: None
Usage Restrictions: Gloves required for viewing photographic facsimiles
Alternative Form of Material: Online version: Palma, Ricardo, 1833-1919. *Traduciones peruanas*. Lima, Editorial Cultura Antártica, 1951 (OCoLC)656312395.
English-language selections from the *Tradiciones peruana* appear in *The Knights of the Cape and Thirty-seven Other Selections from the Tradiciones Peruanas of Ricardo Palma* (1945).

Custodial History: Brother William R. Wilder, SM resided in Lima (Peru) from 1951-1957. It is possible that he began the collection during this time by the purchase of published titles from sources in Peru. During the early 1960s, while he was pursuing graduate studies in the United States, he obtained from Peru additions to the collection as attested to by inscriptions in the materials. In 1966 he donated the core of the collection to St. Mary's University. Then during the 1980s, Brother Wilder contributed additional materials sent to him from Peru by Eduardo Dargent concerning the observance in that country of the sesquicentennial of Palma's birth (1833-1983).

Acquisitions Information: Brother William R Wilder, SM (1922-1999), of St. Louis, Missouri, donated the first installment of the collection to St. Mary's University in April 1966. Later Wilder added materials (news clippings and books) in 1981, and during 1983-1984 (the observance of the sesquicentennial of Palma's birth). Eduardo Dargent Chamot of Lima was instrumental in assisting Wilder in acquiring at least the later materials. Brother Paul Novosal, SM, director of libraries, accepted the initial instalment in 1966. Anita Saxine, special collections librarian, responded in May of 1984 on behalf of St. Mary's University to acknowledge receipt of the later materials. The last increment was received in 1991, eight years before Wilder's death.

Processing Information: The books are cataloged and shelved in the Special Collections department of Blume Library. The photographs, facsimiles, news clippings, tear sheets from periodicals, pamphlets and manuscript materials are arranged as archival collection number SC 37.

Preferred Citation: Saint Mary's University of San Antonio, Texas

Copyright Notice: The published materials in this collection might be covered by existing copyrights.

Catalog Headings

Legends -- Peru
Literature
Palma, Ricardo, 1833-1919
Palma, Ricardo, 1833-1919 -- Correspondence
Peru -- History
Peruvian literature -- 19th century

Related Collections

Additional titles by Palma are found in the Blume Library circulating collection. See the Blume Library Online Catalog.

The dissertation of William Wilder entitled *The Romantic Elements in the First Edition of the First Series of the Tradiciones Peruanas by Ricardo Palma* (St. Louis University, 1966) is found in the Blume Library circulating collection at PQ8497 .P26 T738.

Description: xvii, 497 leaves; text in English with quotations and appendix in Spanish; bibliography: 277-495.

Ricardo Palma (1833-1919)

Manuel Ricardo Palma Soriano (February 7, 1833 – October 6, 1919) was a Peruvian author, scholar, librarian and politician. His magnum opus is the *Tradiciones peruanas*. Palma published his first verses at the age of 15 and became the editor of a political and

satiric newsheet called *El Diablo* (The Devil). During his youth he also wrote romantic plays and translated Victor Hugo. He studied at the University of San Carlos on an irregular basis, suspending his studies to enlist at age 20 in the Peruvian navy for six years. During his early years he composed romantic dramas (which he later repudiated) and poetry. His first book of verse, *Poesias* (Poems) appeared in 1855 (age 22). He gained a reputation as an historian with a book about the Spanish Inquisition during the Viceroyalty of Peru, *Anales de la Inquisicion de Lima: Estudio Historico*, 1863.

He traveled to Europe in 1864-1865 and upon returning to Lima became involved in politics and public service until 1876. He held the positions of consul in Para, Brazil, Senator for the Loreto, and an official in the Ministry of War and Navy. During the War of the Pacific (1879-1883) between Peru and Chile, occupation forces of the Chilean army completely destroyed both his personal library and the National Library of Peru. After the war, Palma became director of the National Library until his retirement in 1912, taking on the task of rebuilding it. It was through his personal friendship with the Chilean president Domingo Santa Maria that Palma was able to recover an estimated 10,000 books in Chilean possession. In 1887 he founded the Peruvian Academy, a learned society.

He also wrote for the satirical press collaborating with the sheet *El Burro* ("The Donkey"), writing for *La Campana* ("The Bell"), and founding the magazine *La Broma* ("The Joke"). But he also contributed to serious publications such as *El Mercurio*, *El Correo*, *La Patria*, *El Liberal*, *Revista del Pacifico* and *Revista de Sud America*.

But his literary reputation rest upon his creation of the literary genre known as *tradiciones*, short stories that mix history and fiction, written both to amuse and to educate. By using poetic license to deviate from pure history he gained a large South American readership. His *Tradiciones peruanas* span several centuries with an emphasis on the pageantry and intrigue of colonial and early republican times in Peru. His sources were folktales, legends and the gossip of elders in addition to vignettes gathered from the National Library.

The first six volumes of the *Tradiciones* were published from 1872 to 1883; they were followed in 1889 by *Ropa Vieja* ("Old Clothes"), in 1891 by *Ropa apollillada* ("Moth-Eaten Clothes"), and in 1906 by *Mis ultimas tradiciones* ("My Last Tradiciones"). Despite that last title he published in 1910, *Apendice a mis ultimas tradiciones* ("Appendix to My Last Traditions"). A series of racy legends, *Tradiciones en salsa verde* ("Traditions in Green Piquant Sauce") were published posthumously. The *tradiciones* do not meet the formal standards of history but as should be read as historical fiction.

William R. Wilder, SM (1922-1999)

William Russell Wilder (1922-1999) professed vows in the Society of Mary on August 25, 1940. His undergraduate work was at the University of Dayton (Ohio) in philosophy. Marianist authorities sent him as an exchange instructor to Colegio Santa Maria in San Sebastian (Spain) from 1947 to 1951. Following that he attended the University of

Fribourg (Switzerland) for philosophy and theology studies from 1949 to 1951. During the summer of 1949 he lived at the village of Lourdes in the Pyrenees writing an article on that experience. His next assignment was Lima (Peru) from 1951-1957. He began doctoral studies at St. Louis University (Missouri) in 1960 receiving a doctoral degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies in 1966. The title of his dissertation was *The Romantic Elements in the First Edition of the First Series of the Tradiciones Peruanas by Ricardo Palma*. His teaching career at St. Mary's University began in 1964 and continued until 1981 teaching Spanish and French. In January 1999, he entered the nursing facility at the Marianist Residence adjacent to the St. Mary's University campus, dying of cancer on March 13, 1999.

Eduardo Dargent Chamot

Eduardo C. Dargent Chamot, born in Lima on 23 August 1945, attended St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas (Class of 1968) and received a bachelor's degree in Economics. At Saint Mary's University he was a student of Brother William. The two had first met in 1956 at the Marianist school in Lima. After graduation from Saint Mary's University, Dargent returned to Lima but maintained contact with Brother William from 1969 to 1991. During this time, he sent literary materials from Lima about Palma's legacy. Dargent has contributed articles to the cultural news monthly of Lima (*Contacto: Noticiero Cultural Mensual*) about numismatics. He is a professor of history, an expert in numismatics, and a teacher at the Universidad Ricardo Palma in Lima. He can be reached at dargentduardoc@gmail.com.

Collection Overview

William Wilder, SM, PhD assembled this collection while pursuing doctoral studies during the early 1960s. The focus of the collection is the life and writing of Ricardo Palma (1833-1919) who exercised a seminal influence on literature in his native Peru. In this collection all the books written by Ricardo Palma are present as either facsimiles or republications. The photographs in this collection are almost entirely Palma's first editions of the *Tradiciones* published in Lima (1872) and Buenos Aires (1891), and serialized in periodicals (Lima from 1860 to 1863 and "Nueva York" around 1892). There is as well, a collection of writing about Palma from 1899 to 1991 as found in scholarly journals, graduate dissertations, and Lima newspapers. The writings about Palma analyze the structure and technique of his writing as well as its impact upon Peruvian literature and society. The news clippings in the collection appeared in Lima newspapers between 1969 and 1991. These concern Palma's writings, his activities during the War of the Pacific, his reconstruction of the Bibliotheca Nacional, and his role in the founding of the Academia Peruana. Wilder's dissertation does not appear in the collection; however, it is available in the Blume Library circulating collection with the call number PQ8497.P26 T738.

Summary of Series

Series 1: Early Editions of *Tradiciones peruanas* (in facsimile)

Revista de Lima serialization, 1860-1863

First Peruvian edition, Lima, 1872

First Argentine edition, Buenos Aires, 1891

- Revista Ilustrada de Nueva York* serialization, 1890s
 Series 2: Scholarly Writing about Ricardo Palma, 1919-1963
 Dissertation and Theses
 Learned Journals
 Pamphlets
 Series 3: Clippings from Lima Newspapers, 1969-1991
 Series 4: Research Materials by William Wilder, 1960s

Series 1:
 Early Editions of *Tradiciones Peruanas* (in facsimile)

The first six volumes of *Tradiciones peruanas* cataloged in Special Collections are a later edition (Lima, Editorial Cultura Antártica, 1951). The first editions in the Wilder/Dargent Collection are facsimiles, either photographs or plain paper copies.

Location

C23A-SC37 Folders 1 to 15 –Serialization of *Tradiciones Peruanas* in the *Revista de Lima* from 1860-1863:

Condition Note: These are photographs of the printed pages from the *Revista de Lima*. They are sleeved in a three-ring binder to make for easier reading.

1. Pala-Huarcuna (Tradicion de la época de los Incas) Vol I n 11: 1 Marzo 1861:535-536
2. El Nazareno Vol II n 1: 1 Julio 1860:19-18
3. El Virey de la Adivinanza (Apuntes históricos) Vol II n 2: 1 Agosto 1860:125-130
4. La Hija del Oidor (Tradicion popular)
5. Un Bufeton a Tiempo (Historia de Antaño ...)
6. No Hay trampa con El Demonio (Leyenda Popular)
7. Debellare Superbos (Apuntes históricos) Vol II n 13: 1 Dec 1860:679-687
8. Poetas Peruanos Don Carlos A. Salaverry Vol III n 7: 1 Abril 1861:298-303
9. Una Tragedia de Bastidores (Anales del Teatro de Lima) Vol III n 10:15 Mayo 1861:401-411
10. Justos y Pecadores (Crónica del siglo XVII...) Vol. V n 8: 15 Abril 1862:813-826
11. La Perricholi – A Francisco Laso Vol VII n 6: 15 Marzo 1863:221-230
12. El Ciego de la Merced – Fray Francisco del Castillo Vol VII 1863:58-69
13. Lima subterránea (A Eloy P. Buxó)
14. Armonias: Esperanza en Dios (Traducccion Feuilles d’automme, V Hugo)
15. Armonias: La Democracia (A Lorenzo Garcia)

C23A-SC37 Folder 16 – First Peruvian edition of the first series of *Tradiciones Peruanas*, Lima by the Imprenta del Estado, 1872; photographic copy

Condition Note: These are photographs of the printed pages, not the printed book itself. The photos are sleeved in a three-ring binder to make a facsimile of the first Peruvian edition. The photographs were made by the Biblioteca Nacional de Peru. All but three of the *Tradiciones* included had been previously published in periodicals although not always with the exact wording.

SC37 Box 1 Folder 1 – First Peruvian edition of the first series of the *Tradiciones Peruanas*, Lima, 1872; plain paper copies made from the photographs above

Condition Note: There are two sets of plain paper copies of the photographs; one set loose-leaf, one set in a 3-ring binder. Researchers are requested to use the set in the binder for primary access.

C23A-SC 37 Folder 17 – First Argentine edition of *Tradiciones Peruanas*, Buenos Aires, by the Imprenta a la Universidad de J. N. Kijngelfuss y Ca., 1891

Condition Note: These are photographs of the printed pages, not the book itself. The photographs are mounted insecurely on paper pages and are not sleeved. Therefore, special handling is required. Only selected *Tradiciones* are included and these are organized according to the needs of William Wilder's dissertation; they do not appear in the original order of the Argentine edition.

SC 37 Box 1 Folder 2 –Selections from *Tradiciones Peruanas* serialized in the *Revista Ilustrada de Nueva York*, circa 1892

Condition Note: These are plain paper copies of the original articles. They are a sampling made by William Wilder for the purposes of his dissertation.

Series 2:
Scholarly Writing about Ricardo Palma, 1919-1963

Dissertations and Theses

- 868.99
P171Yb *Spanish Honor in Ricardo Palma's Tradiciones Peruanas*; a dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree Doctor of Philosophy in Hispanic Languages and Literature / by Merlin David Compton; University of California-Los Angeles, 1959.
About Merlin Compton: See news clippings in series four below for *Contacto: Noticiero Cultural Mensual*, (Lima, VIII no. 95, febrero 1983:10) for portrait and article by M D Compton about Palma.
- 868.99
P171Yk *Significado y Forma de un Tema en las Tradiciones: Tesis de Bachiller en Letras* / por Dora Bazan Montenegro; Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos Facultad de Letras: Lima, 1960.
- SC 37 Box 1
Folder 3 *Indices Nominales y Verbales en la Primera Serie de las Tradiciones Peruanas*; Tesis presentada / por Luis Hernan Ramirez para de Bachiller en Letras; Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos Facultad de Letras; Lima, 1960. Typescript carbon copy of 88 pages
- C23A:
Folder 18 *R. Palma, Personaje de si mismo*, Tesis de Bachiller en Letras / par Julio Diaz Falconi; Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos Facultad de Letras; Lima, 1962. Photographs of the original 89 pages
Condition Note: The pages of text are much reduced and the print is very small.
- SC 37 Box 1
Folder 4 *Ensayo sin pretenciones sobre R. Palma* / por C. Quiros; undated; photocopy of a typescript of 13 pages

Learned Journals (facsimiles)

- SC 37 Box 1
Folder 4 *Boletín de la Real Academia Espanola* (Madrid); "Maravillas del Peru;" Vol. XXXIII: 138, (1953):121-145.
- Bulletin Hispanique*; "Les Trois Crises de la Vie de Ricardo Palma;" LXI: 1-2, (1954):49-82.
- Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* (Liverpool); "Briefer Notices;" XL:4 (October 1963): 259-260.
- SC 37 Box 1
Folder 5 *Cuadernos Americanos* (Mexico); "Palma en la Tradicion," LIII (septiembre-octubre de 1950): 214-225
- Cuadernos* (Paris); "El 'volterianismo' de Ricardo Palma;" por Rosa Arciniega; No. 33 (noviembre-diciembre de 1958): 25-28

Cuadernos (Paris); "La sensualidad en el Romanticism: sobre el *Macias*;" por Joaquin Casaldueo; No. 62 (julio de 1961): 37-43.

SC 37 Box 1
Folder 6

Hispania (Stanford University); "Peruvian Literature: Part V. Ricardo Palma, *Tradicionista*;" VII: 3 (May 1924):147-155

About *Hispania* from its cover: *Hispania*: A Teachers' Journal devoted to the interests of the teaching of Spanish and Portuguese is published by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Hispania (Stanford University); "Al Margen de las *Tradiciones* de Ricardo Palma;" por Luis Avilés Pérez; XX: 1 (February 1937): 61-68

Hispania (Stanford University); "Ricardo Palma and the Legal Profession;" by Ernest Stowell; XXV:2 (May 1942):158-160.

Hispania (Stanford University); "The Problem of Andean Vocabulary;" by Margaret M. Ramos; XXXII:4 (November 1949).

Hispania (Stanford University); "Ricardo Palma and the *Tradiciones Peruanas*;" by Sturgis E. Leavitt; XXXIV: 4 (November 1951):349-353.

Hispania (Stanford University); "Quichua Words in Icaza's *Huasipungo*;" by Gardiner H. London; XXXV:1 (February 1952):96-99

Hispania (Stanford University); "El Lenguaje Romántico de los Periódicos Madrileños Publicados durante la Monarquía Constitucional (1820-23);" por Arthur J. Cullen; XLI:3 (September 1958):303-307.

SC 37 Box 1
Folder 7

Hispanic Review; "Folklore elements in Fray Gerundio;" by Ralph Steele Boggs; IV:2 (April 1936):159-169

Hispanic Review; "On the Principe de Esquilache;" by Otis H. Green; VII:3 (July 1939):220-224

Hispanic Review; "Light Imagery in el Estudiante de Salamanca;" by E Allison Peers; IX:1 (January 1941):199-209

SC 37 Box 1
Folder 8

Modern Language Quarterly; "Emile Zola's Romanticism Judged by His Contemporaries and by Himself;" by Lucien White; XVIII:3 (September 1957):206-210

Modern Language Quarterly; "The First Romantic Aesthetics;" by Raymond Immerwahr; XXI:1 (March 1960):3-25

Revista Hispánica Moderna; "Sobre un Milagro en Melendez, Palma y Barrios;" por Luis Monguió; XXII:1 (enero 1956):1-11

Revista Hispánica Moderna; “Las Galaicismos en la Estética Valleinclanesca;” por J. Amor y Vazquez; XIV:1 (enero 1958):1-26.

SC Box 1
Folder 9

Revue Hispanique; “Ricardo Palma der Verfasser der *Tradiciones Peruanas*;” par H. Petriconi; LVII (1923):207-285.

German language article accompanied by an English translation in manuscript

SC Box 1
Folder 10

Revista Iberoamericana; (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge) “Las fuentes de las ‘Tradiciones Peruanas de Ricardo Palma;” por Ruth Sievers Thomas; II:4 (noviembre 1940):462-469.

Revista Iberoamericana; (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge) “Elementos Románticos y Antirománticos de Ricardo Palma;” IV:7 (noviembre 1941):95-107.

Revista Iberoamericana; (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge) “A los 25 Años de la Desaparición d dos Grandes Escritores Peruanos;” IX:18 (mayo 1945):287-293.

Revista Iberoamericana; (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge) “Acotaciones al Costumbrismo Peruana;” por Mary Nemtzow; XV:29 (julio 1949):45-62

Revista Iberoamericana; (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge) “La procacidad de Ricardo Palma;” por Enrique Anderson Imbert; XVIII:36 (septiembre 1953): 269-272

SC Box 1
Folder 11

Unidentified journal; “Wesen und Gestaltelemente des franzosischen Romantisme (Romantisme als rationaler Illusionismus); von Helmut Hatzfeld; no date: pages 216-273

German language article accompanied by an English translation in manuscript. Wilder’s handwritten note on envelope: “Essence and Characteristics of French Romanticism.”

SC 37 Box 1

Mercurio Peruano: Revista Mensual de Ciencias Sociales y Letras; Lima, Peru: Nos.: 342, 344, 349, 354, 356, 362, 363, 366-367 (from September 1955 to November 1957)

Revista de la Universidad; Universidad Nacional de la Plata (Argentina); Primer trimestre de 1958:69-79; “Problemas de lengua y de estilo en las *Tradiciones peruana*, de Ricardo Palma;” por Julio Caillet-Bois

Sphinx: Anuario del Departamento de filologia, No. 13 (1960), No. 14 (1961)

Pamphlets

Note: the items below are in the Blume Library catalog but are not on the bookshelves

SC 37 Box 1
Folder 12

Duquesne Hispanic Review; “Las Tradiciones Peruanas de Ricardo Palma:

Bibliografía y Lista Cronologica Tentativas;" por Merlin D. Compton; VIII: 3: 1-24 (reprint)

Description: 24 pages; 22 cm; tables listing each "Tradiciones" with date of publication

SC 37 Box 1

Folder 12

Unidentified source: "Las Grandes Personalidades; La Generación 1830-1870, 4. Ricardo Palma (1833-1919);" no author; no date

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Folder 13

Ricardo Palma, *Florilegio (Tradiciones, Poesia)*; Lima: Biblioteca Peruana de Bolsillo, 1948

Description: 80 pages; 16 cm; tag line: "Un Libro Peruano para el Pueblo"

SC 37 Box 1

Folder 14

Lima City of Treasures and Tradition; / by Frances E. Parodi; Lima: American Women's Literary Club, 1963

Description: 84 pages; 18 cm; inscription from author; described by Wilder as "very rare"

Series 3:

Clippings from Lima Newspapers, 1969-1991

Note: The enumeration of newspaper article headlines found below is only partial.

FS22-2

Folder 06

Clippings from *El Comercio*, December 1969-1973 (facsimiles):

"Prueba el limeñismo..."

"Tradiciones en Salsa Verde denuncian..."

"Homenaje a Palma"

Et cetera

FS22-2

Folder 07

Clippings from *El Comercio*, *Contacto*, and *La Prensa*, 1982-1984, Sesquicentennial of Palma's birth (1833-1983) (facsimiles):

"Palma en Norteamerica"

"Algunos Aspectos... por Merlin D. Compton

"Palma contra Prada"

"Palma a 150 años"

Et cetera

FS22-2

Folder 08

Clippings from *El Comercio*, *Caretas*, and *Sabado*, 1987-1991 (facsimiles)

"El centenario de la Academia Peruana de la Lengua"

"Ricardo Palma y el primer director de la Academia"

Et cetera

Series 4:
Research Materials Used by William Wilder

SC 37 Box 1

Folder 15 Typescripts of two *Tradiciones* from the first edition:

 “Un Bofeton a Tiempo”

 “Un Pirata en el Callao”

Note: Wilder included these two *Tradiciones* as an appendix in his dissertation “because they are not readily available in the current editions of the *Tradiciones peruanas*. (Dissertation page 456)

SC 37 Box 1

Folder 15 Typescripts of selected *Tradiciones en Salsa Verde*:

 “La Pinga del Libertador”

 “El Carajo de Sucre”

 “Un Desmemoriado”

 “La Consigna de Lara”

 “Tejo o Tajo?”

 “El Clavel Disceplinado”

 “Un Calembourg”

 “La Cosa de la Mujer”

 “Fatuidad Humana”

 “De Bueno a Bueno”

 “Matricula de Colegio”

 “El Clavel Disceplinado”

 “Rehabilitacion de Una Alcahueta”

 “Los Inocentones”

 “Arroz con Pato”

 “La Cena del Capitan”

 “Finis”

 “Al General Maroto”

Note: Wilder states in a footnote of his dissertation (page 475, note 1) that the copy of the *Tradiciones en salsa verde* used by him “was in the possession of doña Edith Palma, and copied by her for the present writer.”

SC 37 Box 1

Folder 16 Mendiguren, Alfredo Moreno; *Repertorio de noticias breves sobre personajes peruanas*; Madrid, 1956

 Facsimile pages sent to William Wilder from Peru by Eduardo Dargent.

C23A

Folder 19 a-d Photographs

 Folder 19a Extra copies of photos for *Tradiciones*, Buenos Aires edition, 1891

 Folder 19b “Palma, unclassified Photostats” (author’s caption)

 Folder 19c “*La Querida del Pirata* Photos” (author’s caption)

 Folder 19d “Palma Research (b, c, d)” (author’s caption)

SC 37 Box 1

Folder 17 Ricardo Palma Peruvian Commemorative Stamp

Appendix

The excerpts in this appendix are taken from the Preface of William Wilder’s dissertation because they help explain some of the materials in this collection:

 “In the summer of 1952 ... Jose Jimenez Borja found a copy of *Rodil*, one of Ricardo Palma’s long-sought romantic dramas. On the night of its production, Rodil ... had brought to

the seventeen year-old Palma the enthusiastic acclaim of the theater-going crowds of Lima. Yet it was this very play that Palma rejected and denounced so bitterly in *La bohemia de mi tiempo* some thirty-five years after the phenomenal success of the production. Because Palma systematically attempted to collect and destroy all copies of *Rodil*, the play remained virtually unknown for three-quarters of a century. Its recent discovery in 1952 presented scholars with a new basis for a more definitive evaluation of Palma as a romantic dramatist in his youth and as a conservative self-critic in his maturity” (pages v-vi)

“Perhaps the most promising sign of renewed interest in the re-evaluation of Ricardo Palma is the very competent work of Dr. Alberto Escobar and a group of enthusiastic students of San Marcos University in Lima. The present writer is indebted to this group of dedicated *palmistas* for much enthusiastic help during the summer of 1963 in obtaining books and articles as yet unavailable even in the National Library of Peru” (page x)

“The present writer wishes to thank Brother George Herbst for his devoted service in microfilming documents and in developing photographs for the preparation of this dissertation; Brother Julius Kraus for making available two lengthy and valuable German articles of literary criticism; ... the invaluable assistance of Miss Edith Palma, who generously supplied books and manuscripts, as well as a wealth of memories and impressions that had not yet found their way into print...” (page xiv)