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## A Note on the Mystery of the 'Long Lost Boscana Original'

CRISTINA KESSLER

In his preface to Malki Museum Press's new reprinted version of *Chinigchinich*, William Bright does an admirable job of unraveling the tangled history of the Boscana manuscript. One interesting sidelight, however, is missing from the puzzle as presented by Bright.

When J. P. Harrington first discovered the manuscript, probably in the early 1930's, he published his own English translation, but never revealed the location of the original Spanish text, which remained unpublished. Harrington perceived Alfred Kroeber to be a rival and competitor; hence the almost paranoid secretiveness with which Harrington guarded his sources. Thus the location of the original Boscana manuscript remained a mystery for a decade (not twenty years as is cited in Reichlen and Reichlen's 1971 account) until it was rediscovered by a young soldier with a passion for anthropology who was stationed in Paris during World War II.

The soldier became Professor John Rowe of Berkeley's Department of Anthropology. His own account, written at my request, of the circumstances surrounding the discovery and eventual publication of the original Spanish manuscript of *Chinigchinich* follows.

*University of California, Berkeley*

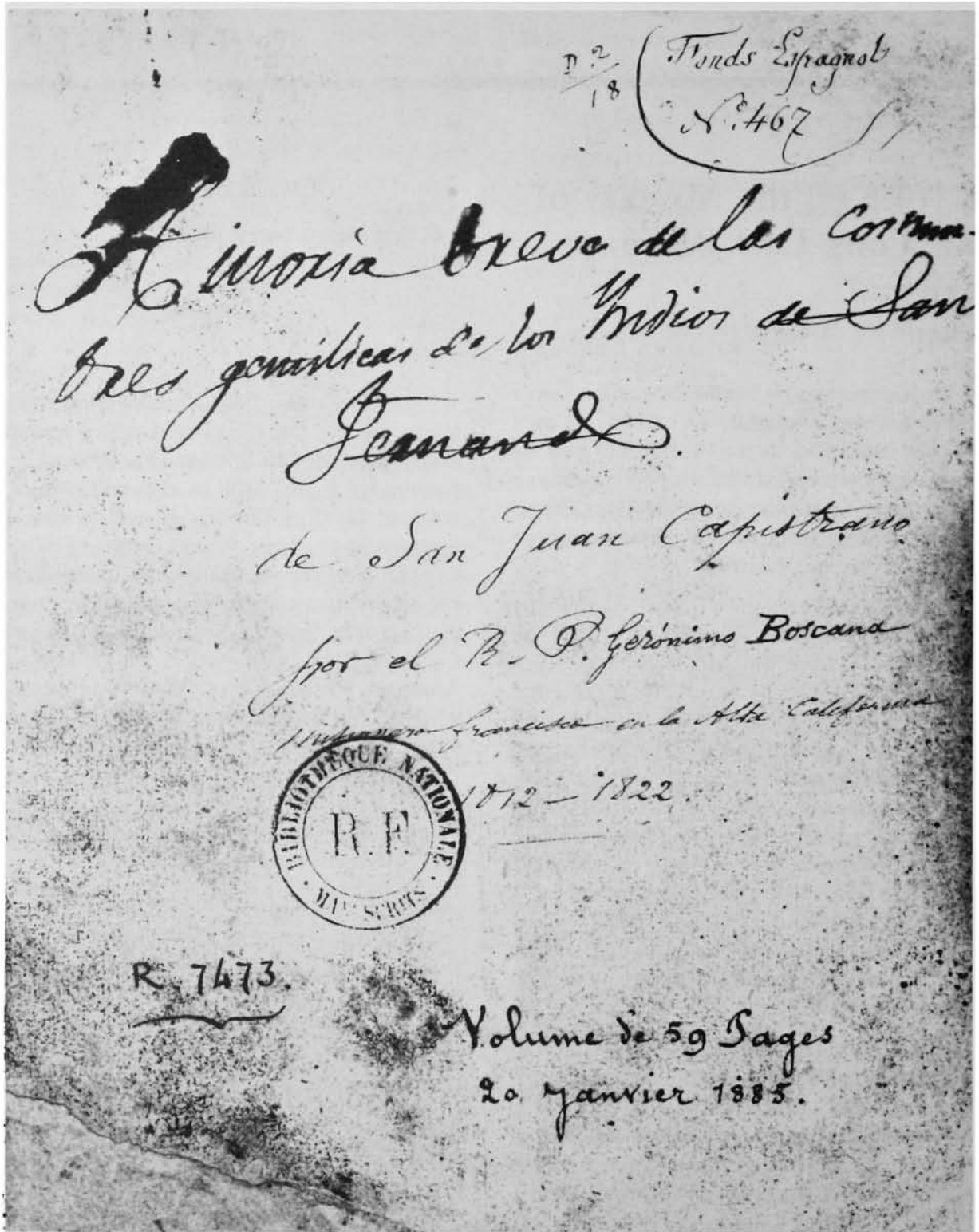
### REFERENCE

- Reichlen, Henry, and Paule Reichlen  
1971 Le Manuscrit de la Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris. *Journal de la Société des Américanistes* 60:233-273.

\* \* \*

"In December, 1945, I was in Paris taking classes at the University and doing research at the Musée de l'Homme and the Bibliothèque Nationale. I was still in the uniform of a sergeant (T-4) of Combat Engineers but had been assigned to the Army's Training Within Civilian Agencies program while accumulating enough service time to be sent home. One of my best friends in the program was Edwin H. Carpenter, Jr., who had a Ph.D. in Latin American History from UCLA. I wanted to see whether the Bibliothèque Nationale had any unpublished manuscripts relating to Peru, so I went to the manuscript room and asked to see their catalogue. They handed me a printed volume, *Catalogue des manuscrits espagnols et des manuscrits portugais*, by A. Morel-Fatio, published in 1892. In going through it, I happened to notice, on p. 359, an entry for a manuscript on California Indians. I thought it might interest Carpenter, so I made a note of it. Carpenter was very interested and said that it was evidently the Boscana manuscript that everyone had been looking for. I suggested that he have it microfilmed, which he did.

"One of the places where I worked in the Musée de l'Homme was the magnificent private library of Paul Rivet, the Director. After Carpenter had alerted me to the importance of the Boscana relation, I found a copy



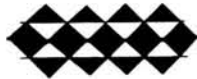
Title page of the "Long Lost Boscana Original."

of the Harrington translation in Rivet's library and was able to verify that he had indeed used the Paris manuscript; he published a photograph of the first page of it.

"Henri and Paule Reichlen were my friends at the Musée de l'Homme, where they had a small apartment and he was head of the American Section. Naturally, I told them about the Boscana discovery, and it was they who eventually published the original Spanish text."

— John Rowe

*EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT: Harrington's use of the Boscana manuscript belonging to the Bibliothèque Nationale is further confirmed by the fact that he had glass negatives made of the document. These glass negatives were acquired by Malki Museum (Morongo Indian Reservation, Banning, California) in the late 1960's from Harrington's daughter, Awona Harrington. A glass negative showing the title page (see opposite page) with the Bibliothèque Nationale stamp is on public display at the museum.*



## John P. Harrington Microfilm Project

ELAINE L. MILLS

The Smithsonian Institution National Anthropological Archives has in progress a project to arrange, describe, and microfilm the *Papers of John P. Harrington, 1907-1957*, a manuscript collection containing linguistic and ethnographic material for some 100 Amer-

ican Indian groups in North, Central, and South America. During the past two years the collection has remained open for reference use at the archives in Washington, D.C. In 1979 and 1980, however, large blocks of material may be unavailable for periods of up to several months while being packed, transported, filmed, and checked against the master film copy.

Researchers wishing to use the *Papers* are strongly urged to contact the Project Editor before planning a visit to the archives. Those desiring to place large orders for copies of the fieldnotes are encouraged to wait for the microfilm edition which will be a more economical means of acquiring copies.

The production schedule for 1979 will be:  
ALASKA/NORTHWEST COAST: Aleut  
(shipment date March 1979)

ALASKA/NORTHWEST COAST: All remaining notes (May)

CALIFORNIA: Achomawi/Wintun/Yana, Atsugewi, Chimariko (June)

CALIFORNIA: Chumash (August)

CALIFORNIA: Costanoan (October)

CALIFORNIA: Esselen, Hupa, Karok, Maidu, Miwok, Pomo, Salinan, Shasta/Konomihu (November)

CALIFORNIA: Uto-Aztecan (December)

Announcements on the availability of the microfilm edition will be forthcoming.

Please address any questions to:

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