

Data Bank of Spanish American Theatre History

Professor Judith A. Weiss of Mount Allison University (Sackville, N.B., Canada) has initiated a computerized history of the Spanish American theatre. The pilot project, which will also serve as the foundation for the larger project, is being completed with a grant from the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada; it consists of the coding and entering of information about authors, repertoire, and stages contained in three standard surveys of the subject (Arrom, Dauster and Knapp Jones). The information is stored in the Mount Allison University digital computer, but, in order to ensure both portability and flexibility, it is contained in a simple editing program.

The data has been entered in alphanumeric form, with fully alphabetized names for each record, dates where available, and the rest of the information in numerical code. Categories devised for each record include: place(s), sponsorship or affiliation or cause, documented impact or effect, genre or type, generic classifications (e.g., male/female for authors, verse/prose for repertoire).

The principal objectives of the larger project include the following: centralization of existent and ongoing research in the field; development of an efficient network that makes effective use of modern information systems; and generation of scientifically reliable and easily retrievable information for future research.

The author of this Spanish American Stage Project is seeking to recruit collaborators to participate in building on the pilot project and developing long-range plans. More information will be made available at the M.L.A. meeting in New York and in the next issue of *LATR*. Correspondence can be directed c/o *LATR*.