

BOSE, Walter B. L.
Twenty Years of Historical Work (1924-1944)
[Veinte Años de Labor Historiografica (1924-1944)]
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Translation of the introductory text only, pp.3-4

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TWENTY YEARS OF HISTORICAL WORK (1924-1944)

The idea of gathering in a booklet a listing of all the investigations and publications concerning the labours of Walter B. L. Bose regarding Argentine history and philately has its origins amongst his friends.

It is our purpose to indicate the field of scientific investigations to which he dedicated himself with enthusiasm for over twenty years, contributing valuable proofs and precedence with reference to American and Argentine history.

His parents, Drs. Emil Bose and Margarit Heiberg de Bose, graduated from Göttingen (Germany) and Copenhagen (Denmark), respectively, had been engaged by Dr. Joaquin V. Gonzalez, President of the National University of La Plata, in 1909, to organize and direct the Institute of Physics of that advanced institution. His father died in that city in 1911. His Argentine students and friends still recall his personality. His mother continued her teaching labors in the School of Engineering, retiring in 1941. Both served the country with their scientific knowledge and activities. Thus, he was educated in a scientific atmosphere and took his courses of study at the Graduate School, at the National College and Faculty of humanities and School of Education of La Plata (1912-1937). Having arrived in Argentina still a child, he assimilated himself totally into the country's atmosphere, so much so that his entire literary production is written in Castilian. By the same token he became a citizen in 1926 and made his home with an Argentine lady.

He began his labors in the General Office of Posts and Telegraphs, despite his initial inclinations toward the natural sciences, as official in charge of the Philatelic Section of the Argentine Postal and Telegraph Museum, with the Director General Dr. Arturo Goyeneche conferring upon him the directorship of that museum in October 1928.

There he intensified his investigations about the issuing of Argentine postal and telegraphic stamps, applying scientific methods to philately. The knowledge thus acquired qualified him for the publication of numerous studies on the subject, bringing about additionally, as expert, a constructive labor in institutions of the Argentine Republic such as the Philatelic Association (AFRA) and others.

Later on he continued his university studies in order to devote himself fully to historical investigations, specializing in the "History of Communications in America". With this in mind he gathered from 1932 a wide documentation (with transcripts) in order to be able to base his work on original sources, with materials coming from a number of public and private archives in Spain and America.

His principal studies about this subject he published at the Historical Studies Center of the National University of La Plata. and at the Society of Argentine History of Buenos Aires. He took part also in a number of historical congresses and published numerous articles in the Post and Telegraph Review, the official organ of that national enterprise.

Complimentary to this activity have been studies about theoretical-philosophical matters relating to history in general which, after 1935, were combined in writings and thoughts regarding the "historical future" (the formation of historical series, cyclical movements, and the rhythm and harmony of evolutionary processes functioning as a function of time.)

In the period since that time he has worked incessantly, and we offer here an index of his works, classified by topics, in order to furnish a clearer idea of the whole. His friends believe that in this manner they fulfill an unavoidable duty toward one who has devoted his life to historical studies of America.

Buenos Aires

March 1945

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