

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, SS 3A, AMS-MAA Special Session on History of Mathematics, I

1003-01-1459      **Jose A. Cervera\*** ([jose\\_a\\_cervera@hotmail.com](mailto:jose_a_cervera@hotmail.com)), Departamento de Estudios Humanisticos, Instituto Tecnologico de Monterrey, Av. Eugenio Garza Sada, 2501 Sur, 64849 Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. *European Mathematics in the New Spain, 1521-1821: A survey conducted in the Biblioteca Cervantina (Monterrey, Mexico).*

Spaniards conquered Mexico in 1521. During three centuries, in the colony of the New Spain, a process of mixture of European and Amerindian cultures took place. Pre-Hispanic peoples, such as Aztecs or Mayans, had mathematical knowledge. Unfortunately, Spaniards destroyed nearly all the aboriginal culture, including most of pre-Hispanic mathematical documents.

During next three centuries, European Mathematics was spread in the New Spain. Even if some scientific knowledge was more important for the development of the colony, such as chemistry for the extraction and purification of silver in mines, Mathematics and Astronomy were introduced in several colleges founded in the colony, especially in Mexico City. The spread of such knowledge, especially Mathematics, has not been very well studied until now.

In this paper, I propose the study of one of the best libraries of old books in Mexico, the Biblioteca Cervantina, in the Instituto Tecnologico de Monterrey. With this survey on mathematics books in this library, we can have a very good idea on mathematical knowledge in the New Spain, so that we can know what specific mathematical subjects Spaniards in the colonies were interested in, comparing with the mathematics developed in Europe at that time. (Received October 05, 2004)