

Journal des traducteurs Translators' Journal

Castellano Ahoy ! Comments on Spanish dictionaries by Lewis Bertrand, New York (P.O. Box 3057, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N.Y., USA)

Volume 7, numéro 2, 2e trimestre 1962

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1061288ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/1061288ar>

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Éditeur(s)

Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal

ISSN

0316-3024 (imprimé)

2562-2994 (numérique)

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Citer ce compte rendu

(1962). Compte rendu de [Castellano Ahoy ! Comments on Spanish dictionaries by Lewis Bertrand, New York (P.O. Box 3057, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N.Y., USA)]. *Journal des traducteurs / Translators' Journal*, 7(2), 56–59.
<https://doi.org/10.7202/1061288ar>



LES OUTILS DU TRADUCTEUR

¶ *Castellano Ahoy!* Comments on Spanish dictionaries by Lewis Bertrand, New York (P.O. Box 3057, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N.Y., USA). Rights in this series¹ are reserved by Lewis Bertrand.

On sitting down to a from-Spanish job I reach for the following three single-volume props :

- I SELL, Lewis L. Spanish-English Comprehensive Specialist's Dictionary for Insurance-Finance-Law-Labor-Politics-Business. "More than 135,000 terms in English and Spanish." David McKay Company, New York, 1957. 650 2-column typed and offset pages ----- **\$12.50**
- II ROBB, Louis A. Engineers' Dictionary. Spanish-English English-Spanish ca half and half. 2d edition. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1949. 1958 printing ----- **\$12.50**
- III MENTOR. Nuevo Diccionario Enciclopédico Ilustrado. "Obra moderna, ajustada a las ediciones de los diccionarios de la Academia Española de la Lengua. Registra las voces y expresiones académicas y americanas, tecnicismos y neologismos." Editorial Sopena Argentina, S.A. 1st edition. January 1958. 1527 2-column pp. Illustrated. All-Spanish. ----- **\$8.00**

Two letterpress Robb volumes are by some preferred over the single varityped Sell volume (No. 1) :

- IV Dictionary of Legal Terms. Span-Engl Engl-Span. John Wiley & Sons. N.Y. 1955. 228 pp. ----- **\$8.00**
- V Dict. of Business Terms. Span-Engl Engl-Span. John Wiley & Sons. N.Y. 1949. 219 pp. ----- **\$8.00**

In 1961, IV and V were consolidated into the single **\$20.00** volume :

- VI ROBB, Louis A. Dictionary of Modern Business. Spanish-English 323 2-col. pp. English-Spanish 287 pp. Total 610 pp. Anderson-Kramer Associates. Washington, D.C.

For typographical appeal, VI. For thoroughness, Sell's one-way 650-page Spanish-English. In a year and a half of resumed multilingual translating, I have come to rank Sell's (No. 1 above) as my most valuable single bilingual aid. It frequently as well stands me in good stead when I work from French, Italian and Portuguese.

For me the basic school bilinguals have long since ceased to hold interest. Still, on the shelf, to be reached when occasion demands, I invariably keep one of these at least :

- VII APPLETON. Revised Cuyás Spanish Dictionary. 4th ed. First copyright 1903, latest 1956. Span-Engl 575 pp. Engl-Span. 697 pp. Over the years has returned the publisher's investment munificently. Its chief merit is being a money-maker. Indexed. ----- **\$8.00**
There is also a Cuyá issued in Spain. Whether it corresponds to today's Appleton or survives independently is a question.
- VIII VELAZQUEZ. Span-Engl Engl-Span. Predecessor to Cuyás possessing solid merits of its own and some 200 more pp than the latter. When engaged in literary or historical translation I keep Velázquez at my elbow. Wilcox & Follett, Chicago. 1960 reprint ----- **\$8.50**

(1) Of. Old Gray Mare (Webster's) Ahoy in Journal des Traducteurs, VI. 4 (1961).

- IX WILLIAMS, Edwin B. Launched to attract some of the windfall money long going to Appleton. Henry Holt & Co., N.Y. No copyright date evident. Span-Engl Engl-Span half-and-half for a total of 1200+ pp. Indexed **\$9.00**
- X CASSELL. Similarly marketed for the easy buck. Span-Engl Engl-Span half-and-half and totaling ca 1500 pp. Funk & Wagnalls, N.Y. 1959. Indexed ----- **\$8.00**

Two aids that I have a weakness for are these :

- XI DIVRY. Pocketsize Span-Engl Engl-Span. J. M. Douglas and Alfonso Lomo. Copyright 1942, 1947, 1952. Formerly carried valuable maps and area information now excised. I take it along when on an interpreting assignment. 544 pp. Indexed ----- **\$3.00**
- XII SINÓNIMOS. Among the extensive All-Spanish selection on these lines experience has led me to choose : A small volume called Sinónimos, small type, India paper, published in Spain ca 1950. Lost, strayed or stolen, and not located at New York's Spanish bookstores. Who can supply the señas ?

In respect of more specialized material I call attention to :

- XIII DICCIONARIO TEXTIL PANAMERICANO. Pan American Publishing Co. N.Y. 1949. Span-Engl Engl-Span ca half-and-half to make 578 pp. Contains, too, a nearly 285-pp description of Tecnología Elemental de la Industria Textil by Juan Carreras Palett. The lexicographical sections are by Joaquín Rodríguez Ontiveros, Laura Smith de Lomo, Alfonso Lomo. This once invaluable guide in the maze of textile engineering is rapidly obsolescing and is no longer listed.
- XIV GOLDBERG, Morris. Spanish-English Chemical and Medical Dictionary. 1952. Companion to the pioneer English-Spanish of 1947. Bessie L. Goldberg saw the 1952 work through. Morris Goldberg, Glasgow biology teacher who spiced his conversation with Yiddish from the Clyde, ran Translation and Research Bureau in New York, where he made positive contributions toward raising translator standards and economics. McGraw-Hill, Publishers. N.Y. Goldberg's English-Spanish Medical 692 pp **\$15.00**. Spanish-English 605 pp **\$17.00**.
- XV CARDENAL. Diccionario Terminológico de Ciencias Médicas. 6a ed. Salvat Editores, S.A. Barcelona, 1958. 1267 large 2-col. pp. The standard All-Spanish medical dictionary. "3000 new terms added." "Se ha incluido todo neologismo sancionado por el uso, a la par que se han rechazado los barbarismos que unos autores copian de otros." ----- **\$17.00**
- XVI CASTILLA. Spanish and English Technical Dictionary. Vol. I. English-Spanish. 1610 pp. Vol. II. Spanish-English. 1135 pp. Imprint, Spain. 1958. The American distributors is Philosophical Library, N.Y. The two volumes **\$45.00**. Each volume **\$25.00**.
- XVII SELL, Lewis L. Comprehensive Technical Dictionary. English-Spanish. 1477 large pp. Copyright 1944. Spanish-English. 1706 large pp. Copyright 1949. These volumes were the product of two decades of unsubsidized effort by the author, whose daily concern was his bureau at 15 Park Row. When McGraw-Hill assumed distribution New York translation circles rejoiced. Goldberg thus approached these publishers, who proved amenable because of the response to Sell. In 1959, McGraw-Hill added a second volume Sell English-Spanish, 1088 pp. Each English-Spanish is **\$35.00**. The 1960 reprint of the Spanish-English 1949 original is **540.00**. All are typed and offset.

For check I picked a random complex of Spanish terms in Robb, Castilla and Sell : grabar, grabación, grabado. The chart on page 58 reveals the outcome.

- XVIII REAL ACADEMIA ESPAÑOLA. Diccionario de la lengua española. A dictionary no library is complete without. Julio Casares, the editor, consented to become an Honorary Member of New York's Publicistas y Traductores when I visited him at the Academy and maintains a correspondence with that organizations' Gaceta. Madrid. 1956. 1370 pp. ----- **\$12.00**
- XIX UTEHA. Diccionario Enciclopédico. 10 comprehensive All-Spanish volumes. Excellent all-around publishing job. 13,000 pp. 20,000 illustrations. 400 maps. Terminology in all sciences. Tops for Spanish-American fauna, flora, geography. Mexico. 1952. ----- **\$140.00**

Robb (No. II)	Castilla (No. XVI)	Sell (No. XVII)
grabar — to engrave; to carve	grabar — to engrave; to sink (dies, etc.)	grabar — to engrave; to etch; to carve; to record (on a disk) / and more, for a total of 20 lines. 15 sub-entries, such as: máquina de — en hueco, máquina de acuñar matri- ces, die-sinking machine.
grabación — no entry	grabación — recording. — con buril : routing. — en cinta magnetofó- nica : magnetic tape recording. — estereofónica sobre cinta : stereophonic tape recording. — sonora sobre disco : sound-on-disc re- cording.	grabación — recording sound record; etching recorded volume. grabaciones — recording service; o transcripción, transcribing; transcript. — casera : home recording; equipo de — para cinemato- grafía : motion picture recording system, recorded music. sistema de — de sonido (cinematográfico) : sound (recording) system. / and more for a total of 16 lines, ending in : — sobre zinc : zincography.
grabado — no entry	grabado — etching; engraving; graving; block; plate; engraved / and 17 entries more.	grabado — some 40 lines with almost as many sub-entries.
grabador, m. grabadora, f. graver; cutting tool	grabador — inscriber; engraver; etcher; / and 11 more entries, such as : — de troqueles, die- sinker. grabadora — routing machine.	grabador — 10 lines, 14 sub- entries, such as : — troquelero; die-sinker; die-maker; punch-sinker. grabadora — no entry.

Retrospect and Prospect

Spanish is not badly off lexicographically. If Sell's Comprehensive Technical Spanish-English were modernized, if the two English-Spanish were homogenized, and all of them letterpress printed; and if the Medical (XIV) and Textile (XIII) were face-lifted too, the translator or other consultant would be almost ideally provided. Except for one desideratum that would still demand attention : a Spanish Unabridged.

In 1951 at the First Congress of the Spanish-language Academies, in Mexico, I heard Germán Arciniegas stress the need for a Spanish "Webster." As I remember, there was discussion too of a dictionary of Americanisms; and in 1960, at the Third Congress, in Bogotá, it was a relief to see a motion calling for creation of a dictionary of Americanisms meet with deserved defeat.

But for a display of bile at the word *judío*, Francisco J. Santamaría has done a creditable job in his three volumes of *Americanismos* published in Mexico. Earlier Malaret, from Puerto Rico, had produced a one-volume work. Actually Cuba, Guatemala, Perú, Argentina, and points between each supply capable or middling compilations of their particular localisms. Now at the Ben Zvi Institute in Jerusalem and at the Institute of Hebrew Studies of the University of Madrid a Ladino dictionary is in the making. Catalog further the usage of California, New Mexico, Tampa, latterday New York and Miami, along with the Spanish residuum in the Philippines, and you get a fair enough panorama of universal Spanish usage.

While a round-up of this material will build you a five-foot self or a whole library, the practical purposes of a single-volume Unabridged will still be left unattended.

Webster edition III takes English where and as the editors found it and sets it out within one binding for all to see. That is what is needed in a Spanish "Webster" too. The Real Academia Española is presently working on a many-volumed "Oxford" dictionary on historical lines, but the Academy's selective standards preclude a "Webster-Unabridged" under its direct auspices. Commercial publishers, on the other hand, appear uninterested.

Yet the need, the skills, the materials, for a Spanish Unabridged are indubitably there. Now also, by the auspicious dispensation of time and the Alliance for Progress, so are the funds. Of the twenty billion dollars which the Alliance envisages laying out to stimulate economic, social and educational advancement in Latin America some percentage will certainly fail of its purpose by the actions of men or by Act of God. The question is seriously posed, then, whether the earmarking of five million for an Unabridged might not prove to be among the more far-sighted, far-reaching and durable of the varied initiatives the Alliance is designed to foster.

Hardly anything, not even a man's daily bread, so concerns each and all as the language wherewith he lives and dreams. If we assume 2,500 languages around the world we assume that many foci of intense emotional dedication to each of them. This is typified in the verses of José Rizal, martyr hero of the Philippines (1861-1896), composed in Tagalog, now official language of that country, which rendered into Spanish read :

La lengua tagala es también como la latina,
la inglesa, la castellana : lengua de ángeles.

To the native user his language is ever the voice of angels borne on the wings of song and the means of his communication with man, God and the Universe. Thus, the 22 Academies, the distinguished presses in centers like Buenos Aires, Santiago, Mexico, New York, Madrid, the work of the Caro y Cuervo Institute in Bogotá, bear dynamic witness to the ferment of emotional attachment aroused by the language of Spain.

When the Alliance starts with Spanish it will have to do likewise by Portuguese. Soon it will be the accepted thing for every major financing project to include a language rider. Then Hindi and Urdu will also come in for preferential consideration. At the immediate moment a project involving \$200,000,000 for the United Arab Republic is under discussion. This is an immediate opportunity to endow the Arabic world with its Unabridged. The impact of such an endowment among the growing numbers of the literate and educated, and through them down to the masses, in all the varied areas where the language is endemic is beyond calculation.

Springfield, Mass., home of the Webster, could in my scheme of things become the hub of this new endeavor in the approximation of the peoples. The first step has logically to be the Spanish Unabridged. And logically the Alliance for Progress has to finance it.²



(2) Prices given are in U.S. Dollars. They are not necessarily exact and serve only as guide.
April 1962, Revised August 1962.