

RARE BOOK EXERCISE

1. Description and Purpose

The [first] assignment of this course is an exercise with colonial books and manuscripts in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, the location for Tutorial #4 (Cataloguing “Race” and Rare Books). David Fernández—a rare book librarian at the Thomas Fisher—will guide you through a series of indigenous forms of recording keeping, manuscripts, and printed books in the Seminar Room, which means you need to listen attentively and take appropriate notes (**attendance will be taken**). After his presentation you will have the opportunity to carefully handle, inspect, and leaf through some of these valuable treasures. Your task is to concentrate on **one of the three** colonial books he will have on display: an indigenous language tool for Nahuatl by Horacio Carochi, a sacred biography (also known as a *vida* or work of hagiography) on Pedro Claver by José Fernández, and a history of the conquest of Peru by Pedro Cieza de León. Using the assignment template available on Blackboard in the “Important Handouts” folder, you need to record the call number, main author, title of the book, place of publication, the publisher, date of publication, and the total number of pages. After this, you should cite the book as it would appear in both a bibliography and a footnote according to the Chicago Manual of Style. Beyond this basic bibliographic information, you also need to provide a physical description that details the condition of the book and the material in which it was bound. Then, based upon your basic knowledge of the book, provide four key words that would help researchers locate this work in a library catalogue search. Your final task is to provide a detailed description of the engraving or woodcut that accompanies the book together with a brief analysis of how “racial” difference is represented in the image. The purpose of this assignment is to think about how books were produced during the colonial period and their contribution to how peoples were classified in Spanish America. You do not need knowledge of Spanish or art history to complete this assignment. The reading listed below will prepare you for the tutorial in the Thomas Fisher with an introduction to the production of books in Latin America.

2. Important Details

Due Date, Time, and Medium: To be determined

Sources:

- The three rare books for this assignment will all be made available for consultation in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

Readings:

- Calvo, Hortensia. “Latin America.” In *A Companion to the History of the Book*, eds. Simon Eliot and Jonathan Rose (Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2007): 138–152; concentrate on pp. 138–145. [**e-Book**]