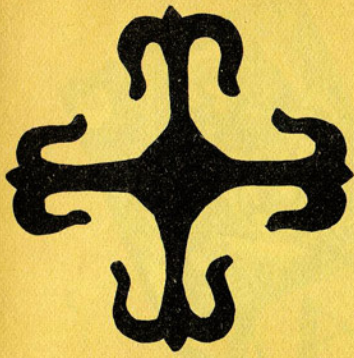


FIRE MARKS  
&  
EX - LIBRIS

BY JOSÉ JUAN TABLADA



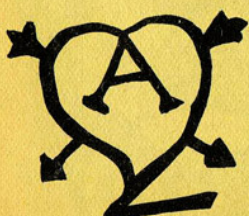
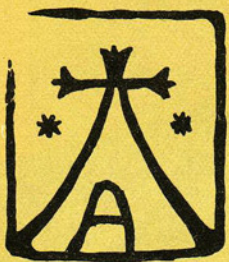
# FIRE MARKS & EX - LIBRIS

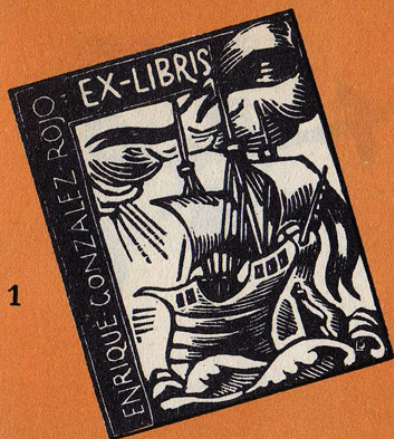
BY JOSÉ JUAN TABLADA

THE designs or labels known as “ex-libris” began to be used for the first time in Mexico during the eighteenth century, as a complement of the printed book, in the form of marks or symbols, which identified it as belonging to a public library or a private person. The principal symbols used were the coats of arms or escutcheons of the bibliophiles, who owned the books; almost all of them were copper engravings, very few typographic compositions. All the ex-libris, which we know to pertain to this period, have been published; they belong to the nobles, who had become rich in this country, to church dignitaries and to officials of the vice-regal civil administration

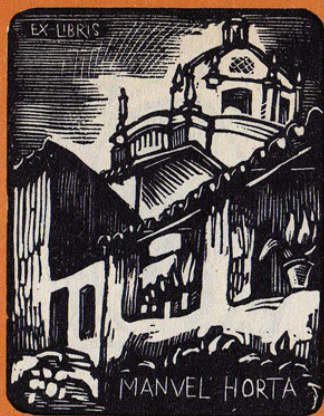
Among the engravers of ex-libris the names of Agüera, Gordillo, Nava and Vallevicencio, engaged in the production of religious prints, highly commercialized at the time, stand out.

During the period of Independent Mexico, the ex-libris become plainer, being designed by typographers and exceptionally by engravers; they show distinctive

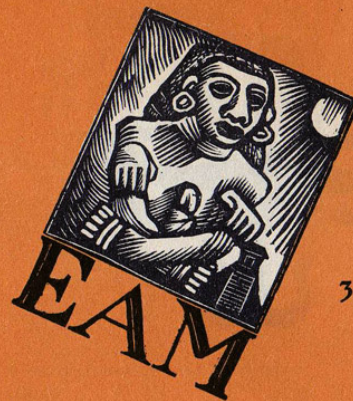




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Mexican features, which disappear at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th, when European influences come in sway.

At the present time, outstanding artists such as Francisco Díaz de León, Gabriel Fernández Ledesma and Mateo Saldaña have specialized in designing ex-libris; before them, Julio Ruelas, who made some for his friend and Mecenaz, Don Jesús E. Luján, had already rendered a few fine book marks.

In the bibliography of our ex-libris we should mention those belonging to Dr. Nicolas León, Juan B. Iguíniz, Genaro Estrada, Francisco Monterde, F. Gamoneda, J. Ramírez Cabañas, Prof. Frederick Starr, a distinguished North American Mexicanist and finally, Felipe Teixidor and the painter Rafael Sala, authors respectively of the books "Ex-Libris y Bibliotecas de México" (Ex-Libris and libraries of Mexico) and "Marcas de Fuego de las Antiguas Bibliotecas de Mexicanas" (Fire marks of the old Mexican Libraries) both of them capital works on the subject.

A marked Mexican feature in the way of ex-libris are the fire marks that came into use in our convent libraries during the 17th century and which are a more indelible and lasting mark of ownership than the simple labels or ex-libris, so easily erased or removed.

The fire mark dies were made of iron and bronze and were heated to red for stamping them on the top and bottom edges of the book, and even at the risk of damaging it, upon the hide or parchment covers.

★ EX - LIBRIS ★



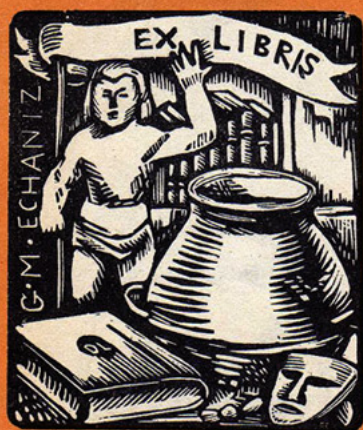
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★ F. DIAZ DE LEON ★



SUSAN SMITH

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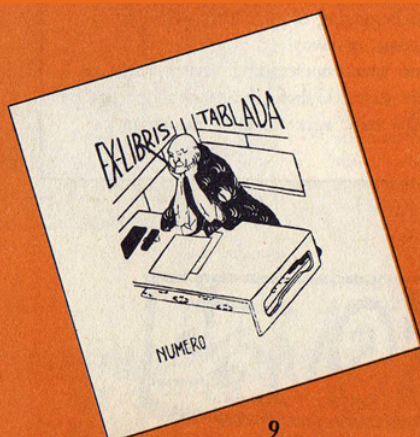
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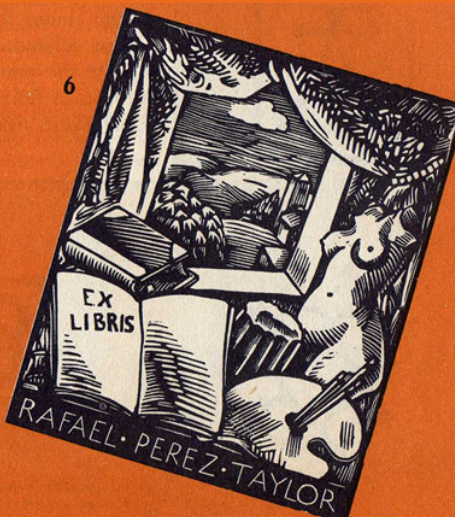
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México, 2008