



# Spain

JAVIER LASSO de la VEGA

THE LIBRARIES OF SPAIN fall generally into two groups: national and provincial libraries, and municipal libraries. Employees of the first group belong to the CFABA (Cuerpo Facultativo de Archiveros, Bibliotecarios y Arqueologos, or Society of Archivists, Librarians, and Archeologists). Employees of the municipal libraries may belong to CFABA under special circumstances. However, they are not a part of the career service, and the qualifications for membership are different.

To enter CFABA in the national or provincial library service, it is necessary to qualify competitively. The title of Licentiate or Doctor of Philosophy and Letters, as issued in a Spanish university, is prerequisite to entering such competition. Municipal library employment requires the qualification of membership in CFABA (but without appointment to the national-provincial service), or the qualifications prerequisite to competition for CFABA, or possession of a certificate of Librarian issued by the Library Schools of Barcelona or Madrid.

National libraries, including buildings, personnel, supplies, and books, are financed largely from the national budget. The creation of the career service for these libraries represented by CFABA was accomplished by a decree of May 8, 1859. Admission was made to depend upon (a) the individual's record of literary or bibliographical writings and publications, (b) superior academic degree issued by a School of Philosophy and Letters of a Spanish university or by the School of Diplomatics, (c) knowledge of ancient and modern languages, (d) special accomplishments in classification or organization in a library or archives, and (e) demonstration of capacity in librarianship.

CFABA was modified by another decree of November 18, 1887, which required entrance only through a qualifying competitive exam-

The author is the librarian of the University of Madrid. The manuscript has been translated from the Spanish by Anna C. Hall.

ination. At the same time museum curators were brought into the CFABA. To enter the examination for the academic title of archivist, librarian, or archeologist, a licentiate from a Spanish university had to be held. Alternatively, entrance could be gained by winning a prize offered annually by the National Library for bibliographic work. The same 1887 decree created a Council of Archivists, Librarians, and Archeologists. Entrusted to it was the practical and theoretical instruction of personnel destined to the service of archives, libraries, and museums.

A single career scale was created for CFABA in 1889, regardless of the nature of the establishment or functions performed by the individual, in which promotion was attained by strict rule of seniority. Later, by a law of 1894, entrance to the competitive examination was limited to university degree holders in the appropriate fields of study. In the same year, for the Advanced School of Diplomats the standards of the courses for archivist, librarian, and museum curator were decreed. In 1897 the subject matter for the library examination was established by decree, and it included comparative historical grammar of the Romance languages; general and critical paleography; ancient and medieval geography, especially of Spain; history of literature in relation to bibliography; archival practice; and library organization and practice.

The Advanced School of Diplomats later was integrated into the School of Philosophy and Letters and gave rise to another decree in 1902 regulating the prerequisites to examination for entrance to CFABA and the requirements of the competition itself. According to the special interests of the individual, academic studies were required in paleography, bibliography, Latin, archeology, mummification, and epigraphy. For librarians the examination consisted of answering (in an hour and a half) four questions relating to libraries, one purely theoretical and another on administrative organization. Practical exercises included (a) the cataloging of a manuscript, an incunabulum, and a modern book, and (b) reading and translating texts in an ancient and modern language selected by the examinee upon applying for admission to the competition.

Later in 1932, further changes in the prerequisites to the examination were made, the most important of which was obligatory professional education in librarianship. Also, from this date, the Ministry of National Education, which administered the system, began to differentiate between the preparation required for librarians, archiv-

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ists, and archeologists, on the grounds that a single person could not reach a satisfactory level of competence in all fields.

The conditions described hereafter prevailed in the most recent competitions, as ordered on March 29, 1960. The first part of the examination is common to all three specialities and consists of three sections:

1. Translation of either French or Italian prose without dictionary. The language may be chosen by the examinee. The text, identical for all examinees, is selected at random at the time of starting the examination, with 400 words to be translated in a maximum of two hours.

2. Translation of either English or German prose with dictionary under the same conditions set for French or Italian with the exception of a permissible period of three hours.

3. A written exercise on two subjects selected at random from a published list of twenty topics on legislation and organization of the Spanish public administration in general, of the Ministry of National Education in particular (with special reference to the Ministry's Department of Archives and Libraries and Fine Arts), of the legislation and organization of CFABA and of CAABA (Cuerpo Auxiliar de Archiveros, Bibliotecarios, y Arqueologos, or Sub-Professional Society of Archivists, Librarians, and Archeologists) of the occupational skills of concern to CFABA, and finally of the administrative system of the governmental agencies concerned.

The first part of the examination lasts four hours. A passing mark on part one is required before undertaking the second part. The second part of the examination varies according to the field of interest, and for librarianship comprises the following:

1. Development, during a period of four hours, of two themes identical for all participants, selected at the beginning of the examination from a list of thirty topics relating to the history of writing, of books, and of the principal libraries of the world (with emphasis on Spanish libraries), and to bibliography, library economy, and documentation.

2. Transcription and translation and paleographic and stylistic comment on a short manuscript in Latin written prior to the fifteenth century and of another of the fifteenth or sixteenth century. A Latin dictionary may be used, and a period of five hours is allowed.

3. Cataloging of a medieval manuscript and of an incunabulum in Latin to be done in a period of four hours.

4. Cataloging and classifying, using the Universal Decimal Classification, of five modern books in languages other than Spanish. The examinees may utilize various cataloging instructions, tables of the Universal Decimal Classification, and rules for assigning headings in the dictionary catalog. The time for this part of the examination is four hours.

5. Cataloging of four titles (one of music, an engraving, a map, and a recording) utilizing current instructions and providing a provisional registration of the intellectual property and another of the legal depository. Four hours are allowed, and the legal texts may be consulted.

The successful candidates are assigned by the Department of Archives and Libraries to certain libraries for the purpose of practical experience and training and to become accustomed to their duties.

From the analysis of the examination program, one may deduce the high level of knowledge and erudite preparation of the members of CFABA. The large number of aspirants to the Society has led candidates to obtain special tutoring from professors and specialists. Without such expert assistance and the use of libraries specializing in this material, it is not easy to pass the examination.

In recent years the Department of Archives, Libraries, and Museums has organized courses for the preparation of professional librarians and advanced courses for those already in the profession. They serve to prepare persons for national, provincial, municipal, and ecclesiastical libraries (as well as those of private associations and corporations) as documentalists, researchers, and specialists in certain phases of library science. The study of bibliography, to which scholarly disciplines attach as much importance as to practical knowledge of documentation and archeological investigation, proves very useful to the student in general. There are two fields of study: the first, of a general nature, gives a basic professional preparation, and the second, more advanced, is for those students who wish to acquire specialized knowledge and skills.

Independent of the study courses, the Department organizes conferences and colloquia which students are required to attend. Professors and specialized personnel conduct field trips to various institutions both in and outside of Madrid. Students also are required to complete assignments of a practical nature assigned by each professor. Examinations are given at the end of the first and second quarters. Grading, on a ten point system, is based on test results, the student's work during the course, his application and attendance, and

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his performance in the seminars. A student who does not pass a course may take a special examination in the last half of September.

For the title of librarian, acquired upon successfully completing the first course, the subjects of study are documentation, simplified cataloging, library organization and administration, bibliography and reference services, and Universal Decimal Classification and simplified dictionary catalogs. Subjects for the second (advanced) course are graphic and calligraphic interpretation, Spanish paleography, special cataloging, Universal Decimal Classification and Simplified Dictionary Catalogs, history of the book and of libraries, and special bibliography. For years students from Latin America and personnel from other universities and special schools have taken these courses, especially those in documentation. Admission is limited to those with a bachelor's (or higher) degree or equivalent.

The Library School of Barcelona, an institution of the provincial legislature directed by the librarian of the legislature, has operated for many years. Librarians trained in this school serve the extensive and important network of popular public libraries in Catalonia. A distinguished group of excellent professors maintains a modern curriculum, with application of all the practices of a working library, encouraging a maximum of cultural service to the public which it attracts and influences. The subjects studied are those appropriate to the profession. The scope and quality of training of these librarians is illustrated by the work done in preparation for their degrees. The following examples are of the year 1961: (1) written development of the theme "The Present State of the Decimal Classification System"; (2) complete cataloging of an incunabulum and of a French, German, and English work; and (3) translation of texts French, German, and English.