
CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF DOCUMENTATION IN BRAZIL: THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Abstract

This article investigate the creation, in 1911, of the Serviço de Bibliographia e Documentação in the National Library from Brazil and what would have been the influence of the International Institute of Bibliography (IIB), founded in 1895 by Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine. Seeks to demonstrate that the creation of the Bibliography and Documentation Service can be considered part of the international cooperation project by Otlet and La Fontaine. It intends to contextualize the period of transformations by which the Brazilian National Library went through, especially during the construction of a new building and its further occupancy as well as the administrative changes implemented by its director at the time, Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva. The methodology consisted of bibliographic and documentation based re-

search in the archives of the Brazilian National Library and the Mundaneum Archives Centre in Belgium as well as the Brazilian Historic and Geographic Institute and the Foreign Ministry. The article argues that the establishment of the Serviço de Bibliographia e Documentação and Boletim Bibliographico da Bibliotheca Nacional were results of the contact maintained between the two institutions. It concludes that the International Institute of Bibliography and the Brazilian National Library sustained a close relationship for some years which apparently contributed to introduce the Documentation as a discipline in Brazil.

Keywords: Bibliography and Documentation Service; International Institute of Bibliography; Mundaneum; National Library (Brazil); Universal Bibliographic Repertory.

1 Introduction

The Brazilian National Library (1) faced one of the greatest, if not the largest, structural and administrative reform of its own history in the early twentieth century, amongst the great urban transformation undergone (2) by the federal capital at that time, the city of Rio de Janeiro, and under the aegis of the Library's director, Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva who was in charge of the Library for over twenty years. In that scenario, the Brazilian National Library inaugurated a new building which was planned and constructed according to its own needs and aspirations, and carried on a review on the treatment techniques, access, dissemination and preservation on the collections. Visits to Europe and the United States made by Peregrino da Silva in order to find out what were the most modern techniques available in libraries played an important role on the modernization project.

Peregrino da Silva visited several American and European institutions such as the Library of Congress, the Vatican Library and the International Institute of Bibliography (IIB) which is the main focus of the article. Founded by Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine, the Institute envisioned to integrate the world by creating a great source of universal information called the Universal Bibliographic Repertory (UBR). In addition, it developed a system that would provide a systematic arrangement of techniques used to represent all types of documents, varying from the classification scheme to a very detailed content indexing, called the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) (Rayward, 1975).

Rayward (1975) notes that the Universal Bibliographic Repertory would be a great catalogue that envisioned representing all human knowledge throughout 3"x5" index cards which would, in accordance to Otlet (1908), constitute a large repository of knowledge pro-

duced by the human spirit. Thus, it urged all countries and institutions to organize their references whether general or specialized in order to constitute the Universal Bibliographic Repertory. Otlet and La Fontaine (1895) also expressed their desire to see the UBR being reproduced in each country, through the purchase of their index cards. It was a two-way strategy as they intended to disclose the information available in the repertory as well as to produce ways to fund the activities of the International Institute of Bibliography.

In that context, the contact between the Brazilian National Library and the International Institute of Bibliography was established. Apart from seeking what was the most modern in library management in order to implement it to its own modernization project, the Brazilian Library was also interested in taking part in the visions of two Belgian lawyers. Therefore, as a result, in accordance to Rayward (1975), there was the largest order for the Universal Bibliographic Repertory index cards in the history of the Institute: 600.000 index cards commissioned by Peregrino da Silva in 1911.

The article aims to describe how was the contact between the Brazilian National Library and the International Institute of Bibliography and what are its consequences, specifically regarding the creation of the Bibliographic and Documentation Service at the National Library, considered here as a direct result of the interaction between the two institutions, as well as the edition of the Bulletin of Bibliography at the National Library in 1918.

In order to establish that, we carried on researches on the Brazilian National Library, the Historical Archives of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations and Mundaneum Archive Centre (3). We are presenting transcriptions of part of the material found which reveals the relationship between the two institutions.

Although not our goal, it is noteworthy that the Otlet's thought results in the emergence of Documentation, discipline that aims:

[...] make available the amount of information and articles published every day in newspapers, magazines, to conserve brochures, reports, official documents, to recover the materials scattered in the books, to make a homogeneous whole of these incoherent masses (Otlet, 1934, p. 6).

The Otlet intent to coining the documentalists techniques and spread them around the world was the creation of a large book of human knowledge, that has as its greatest exponent the UBR. In fact, it was the repository responsible for enlist all works of all time, in all kinds of materials and formats (Otlet, 1908). But not only that, the materiality of the book was no longer the focus of attention, but its contents as soon as the information developed in the chapters were as important as the work in whole and should leave the invisibility of library catalogs and be targeted, too, the treatment proposed by the documentation.

2 The Brazilian National Library in the early twentieth century

The Brazilian National Library entered the 1900s with changes. The first - considered the most important for us - was the appointment of Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva as its director, in July 1900.

In his first report to the Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs (the body that was responsible to oversee the Brazilian National Library), Peregrino da Silva already complaint about the terrible conditions in which the Library was subjected to, at that time located at Rua do Passeio, in central Rio de Janeiro. Peregrino pointed out that there was not more space to accommodate the institution's collection, neither for users to access the materials appropriately (Silva, 1901). In the following years, Peregrino da Silva brings back the same matter, always emphasizing the need for the Library to owe a building that reflects the importance of its collections and meet its own needs.

Following the repeated complaints, the Brazilian National Library was authorized to construct its new building in 1904. In the following year, the foundation stone of the new premises is laid on a land situated at the newly opened Avenida Central – the starting point of the urban transformations that occurred in Rio de Janeiro during that time (Silva, 1905).

During the construction of the new building in accordance to the Library's needs and his own specifications, Peregrino da Silva started to plan the occupancy of the new property. In order to provide conditions to implement its modernization project, the director issued a new regulation for the Brazilian National Library. Published in the *Diário Oficial da União* on the 16th July 1911 (Brazil, 1911), the document which is considered by Fonseca (1973a) as one of the most modern regulations at that time, aimed to enforce the Library to fulfill its mission as a repository of the national memory.

Under the same idea, Peregrino da Silva had already approved the Legal Repository Law via the Decree no. 1.825, on the December 20th. 1907 (Brazil, 1907), in which at its first article stated that "the administrators of workshops on typography, lithography, photography or engraving, located in the Federal District and States, are required to submit to the National Library in Rio de Janeiro a sample of each work produced". The highlight of the decree laid on the fact that, for the first time, the Legal Repository Law reached the whole country, as before, the enforcement was restricted only to the editors of the then Federal District, Rio de Janeiro (Fonseca, 1973b).

Peregrino da Silva (Silva, 1913, p. 7) pointed out that among the changes implemented by him:

It worth highlighting the following ones: changing the way of building sections, having the geographic letters section

annexed to the print section which was disjoint from the Numismatic office; sorting the periodicals as a rehearsal for newspaper archive; extending the opening hours until 10pm; services on Sundays; changing the process of office appointments; Librarianship; advisory board; home loan with a deposit; researches and studies in other libraries, archives and museums; bibliography and documentation service; bibliographic contests; information services; consultation by correspondence; heritage; conferences.

It is worth highlighting from the text above: the new organization of the sections of the Library, following typological aspects of the collections; the establishment of the Librarianship course in order to develop professionals to handle the collection of the National Library and its specificities; researches and studies in other libraries, archives and museums aiming primarily to gather information and copy documents on Brazil available abroad, including to identify techniques of processing, storage and access to collections in various institutions; and finally, the creation of the Bibliographic and Documentation Service which will be debated in the next part of the article. Peregrino da Silva also centralized the international exchange services of Brazilian institutions in the National Library, making it as a type of national contact center with overseas.

Peregrino da Silva also conducted, in 1907, a tour to the United States and Europe, where, according to Bittencourt (1955), they visited different institutions in order to learn techniques and observe modern ideas that could help in the reformulation that the National Library was going through. Among the institutions visited, it is relevant to mention the following libraries: the American Congress, the New York, Leipzig, the Vatican and Paris; the Navy and Overseas Archive at Library of Lisbon, the library and the archives at The Hague, the Amsterdam Museum and the International Institute of Bibliography in Brussels.

According to Bittencourt (1955, p. 59) Peregrino da Silva's purposes of the trips abroad were:

[...] to find out what to take into consideration in order to be ahead of what was built.

It was not just only the architectural lines of a frontage that was important to consider.

A library is a facility with internal requirements to hold a set of services.

Therefore, Peregrino da Silva wrote in his report of 1907:

I specially focused on visiting public libraries to study their organizations, go through manuscript catalogues of these libraries and a few archives centers in order to extract the relationship of those which refer to Brazil, to examine the shelves and devices being used at the libraries, to visit the manufactures which provided that materials and request suggestions, and to order some manuscripts, printed material, pictures, geographic cards and medals, and everything

that would be in accordance with the Instructions available in the mentioned Notice (Silva, 1908, p. 342-343).

The new Brazilian National Library headquarters were opened on the 29th October 1910, exactly 100 years after its establishment in Brazilian lands by the Portuguese government. It contained all changes envisioned by Peregrino da Silva and was featured in the press as a milestone in the modernization process by which the country was going through (Biblioteca Nacional, 2010).

3 An unveiled relationship: the interaction between the Brazilian National Library and the International Institute of Bibliography

Within the project of Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine to create a worldwide repository of human knowledge, the regulation adopted by National Library from 1911 established the creation of the Bibliographic and Documentation Service, having the International Institute of Bibliography as a guide.

Our research did not indicate in what period of time Peregrino da Silva had the initial contact with the ideologies of the IIB, however, it is likely that the contact occurred while the director was in charge of the Library of the Faculty of Law of Recife (1889-1900), as he proposed the establishment of the Brazilian Bibliographic Institute in the "Draft Regulation for the National Library of Rio de Janeiro" in 1902. Such a body, attached to the National Library, would have similar purposes to the ones that constituted the Bibliographic and Documentation Service. Whilst mentioning the establishment of the Service, Peregrino da Silva stated in a letter to Louis Masure, secretary of IIB at the time, that "[...] we did not create an independent service because the government did not legally authorize it during the reorganization of the Library. Moreover, I think it will be best to start modestly" (Silva, Nov. 28th 1911).

In 1909, during the planning of the Library's relocation to the new premises, Peregrino da Silva wrote to the Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs, reporting the events occurred at the International Conference on Bibliography and Documentation, held in Brussels, in July 1908. He mentioned that Documentation would solve the problems in organizing collections and it aimed to build a large repertory of human knowledge via the Universal Bibliographic Repertory. He also noted that Brazil should take part in the project as an opportunity to disseminate information in the country (Silva, Apr. 19th 1909).

Interestingly, during the time that the Library was planning its relocation to the new premises and its collection treatment techniques were being reviewed, the term Documentation appeared in the director's speeches, perhaps serving as a guide to the further actions that

would be implemented later on. In this sense, it is likely that the desire for modernization and for internationalization of the institution have driven Peregrino da Silva to take part in the global networking project proposed by Otlet and La Fontaine. Thus, the International Institute of Bibliography itself had already invited Brazilian participation when contacting the ambassador of Brazil in Brussels, Oliveira de Lima, in 1910 (Masure, Aug. 23rd, 1910). Louis Masure defended that the participation of Brazil in the project was of great importance to the development of the bibliographic and documentation ideal in South America.

In the same year, the director of the time of the National Library wrote to the Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs in order to promote the Brazilian participation in the ideals of Otlet and La Fontaine. He noted that the involvement would be very important for the Brazilian desire of taking part in a project of international dimensions as the UBR. Peregrino da Silva said "The acquisition of a collection of printed index cards by the Universal Bibliographic Repertory is indispensable to us." He also declared that he intended to order 700.000 index cards (Silva, 1910).

It seems clear that Peregrino da Silva had already projected the actions to be performed between the Brazilian National Library and the International Institute of Bibliography, such as the purchase of the index cards from the RBU. It also seems that the Bibliographic and Documentation Service, as part of a project of access to information and international cooperation, received special attention from Peregrino da Silva. Even before its implementation via the Regulation of 1911, the Service already owned furniture suitable to receive the UBR index cards as well as room for accessing them. Therefore, the director's commitment in making the Library to honor the "palace" (Silva, 1911) received by the government, involved making it a national center for information, following the model envisioned by Otlet (1934).

The negotiations between the National Library and the IIB started in March 1911 to allow the Library to order the Universal Bibliographic Repertory index cards. Peregrino da Silva wrote to the Secretary of the Institute, Louis Masure:

During my stay in Brussels, I had the pleasure to visit you in order to obtain information about the Universal Bibliographic Repertory index cards which I intend to purchase to this Library.

Now I need a collection of these cards, being as complete as possible and arranged alphabetically, please could you tell me the price so we can order them and the time required to receive them (SILVA, Mar. 21st, 1911).

Masure answered the letter on the May 9th, 1911:

In order to answer to the specific question that you have asked me, I have the honor to inform you that I can provide you a copy of the Bibliographic Repertory index cards in

the value of 25 francs per 1,000 cards arranged by author's name, sources, etc.

Please allow me to make an observation: I think it would also be very beneficial to your own library to hold an alphabetical repertory and a methodical repertory, so the Library of Rio de Janeiro will be able to offer to visitors a wider variety of information.

On the question about the processing time to complete the work, it is subjected to the submission, by the Brazilian government, of half of the amount required in order to speed up the process (Masure, May 9th, 1911).

It is possible to note that the desire to obtain the UBR index cards for the Library had already a price: 25 Francs per 1,000 cards. Therefore, the government's authorization was necessary to have the index cards purchased. Thus, Peregrino da Silva wrote to the minister Rivadavia Correia on the June 10th, 1911, asking:

I hereby request that you grant me authorization to order to the International Institute of Bibliography in Brussels a collection of Universal Bibliographic Repertory index cards that have been organized by the same Institute.

It is not necessary to enhance the importance of the repertory or the need to have a copy of the index cards collection in Brazil and in this institution. Moreover it would be necessary two collections, one arranged in systematic order and another in alphabetical order. However it could be ordered for the time being the systematic collection or a large part of it and complete and gradually complement it with the alphabetical collection afterwards.

Among the American furniture, which acquisition was authorized by this Ministry and made before the opening of the Library's new premises, are two cabinets, each one with 120 drawers, designed for the repertory's index cards for which it was reserved one of the rooms on the 2nd floor.

As I contacted the institute's secretary via mail in order to find out in what conditions the repertory's cards could be provided, I have just been informed by him that the price will be 25 francs per 1,000 cards, being necessary that the Brazilian government pay in advance half of the amount relating to the order.

I believe that it can be ordered 600,000 cards of the systematic repertory, summing up to 15,000 francs in total and 7,500 francs that in case the authorization is granted, will be paid in upfront to the secretary of the International Institute of Bibliography in Brussels, via the mediation of the Brazilian Treasury Delegation in London and on behalf of the sub-consignment "Permutations and documentation. Investigations, etc." of the rubric no. [84] from Budget of this Ministry.

In "documentation" in the sense that is accredited by that Institute, it is included the bibliographic repertory, as I had the opportunity to explain in the correspondence no. 73 from the 19th April 1909 (Silva, Jun. 10th, 1911).

In this letter, we are able to realize how important Peregrino da Silva considered the purchase of the index cards: his speech leaves no doubt that the purchase was of great importance to the development of the library as an institution and as a disseminator of information.

Such amount of cards, as Rayward (1975) quotes, was the largest order received by the IIB throughout its his-

tory. In this sense, it seems that Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva's plans were to show to the world what the great institution Brazil had, besides offering its users access to the largest global source of information at the time.

On July 4th, 1911, Peregrino da Silva wrote again to the Secretary of the Institute:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of 9th May, I am pleased to announce that I have been authorized by the Minister of Interior Affairs to order 600,000 cards of your methodical repertory, in the amount of 15,000 francs, of which half (7,500 francs) will be paid to you via the Brazilian Treasury in London. The Payment Order will be issued and I will inform you.

Not knowing the exact number that you will be able to provide me, I set the maximum of 600,000 this year. I need a complete collection of methodical repertory cards, and another from the Alphabetical Repertory that will be commissioned later.

It is essential that at least half of the amount ordered is sent on time (Silva, Jul. 4th 1911).

Days after sending this letter, the New Regulation of the National Library was finally published, establishing:

Art. 137. The bibliographic and documentation service, in relation to the International Institute of Bibliography in Brussels will comprehend:

1-organization, according to the decimal classification system and via index cards, of the Brazilian bibliographic repertory as contribution to the universal bibliographic repertory, in order to include national authors' works or foreigners', printed or edited in country, the national authors' works printed abroad or unpublished and foreign authors' which especially relate to Brazil, including articles in periodics and writings of any kind;

2-printing the index cards in order to have them sold or exchanged for foreign repertories cards;

3-purchase of a copy of each of the cards which constitute foreigner repertories, already organized or being organized;

4- Library's cooperation in the organization of the universal encyclopedic repertory;

5-organization of the collective catalogue of the Brazilian libraries;

6-public use of the repertories and the collective catalogue (Brasil, 1911).

Having the proposals of the International Institute of Bibliography as main goals, the Bibliography and Documentation Service was created to finally legitimize the fruitful contact that was established between the two institutions. Greatly, it confirmed the Brazilian participation in the internationalist visions of Otlet and La Fontaine, and collaborated with the construction of an information network in Brazil, primarily via the collective catalogues and the RBU index cards.

After ordering the cards, Peregrino da Silva sent another letter to the IIB on August 12th. 1911, informing that the payment order for the first half of the amount had already been issued by the Brazilian Treasury. In the

letter of September 19th 1911, Louis Masure confirmed receiving the amount sent to the Institute. He also informed that the index cards sorted by the methodical repertoire (UDC) would be posted and he emphasized again that "they should be available to the public in Brazil".

Masure's insistence that the cards were made available to the public possibly related to the ideal of access to and dissemination of information envisioned by Otlet and La Fontaine (1895). Therefore he was in line with the purpose of RBU which projected the repertory as a research tool to be made available in all intellectual centers as well as to be fully available to the public (Otlet; La Fontaine, 1895).

In the following letter, Peregrino da Silva commented on the creation of the Bibliographic and Documentation Service and enquired on Masure's work progress:

I believe that you will not have enough time to send to me this year the further 300,000 index cards that would complete the first order. However it is not a problem as I will try to renew it for next year since the payment is authorized and I can do it when necessary. Send me the cards (300,000) as soon as they are available, this year or next one.

You received a copy of our regulation which is in effect since 11th July, including the implementation of the Bibliographic Service. We did not create a separate service as the government had not legally authorized it in the reorganization of the Library. Moreover, I think it will be best to start modestly (Silva, Nov, 28th 1911).

It is important to highlight that Peregrino da Silva made clear in the letter the Library's intention to further purchase more Repertory's cards as the National Library had the resources for that. It demonstrates the director's plans to make of the Brazilian institution an information centre in the same level of importance as the Mundaneum, something that IIB would later become, keeping it in perspective and having the Brazilian situation in mind.

Peregrino da Silva also declared that part of the Library's regulation relating to the Bibliographic and Documentation Service would meet what he observed when visiting the IIB.

In the letter of December 29th, 1911, Masure informed that he had invited the Brazilian ambassador in Brussels at the time, Oliveira Lima, to receive the first shipment of UBR index cards to Brazil, which totaled at that point, 192 boxes of 230,000 cards. The secretary also explained that the boxes would be sent by the international exchange service and that it had received the Library Regulation cited in the previous letter, stating that this would be one of the subjects of the next issue of the Bulletin de l'Institut International de Bibliographie.

The receipt of the index cards by the Brazilian ambassador became a diplomatic event. Rayward (1975) tells us that several ambassadors, mainly from South American countries, notably Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile, were invited to attend it.

The invitation (Masure, Nov. 29th, 1911) sent to the ambassadors reaffirms IIB's desire to build a worldwide information network, given the propagandist way in which it was written. It seems to us that the recipients were chosen with special attention because it was interesting to the Institute to make a connection with the border countries of Brazil. The Institute insisted in his internationalist character and sought for supporters.

After a few months of silence, on the June 11th, 1912 Peregrino da Silva wrote again to the Secretary of the Institute:

The index cards sent from you and mentioned in your letter of December 29th, 1911 arrived in good condition.

I would like to know if the further methodical repertoire cards have been prepared and if I can expect them to be delivered soon.

Having made the request for 600,000 cards I would love to receive those ones necessary to complete the collection by December (Silva, Jun. 11th, 1912).

Peregrino da Silva received an answer from the secretary Masure on July 10th, 1912 informing that they were concluding the second shipment and would send it soon.

The National Library's last letter to the Institute which we had access to referred to the negotiations of RBU index cards and was sent by Peregrino da Silva on the July 29th, 1912:

Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 10th July, I inform you that the boxes containing the cards that you sent to me via the Belgian Exchange Service were received on the 2nd March 1912.

I hope you send me soon the second part of my first order and please accept, Mr. Secretary, the assurances of our highest consideration (Silva, Jul. 29th, 1912).

The letter was answered on the 2nd September of that year confirming the shipment of 1,400 cards in 71 boxes each via the Belgian International Exchange Service on the 19th August. The secretary also informed that he would soon send a description of what was shipped to the Library (Masure, sept. 12th, 1912).

From our perspective at least 330,000 index cards were sent to the Brazilian National Library and represented 55% of the amount ordered in 1911. The proof lies in the fact that part of the collection of index cards which once composed the Bibliographic and Documentation Service is still available in the Library's Manuscripts Division. There are approximately 1,800 cards accommodated in a cardboard box simulating a set of drawers of 12"x 6"x 4", classified by the UDC under the numbers 016 292 to 016: 59.82.

4 The Brazilian Bibliographical Bulletin and the International Institute of Bibliography

The establishment of the Brazilian bibliographic repertory and therefore the national bibliography was one of the main goals proposed with the creation of the National Library's Bibliographic and Documentation Service. Despite editions of such published works dating from the late nineteenth century (Fonseca, 1973a), at that time the endeavor intended to achieve further results with international cooperation and exchange of information.

In addition, there was the National Library's legal commitment to produce an information source within the given model, having in mind the Decree no. 1825, of the 20th December 1907 which regulated the legal deposit of publications produced in Brazil at the National Library. It's 5th article stated that: "the National Library will regularly publish a newsletter with the main purpose of registering new acquisitions made in consequence of this law" (Brazil, 1907). In other words, before the Regulation of 1911, the Library was already committed to publish a bibliographic newsletter (or repertory) in accordance to the law as well as listing the Brazilian intellectual production.

Rayward (1975) notes the Brazilian government tried to recruit a National Library's employee to visit Brussels and learn the Institute's techniques. The attempt failed due to the beginning of the First World War. However we were not able to identify documentation to confirm Rayward's idea and, instead, we found a different possibility.

In fact, Peregrino da Silva articulated with the Ministry of Justice and Internal Affairs to send an employee of National Library to the International Institute of Bibliography in 1913. The purpose of the trip to Brussels was to gather information on the techniques used in the production of the Universal Bibliographic Repertory. Such idea demonstrated an effort to better understand the techniques used by the Institute, as well as a way for the Brazilian edition of the Bibliography.

Cícero de Britto Galvão was the official in charge of the Universal Bibliographic Repertory index cards at the Brazilian National Library and the person considered by Peregrino da Silva to visit Brussels. Galvão's expertise was bibliography so he was the natural choice for that mission. Therefore, the director wrote a letter to the Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs on the July 17th, 1913 stating:

Dear Minister,

Being appropriate that the official Cícero de Britto Galvão, who is in charge to organize the universal bibliographic repertory which have been provided by the International Institute of Bibliography in Brussels, study the organization of that repertory and familiarize himself with the decimal system of classification adopted, in order to organize the Brazilian repertory, I have the honor to request your ap-

proval to designate the official to proceed with the studies in the referred Institute in Brussels.

The commission which will be entrusted to the official Cícero de Britto Galvão can be performed in the months of August to December through the financial bonus of five hundred thousand reis per month and um conto of reis for the tickets, without prejudice of their salaries. The expenses will come from the sub-subsidies "researches and studies in libraries, etc.", from the subsidy "Material "of n. 27 of this Ministry budget.

Because of this extraordinary gratification and to attend to the first expenses that the performance of the commission will entail, I request that you designate the payment order of the amount of two contos and five hundred thousand reis (Silva, Jul. 17th 1913).

The minister at the time, Rivadavia Corrêa, answers positively to the request. Thus, with the permission of his superior, Peregrino da Silva also requests that he intercede with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so "he [Cícero de Britto Galvão] would be recommended to the Minister of Brazil in Brussels and perform more easily the commission entrusted" (Silva, Jul. 30th 1913).

Having the internal bureaucratic issues sorted, Peregrino da Silva wrote to the Secretary of the IIB, Louis Masure, on the August 4th 1913, informing:

I am pleased to announce that I have just delegated Mr. Britto Galvão who is a Library's employee, to go to Brussels to study the organization of the universal bibliographic repertory at the International Institute of Bibliography.

I gently ask you to receive the employee well as he should stay in Brussels until the end of November or early December, thus having enough time to understand the mechanism of the repertory (Silva, Aug. 4th 1913).

Thus, Cícero de Britto Galvão went to study in the Institute in Belgium and remained there until the end of December, as reported Silva (1914). He stated in his report of 1913 that the Library's employee would remain in the committee in Europe from August 6th to December 31st.

Given the gap of a few years - there is a real 'silence' of the archives; the lack of sources prevented us from tracing the trajectory of the Library's employee. In 1918, the Bibliographic Bulletin of the National Library of Rio de Janeiro was launched in accordance to the standards established by the International Institute of Bibliography. Organized by Cícero de Britto Galvão, the bibliography was published between the years 1918 and 1921, in 14 volumes. They contained information on the pages' obverse only, leaving enough space to have them cut and pasted into standard 3"x5" index cards. Thus, "The Bibliographic Bulletin finally comes to light without originality as it adopted the best known model which is of the International Institute in Brussels" (Magalhães, 1918).

Although extensive, the following quote is here necessary for us to effectively demonstrate the scope of this

initiative. Magalhães (1919-1920, p. 292-293), the acting director of the National Library and author of the 1918 institutional report, wrote that:

I must specially mention the "Bibliographic Bulletin" because although I have only contributed with small suggestions for its definitive organization, veiu elle a lume under my interim administration, and what I regard as one of the most considerable improvements lately introduced in this Library.

It was an obligation established by the Decree n. 1.825 of 20th December 1907, and via the National Library's Regulation of 11th June 1911. However it hadn't been fulfilled, giving opportunity for coming and curious complaints, such as from an editor in Bahia. Every time he sent copies of his library's works to the National Library he would question - "I am complying with the obligation forced by law, however, is the National Library willing to comply with its own obligation?"

I will not reiterate here the extensive explanations which were signed by me and by the Director of the 1st section which were used as preface to the "Bibliographic Bulletin". I will limit myself to confirm the fair assertion of Dr. Constançio Alves - that the "Bibliographic Bulletin" since the Library effectively receives, through the decree n. 1. 1825, a copy of every work published in our country, it will be "the complete record of intellectual activity in Brazil", as well as "will provide to students a working tool which we never possessed and whose usefulness is unnecessary to point out."

The person in charge of the organization of the "Bibliographic Bulletin"; for which it was adopted the best known model called International Bibliographic Institute in Brussels, is the official Cícero de Brito Galvão who has just arrived from a study and research trip to Europe and, in special, to Belgium.

Since it was decided that the publication was quarterly, the issue numbers 1 and 2 were published accordingly. However in consequence of the epidemic that hit the Capital in the months of October and November, and also the limitations from gas that supplies the linotypes, the issue numbers 3 and 4 were very delayed. There will form a single volume which will be distributed at the beginning of the current year.

In that sense, with the edition of the Bibliographic Bulletin of the National Library of Rio de Janeiro, the cooperation and exchange efforts between the Brazilian National Library and the International Institute of Bibliography became more evident. Not being the production of the Bulletin a pioneering initiative - earlier managements had already published Brazilian bibliographies (Fonseca, 1973b) - the innovation of this issue, in particular, was its accordance to the ideals of IIB, in addition to configuring a live picture of the fruitful contact maintained between the Brazilian National Library and the visions of Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine.

5 Final Considerations

The International Institute of Bibliography and the National Library of Brazil sustained a close relationship for some years which apparently contributed to develop the Documentation as a discipline in Brazil. According to Sambaquy (1956), the creation of the Documentation and Bibliographic Service was the starting point for the later constitution of the Brazilian Institute of Bibliography and Documentation in 1954 (known today as the Brazilian Institute for Information in Science and Technology (IBICT)). Another result of the interaction between the two institutions was the creation of the first attempt of Brazilian bibliographic production based on the visions of Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine.

According to Rayward (1975), the connections between the National Library of Brazil and the International Institute of Bibliography did not produce further results because of the beginning of the First World War which interrupted the Belgian plans and ended their activities. As well as the interruption, the lack of interest from the immediate successors of Peregrino da Silva for the Bibliographic and Documentation Service (Fonseca, 1973a) contributed to reduce the contact between the two institutions, including the Brazilian closeness to the American ideals of culture and modernization during the interwar period and especially after the Second World War.

Another reason that may still be object to our research is the change of government schemes in Brazil from 1930, when the Estado Novo (4) started under the aegis of Getúlio Vargas, and management ways of the Republic undergo severe transformations (Bittencourt, 1955).

Figures can be included only if necessary (please do not illustrate the paper with too many web pages without a clear purpose).

Notes

- (1) The origin of the National Library of Brazil dates back to the Portuguese Royal Library brought by the Court during its move to Brazil in the early nineteenth century and the Napoleonic wars. It was founded in 1810, when Brazil was still a colony of Portugal. However the Royal Library was acquired by the Brazilian empire with the country's independence in 1822, and now transformed into the Imperial Library (Schwarcz; Costa; Azevedo, 2002).
- (2) At the beginning of the twentieth century the capital of Brazil at the time, Rio de Janeiro was undergoing major urban transformations in order to clean up the urban center as well as to modernize the city. The consequences include the overthrow of part of the historical city center as well as the opening of new routes and a wide avenue called Avenida Central.

- (3) The contact and research in the Mundaneum were performed via e-mail.
- (4) The 1930s in Brazil is characterized by a series of coup d'état such as the Revolution of 1930 which ousted the President Washington Luís and raised Getúlio Vargas to power; the Revolution of 1932 in which the politicians of São Paulo state who were against the government and demanded the removal of Getúlio Vargas from the presidency and demanded the promulgation of a new Constitution; and finally, the creation of the so-called New State which aimed to extend the mandate of Getúlio Vargas and overthrow the opposition. Getúlio Vargas who was a central character in these events remained the helm of government for 15 uninterrupted years, from 1930-1945 (Abreu, 2001).

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