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eabh (The European Association for
Banking and Financial History e.V.)

Banco de México

Guide to the archival holdings

Introduction

In June 2020, the Mexican central bank published the *Guía General de Fondos del Archivo Histórico del Banco de México* (Guide to the Archival Holdings of Banco de México) on its official website in order to offer information about the extent, scope and content of the archival material that it holds. These records are currently under an archival description process that will allow more precise findings for the queries made by the interested public.

This Guide is available in Spanish, through the following link: <https://www.banxico.org.mx/conociendo-banxico/archivo-informacion-banco-m.html>

The Information Security and Management Direction of Banco de Mexico have prepared a brief summary of this Guide in English for the members of *eabh* (The European Association for Banking and Financial History e.V.) with the aim of making them aware of the general contents of Mexican central bank's historical archives.

Guide Summary

The Archive of the Mexican central bank is formed by two main sets of documents:

- Banco de México fonds, which contain documents with historical value generated by the Mexican central bank.
- Acquired fonds, which include documents generated by persons who have been relevant for the development for the central bank and for the Mexican economy.

I. Banco de México Fonds:

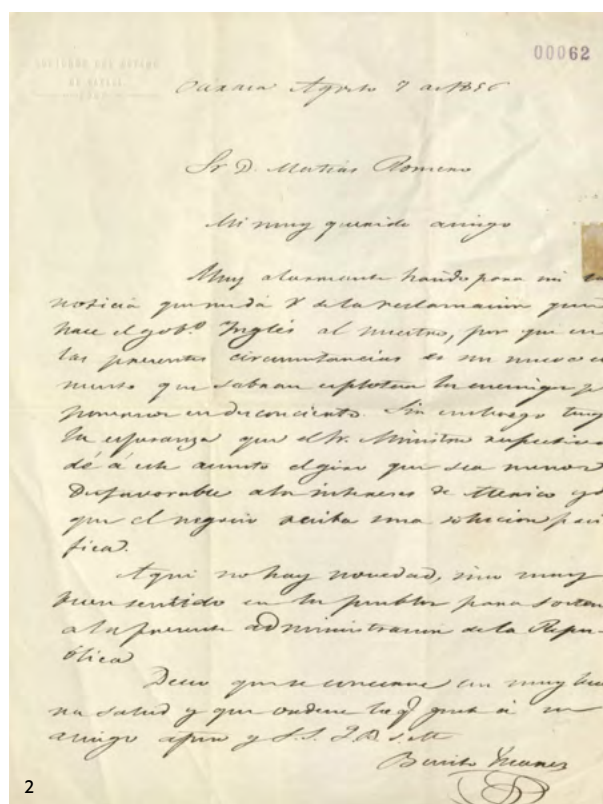
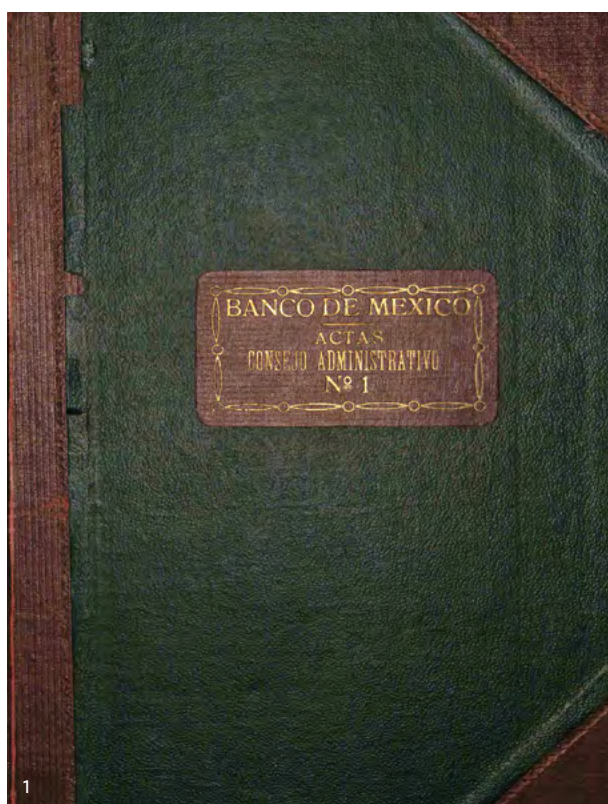
It encompasses evidence of the fundamental processes

within its history, such as its founding in 1925 as a public limited company, its transition to a decentralized institution of the federal public administration in 1982, and its independence in 1994.

This fonds has more than 10,000 files produced between 1915 and 2006. Among its most important documentary groups are those belonging to its different governing authorities:

- **Board of Directors:** minutes of Board of Directors from 1925 to 1984, together with the documents presented for discussion at the sessions. It includes issues of monetary policy and internal organization provisions of the bank, among other matters.
- **General Shareholders' Meeting:** minute books of ordinary and extraordinary meetings for the period from 1926 to 1982. Includes appointments and information on the share deposits of the associated banks.
- **Governing Board:** minutes from 1982 to 1994, that include reports and communication related to monetary regulation, modifications to the central bank's legal framework, budgetary matters, etc.
- **Committees, Commissions and Subcommittees:** minutes and work folders produced by collegiate bodies created to study and resolve specific matters related to the organization of Banco de México, the administration of resources for its operation and various analyses for decision-making on financial matters.

This fonds has also records from different Banco de México's directors, including Alberto Mascareñas Navarro (1925-1932), Eduardo Villaseñor Ángeles (1940-1946), Carlos Novoa Rouvignac (1946-1952), Rodrigo Gómez y Gómez



1. The cover of the Board of directors' minutes' book (1925), Banco de México Fonds. © Banco de México

2. A letter from President Benito Juárez to Matías Romero regarding diplomatic relations between England and México (8 August 1858), Matías Romero Fonds. © Banco de México

(1952 -1970), and Ernesto Fernández Hurtado (1970-1976). It includes information regarding monetary policy provisions, the development of the financial system, as well as the promotion of different industries and the participation of Banco de México in several international organizations. In addition, in the Banco de México fonds you can find files produced by different administrative departments in charge of the substantive activities of the central bank such as: provision of national currency, market operations as a financial agent of the federal government, economic research development, and public trust's administration for economic development.

II. Acquired Fonds:

The central bank holds several fonds that belonged to important public figures in the economic and financial development of Mexico during the 19th and 20th centuries.

- **Alberto Mascareñas Fonds:** Alberto Mascareñas Navarro (1876-1944). He was the first general director of Banco de México, from 1925 to 1932. Before that, Mascareñas was manager of several branches of the Banco de Sonora (northern state of Mexico) in the 1920s, and Mexican consul in San Francisco, La Havana, Liverpool, and New York. In 1924 he served as deputy finance minister and manager of the Monetary Commission, the predecessor institution of Banco de México.

This fonds reflects his personal life and his professional career as a public official and businessman. It is comprised by 419 files produced between 1824 and 1943.

- **Matías Romero Fonds:** Matías Romero Avendaño (1837-1898). Politician and diplomat, born in Oaxaca (southern state of Mexico) who held key public responsibilities within the administrations of Presidents Benito Juárez and Porfirio Díaz, during the second half of the 19th century. He served mainly in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance in different periods between 1855 and 1893.

This fonds contains 127,102 items and 93 bound volumes, dated between 1837 and 1899, with information about the War of Reform, 1858-1861 (a civil war), the Second Mexican Empire, 1864-1867 (supported by the French Emperor and his Mexican allies), as well as the reconstruction of the country at the end of the 19th century.

- **Raúl Martínez Ostos Fonds:** Raúl Martínez Ostos (1907-1993). Public official, diplomat and professor born in Tantoyuca, Veracruz (on the eastern coast of Mexico). He joined Banco de México in 1940 and worked in the Credit Department, becoming an expert in the implementation of monetary policy and regulatory instruments (Dimas and Turrent, 2008). He

also participated in meetings of international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund.

This fonds contains 299 files produced between 1905 and 1984, including evidence about his work as Mexico's government representative in meetings of international organizations, as well as the issue of Federal Government bonds, the administration of debt of former railroad companies, and the establishment of the Bankers Association of Mexico, among other topics.

- **Ricardo J. Zevada Fonds:** Ricardo José Zevada y Martínez de Castro (1904-1979), born in Mexico City and founder of the National Savings Bank. He was General Director of the National Foreign Trade Bank. He participated in the Board of Directors of Banco de México in 1933, 1934, and from 1960 to 1978, and served in 1935 as a representative in the General Assembly of Shareholders of the central bank (Córdova, 1979).

This fonds is comprised by 534 files from 1888 to 1978 with records about his professional career as a banking official and diplomat, as well as information about the Mexican railroad companies, and the constitution of educational and research trusts.

Contact

Please contact: archivohistorico@banxico.org.mx for any query about the archives of Banco de México.

References

Córdova, L. (1979). "Ricardo J. Zevada 1904-1979", en *Revista Comercio Exterior*, Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior, Volumen 29, Número 11, 1979.

García Dimas, A.; Turrent Díaz, E. (2008). *Raúl Martínez Ostos. Leyes, finanzas y diplomacia para el desarrollo, 1907-1993*. México, Fondo de Cultura Económica.

