

## The parishes in the Bolivian littoral - S. XVIII–XX

### Las parroquias en el litoral boliviano - S. XVIII –XX

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DOI: 10.35429/JEH.2021.8.5.9.11

Received February 21, 2021; Accepted June 19, 2021

#### Abstract

The documentary information of the parishes of the bolivian littoral, specially in the 19th century, lamentably they have not had a deep study from the historical ecclesiastic point of view. Of equal way, to this information it is possible to indicate the scanty bibliography, and specially on the ecclesiastic folletería related to this area. The city of sucre, it possesses a valuable primary documentation that preserves in the file - library arquidiocesanos 'monsignor michael de los santos taborga', which information collection is guarded in the unique repository of ecclesiastic speciality of chuquisaca. las's department parishes of reference they are the following ones: Antofagasta (1858-1903); Calama (1836-1878); Caracoles (1870-1879); Chiu Chiu (1756-1885); Cobija (1844-1878); San pedro of Atacama (1756-1887) and Tocopilla (1879).

#### Resumen

La información documental de las parroquias del litoral boliviano, especialmente en el siglo XIX, lamentablemente no han tenido un estudio profundo desde el punto de vista histórico eclesiástico. De igual manera, a esta información cabe señalar la escasa bibliografía, y especialmente sobre la folletería eclesiástica relacionada con esta zona. La ciudad de sucre, posee una valiosa documentación primaria que se conserva en el archivo-biblioteca arquidiocesanos 'monseñor michael de los santos taborga', cuya colección de información se guarda en el único repositorio de especialidad eclesiástica de chuquisaca. las parroquias departamentales de referencia son las siguientes: Antofagasta (1858-1903); Calama (1836-1878); Caracoles (1870-1879); Chiu Chiu (1756-1885); Cobija (1844- 1878); San pedro de Atacama (1756-1887) y Tocopilla (1879).

**Citation:** CALVO, Jorge, CALDERON, Luis, AVENDAÑO, Jhansel, BARAHONA, Maria, CRUZ, Janethe and GÓMEZ, Norma. The parishes in the Bolivian littoral - S. XVIII–XX. Journal-Economic History. 2021. 5-8: 9-11

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## Introduction

The Province and Department of Litoral, was created as an Autonomous Province on July 1, 1829, it was in charge of a governor and with the same territory that had the old Corregimientos and Partido de Atacama in colonial times. Its administrative capital was in the port of Cobija, place that was renamed by the Liberator Simón Bolívar on December 28, 1825 with the name of Puerto La Mar. When he served as President of the Republic José Miguel de Velasco elevated to the rank of Department, performing since then the prefects its highest authority and its division was based on the two colonial provinces of Atacama la Alta' and Atacama. 'la Baja'. Evangelization also reached this important region, which was attended since the creation of the Bishopric in the city of La Plata (1552) and later with the elevation to the rank of Archbishopric from 1609.

## Problem statement

The parishes that have belonged to the Bolivian Littoral have not been studied in depth to date, so the related ecclesiastical history of this region is unpublished. The rescue of the history of the parishes in this area is important for the knowledge of the new generations and scholars of religious and political issues.

## Research objectives

- The enhancement of the value of the existing documentary collection in the ecclesiastical archives of the parishes that existed in the Bolivian Littoral.
- To revalue the religious importance of this documentary collection.
- Prepare a descriptive catalog containing toponymic, onomastic and thematic information.
- Design an informative map on the ecclesiastical jurisdiction in the Litoral region.

Since the History Department was created in 2006, the second year undergraduates are gradually being trained to read 19th and 20th century documents. This experience will result in the formation of qualified human resources for the study of colonial and republican archives.

## Hypothesis

To make known through a descriptive catalog the information contained in the documentary collection of the Archdiocesan Archive-Library 'Monseñor Miguel de los Santos Taborga', a repository of ecclesiastical specialties in the city of Sucre.

## Importance or justification

The documented colonial history shows us its richness treasured in its various religious monuments. The analysis will be based on the documentation dating from the beginning of the century XIX-XX.

The Litoral was a particular case because it depended on the Bishopric and Archbishopric whose seat was the city of Sucre. For this reason, most of the documentation issued by the parishes in the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of reference is preserved.

## Materials and methodology

Review of the primary documentary collections that will allow to endorse the reference study in the different archives, libraries and documentary centers of our city. Another institution that will contribute effectively in the achievement of this project is the support provided by the Military Geographic Institute, an institution that treasures various types of materials such as cartographic information, map libraries and digital information. The Archdiocesan Archive-Library 'Mons. Santos Taborga' has entered a stage of modernization and therefore the international archival cataloguing standards ISAD-G will be used. In the same way, students will be training in the use of this standard.

Students and teachers will work together in the consultation and analysis of the documents with the purpose of publishing a booklet with epistolary information and the parish activities of the time. The experience of the university students in the handling of documentary sources from the different archives will result in the publication of their first printings. In this publication, the authors, i.e. the students, will convey their feelings as future historians in their own words.

## Results obtained

The purpose of this project is to make citizens aware of the existence of the parishes that were built in the captive Bolivian Littoral. The students will be trained in the handling of the primary documentation, its valorization and the auxiliary instruments of cataloguing. The history of the Bolivian Church will be totally favored by this type of work of historical investigation collaborated by the teachers and students of the History Career.

## Discussion

As it is a very particular historical research and therefore the first of its kind, it will allow especially the students of the History Career to have knowledge of this documentary fund. The reference parishes are as follows:

Antofagasta (1858-1903); Calama (1836-1878); Caracoles (1870-1879); Chiu Chiu (1756-1885); Cobija (1844-1878); San Pedro de Atacama (1756-1887) y Tocopilla (1879).

## Conclusions

Being a historical research and therefore the first of its kind, it will allow scholars and researchers to be aware of the descriptive catalog that will provide toponymic, onomastic and thematic information of the main actors who had to do with the great work developed. The catalog will facilitate the immediate location of the material in custody, the distribution of CDs to all the archives, libraries, documentary centers and the respective research material to the visitors of the fair. Some relevant documentation from the military geographic institute will be digitized for presentation to the public during the 2008 science and technology fair. Likewise, all the dissemination material will be distributed to the 28 municipalities of the department of Chuquisaca and Potosí.

## Acknowledgments

The researchers would like to thank the Dirección de Investigación Ciencia y Tecnología (DICYT) of the Universidad San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca for their support in the development of this work.

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