

James Melville Gilliss (1811-1865)
The U.S. Naval Astronomical Expedition
to the southern hemisphere during the
years 1849-50-51-52.



Chile: its geography, climate, earth-
quakes, government, social condition,
mineral and agricultural resources,
commerce...

Washington: A.O.P. Nicholson Printer,
1855.

(Fragmento de páginas 192 y 193)

15872

33d CONGRESS, }
1st Session. }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

{ Ex. Doc.
{ No. 121.

THE
U. S. NAVAL ASTRONOMICAL EXPEDITION

TO
THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE,

DURING
THE YEARS 1849-'50-'51-'52.

LIEUT. J. M. GILLISS, SUPERINTENDENT.
Lieut. ARCHIBALD MACRAE, }
Acting Master S. L. PHELPS, } *Assistants.*
Captain's Clerk E. R. SMITH, }

VOLUME I.

CHILE:

ITS GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, EARTHQUAKES, GOVERNMENT, SOCIAL CONDITION, MINERAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, COMMERCE, &c, &c.

BY LIEUT. J. M. GILLISS, A. M.,

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, THE ACADEMIES FOR PROMOTION OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES AT PHILADELPHIA, LEIPSIG, DANZIG, AND MARIENBURG (IN HESSE); HONORARY MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE AND THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MARYLAND; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, BERLIN, ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, LEIPSIG, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, NEW YORK, &c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON:
A. O. P. NICHOLSON, PRINTER.
MDCCCLV.

433353
15.3.45

nal instruction; and during the remainder the young men are employed in various workshops belonging to the establishment, as carpenters, blacksmiths, founders, &c. The school is in Yungai, where a large building has been erected especially for the purpose; and a steam-engine imported from France serves to drive the machinery, and as a model for instruction at the same time. Unfortunately, on account of its complicated construction, the engine is not perfectly adapted to the circumstances, and it would be economy of mental labor to substitute a simpler one. There are forty pupils, who, at the termination of their apprenticeship, are required to direct personally for six years a workshop of the trade they have learned, in such province as the government may elect. Backward as the mechanics are in the knowledge of the commonest arts, no more valuable school could have been instituted; and the citizens of Chile may of right anticipate adequate returns from such expenditure of the public funds in better and cheaper products of labor.

The Quinta Normal, as the Agricultural School is called, is also in Yungai, and has in view not less interesting and important results. About one hundred and twenty-five acres of land have been enclosed and laid off for practical instruction, and the buildings are already erected for officers and pupils of the institution. The number of the latter is limited to thirty, twelve of whom, selected according to the same rules as those of the gratuitous pupils at the National Institute, are at the expense of government. The other eighteen are required to pay \$100 per annum, which is expended in their maintenance and clothing need whilst at labor. No one is received whose age is under fifteen years or over twenty years; and the course occupies four years, during which they are taught grammar, geography, arithmetic, practical geometry, drawing, religion, agronomy, practical agriculture, and rural economy—the last three subjects embracing every branch that can be of use to an agriculturist in the widest sense. All the pupils are interns. The school was only organized in 1826, and its beneficial effects are not yet visible; though I believe that government has found it necessary to meet all the expenses, so paying pupils having offered themselves. Another of its objects, however, has already been accomplished to some extent—viz: the foundation of a nursery of native and foreign useful and ornamental plants, to be sold at equitable prices. With the climate and soil of Central Chile, almost every vegetable product thrives luxuriantly; and there is little doubt that industry, united to the practical information to be gained in the Quinta Normal, will enable its graduates to render this one of the garden-spots of the world.



The schools of Painting and Music are in a part of the old University building, near Santa Lucia. For the former there have been imported a number of plaster statues and busts, and engravings of different portions of the human frame, which are conveniently arranged in a tolerably well lighted room. These are to serve as models. There is neither a fixed number of pupils nor a period assigned in which the studies are to be completed; and the only distinctions are amateurs, who are under no rule except such as good manners require, and those who obtain permission from the Minister of Public Instruction to become enrolled pupils, in consideration of which they may twice a year compete for the rewards government holds out to the most proficient. The latter are, by law, required to be present at least two hours every day; and if absent for fifteen consecutive days, they forfeit their right to compete for the premium. They are divided, for instruction, into three classes: 1st. Elemental drawing from engravings, subdivided into three sections—rudiments and heads, extremities, and full-length figures. 2d. Imitation of relieve or statuary, arranged in the same number of sections as the preceding. 3d. Drawings from the living model and imitation of costumes. These complete the series required for historical composition (say the regulations), though the pupil should have followed a complete course of literature, or at least of rhetoric, and another of philosophy, in order to comprehend and express the passions that are developed in parts of the compositions. The five orders of architecture and landscape painting should also be understood, in order to draw the back-ground of pictures. The director is an Italian, who receives a handsome salary; for which, in addition to instruction, he contracts to paint two historical pictures for the national gallery every year. Those completed under the agreement are probably imaginary portraits of heroes in American

history—Columbus, Valdivia, Ercilla, &c.; as no originals are known to be in Chile, and that of Columbus certainly has no resemblance to portraits of the same individual elsewhere. A single full-length figure is considered a historical painting. Though it has now been in operation three years, landscape painting has not yet been taught in the school. Surrounded as is the city with scenery of rare beauty, the omission would appear most extraordinary, did not the products of the director's brush tempt one to infer that he cares not to risk his fame with the earth or its own products. At the time of my visit to the academy there were only ten or twelve students present, one of whom was a young Araucanian, who had been brought from the Indian territory when a child and educated by a charitable lady of the capital. He was regarded as among the most proficient of the pupils. 

The musical conservatory is of more recent origin, and embraces a school for instruction in vocal and instrumental music, and an academy. In the former 120 pupils are gratuitously taught. The course of instruction occupies three evenings in the week for five years; after which, graduates are obliged to assist another five years at such national and civic celebrations as government may direct. Attendants on this school are excused from military service; and if arrested for civil misdemeanors, the director of the school is expected to interest himself in behalf of the accused, and testify to his or her character. Considerable advances have been made in vocal instruction already, and the public exhibitions of proficiency at the national festivities of the last two years have not only been creditable to the children, but they lead one to hope that a musical taste may be created in the nation. The academy is composed of professional artists and amateurs of both sexes whom the president may be pleased to appoint as members. To them is especially assigned the cultivation and advancement of musical science through the study of the classical compositions of the great masters. They are required to give concerts of sacred music every Sunday during Lent, and of dramatic music once a fortnight in the winter months. The proceeds are applied to charitable objects.

The national library is contained in some of the larger rooms on the eastern quadrangle of the old National Institute. Its volumes fill two of these rooms, and a third serves for the office of the assistant librarian and for visitors; for whose use while consulting the books there are chairs and convenient tables. In the latter room, also, there are a few periodicals and newspapers, and a number of valuable MSS. relating to the history of Chile—classes of matter that attract more readers than any others. In ecclesiastical history and literature the library is particularly rich, the books formerly belonging to the Jesuits forming part of its wealth. The total number of volumes exceeds 21,000, distributed as follows:

Mathematical and Physical sciences	3,200
Geography, Natural History, and Zoology	1,575
Art, Political Economy, Commerce, and Industry	800
History in all its branches	1,500
Laws and Politics	1,000
Science, Literature, and Languages	1,000
Novels, Magazines, and Miscellaneous	1,500
Periodicals and other serial works	600
Manuscripts	50
Not classified	50

These books are accessible to the public from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. every day except holidays, and two hours later on Mondays and Thursdays. No one is permitted to remove a volume from the building under any pretext, though every facility is afforded to make extracts or otherwise benefit by the information to be obtained in the library. Unfortunately, too little provision is made for extending its usefulness. The whole sum appropriated in 1850 for the support of the librarians and purchase of books was only \$1,000, a sum not greater than might well be expended in current publications alone. Thus, there being few additions to the shelves except by donations, the literature and science treated of here are of the past age. In a separate building there is a law library containing 1,700 volumes, so accessible to the public as the preceding.

James Melville Gilliss (1811-1865)

The U.S. Naval Astronomical Expedition to the southern hemisphere during the years 1849-50-51-52. Chile: its geography, climate, earthquakes, government, social condition, mineral and agricultural resources, commerce &c., &c. Washington: A.O.P. Nicholson Printer, 1855.

(Fragmento de páginas 192 y 193)

Traducción Inédita de Catalina Valdés y Josefina de la Maza [2013]

Las escuelas de Pintura y Música están ubicadas en un sector del edificio de la antigua Universidad, cerca del Santa Lucía. Para la primera, se han importado varias estatuas y bustos de yeso y grabados de diferentes fragmentos del cuerpo humano, las que han sido dispuestas de manera conveniente en una sala tolerablemente bien iluminada. Estas sirven de modelos. No existe ni un número fijo de alumnos ni un periodo determinado para completar los estudios; y la única distinción se hace entre los estudiantes amateurs, quienes no están sometidos a ninguna regla, como debería ser requerido por las buenas maneras, y los estudiantes que obtienen permiso del Ministerio de Instrucción Pública para convertirse en discípulos, condición que los compromete a competir dos veces al año por el premio que el gobierno ofrece al alumno más destacado.

Estos últimos están conminados, por ley, a presentarse al menos dos horas al día; y si se ausentan por quince días consecutivos, se le impide postular al concurso.

La enseñanza está dividida en tres clases: 1ro. Dibujo elemental a partir de grabados, subdividido en tres secciones de rudimentos y cabezas, extremidades y figura humana de cuerpo entero. 2do. Imitación del relieve o estatuaría, organizada en el mismo número de secciones que el precedente. 3ro. Dibujo a partir del modelo vivo e imitación de trajes. Así se completa la serie de requerimientos para elaborar una composición histórica (según el reglamento), aunque el alumno debe seguir un curso completo de literatura, o al menos de retórica, y otro de filosofía, con el fin de comprender y expresar las pasiones que se desarrollan al interior de las composiciones. Los cinco órdenes de la arquitectura y la pintura del paisaje deben ser también atendidos con el objeto de dibujar los fondos de las pinturas. El director es un italiano, que recibe un buen salario; por el cual, además de la instrucción, debe responder al encargo de dos pinturas históricas para la galería nacional al año.

Aquellos cuadros que se reciben bajo este acuerdo son probablemente retratos imaginarios de héroes de la historia americana -Colón, Valdivia, etc.; dado que no se conocen originales en Chile, y el que representa a Colón no se parece en nada a los retratos que se conocen en otras partes de este personaje. Una figura representada de cuerpo entero es considerada una pintura histórica. A pesar de llevar tres años de funcionamiento, la pintura de paisaje no ha sido enseñada en la escuela aún. Rodeada como está esta ciudad de un escenario de particular belleza, podríamos considerar esta omisión como algo extraordinario si los resultados de los pinceles del director no nos hiciesen inferir que no quiere arriesgar su fama

preocupándose de la tierra o de sus productos. Al momento de mi visita a la academia solo había diez o doce estudiantes presentes, uno de ellos un joven araucano, quien fue traído desde territorio indígena cuando pequeño y ha sido educado por una dama caritativa de la capital. Era considerado entre los más talentosos discípulos.

