

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 520 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, CHICAGO

February 6, 1930

Miss Josephine Adams Rathbone, Vice-Director
School of Library Science
Pratt Institute Free Library
Brooklyn, New York

My dear Miss Rathbone

On our recommendation Señorita María Teresa Chávez, Avenue Hidalgo 91, Mexico, D. F., Mexico, has been granted a \$1500 fellowship by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. You probably had a request from her a few weeks ago for a catalog of your Library School. We are now about to write to her, suggesting that she make application for admission to your School, but before doing so I want to be sure that this meets with your approval.

First, let me tell you something about her. She is thirty-two or thirty-three years of age and chief librarian of the Biblioteca Cervantes of Mexico City. This is a relatively large neighborhood library, the best one in Mexico City. The building was erected for the purpose and is beautiful. There is a good deal of adult work, including work with students, and there is also a good deal of emphasis on library work with children. Instead of being a branch library, as it would be in an American city, this library and its librarian are responsible directly to the library division of the Ministry of Education.

Señorita Chávez was in a Catholic normal school from 1911 to 1915. Her library training is described as follows:

Study in library science, 1923-24;
examination in book science, library
economy, etc., in which highest qual-
ifications were received, April, 1924.

Experience:

Cataloger, classifier, assistant
librarian, Biblioteca "Ibero-Americano",
Mexico, 1924-25; present position since
1926.

To - Miss Josephine Adams Rathbone - #2

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She made a very good impression on those of us who attended the Mexican Congress in 1928. In 1929 I wrote:

"She impressed me as being one of the four or five most promising librarians in Mexico. She is one of the first three whom I should choose for a scholarship in an American library school."

Dr. Moisés Sáenz, Sub-Secretary of Education in the Ministry of Education, writes:

"I can recommend Miss Chávez to the fullest extent as to personality, capacity and interest in library work."

More recently, in response to my request, Dr. Sáenz wrote the following letter:

"I am answering your letter of the 15th of November regarding Miss Teresa Chávez' knowledge of English, and I am glad to inform you that I had a conversation in English with this lady and gave her a little examination to test her knowledge of the language. In my opinion, she is fully qualified to profit by the year's work in a library school in the United States. She can carry on a conversation in English and reads with understanding, writing at dictation with but few errors. I have, of course, advised Miss Chávez to keep on with her studies in English and I have no doubt that, when the time comes for her to go, she will be entirely qualified to carry on the work you may assign to her. I am wondering if, in case this scholarship is given to Miss Chávez, you could not make it possible for her to begin her work next Spring rather than next Fall. This idea of mine simply means that we are anxious for Miss Chávez to begin her training as soon as possible but, of course, a decision on this point rests entirely with you. It is my understanding, however, that Miss Chávez is ready to go at any time."

To - Miss Josephine Adams Rathbone - #3

February 6, 1930

Señor Díaz Mercado, Librarian of the Library in the Ministry of Education, says:

"I believe that among Mexican women librarians Señorita Chávez shows the best capacity and aptitude for library work and, therefore, she and her library would profit a great deal from the scholarship that you grant."

Mrs. Fanny Wilson Palmer, American Consulate, Mexico, says:

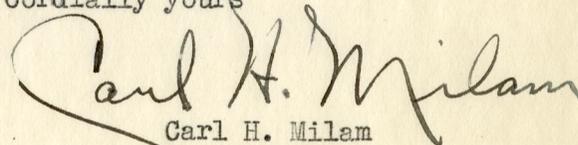
"Miss Chávez is a pupil of mine in English and I have known her for some time. She is intelligent and capable, and I have known very few Mexican women with so keen a mind as she has. I consider her one of the finest women I have known during my two years in Mexico."

Altogether this may be an overstatement, but at least she is good material.

Largely because of the statements made in the letter from Dr. Sáenz, quoted above, we are advising Señorita Chávez to come to the United States in June, and we have tentatively arranged for her employment in the Detroit Public Library for two or three months before she enters library school. We hope that her expenses in Detroit will not exceed her income from the Detroit Public Library, but she will probably have to use a portion of her fellowship for travel. I should, therefore, like to know what you think she ought to allow for expenses during the school year at Pratt.

Señorita Chávez is free to make her own choice of a library school and she has indicated that she would prefer to be in New York or Chicago. She is apparently, however, inclined to wait for specific recommendations from us. If you think she can qualify for admission to your School, and that you can make a place for her, I am prepared to recommend that she make immediate application to you. Please tell me just when she should reach Brooklyn.

Cordially yours



Carl H. Milam
Secretary