

OUR VOICE

Mexico is going through a key moment in its political development. For the first time in history, the mayor of Mexico City's Federal District —until now a presidential appointee— will be elected by direct, universal ballot. This year, the Federal District's 8 million inhabitants are empowered to elect their local officials.

Because of the importance of this election, Voices of Mexico decided to invite the three main candidates for mayor to contribute to the magazine. We think it is very important that their political arguments and proposals be known abroad. Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas and Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) candidate Alfredo del Mazo each give their analysis of the main problems facing Mexico City and how they propose to deal with them. Carlos Castillo Peraza, of the National Action Party (PAN), has contributed an article about the problems of governability.

When this issue of the magazine goes on sale, the results of this historic election will already be known. At the close of this edition, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas led the polls.

However, Voices of Mexico considers that any student of Mexican politics both in the United States and other English-speaking countries should have the background to this important event. This is why our "Politics" section is devoted to it.

"Science, Art and Culture" presents an article by Xavier Moysén about Joaquín Clausell, a Mexican impressionist painter whose rivers, mountains and landscapes are part of our cultural heritage.

The section also includes a contribution from art expert Teresa Pomar about Mexican folk art, which has always amazed visitors with its variety, wealth and enormous originality of technique and design.

Specialist Luis Roberto Torres Escalona has written an article about the vast collection donated to the people of Mexico, via the UNAM, by U.S. collector Donald Cordry.

In her article "Poblano Chili Here We Come," Patricia Quintana reviews some of the many ways to prepare Mexico's native chili peppers, the use and cultivation of which have spread to Africa, India and China.

"The Splendor of Mexico" in this issue deals with migration to Mexico. Many different peoples and nations have important immigrant communities in Mexico, and Voices of Mexico has asked representatives of some of the most significant for articles about their contributions to our country's culture, political system and economy.

At a time when countries are restricting entry, Voices of Mexico is concerned with explaining the important flow of immigrants into our country, famous for its hospitality to foreigners. Without a doubt, more than a threat to our identity, the wealth of these ancient cultures has had a positive influence on Mexican culture. Immigrant communities in Mexico have been understood above all as sources of a splendid cultural mix.

This section also includes an article by Japanese-born Yoshiko Shirata Kato, who discovered the beauty and wealth of Mexican dyes when she emigrated to Mexico. Shirata, who works in textiles, explains the great variety and beauty of Mexican dyes.

"Society" includes an article about Mexican migration to the United States. Specialists José Gómez de León and Rodolfo Tuirán back up their detailed study of the socio-demographic characteristics of migrants on sound statistical data and suggest solutions to a problem that continues to be the most important on the Mexico-U.S. bilateral agenda.

"United States Affairs" begins with comments on President Clinton's recent visit to Mexico, and includes the two joint statements by the presidents of the U.S. and Mexico about the topics that most concern them: drugs and migration.

Manuel García y Griego and Mónica Vereá Campos contribute an interesting article analyzing the anti-immigrant measures put into operation in the United States in the 1990s. One example: the recent restrictions on social service access to both legal and undocumented immigrants. The authors underline that, despite the fact that this problem has become increasingly tense, efforts to create bilateral mechanisms for dealing with it have moved ahead.

Luis Herrera Lasso's article explains why he thinks that the institutional development of bilateral Mexico-U.S. relations has been fundamental, allowing tensions between the two countries to be compartmentalized and not poison the entire relationship, thus making more civilized relations possible.

In the "Literature" section, we have included a short essay about the marvelous and contradictory Mexico City by writer Alejandro Rossi, whose arrival several years ago to Mexico from Argentina has contributed greatly to our culture.

In "Ecology," José Remus Araico and Patricia Schmidtdorf go into the beauties of Mexico's coastline, detailing particularly the maritime fauna of the Mexican Caribbean. Their article is illustrated with prizewinning underwater photographer José Remus's work.

"Museums" focuses on a magnificent pre-Columbian piece, the coiled serpent, from the collection of the University Museum of Contemporary Art (MUCA).

"In Memoriam" pays homage to three illustrious Mexicans from different walks of life: from politics, the scrupulously honest social fighter Heberto Castillo Martínez; from cinematography, the brilliant film photographer Gabriel Figueroa; and from philosophy, the penetrating thinker Fernando Salmerón Roig.

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In closing, we want to inform our readers that as of our next issue, we will be forced to raise our prices because of increases in paper and printing costs in Mexico in the last few years. In addition, the magazine's policy has been to constantly improve its quality, and that has also meant higher costs. In the future, individual issues of Voices of Mexico will cost Mex\$30.00 in Mexico and U.S.\$6 in the United States and Canada. Yearly subscriptions will be priced at Mex\$110, U.S.\$22 in the United States and Canada and U.S.\$45 elsewhere.

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