First National Seminar on Terminology, held in Venezuela, April 11.-15., at the Universidad Simón Bolívar, Caracas.

The terminology seminar held this Spring at the Simón Bolívar University, Caracas was the first of its kind in Latin America. It was organized by the Grupo de Investigación Terminológica (GIT) of the Foreign Languages Department of the host university, with support from UNESCO, Infoter, the Government of Quebec, and the Embassy of France in Caracas.

Such was the interest generated by the advance notices of the four days' intensive course that registration lists were soon over-subscribed, and some applicants had to be disappointed. This circumstance serves to point up the evident need which is beginning to make its presence felt in Latin America, for terminology and terminography. It is hoped that follow-up courses in the near future will help to meet this demand.

Participants in the first course included teachers and students of languages and science; translators and interpreters; subject specialists. Venezuelan industry and Government departments, in particular the Ministry of Education, and most of the country's major universities, were represented.

The seminar's chief instructor was Heribert Picht, of the Copenhagen School of Economics, ably supported by Monique Héroux and Jean-Claude Boulanger, of the Office de la Langue Française, Quebec. The specifically Venezuelan situation with regard to terminology was presented by Alicia de Diego and Michelle de Sanchez-Vegas, both of GIT, and Dolores de Castro, of the USB termbank.
The seminar was entirely conducted in Spanish and constituted a 35-hour intensive introduction to terminology. Themes treated included:


The value of this pioneering enterprise in exchanges of expertise and experience at international level in a geographical region such as Latin America predictably received wide recognition. This initial seminar, by living up to expectations, cannot fail to have repercussions. Improving the shining hour by implementation of follow-up sessions and extended co-operation without delay will firmly establish terminology as a branch of learning throughout Latin-America. Every effort should now be made to consolidate the first successful initiative by the promotion of co-operation in the field of terminology at all levels - locally, internationally and intercontinentally.

JENNIFER DRASKAU