

1067-W1-2153      **Bruce S. Burdick\*** (bburdick@rwu.edu). *Treasures from the Americas: Two Examples of Arithmetic as It Is No Longer Done*. Preliminary report.

We present two examples dealing with fractions, drawn from early printed works in the Americas, one from Peru and one from Mexico.

The *Libro General* of Joán Belveder was printed in Lima in 1597 and is an extensive treatment of how to do transactions in gold and silver. One of his more interesting sections explains how to use money to express fractions. (We infer that he judged that his intended readers would understand money much better than they understood fractions.) Percents and fractions of a percent are presented as *pesos*, *tomines*, *granos*, and parts of a *grano*.

In the *Arte para Aprender* (Mexico City, 1623), Pedro de Paz declares that there is a new operation on fractions in addition to the usual four operations of arithmetic. He uses the term “to *infilzar* the fractions” and indicates that he takes this term from Italian sources.

Both examples should be accessible to students with only a strong arithmetic background. Both make the point that there are other ways of doing the math we do and thus they promote a flexible mindset in the student. (Received September 22, 2010)