Abstract
In 1825, German engineer Carl de Berghes (1782-1869) went to Mexico to work in the construction of the mines in Zacatecas. In 1831, the governor of Zacatecas asked him to work on the land registry of La Quemada Ruins. The result of his work was Descripción de las ruinas de asentamientos aztecas durante su migración al Valle de México, a través del actual Estado Libre de Zacatecas (1855). This text analyzes Berghes' manuscript from the discourse field within the context of the Mexican Independence. It also examines whether Berghes' text reflects an attempt to create a regional past to confront the unifying discourse of the nation. In a broader scope, it is shown that the process of building the nation was not characterized by discourse homogeneity, but by heterogeneity.

Keywords
Nation-building, Regional history, Zacatecas, Carl de Berghes, Germans in Mexico.