



## **The Newspaper That "Breeds" Readers: Illiteracy is a major obstacle to the countries of Latin America on the path to overall cultural and economic progress and forms a barrier to the development of the newspaper industry.**

**Date**  
1961

**Primary Maker**  
Paul Almásy

**Medium**  
Vintage ferrotyped gelatin silver print

### **Description**

The Newspaper That "Breeds" Readers: Illiteracy is a major obstacle to the countries of Latin America on the path to overall cultural and economic progress and forms a barrier to the development of the newspaper industry. A demand for general education is perceived as an urgent necessity in all countries. Governments are using funds wherever available to fight against illiteracy. Private companies as well as international organizations are also providing aid to the governments and local communities of Latin America. In Colombia, the number of adults who can neither read nor write is estimated at around 40%. The percentage of illiterate people here, as in all other countries, is very high, especially among the rural population. Despite their mass illiteracy, the large masses show an increasing hunger for education. Lectures and documentaries are highly valued and anyone able to save a few pesos buys a radio. Interest in reading of all kinds, especially for newspapers, is also widespread, but in many areas of the country there is still no opportunity to learn to read. In Colombia, a country with more than 12 million inhabitants, 36 daily newspapers are published, but all together only have a total of 797,000 copies in circulation. These newspapers, which appear in Bogota and in eleven major provincial towns, can hardly attract subscribers and readers in the smaller towns and in the country because people simply cannot read. The requirement of "alphabetization"-- in Latin America "alphabetization" is the name of the campaign that serves the purpose of teaching adults to read and write-- is in the interest of the press, so recently some publishers have come up with the idea of their own lessons! Editor-in-chief of the El Espectador Alvaro Monroy Caicedo gives personal lessons here.

### **Dimensions**

Image: 8 x 9 3/16 in. (20.3 x 23.4 cm) Sheet: 8 x 9 3/16 in. (20.3 x 23.3 cm)