

RECORD COLLECTIONS AT THE CUBAN NATIONAL ARCHIVES:

A Descriptive Survey

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In April 1970, the Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress and Yale University, in conjunction with the Ford Foundation, sponsored in Washington an international symposium on Cuban research materials. The Cuban Revolution had attracted the attention of an international scholarly community and, quite suddenly, a new and vast corpus of literature had come into existence. By 1970 this prodigious enterprise showed no sign of coming to an end; on the contrary, it gave every indication of expanding. In 1970 the Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh launched *Cuban Studies Newsletter*, a publication that the editors described as "designed to provide comprehensive and timely communication among those interested in Cuban studies."¹ The development of Cuban study centers in Europe and the United States further served to stimulate interest in Cuba. The moment was propitious, then, for an international symposium to review the state of research collections and library holdings on Cuba. Some fifteen participants, mainly scholars with research interests in Cuba and librarians and bibliographers with specializations in the Caribbean and Latin America, presented a variety of papers dealing with various aspects of library and archival collections possessing materials on Cuba.

The publication of the proceedings later that year provided an enormously useful research guide to Cuban materials.² The published papers assessed the scope and strength of the principal library collections, research centers, and archives holding Cuban materials, including research institutions in Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

There was a conspicuous absence in the proceedings, however, because neither of the two principal depositories of Cuban research materials—the Biblioteca Nacional "José Martí" and the Archivo Nacional de Cuba—were assessed. This omission had not passed unnoticed by the conference organizers. On the contrary, the Library of Congress made

every effort to secure Cuban participation in the symposium, but without success. Nor were the participating American and European scholars sufficiently familiar with research centers in Cuba to provide an assessment of Cuban facilities. The decade of the 1960s was the nadir of United States–Cuban relations, years in which the political exchange was especially virulent and diplomatic relations exceptionally volatile. Scholarly exchange consequently came to a virtual halt. It was thus especially important to convene the Cuba symposium in 1970: a comprehensive compilation of research materials available outside of Cuba at a time when few investigators could gain access to research centers inside Cuba.

More than a decade later, conditions are different—and auspicious. The vagaries of the diplomatic exchange still make for an uncertain political climate, to be sure, but scholarly dialogue has resumed, and in some instances it is remarkably vigorous. Opportunities for Cuban scholars to undertake research in the United States have increased; and the occasions for scholarly exchange have improved as Cubans participate in professional conferences and enjoy appointments to North American university faculties. Cuban authorities simultaneously have reciprocated and North American scholars in growing numbers are traveling to Cuba to work in various research facilities.

While this exchange is important to all scholars, it is essential to the historian. Clearly, North American research is severely handicapped without access to Cuban materials. It is equally apparent, however, that Cuban research, generally that work dealing with the late nineteenth and much of the twentieth century, suffers from a similar handicap without access to North American materials. This situation is especially true for the periods 1898–1902 and 1906–9, the years of U.S. military occupation. In these cases, the lacuna in Cuban records is complete because the records of the military occupations are located entirely in the National Archives of the United States. But the gaps go beyond these years, for the nature of North American hegemony was such that the ordinary course of diplomatic relations and economic ties was transformed into the unseen forces that penetrated the entire social fabric of twentieth-century Cuba. Thus, the records of a score of U.S. government agencies, including State, Commerce, War, Justice, Agriculture, and Labor, to mention only the most prominent, contain materials essential to the understanding of the Cuban past. So do presidential papers, and the private collections of individuals prominent in Cuban affairs, particularly the proconsular personalities (Leonard Wood, John Brooke, Enoch H. Crowder, and Sumner Welles), are especially important to all research on twentieth-century Cuba.

Equally obvious is the importance of Cuban archival holdings to North American research. This survey seeks to provide a summary de-

scription of the record collections contained in the Archivo Nacional in Havana. The Cuban National Archives possesses an extensive and enormously diverse collection of research materials. The principal strength of the archival collection consists of voluminous nineteenth-century records. Materials from the eighteenth and seventeenth century are extensive, but the records for the sixteenth and twentieth centuries are spotty. Record groups tend to be miscellaneous collections. There is, moreover, a considerable overlap of subjects, so that materials relevant to a study of slavery, for instance, could be located in any number of different *fondos*. Guides to each record group consist largely of card catalogues and type-script inventories that are arranged either chronologically or by names and are frequently cross-listed by subjects. The guides and inventories, which are located in the main reading room, vary in quality and are often wanting and incomplete. New records dealing with sixteenth, seventeenth, and twentieth centuries are presently being catalogued and will become available in the next several years. Finally, it is important to stress that access to Cuban archival materials is limited and possible only by prior authorization from the Academia de Ciencias, under whose jurisdiction the Archivo Nacional falls.

Audiencia de Santiago de Cuba

These records consist of two separate collections, one dealing with the nineteenth century and the other with the twentieth century. The documents are largely legal transcripts and judicial summaries of trial proceedings. Because much of the litigation involved land claims and property disputes, this collection contains important supporting materials useful for the study of property and landownership in Oriente province. The records in the National Archives, however, are only a small portion of the total Audiencia records, which were initially deposited in Havana during a short-lived attempt to centralize all provincial records in the capital. The vast bulk of this collection remains in the provincial archive in Santiago de Cuba.

Archivo Máximo Gómez

This collection was donated to the National Archives by the Gómez family. It is made up of those materials that bear directly on General Gómez's years in the service of Cuba Libre, largely as the commander of Cuban Liberation Army during the Ten Years' War (1868–78) and the War for Independence (1895–98). Some materials deal with his years of residence in the Dominican Republic between the Cuban wars. The collection consists of personal correspondence, official reports, published proclamations, edicts and circulars, and several diaries covering the period between the 1870s and the early 1900s.

Fondo Donativo y Remisiones

A miscellaneous record collection made up mainly of donated materials that deal with the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Documents include official reports and miscellaneous records concerning agriculture, charity, elections, military affairs, diplomacy, sugar, communications, press, as well as the personal correspondence of political figures, intellectuals, and military leaders of the independence period.

Fondo Especial

Arranged alphabetically and chronologically, this miscellaneous collection deals mostly with twentieth-century matters. The wide variety of subjects covered includes national, provincial, and municipal politics, elections, students, labor, women, race, insurrection, political parties, strikes, communism, and the Twenty-Sixth of July Movement. This collection also contains documents relating to Fulgencio Batista, Gerardo Machado, Julio Antonio Mella, Rubén Martínez Villena, Carlos Mendieta, Mario G. Menocal, Ramón Grau San Martín, Carlos Prío Socarrás, Eusebio Mujal, Eduardo Chibás, and Fidel Castro.

Asuntos Políticos

This record group deals with nineteenth-century developments. Materials are arranged in both alphabetical and chronological order and consist largely of official letters, proclamations, reports, and scattered issues of newspapers and periodicals. The materials deal with such diverse matters as banditry, *cimarrones*, piracy, and the colonial militia.

Revolución del 95

This segment is the largest single collection of documents dealing with the War of Independence (1895–98). The records consist principally of personal correspondence, official reports, diaries, minutes, published decrees, proclamations, orders, and circulars. The collection contains materials from the three principal agencies of Cuban separatism: the Provisional Government, the Partido Revolucionario Cubano (PRC), and the Liberation Army.

Fondo Miscelánea

One of the largest single record groups, this collection consists almost entirely of nineteenth-century materials relative to a wide range of social, economic, political, racial, and cultural matters. Specific subjects include property ownership, mining, slavery, shipping, church, banking, hospitals, charity, insanity, crime, trade, education, sugar, and land surveys—to cite only some of the most prominent.

Secretaría de Hacienda

Largely twentieth-century materials originating from the Ministry of Hacienda, this collection consists of reports, memoranda, official correspondence, and ministry publications. It deals mainly with economic affairs, including commerce, manufacturing, banking, customs, and imports and exports. This collection is an especially rich source of statistical abstracts for the early republican period.

Delegación del Partido Revolucionario Cubano en Nueva York

This corpus of records covers the years 1892–98, the period between the founding of the Cuban Revolutionary party and its dissolution. The materials deal principally with the expatriate representation of the Cuban movement for independence. The records are made up of two groups: one contains the correspondence of PRC rank-and-file agents in Europe, Latin America, and the United States, with the party leadership in New York. The second category is largely correspondence between the PRC directors in New York and members of the Provisional Government and Liberation Army in Cuba.³

Gobierno General

Mainly nineteenth-century materials dealing with insular, provincial, and municipal government affairs. Subjects include finance, slavery, marriage, mining, property, sugar, and trade.

Gobierno Superior Civil

Most of the materials in this collection deal with developments in nineteenth-century Cuba before the Ten Years' War (1868–78). Although similar to the records of the Gobierno General, this collection of miscellany tends to deal more with the institutional character of the colonial government, particularly the administration of the captaincy-general. Subjects dealt with in this collection include marriage, slavery, education, cemeteries, *cofradías*, the colonial militia, police, penal system, colonization, armed forces, property, commerce, industry, church, landownership, medicine, prison, taxation, vagrancy, sanitation, census data, transportation, charity, and agricultural, provincial, and municipal affairs.

Bayamo

A special record catalogue designed to locate materials dealing specifically with Bayamo found in other document collections.

Las Floridas

This collection of records deals with Spanish Florida between the 1760s and 1820s. It is made up principally of personal correspondence,

official reports, and decrees. Some materials also deal with Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi.⁴

Archivo Gráfico

A collection of photographs, drawings, architectural plans, and blueprints from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Museo Nacional

A large miscellaneous collection of documents originally on deposit with the National Museum and later forwarded to the Archivo Nacional. These materials vary enormously and deal with a wide assortment of topics. The collection contains copies of newspapers and periodicals, correspondence during the years of the wars for Cuban independence (1878–98), baptismal records, military records, and economic reports. Most of these materials deal with the nineteenth century, with some scattered twentieth-century materials.

Intendencia General de Hacienda

Established in the 1760s in the aftermath of the British occupation of Havana, the Intendencia General de Hacienda was designed to modernize the administration of the division of treasury. These records, dealing principally with the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, are an important source for the economic history of colonial Cuba. They deal with public finances, shipping, taxation, trade and commerce, customs, receipts, and government expenditures.

Licencias para Fábricas

Included in this small record collection are petitions submitted and licenses granted for construction and repairing of houses, shops, and factories. Most documents deal with the years in the middle third of the nineteenth century.

Real Consulado y Junto de Fomento

This collection is one of the most important sources for the economic history of Cuba between the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Made up of official reports, government correspondence, contracts, decrees, and *cédulas*, this record group deals generally with trade, commerce, industry, and finance. Specific subjects include such matters as import and exports, the slave trade, budgetary matters, agriculture, public sanitation, population statistics, public works, communication, railroads, education, telegraph system, white colonization, and every other aspect of economic development in the colony.⁵

Realengos

This collection is the single most important record group dealing with system landownership, royal grants (*mercedes*), and the structure of rural property in colonial Cuba. The documents include grant edicts, property titles, official correspondence, legal briefs, and land surveys. This vast record collection of materials spans the entire colonial period, from the sixteenth century to 1898.

Instrucción Pública

The records in this collection deal with public education in colonial Cuba. Most of the official correspondence, government reports, and other miscellaneous documents in this group span the last quarter of the nineteenth century, although some scattered twentieth-century records are included.

Correspondencia de los Capitanes Generales

This large collection consists of official correspondence, decrees, royal orders, and reports dealing principally with the eighteenth century. Documents cover virtually every aspect of Cuba under the Spanish Bourbons, including commerce, economic reforms, finance, trade, agriculture, military and naval affairs, smuggling, and insular defense.

Comisión Militar

Included in this record collection are government reports, official correspondence, and miscellaneous letters dealing with public order, sedition, slave conspiracy and uprisings, rebellion, and crime. The body of these materials relates to the middle third of the nineteenth century.⁶

Banco Nacional de Cuba

The records of the National Bank include a vast collection of reports, correspondence, and memoranda dealing chiefly with the 1950s and early 1960s. Materials cover such subjects as finance, trade, foreign commerce, and credit transactions as they affect every sector of the Cuban economy, including construction, labor unions, agriculture, real estate, insurance, and government expenditures.

Audiencia de La Habana

These records consist largely of legal briefs, trial summaries, and court proceedings of the Havana high court. Most of these judicial materials deal with the early twentieth century.

Instituto Cubano de Estabilización del Azúcar (ICEA)

The records of this group constitute an extensive collection of materials dealing with every aspect of the sugar industry between the

1910s and the early 1960s. Records include materials from the Asociación Nacional de Hacendados, Asamblea Nacional de la Asociación de Colonos, and government agencies, and deal with sugar production, land use, fertilization, reports on individual *centrales*, international sugar-trade agreements, exports, trade statistics, and sugar by-products.

Tribunal de Urgencia de La Habana

There are two distinct record groups in this collection. One contains legal briefs, court summaries, and trial transcripts for 1934, dealing chiefly with acts of sabotage, rebellion, and violence against the Batista-Mendieta government. The second group of materials contains similar records, but for the period of the 1940s and 1950s. This collection offers an excellent source for the study of political opposition, conspiracy, rebellion, and sabotage in Havana, especially during the 1950s.

Aduana de La Habana

Havana customs records for the decades of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. These records are vital sources for research dealing with trade, commerce, slavery, exports, shipping, and customs organization.

Aduana de Cárdenas

Customs records for the Matanzas port city of Cárdenas during the nineteenth century. An important source for the study of provincial trade and commerce. Documents consist mainly of cargo manifests, vessel-movement records, and official reports.

Archivo de Carlos Roloff

General Roloff was responsible for the organization and the preservation of the records of the Liberation Army. This collection contains personal correspondence, reports, and inventories treating the final months of the Liberation Army and its disbandment between 1898 and 1899.

Gobierno Autónomico

An important collection of records dealing with the short-lived Autonomist government in Cuba between January and August 1898. The documents consist chiefly of official correspondence, ministry memoranda, published decrees, proclamations, and government reports.

Convención Constituyente de 1928

This collection contains the records of the constituent assembly convoked in 1928 under the government of Gerardo Machado for the purpose of extending the incumbent's presidential term, lengthening the

terms of national legislators, and reorganizing municipal administration. Materials include minutes of the sessions, draft proposals, decrees, and committee reports.

Convención Constituyente de 1940

This vast collection of materials contains the records of the constituent assembly elected to draft the constitution of 1940. The documents include minutes of the sessions, committee reports, drafts of amendments, voting records, and position statements of all participating political parties.

Secretaría de Gobernación

The records of the Department of Government pertain to the early twentieth century, especially the decade of 1900–10. Made up principally of official correspondence, department reports, and published materials, the records deal with public safety, public order, security forces, correctional institutions, and the penal system.

Ministerio de Estado

This group is a large collection of twentieth-century records dealing generally with Cuban foreign relations. Much of the material centers on United States–Cuban relations during the first three decades of the republic. The records consist of diplomatic notes, despatches, consular reports, and miscellaneous related documents and correspondence from other government ministries that bear on Cuban foreign relations.

Casa de Beneficiencia y Maternidad

This large collection of records spans the period from the late nineteenth century through the 1940s. Organized in case studies by alphabetical surnames, the records deal with various social programs, including charity, child care, maternity, and the departments of Párvulos, Lactancia, Varones, and Obreros.

Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria (INRA)

This small collection of materials comes from one of the most important agencies of the early years of the Cuban Revolution. The records deal with the years 1959–66 and include legal briefs, resolutions, decrees, field reports, memoranda, and official correspondence. The documents bear on virtually every aspect of the early years of the agrarian reform, including agricultural policy, land distribution, rural education, credit transactions, farm cooperatives, as well as sugar, rice, and coffee stabilization programs.

Tribunal de Cuentas

Included in these nineteenth-century records are legal briefs, *informes*, legal proceedings, and official correspondence treating finance, hospitals, imports and exports, census, budgets, credit, and taxes. A second, smaller collection in this record group deals with similar matters for the decade of the 1950s.

Junta Superior de Sanidad de la Isla de Cuba

This record group deals chiefly with the second half of the nineteenth century. Materials include official correspondence, government reports, notes of meetings, and *informes* dealing with matters of general health and sanitary conditions, including epidemics, cemeteries, medicine, food and meat inspection, pharmacies, hygiene, and health regulations.

Marcas y Patentes

This collection consists of twentieth-century records largely made up of copyright applications, franchises, supporting documentation, and licenses.

Tribunal de Comercio

An important record collection consisting of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century documents. These records, principally official correspondence, minutes, published reports, and regulations, constitute one of the principal sources for research into trade, credit, shipping, banking, transportation, and finances during the late colonial period.

Liceo de La Habana

These documents deal with the Liceo of Havana, one of the most prestigious colonial institutions. The Liceo was an important center of social, intellectual, and cultural activities during the nineteenth century. The materials included in this collection cover a wide variety of subjects, including dance, music, poetry, and awards. Also included are records pertaining to the governance of the Liceo, specifically membership lists, annual reports, club finances, and minutes of business meetings.⁷

Presidencia

This important collection of materials comes from the cabinet office of secretary of the presidency. It is perhaps the single most important body of research materials available for research on twentieth-century Cuba. The diverse subjects include sanitation, labor, police and military affairs, church, communications, public works, provincial and municipal

matters, transportation, shipping, trade, and agriculture. The official correspondence, government reports, and published materials that make up this collection deal with such figures as Ramón Grau San Martín, Fulgencio Batista, Carlos Prío Socarrás, Sumner Welles, and Eduardo Chibás, among others.

Obras Públicas

Included in this record group are official reports, government correspondence, and surveys largely from the nineteenth century. The records touch on such diverse subjects as construction of city streets, county roads, public buildings, lighting systems, aqueducts, schools, churches, docks, piers, and municipal plazas. This record collection includes a variety of original architectural plans and building blueprints.

Audiencia de Santo Domingo

Most of the records of this collection deal with the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The materials consist of legal briefs, official correspondence, reports, and minutes of sessions that cover a wide range of subjects, including public office, property, commerce, ecclesiastical matters, and education.

Secretaria de Agricultura

This small collection of records covers only the early 1940s. The miscellaneous records pertain largely to property, livestock, and sugar production.

Fondo Adquisiciones

A record collection similar to *Donativos y Remisiones* in its diversity. These records were acquired formally by the Archives, usually through purchase, from a variety of private sources. The materials included in this collection consist of documents that deal with the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Most of the records are in the form of personal and official correspondence of political figures, army officers, labor organizers, and leaders of the nineteenth-century struggle for independence, including Enrique Collazo, Juan Gualberto Gómez, Manuel Despaigne, Julio Sanguily, Carlos Roloff, Diego Vicente Tejera, and Salvador Cisneros Betancourt.

Bienes del Estado

These eighteenth- and nineteenth-century materials include government reports, official correspondence, and published decrees dealing with such subjects as taxation, state lands, church property, public buildings, credit transactions, and public administration.

Secretaría del Archivo Nacional

The records in this collection consist of correspondence, official reports, minutes, and records of acquisitions relating to the administration of the Cuban National Archives. The period covered by these records spans the years from the early 1900s through the 1960s.

Escribanías

This enormous collection of documents deals principally with the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The materials consist of the records of *escribanos* (notaries) attached to the various government councils and tribunals. The collection contains a wide range of records, mainly legal materials, dealing with such matters as bankruptcy, sales transactions, crime, and suits and litigations. Most documents are in the form of briefs, minutes, informes, and official reports.

Administración General Terrestre

The documents included in this collection consist of records spanning the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Organized around provincial and municipal subject entries, the materials deal principally with the administration of public property, the collection of rents and taxes, property sales, public funds, the slave trade, property inheritance, and public accounts.

Archivo Emeterio S. Santovenia

This collection consists of miscellaneous materials from the Cuban historian Emeterio S. Santovenia. The collection includes a wide assortment of materials dealing with twentieth-century politics, published works, and Santovenia's correspondence with other Cuban historians.

Ordenación General de Pagos

The records included in this collection span the nineteenth century. They deal with public salaries, retirement, government pensions, treasury transactions, and public bonds.

Archivo Calixto García Iñiguez

This small collection contains personal correspondence, decrees, and reports by Calixto García during the 1890s. Most of this material is dated between 1896 and 1898 and covers the years when General García commanded the eastern corps of the Liberation Army.

Presidios y Cárceles

A modest collection of records for the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The materials, mostly in the form of government reports, official correspondence, and transcripts of judicial proceedings,

deal with trials involving cases of homicide, robbery, and assault. The records pertain almost exclusively to Havana.

Consejo de Administración

This record collection spans the second half of the nineteenth century through the end of Spanish colonial administration in 1898. The records include *consultas*, official correspondence, budgetary reports, *informes*, and published decrees and regulations dealing with virtually every aspect of public administration and government in colonial Cuba. Subjects include credit, public expenditure, municipal and provincial elections, public works, slavery, education, railroads, rents, political appointments, retirement of public officials, the penal system, public charity, salaries, tariffs, and property transactions.⁸

Reales Ordenes y Cédulas

This large collection consists of decrees, circulars, orders, and *reglamentos* from the sixteenth century to 1898.

Archivo Valle Iznaga

A remarkable collection of documents pertaining to the sugar properties held by the Valle Iznaga family. Materials deal with sugar, slavery, trade, ranching, and the administration of sugar production. Materials include *testimonios*, slave censuses, land surveys, legal briefs, and property titles. The bulk of the correspondence in the collection includes personal letters between members of the Valle Iznaga family and ranking planters, political leaders, and government officials of the nineteenth century.

Indice Alfabético y Defunciones del Ejército Libertador

This collection consists entirely of data cards on the fifty thousand officers and soldiers who served in the Cuban Liberation Army between 1895 and 1898 and were mustered out between 1898 and 1899. The cards contain brief biographical data, including place and date of birth, family origins, rank, date of enrollment in the Liberation Army, and the military branch or unit to which the individual belonged. Included too are cards for Cuban military personnel who perished during the War for Independence.

Archivo Serafín Sánchez

A small collection of materials pertaining to General Serafín Sánchez, one of the more important politico-military leaders of the struggle for independence in the late nineteenth century. Only the guide to these records is located in the National Archives, however; the record collection itself is located in the Archivo Histórico de Sancti Spiritus.

Seguro de Gobernadores, Alcaldes y Concejales

This modest record collections deals largely with the late 1950s. The materials pertain to government expenditures and cover such diverse subjects as insurance, public revenues, budgets, accounting systems, government banking transactions, and analyses of outflow of funds.

Archivo Jorge Quintana

A small private collection of materials belonging to journalist-historian Jorge Quintana. The materials include correspondence, reprints, and articles relating to Cuban politics between the 1930s and the 1950s.

Archivo Sanguily-Varios-Carlos García Velez

This record group is made up of three different collections. The Archivo Manuel Sanguily contains manifestos, diaries, and personal correspondence with a number of prominent political leaders of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, Salvador Cisneros Betancourt, Antonio Maceo, Julio Sanguily, Máximo Gómez, and Francisco Carrillo. A second collection, "Archivo Varios," is a small, diverse assortment of records that includes correspondence from José Lacret Morlot, Antonio Maceo, Bartolomé Masó, Tomás Estrada Palma, José Martí, Pablo de la Torriente Brau, Fernando Ortiz, and Quintín Banderas. Also included in this collection are scattered documents dealing with the Ten Years' War (1868–78), the War for Independence (1895–98), communism during the 1920s and 1930s, the revolutionary struggle against Gerardo Machado, and the Directorio Estudiantil Universitario (DEU). The third collection, the Archivo Carlos García Velez, consists principally of the personal and official correspondence of García Velez between the 1880s and the early 1900s. Materials include letters from Mario G. Menocal, Máximo Gómez, Francisco Estrada, and Carlos Mendieta.

Archivo Francisco V. Aguilera

This record collection deals entirely with the period of the Ten Years' War (1868–78). Most of this small collection consists of correspondence between members of the Aguilera family and important persons in the abortive independence struggle, including Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, Vicente García, Salvador Cisneros Betancourt, Calixto García, Tomás Estrada Palma, and Bartolomé Masó.

Miscelánea de Libros

This collection is made up of unpublished bound manuscripts and ledgers dealing with a variety of subjects pertaining to the nineteenth century. Topics include population censuses, property surveys, expendi-

tures of funds, and provincial and municipal registries that deal with taxation, slavery, local salaries, contract laborers, rents, and state property.

Academia de la Historia

Perhaps the single most diverse holding in the Archivo Nacional, this record group is actually a miscellaneous collection of many smaller archives. Included in this record group are the Archivo Cosme de la Torriente, Archivo Miguel A. Zaldívar y Sánchez, Archivo Antonio Góvín, Colección Carlos Manuel de Céspedes y Quesada, Colección Carlos Manuel de Céspedes y Castillo, Colección Salvador Cisnero Betancourt, and Colección Figarola-Caneda. The Academia collection also contains copies of newspapers and magazines spanning the years between the 1860s and 1920s. Other materials include miscellaneous correspondence from José M. Heredia, José de la Luz y Caballero, José Jacinto Milanés, Ramón Leocadeo Bonachea, Calixto García, and Bartolomé Masó covering such varied subjects as anarchism, armed struggle, the Association of Veterans, the United States, slavery, and railroads. Another large component of this collection is the Documentación Procedente del Archivo General de Indias. These materials cover the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and deal principally with the Spanish conquest and colonization. This record collection contains official correspondence, decrees, royal orders, and memorials and manifestos dealing with every aspect of the first two hundred years of Spanish government in Cuba, including exploration, conquest, settlement, the construction of fortifications, ecclesiastical matters, trade, commerce, contraband, *encomiendas*, slavery, Florida, the fleet system, piracy, and education. The records include correspondence from Diego Velásquez, Hernán Cortes, and Bartolomé de las Casas, to name only the most prominent.

NOTES

1. *Cuban Studies Newsletter* 1 (December 1970), p. 1.
2. *Cuban Acquisitions and Bibliography*, edited by Earl J. Pariseau (Washington, D.C., 1970).
3. A detailed inventory of this collection has been published by the National Archives. See Cuba, Archivo Nacional, *Inventario general del archivo de la delegación del Partido Revolucionario Cubano en Nueva York*, 2 vols. (La Habana, 1955–56).
4. For an annotated inventory of this collection, see Cuba, Archivo Nacional, *Catálogo de los fondos de Las Floridas* (La Habana, 1944).
5. This collection has been indexed in Cuba, Archivo Nacional, *Catálogo de los fondos del Real Consulado de Agricultura, Industria y Comercio y de la Junta de Fomento* (La Habana, 1943).
6. A guide to this material is found in Cuba, Archivo Nacional, *Catálogo de los fondos de la Comisión Militar Ejecutiva y Permanente de la Isla de Cuba* (La Habana, 1945).
7. For an inventory of this record group, see Cuba, Archivo Nacional, *Catálogo de los fondos del Liceo Artístico y Literario de La Habana* (La Habana, 1944).
8. For a guide to this collection, see Cuba, Archivo Nacional, *Catálogo de los fondos del Consejo de Administración de la Isla de Cuba*, 3 vols. (La Habana, 1948–50).