

# Caribbean Collections

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Collections



## EXHIBIT CATALOG

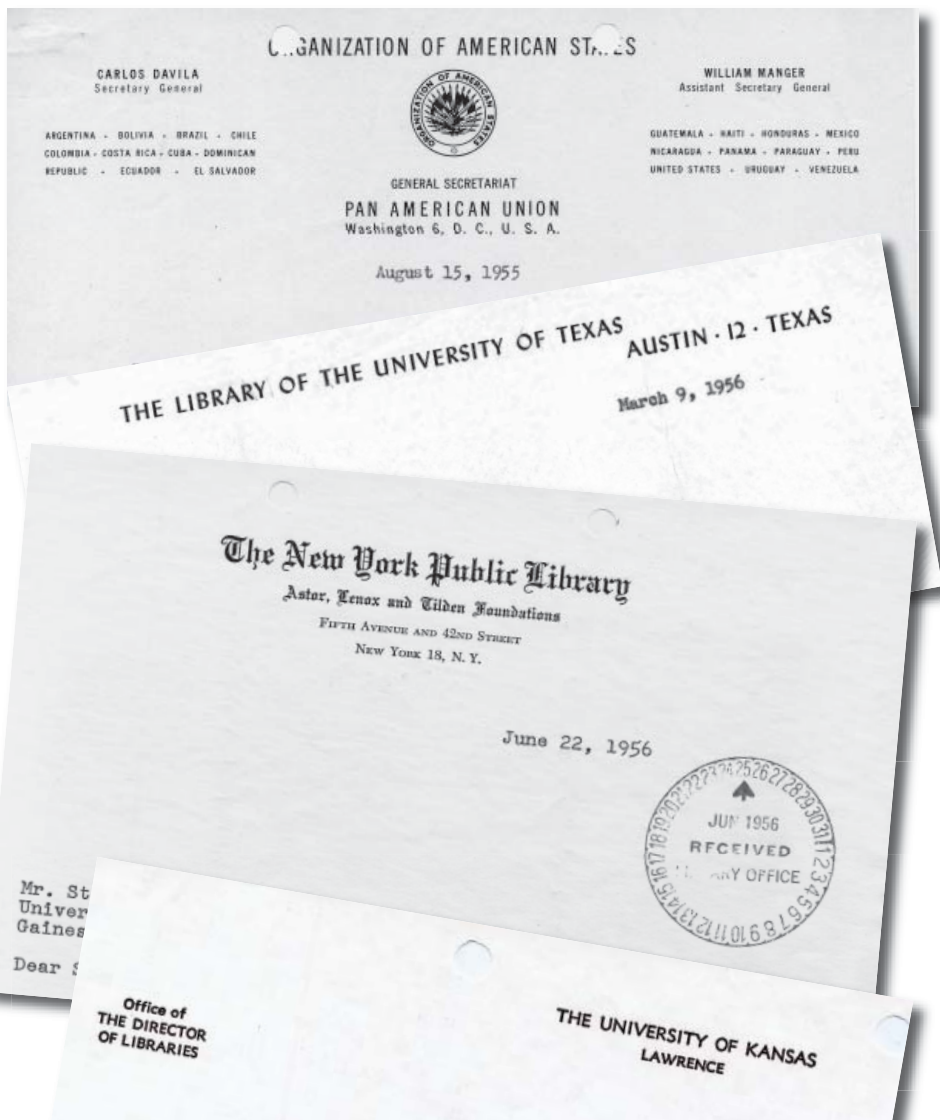
April 15 - June 30, 2005

The Exhibit Gallery • Second Floor Smathers Library  
George A. Smathers Libraries • University of Florida





## Source material at the University of Florida



## Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials:

A perusal of the files of Office of the Director of the U.F. George A. Smathers Libraries is a great inspiration for anyone in search of background on Salalm's earliest days and the initial meeting of 1956. There are a number of fascinating letters and exchanges between major Salalm pioneers and then UF Library Director, Stanley West.

Names of the correspondents will ring familiar to those with any knowledge of Salalm's history. There are numerous notes and messages from Marietta Daniels Sheppard, one of which was written in August 1955 that announces that the Pan American Union will agree to cosponsor the meeting.

A March 1956 letter from Nettie Lee Benson of the University of Texas carried the statement: "looking forward to our meeting with a great deal of interest" – as she agreed to speak on microfilming of Latin American newspapers.

Another letter of note is from Robert Vosper, Director of Libraries of the University of Kansas. Vosper calls the possibilities of the 1956 meeting very useful and fruitful, predicting a large interest.

Today, 50 years later, we in Salalm can certainly look back and take pride in the accomplishments of our organization. At the same time, we should pause and reflect upon the leadership and vitality of those with the vision to join together to identify problems and needs, and to work together to solve the challenges of building Latin American research collections.

Richard Phillips  
University of Florida

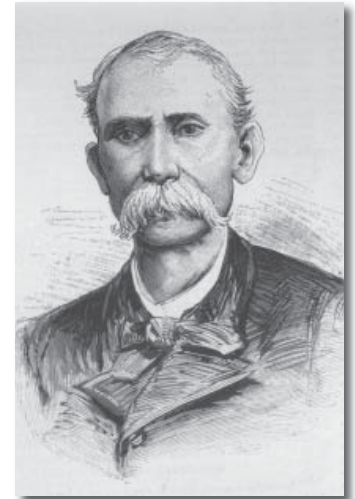
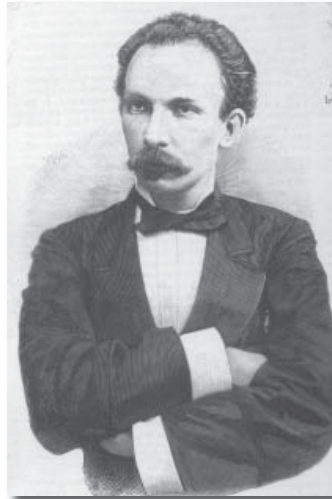


# The War for Cuban Independence

## The War for Cuban Independence, 1895-1898: Spain, Cuba, and the United States

“Anyone who had not seen the war coming  
must have been blind.”

Severo Nuñez Gómez, Captain of Artillery, 1899



## The leaders of the Cuban war for independence

*La Ilustración Española y  
Americana*, Madrid,  
8 marzo 1895, No. IX,  
p. 144.



José Martí was the spirit of the revolution. Though he died in the opening days of the war, it was his work and his voice in the United States and Cuba that laid the groundwork for the concept of a Cuban republic.

General Máximo Gómez, veteran of the first war for independence, was the military tactician. He adopted a scorched earth policy, arguing that the guerilla war in Cuba could only succeed by making conditions too chaotic and too expensive for Spain to afford. “Blessed be the torch” was his motto.

Antonio Maceo, the “Bronze Titan,” was the insurgents’ major field commander, known for his lightning strikes and ambushes against Spanish forces. Spanish attempts to isolate the insurgents by dividing Cuba into sections defended by *trochas*, or defensive lines, utterly failed to stop Maceo’s forces. He broke through one line after another, hitting weak points, and using woods and swamps to cover his troops until they were ready to strike. Maceo died late in 1896, shot down near Havana.

## Historical Overview

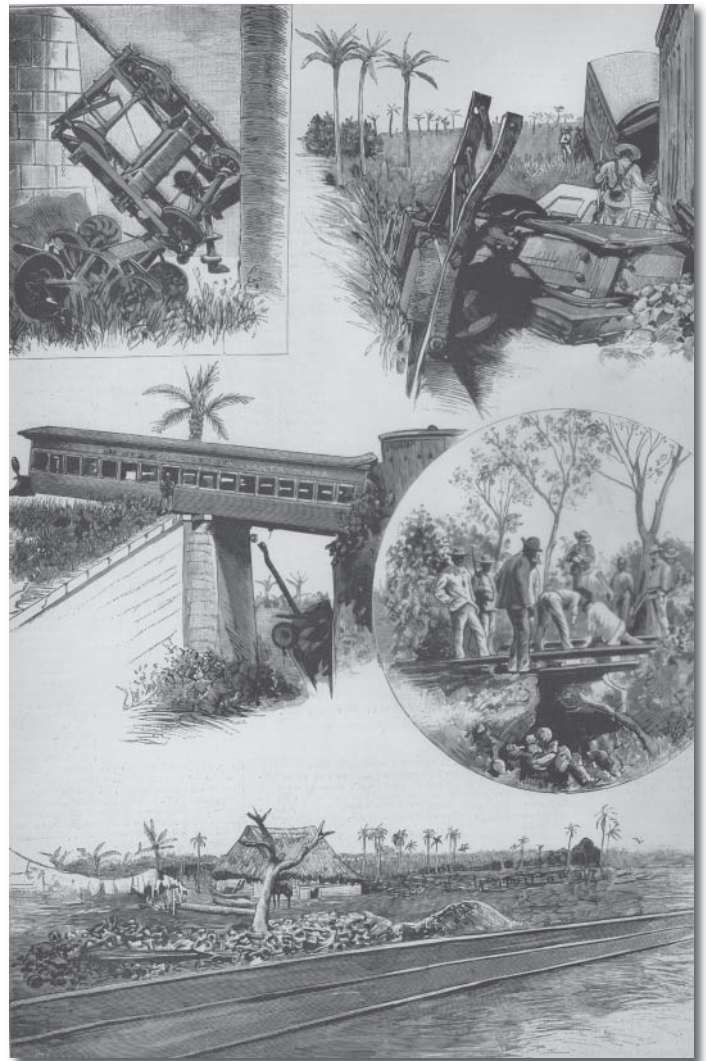
Text and Image Selection by James Cusick

The second war for Cuban independence began on February 24, 1895, with an uprising in Baire, and ended on December 10, 1898, with the Treaty of Paris between the United States and Spain (officially promulgated April 11, 1899). Most of the conflict was a long guerilla campaign waged by Cuban *insurrectos* against Spanish troops and garrisons between 1895 and 1897. Throughout those years, an island colony of 1.6 million people successfully carried out a war against a mother country with almost ten times its population. However, the entrance of the United States into the war in 1898 dramatically changed the situation.

Although the American government initially supported Spanish sovereignty on Cuba, Spain’s inability to restore order worried the administrations of Grover Cleveland and William McKinley. Throughout 1897, American newspapers advocated supplanting Spain and suppressing the Cuban Revolution directly. The “Spanish-American War” commenced when an explosion destroyed the *U.S.S. Maine* in Havana’s harbor on February 15, 1898. The cause of the explosion remains unknown even to the present day. However, it resulted in an American declaration of war against Spain, and a quick naval war against the Spanish possessions of Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Cuba. The first two were soon American territories, while Cuba achieved its independence only at the cost of having the United States impose its version of a republic on the island.



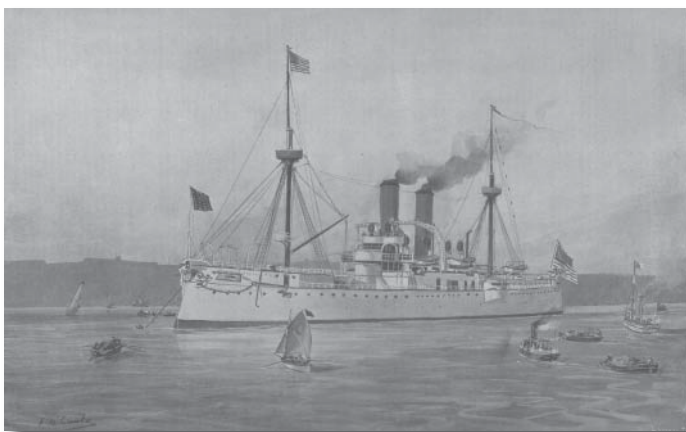
**Blockhouses like the one shown here occurred throughout Cuba.** They were part of the *trochas*, or defensive lines, that the Spanish military tried to maintain to impede the movement of insurgents between provinces. From the photographic collections of the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History.



**Destruction of railway lines in Cuba.**

*La Ilustración Española y Americana*, Madrid, 15 enero 1896, No. II, p. 36.

Part of Máximo Gómez's strategy to win independence was to destroy the infrastructure of Cuba's wealth. He targeted sugar plantations and lines of communication (telegraphs and railways). By this means, he argued, Spain would lose revenue and wealthy Cubans would lose their prosperity. Ultimately, he felt this would force them into negotiations for peace on the insurgents' terms.



**The U.S.S. Maine in Havana harbor prior to the explosion.**

*La Ilustración Española y Americana*, 30 enero 1898, No. IV, p. 56.



**The fortress of El Morro looms above the entrance to the harbor of Santiago de Cuba.** From the photographic collections of the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History.

Seen here from its sister fortification of Socapa, El Morro occupied the eastern bluff over the harbor entrance, about 65 meters above water level. The crucial naval conflict between Spain and the United States took place for possession of this strategic point. A Spanish fleet reached Santiago on May 18, 1898. Many of the ships arrived poorly provisioned and nearly out of fuel. By June, an opposing U.S. squadron had blockaded the harbor bottling up Spanish naval forces inside (see diagram of harbor). Some 10,000 soldiers and 30,000 inhabitants were trapped at Santiago with few sources of food. *Insurrectos* cut off the town by land, although cooperation between Cubans and Americans diminished as American military officers tried to brush the insurgents aside.

When Admiral Pascual Cervera tried to break free of the harbor on July 3, 1898, his squadron was destroyed. Shortly afterward, Spanish troops throughout the island surrendered. Part of the surrender agreement was that the United States would provide Spain's troops with safe passage back to Europe. The loss of the fleet at Santiago meant Spain had no means to defend Cuba and Puerto Rico against American naval power. It also aided American war aims in the Philippines by forcing a redeployment of Spain's remaining navy.



**Diagram of the layout of the harbor of Santiago.** Showing its narrow entrance channel, guarded by El Morro (No. 12) and Socapa (No. 14), and the location of the Spanish squadron inside (No. 3). From *La Ilustración Española y Americana*, Madrid, 30 mayo 1898, No. XV, p. 312.

## Sources

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Foner, Philip S. *The Spanish-Cuban-American War and the Birth of American Imperialism, 1895-1902. Volume 1: 1895-1902*. Monthly Review Press, New York and London, 1972.

Gómez, Severo Nuñez (Capt. Of Artillery). *The Spanish-American War, Blockades and Coast Defense*. Translated from the Spanish. (Office of Naval Intelligence, War Notes No. VI, Information from Abroad; Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.), 1899.

Trask, David F. *The War with Spain in 1898*. Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1981.

Wilson, H.W. *The Downfall of Spain, Naval History of the Spanish-American War*. Little Brown, and Co., Boston, 1900.



## Caribbean manuscript collections

The manuscript collections of the George A. Smathers Libraries reflect the libraries' commitment to preserve and interpret the history of the Caribbean. Cuba and Haiti figure prominently in the Libraries' holdings and include some of those nations' most important historical collections. This exhibit features materials from the Braga Brothers Collection and the Rochambeau Collection, two of the Libraries' most outstanding collections.



### The Braga Brothers Collection and the Central Manati

The Braga Brothers Collection is one of the richest archival sources on the modernization and expansion of the Cuban sugar industry in the century preceding the rise to power of Fidel Castro. The collection focuses on the business of the Czarnikow-Rionda Company, the world's largest importer of Cuban sugar in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1961, when the company's

Cuban assets were seized, Czarnikow-Rionda managed four sugar companies that operated six mills or *centrales*. The largest of the mills was the Central Manati.

The Manati Sugar Company was incorporated in New York on April 30, 1912. The Central Manati was located in the northwest corner of Oriente Province, but the company's vast land holdings—over 200,000 acres—extended into Camagüey Province. Of those 200,000 acres, only 30,000 were in cane cultivation. In the 1950s,



portions of the unused lands were sold to a joint venture undertaken by Manati and King Ranch of Texas.

The two companies formed the Compañía Ganadera Becerra, which owned 40,000 acres of land and over 7,500 head of cattle. The Manati Sugar Company also operated its own railroad and port facilities.

The materials chosen for this exhibit focus on the Caribbean sugar worker. A Cuban sugar mill employed thousands of seasonal workers who labored at the mill and in the cane fields. Cane cutters were brought from Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean islands. Among the exhibited items are photographs of the mill and cane fields, handbills advertising jobs for cane cutters and cart drivers, and a map of the mill *batey*. The word *batey* refers to the sugar mill complex that included the mill itself, warehouses, rail yards, and the factory town. The living area included worker houses and barracks, schools, churches, an infirmary, and the company store or *tienda*.

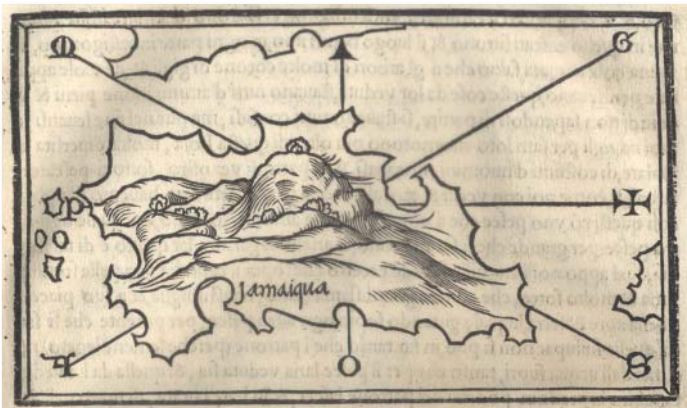
### **The Rochambeau Collection**

The Rochambeau Collection chronicles France's great expedition in 1802 to suppress the Haitian Revolution and to resist British encroachment on Saint Dominigue. Donatien Marie Joseph Rochambeau was sent on the expedition as second in command, but took command early in the fight when the expedition's leader died of yellow fever. The bulk of the collection was purchased at auction from Sotheby's in 1958. The provenance of the collection was unknown to Sotheby. Other documents related to Saint Dominigue were acquired from individual dealers after 1958 and a calendar for the collection was compiled in 1972.

The items chosen for this exhibit are two military maps drawn by French engineers.

Text and Image Selection by Carl Van Ness

## Rare books



Bordone, Benedetto, d. 1539.

Isolario di Benedetto Bordone nel qual si ragiona di tutte l'isole del mondo, con li lor nomi antichi & moderni, historie, fauole, & modi del loro viuere, & in qual parte del mare stanno, & in qual parallelo & clima giaciono. Con la gionta del Monte del Oro nouamente ritrouato. Con il breue del papa et gratia & priuilegio della illustrissima Signoria di Venetia come in quelli appare.

[Vinegia : Nicolo d'Aristotile, detto Zoppino],  
MDXXXIII [1534]

10 p.l., lxxiiii numb. l. : ill., maps ; 30 cm.

Title in red and black within woodcut ornamental border.

First published, Venice, 1528, under title: Libro di Benedetto Bordone. Nel qual si ragiona de tutte l'isole del mondo ...

Benedetto Bordone, born in Padua, was trained in book illustration and woodcuts. This book is divided into three parts prefaced by an introduction to mathematics and geography. The first part relates to the islands of America and northern and western Europe, the second the islands of the Mediterranean, and the third those of Asia, including the first representation of Japan in a European publication. It also contains a map of the world in oval form and a city plan of "Temistitan," present day Mexico City, before its destruction by Cortes. The text describes the people, climates, history of the islands, and other information resulting from the navigational discoveries of European expansion. The first printed record of Pizarro's conquest of Peru appears in the text.

Chanvalon, Jean Baptiste Thibault de, ca. 1725-1785.  
Voyage a la Martinique, contenant diverses observations sur la physique, l'histoire naturelle, l'agriculture les moeurs, & les usages de cette isle, faites en 1751 & dans les annees suivantes. Lu a l'Academie royale des sciences de Paris en 1761.

Paris : J. B. Bauche, 1763.

4 p.l., viii, 192 (i.e. 238), [80] p. : fold. maps ; 27 cm.

This copy is extra-illustrated (leaves added by a previous owner that were not issued as part of the book) with engravings and a manuscript copy letter from Joseph Gaspard Tascher de Lapagerie, father of the Empress Josephine, who was born on Martinique.

Jean Baptiste Thibault de Chanvalon was involved in the Kourou disaster that began in the same year this book was published. France had just lost its Canadian holdings to the British and was determined to strengthen its last remaining large colony in the Americas, French Guiana. An ambitious plan was developed to bring European settlers to an area on the Kourou River just north of the capital Cayenne. The hope was that perhaps 2,000 colonists could be recruited. The response was overwhelming, with over 13,000 responding from all over Europe. They arrived in the rainy season when no construction could take place and nothing had been prepared. Within months, 9,000 had died and over the next two years 2,000 returned to France. Chanvalon, while having little to do with it, was one of the major figures blamed for the disaster. The king later exonerated him in 1781.

Bellin, Jacques Nicolas, 1703-1772.

Description des debouquements qui sont au nord de l'isle de Saint Domingue ...

Paris : Imprimerie de Didot, 1768.

5 p. l., 152 p. : xxxiv charts (part fold.) ; 26 cm.

Added engraved title page: Description géographique des débouquemens qui sont au nord de l'isle de Saint Domingue; avec des cartes et des plans des isles qui forment ces passages, et des dangers qui s'y trouvent. Pour le service des vaisseaux du roi. Par ordre de M. le duc de Praslin, ministre et secrétaire d'État, ayant le Département de la marine. Par N. Bellin, ingénieur de la marine ... MDCCLXVIII.

Also known as Jacques Nicolas Bellin de Trigand, Bellin worked for the Depot des Cartes et Plans de la Marine for over fifty years. In 1741 he was appointed ingénieur hydrographe de la Marine. Later, Bellin became hidrographe du roy and a member of the Royal Society in London. Extremely prolific, he produced hundreds of maps and numerous atlases, including the *Neptune francais*, *Hydrographic francaise*, and the *Petit atlas maritime*, which was specially devoted to the coasts of North and South America. He also contributed the maps to l'Abbé Prevost's *Histoire generale des voyages*.

Kraus in 1952 has Frances Jane Monckton written on an endpaper and the Hunt copy has Elizabeth Mary Monckton. This copy has Frances Jane Monckton. The Kraus description of the binding and the signature indicate it could possibly be the Kraus copy, but it was acquired in 1955 with no indication of provenance.

Wakefield, D. R.  
Resistance is useless : portraits of slaves from the British West Indies.  
Goole, East Yorkshire : Chevington Press, 2004.  
1 v. : col. ill., ports. ; 41 cm.

Edition limited to 50 copies. This is copy no. 18.

"The text and etchings are the work of D.R. Wakefield ... All the printing was done by the artist at his press ... The paper covers were designed and screenprinted by the artist. The binding of the book was achieved with the help of Stephen Ingram and David Robinson of Hull"--Colophon.



Byam, Lydia.  
A collection of exotics from the Island of Antigua / by a lady.  
[London, White, 1799]  
[5] leaves, [12] leaves of plates : col. ill. ; 47 cm.

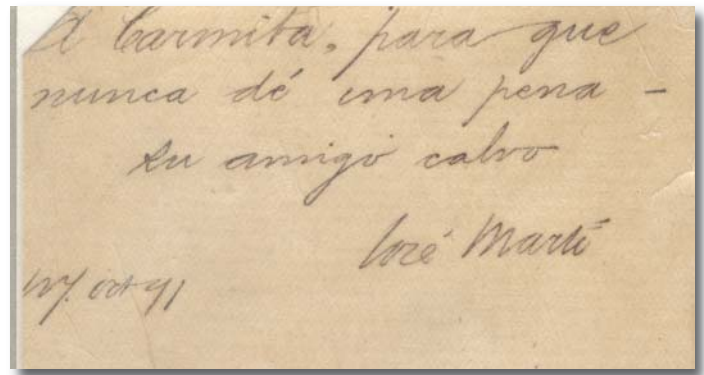
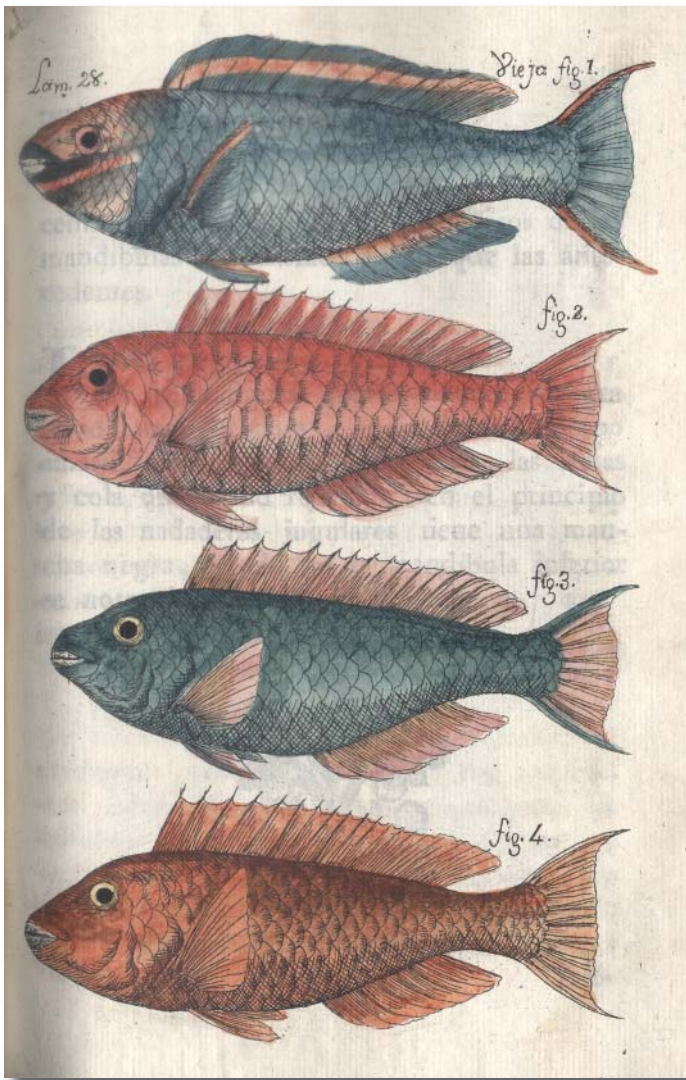
This is an extremely rare botanical work on the Americas, with less than ten copies known to exist. The attribution of the work to Lydia Byam comes from a letter laid-in the Hunt Botanical Library copy identifying her as the older sister of William Gunthorpe, governor of Antigua, which also has the initials "LB" handwritten at the bottom of the dedication. Two other copies are bound with *A collection of fruits from the West Indies, drawn and colored from nature* in which the dedication is signed "Lydia Byam." The imprint comes from a review in the *Monthly review*, n. s., v. 30, p. 333, November, 1799. This may be faulty as the *Collection of fruits*, printed in a similar matter, does have an imprint being the Oriental Press of Wilson & Co. The dedicatée, Viscountess Galway, was Jane Westenra Monckton. A copy offered for sale by H.P.



Paseo pintoresco por la isla de Cuba : obra artistica y literaria, en que se pintan y describen los edificios, los monumentos, los campos y las costumbres de este privilegiado suelo : publicada por los empresarios de la litografia del Gobierno y Capitanía General.  
Habana : Imprenta de Soler y Comp., 1841-1842.  
2 v. : col. ill. ; 15 x 29 cm.  
Alternate title(s): Paseo por la isla de Cuba  
Vistas de Habana

Volume 1 contains the descriptive text for the 24 plate illustrations of v. 2. The text was written by Antonio Bachiller, T. Sandalio de Noda, Manuel Costales, Ildefonso Vivanco, Cirilo Villaverde, and L. A. de Ugarte.

This is a fine example of the quality of hand-colored lithograph books produced in Cuba in the middle of the 19th century. The illustrations are by Fernando de la Costa y Prades and Laureano Cuevas.



Martí, José, 1853-1895.  
Versos sencillos.  
New York : Louis Weiss, 1891.  
78 p. ; 18 cm.

Inscribed to Carmen Mantilla by Martí: "A Carmita, para que nunca de una pena. Su amigo calvo, Jose Martí. NY, Oct. 91"

Donated from the estate of Cesar Romero by his brother Eduardo Romero, grandchildren of Carmen Mantilla.

La revista del Vigía.  
Matanzas [Cuba] : Ediciones Vigía, [1990-  
Año 1, no. 1 (enero-abr. 1990)-

"Esgrafiada iluminada a mano."

Each no. issued in a limited ed. of 200 copies; all issues are handmade and reproduced on recycled paper and include a variety of materials: cloth, string, pieces of wood veneer, coarse white and brown paper; includes movable and removable parts, and constructions.

Ediciones Vigía was founded in April 1985 in the city of Matanzas, Cuba.

Text and Image Selection by Jeffrey Barr

Parra, Antonio (Parra y Callado)  
Descripcion de diferentes piezas de historia natural las mas del ramo maritimo : representadas en setenta y cinco laminas / su autor don Antonio Parra.  
En La Havana : En la Imprenta de la Capitanía General, 1787.  
[2], 4, 195, [6] p., [2], 73 leaves of plates ([2] folded) :  
75 ill. ; 21 cm.

Purchased in memory of Rosa Quintero Mesa, Latin American Librarian at the University of Florida 1961-1992.

Antonio Parra y Callado was born in Portugal in 1739 and went to Cuba in 1771 on a commission from the Botanical Garden in Madrid. Materials he collected went to the newly created Royal Cabinet of Natural History. He remained in Cuba for 30 years and established the Cabinet of Natural History, the first such collection in Cuba. This title was the first illustrated book printed in Cuba. The engravings were done by Parra's son, Manuel Parra y Muñoz.



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<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu>