

University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

Finding Aid - Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club Collection (CHC0124)

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Language of description: English

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Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club Collection

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Summary information

Repository: University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

Title: Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club Collection

ID: CHC0124

Date: 1929-1986 (date of creation)

Physical description: 3.00 linear ft. (Six boxes)

Language: Spanish

**Dates of creation,
revision and deletion:**

Note [generalNote]:

Other Information:

Sponsor Note: Portions of this collection were digitized with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club began in Havana as the Lyceum, a women's society dedicated to promoting cultural understanding, social consciousness and social service, as well as physical fitness and sports. It was founded by fourteen women concerned with social problems as well as the role of women in fostering the intellectual development and expression in Cuba: Berta Arocena, Carmen and Dulce María Castellanos, Carmelina Guanache, Rebeca Gutiérrez, Matilde Martínez Márquez, Lillian Mederos, Renéé and Sarah Méndez Capote, María Teresa Moré, Alicia Santamaría, Ofelia Tomé, and María Josefa Vidaurreta.

This group's first meeting took place at the home of Berta Arocena, the Lyceum's first president, on 1 December 1928. Following the model of a similar Spanish association, the Lyceum was officially incorporated on 22 February 1929 at a home at Calzada and A Streets in El Vedado section of Havana. The first ten years of the Lyceum's history were mainly a period of consolidation and development as an organization focused on the promotion of cultural awareness and activities. Although social service was not part of the society's initial agenda, it was among the primary goals of the organization.

On February 22, 1939, at the tenth anniversary of its inauguration, the Lyceum was merged with the "Tennis de Señoritas," another women's organization dedicated primarily to women's sports, whereupon it became known as the Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club. From this point in time, the new club flourished due to an influx of new members and a strengthened focus on its goals. The Lyceum, as it was still commonly known, continued its tradition of promoting cultural awareness, exhibitions and lectures, and increased the emphasis on and the scope of its social service activities. The society moved to a larger location more suited to its needs for space at Calzada and 8 Streets in El Vedado.

The scope of the activities of the Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club was wide, including several “firsts” in Cuba. The Lyceum sponsored many different lectures and conferences on many topics given by some of the most prominent scholars and speakers of the times from across the ideological spectrum. Its facilities were also used for recitals sponsored of other associations such as the Sociedad de Conciertos (Concert Society) and the Sociedad de Música de Cámara (Society of Chamber Music). It even welcomed the famous Pro-Arte Musical when the latter’s auditorium was seized after the Cuban Revolution of 1959. The Lyceum also had a gallery which housed exhibitions of classical and modern art, photography, and folk art of different countries but with a particular focus on Cuban arts. The most famous of these exhibitions was the one that took place every April: the exhibition of flower and plant arrangements which eventually acquired international fame.

There are several other notable accomplishments by the Lyceum. It founded the first free public library in Cuba and the first children’s library on the island. It sponsored various classes at different levels, from the famed flower arrangement classes to literacy classes and vocational training. The popularity of these classes increased after the 1959 Revolution because classes were conducted without the ideological interference of the revolutionary government. Indeed, from its foundation of social service activities dedicated to “works of charity and solving the problems of the destitute,” the Lyceum developed the School of Social Service of the University of Havana.

The Lyceum continued to function until it was closed on 16 March 1968 by the Castro government, with many of its members, including the last president, becoming exiled in the United States and other countries.

In the early 1980s, the Cuban Heritage Collection (CHC) began a campaign to collect Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club materials from former members in exile, many of whom donated their Club memorabilia and ephemera to the CHC. The materials collected through those efforts comprise this collection. It was voluntarily processed by a former member of the Lyceum and lawyer, Alicia O. Hernández, with the assistance of CHC staff.

Scope and content

The Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club Collection is comprised of administrative files, publications, events and exhibitions programs, and photographs of this Cuban women’s club. The materials in this collection primarily document the Lyceum’s services and activities, e.g. art exhibitions, children’s programs, and its famous flower arrangement classes and shows, from its inception until its closing by Castro’s government in 1968.

Notes

Title notes

Arrangement

The Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club Collection is organized into four series.

Please see the Finding Aid/Inventory section of this guide for more detailed information.

Alternative form available

Some or all of this collection has been digitized.

<http://merrick.library.miami.edu/cubanHeritage/chc0124/>

Restrictions on access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions governing use

Requests to publish or display materials from this collection require written permission from the rights owner. Please, contact chc@miami.edu for more information.

Related material

Selected published materials in CHC and/or the University of Miami's Otto G. Richter Library: Instituto Jacques Maritain de Cuba. *La Mujer cubana: historia e infrahistoria*. Miami, Fla. Ediciones Universal, 2000.

Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club. *Baile de las Américas*. La Habana: 1959.

NOTE: Cover illustrated by Massaguer.

Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club. *Exposición de flores*. La Habana: P. Fernández, 1956.

Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club. *Exposición de plástica cubana contemporánea*: Lyceum, La Habana, Enero 28, 1954. La Habana: Lyceum, 1954.

Séjourné, Laurette. *La mujer cubana en el quehacer de la historia*. México: Siglo Veintiuno Editores, 1980.

Sosa de Quesada, Arístides. *Reliquias de Martí: conferencia ilustrada con proyecciones en pantalla, pronunciada en el teatro "Sauto" de Matanzas, a invitación de "Amigos de la cultura cubana"; en la Sociedad Lyceum Lawn & Tennis club de la Habana, y en el Club San Carlos de Santiago de Cuba, a instancias de ambas directivas*. La Habana: P. Fernández, 1942.

The Stoner Collection on Cuban Feminism: a Microfilm Collection Held in the Arizona State University Libraries Microform Service. Tempe, Ariz. Arizona State University Libraries, 1990.

Stoner, K. Lynn, ed. and Luis Hipólito Serrano Pérez. *Cuban and Cuban-American Women: An Annotated Bibliography*. Wilmington, Del. Scholarly Resources, 2000.

----- . *From the House to the Streets: The Cuban Woman's Movement for Legal Reform, 1898-1940*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1991.

Torriente, Cosme de la. *Cooperación intelectual: conferencia pronunciada en el "Lyceum y Lawn Tennis Club" de la Habana, el día 16 de diciembre de 1941*. La Habana: "La Verónica," imprenta de M. Altolaguirre, 1942.

Women in Cuba, 1923-1985: Pamphlets. Cuba: various publishers, 1923-1985. Microfilm by Princeton University Library, 1987.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:122

Access points

- Lyceum y Lawn Tennis Club
- Mederos, Elena, 1900-1981 (subject)
- Women -- Cuba -- Havana -- Societies and clubs (subject)
- Women -- Cuba -- Sources (subject)

Series descriptions

Series id138353: Alphabetical File

Date: 1929-1988 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id138354	File -			1
id138355	File - Administrative Organization	undated, 1929		1 1
id138356	File - Rental Form and Rules	undated		1 2
id138357	File - Statutes – Lyceum	undated, 1944		1 3
id138358	File - Statutes – Social Service Committee	undated		1 4
id138359	File - Articles – Flower Shows	undated, 1944		1 5
id138360	File - Award – Thirty years' Membership	1965		1 6
id138361	File - Brochure – "Lyceum and Lawn Tennis Club,"	1942		1 7
id138362	File - Bulletin – Instituto Nacional de Cultura (INC)	1965		1 8
id138363	File - Cards (Printed by the Lyceum)	undated		1 9
id138364	File - Clippings	undated, 1936-1984		1 10
id138365	File - Conference – "Primera Fiesta Intelectual de la Mujer,"	1935		1 11
id138366	File - General	undated, 1941-1946, 1986		1 12
id138367	File - Contest Rules	undated, 1935-1952		1 13
id138368	File - Flower Arranging Contest	1945		1 14
id138369	File - Correspondence	1939, 1982-1988		1 15
id138370	File -			2

id138371	File - Exhibition – Antique Musical Instruments	1947	2 1
id138372	File - Arte Religioso	1963	2 2
id138373	File - Benavides, Alfonso	1953	2 3
id138374	File - Cerra, Mirta	1968	2 4
id138375	File - Disney, Walt	1968	2 5
id138376	File - Flower Arranging	undated, 1946-1960	2 6
id138377	File - Lamarque, María Pepa	1968	2 7
id138378	File - López, Zoraida	1959, 1984	2 8
id138379	File - Nuevas Iglesias Cubanas	1958	2 9
id138380	File - Orlando, Felipe	1935	2 10
id138381	File - Romañach (Leopoldo)	1962	2 11
id138382	File - Sculpture	1944	2 12
id138383	File - Serra Badúe, Daniel	1948	2 13
id138384	File - Soldevilla, Dolores (Loló)	1950	2 14
id138385	File - Theatre Designers	1961	2 15
id138386	File - Villalba, Federico	1940	2 16
id138387	File - History of the Lyceum by Regina de Marcos	undated	2 17
id138388	File - Lamar, Hortensia – Homage – Ateneo de Matanzas & Asociación Amigos de la Cultura Cubana	1968 undated	2 18
id138389	File - Logo – "Revista Lyceum,"	undated	2 19
id138390	File - Mederos de González, Elena – Articles and Clippings	1981-1983	2 20
id138391	File - Obituaries	1981	2 21
id138392	File - Memorial Service – Georgetown University	1981	2 22
id138393	File - Museo Cubano de Arte y Cultura	1981?	2 23
id138394	File - St. Thomas University	1981?	2 24
id138395	File - University of Miami Koubek Center	1982	2 25
id138396	File - Membership Form	undated	2 26
id138397	File - Muños de Quevedo, María – Homage	1948	2 27
id138398	File - Officers	1967-1969	2 28
id138399	File - Organization – Comité Conjunto de Instituciones Cubanas	undated	2 29
id138400	File -		3
id138401	File - Pamphlet and Typescript – 'El Lyceum' by María Luisa Guerrero	undated	3 1
id138402	File - Play – "La Peluquería,"	undated	3 2
id138403	File - Program – Carlos Enríquez Exhibit	undated	3 3
id138404	File - Program – Concierto- Exposición Infantil	1947-1948	3 4
id138405	File - Programs – Coral del Instituto del Vedado	1951	3 5
id138406	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1944	3 6
id138407	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1948	3 7

id138408	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1952	3 8
id138409	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1956	3 9
id138410	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1958	3 10
id138411	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1959	3 11
id138412	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1960	3 12
id138413	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1961	3 13
id138414	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1962	3 14
id138415	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1963	3 15
id138416	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1965	3 16
id138417	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1966	3 17
id138418	File - Programs – Monthly Activities of the Lyceum	1967	3 18
id138419	File - Publication – Ediciones Lyceum – "Cantos Cubanos de Navidad,"	1959	3 19
id138420	File - Un hombre a través de su obra: Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra by Mirta Aguirre	1948	3 20
id138421	File - Varona, un escéptico creador, by Pánfilo D. Camacho	1949	3 21
id138422	File - Significacióundated Centenario Martiano, by Jorge Mañach	1953	3 22
id138423	File - Publication – "Veinte Años del Lyceum,"	1949	3 23
id138424	File - El 26 aniversario de la independencia checoslovaca,	1944	3 24
id138425	File - Recital – Medina Méndez, Carmen	1957	3 25
id138426	File - Social Service – Assistance Division of the Lyceum	undated, 1929-1948	3 26
id138427	File - Biblioteca Juvenil (Children's Library)	undated, 1942-1946	3 27
id138428	File - Classes	undated	3 28
id138429	File - Frente Femenino de Defensa Civil	undated	3 29
id138430	File - Stationery	undated	3 30
id138431	File - Typescript – Program – Día de la Voluntaria	1956	3 31

Series id138432: Photographs

Date: [1934?]-[1982?] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id138433	File -			4
id138434	File - Board of Directors (Directiva)	undated, 1945		4 1
id138435	File - Bridal Shower – Rita María Valdés	circa 1950s		4 2
id138436	File - Centenario Martiano	1953		4 3
id138437	File - Classes – Flower Arranging	1955-1957		4 4
id138438	File - Exhibition – Flower Arranging	1956-1959		4 5
id138439	File - Flower Arrangements	1953		4 6
id138440	File - Flower Arrangements	1954		4 7
id138441	File - Flower Arrangements	1955		4 8
id138442	File - Flower Arrangements	1956		4 9
id138443	File - Flower Arrangements	1957		4 10
id138444	File - Flower Arrangements	1959		4 11
id138445	File - Flower Arrangements	1960		4 12
id138446	File - Group Photograph	undated, 1949-1951		4 13
id138447	File - Joining of the Lyceum and "Tennis de Señoritas,"	1939		4 14
id138448	File - Lamar, Hortensia	1963		4 15
id138449	File - Lyceum Building (Calzada & 8 Streets, Vedado, Havana)	undated		4 16
id138450	File - Mañach Conference	1949		4 17
id138451	File - Mederos de González, Elena	1982?		4 18
Series id138452: Memorias				
<u>Date:</u> 1929-1951 (date of creation)				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
Published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id138453	File - Memoria	1929-1930		5
Series id138454: Oversized Material				
<u>Date:</u> undated, circa 1950s (date of creation)				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
Published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id138455	File - Banner of the Lyceum (White text on green felt, 34 x 72 cm.)	circa 1950s		6