

University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

Finding Aid - David Masnata y de Quesada Collection (CHC0221)

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David Masnata y de Quesada Collection

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection
Title:	David Masnata y de Quesada Collection
ID:	CHC0221
Date:	1861-1979 (date of creation)
Physical description:	Boxes
Language:	English
Language:	Spanish
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
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Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

David E. Masnata y de Quesada, Marquis of Santa Ana y Santa María, was a Cuban lawyer, professor, historian, and founder of the Instituto Cubano de Genealogía y Heráldica.

Masnata was born on September 11, 1926. He was the first child of Emilio Masnata y Azcue and Aurora de Quesada y Miranda, grandson of Gonzalo de Quesada, an associate of Cuban revolutionary hero José Martí, and great-grandson of Dr. Ramón L. Miranda, the family physician of José Martí.

Masnata's interest in genealogy and history developed during his early years. He founded the Instituto Cubano de Genealogía y Heráldica (Cuban Institute of Genealogy and Heraldry) in 1950 and served as secretary until 1961. He was also a member of the Sociedad Cubana de Estudios Históricos y Internacionales (Cuban Society of Historical and International Studies) from 1956 to 1961 and was an honorary member of the Academia Mexicana de Genealogía y Heráldica (Mexican Academy of Genealogy and Heraldry) from 1950 to 1988.

Following Castro's communist takeover of Cuba, Masnata moved to New York in 1961 and left behind a large collection of Cuban books and research papers on Cuban and Spanish history, genealogy, and heraldry. While in exile, Masnata compiled a new collection of approximately three thousand books and thousands of records and documents on Spanish and Cuban genealogy. He became a proficient genealogist, and traced his ancestors from the sixteenth century to the early twentieth century.

At the age of twenty-five, Masnata received his law degree from the University of Havana and practiced law in Cuba until 1961. From 1951 to 1961 he was a member of the Colegio de Abogados de la Habana (Bar Association of Havana). He received another degree from New York University in 1967 and entered the Bar Association of New York City in 1969. From 1970 to 1971 Masnata served as a professor at Columbia University. Masnata was acknowledged by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1973 and licensed to practice in Washington, DC, and New York. In 1979, Masnata was licensed to practice law in Spain and became a member of the Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Madrid. He received the Prix de Liechtenstein in 1985 from H.R.H. Frank Josef II, Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein, for his work "La Casa Real de la Cerda" ("The Royal House of La Cerda"). David Masnata died in New York on October 5, 1988.

Scope and content

The David Masnata Collection contains research material on Cuban and Spanish genealogy, heraldry and family names.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Gift of Haydee Artecona de Masnata, 1989.

Arrangement

The David Masnata Collection is organized into five series.
Please see the Finding Aid/Inventory section of this guide for more detailed information.

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.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:145

Access points

- Masnata de Quesada, David (subject)
- Masnata family
- Genealogy (subject)
- Cuba -- Genealogy (place)
- Europe -- Genealogy (place)

Series descriptions

Series id6410: Gonzalo de Quesada y Arostegui Family

Date: n.d., 1488-1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series contains documents, manuscripts and memorabilia of Masnata's ancestors from the nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. Files include correspondence, manuscripts, documents, and other papers of Gonzalo de Quesada and Dr. Ramón L. Miranda, Masnata's grandfather and great-grandfather. Gonzalo de Quesada, served as Cuban Ambassador in Washington, D.C.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id46872	File -			1
id46873	File - Correspondence from Luis del Cristo to Porfirio Valiente	Cristo, Luis del	1853	1 3

Series id6411: Genealogy

Date: n.d. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series contains the genealogy of Masnata's family, including the Twelve Generation Pedigree Chart and a Photo-Genealogical Chart. Other materials include typescripts, manuscripts, and photocopies with information on hundreds of Cuban family names. Documents and other information related to the early Cuban studies of fishes and the foundation of the first public aquarium in the Caribbean, opened in Havana in 1929 by Masnata's grandfather and other relatives, are also contained in this series.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Series id6412: Genealogy Related to Other European Countries**Date: n.d., 1938 (date of creation)Scope and content:

The series contains genealogical documents on Spain and other European countries. The series also contains manuscripts and photocopies of Masnata's research related to the Ollendorf dynasty of Germany.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Series id6413: José Martí**Date: n.d., 1893-1988 (date of creation)Scope and content:

The series contains documents, manuscripts and periodicals related to José Martí, the Cuban patriot, and poet. An unpublished poem "Envoi" written by Martí to Angélica Miranda (grandmother of Masnata) and a "Pensamientos de José Martí" written by Ramón L. Miranda, the family doctor of José Martí, are arranged in this series. Also included in this series is a copy of the baptismal certificate of Doña Leonor Pérez de Martí, mother of José Martí. This important document states that Doña Leonor Pérez de Martí was born on the 17th of December, 1828, and not on the 18th of December as documented elsewhere.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Series id6414: David Masnata y de Quesada Papers**Date: n.d., 1539-1988 (date of creation)Scope and content:

The series contains manuscripts of two unpublished works by David Masnata: "Los Fundadores de la República de Cuba" (The Founders of the Cuban Republic) and "Escalafón de la Guerra del

68" (Hierarchy of the War of 68). In these manuscripts, researchers and historians will find data related to the Cuban Revolutionary War against Spain (1868-1878) also known as "Guerra de los Diez Años", and the Cuban Independence War (1895-1898).

Publication status:

Published

File / item list