

University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

Finding Aid - Fernando Fernández-Cavada Collection (CHC5006)

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Fernando Fernández-Cavada Collection

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection
Title:	Fernando Fernández-Cavada Collection
ID:	CHC5006
Date:	1846-1976 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.00 linear ft. (Two boxes)
Language:	Spanish
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

There were three sons born to Isidoro Fernández Cavada (d. 1838) of Santander, Spain and Emily Howard Gatier (d. 1903) of Philadelphia: Emilio (1830-1914), Federico (1831-1871), and Adolfo (1832-1871), all born in Cienfuegos, Cuba. After her husband's death in 1838, Emily took her young sons to Philadelphia, where she later married Samuel Dutton (1814?-1889). Although they were raised in the United States, the Fernández Cavada brothers felt strong ties to the island of their birth, and each played different roles in its struggles for independence.

Federico Fernández Cavada (1831-1871) is perhaps the best known of the brothers, having published a book about his experiences as a prisoner of war in a Confederate prison during the US Civil War. He served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Union Army until his capture in the battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Federico remained a prisoner at Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia until January 1864 and later published *Libby Life*, his sketches and illustrations of his prison experience.

Soon thereafter, Fernández Cavada was appointed United States consul at Trinidad, Cuba, a post he occupied until February 1869 when he resigned to take part in the Cuban insurrection that became Cuba's Ten Years War (1868-1878). Federico was a General for the District of Trinidad, Commander in Chief of the Cinco Villas, and came to be the Commander-in-Chief of all Cuban forces. Burning and destroying Spanish property as a battle tactic, he became known as "General Candela" (General Fire). In 1871, Federico was captured by the Spanish gunboat *Neptuno* and was taken to Puerto Principe for trial. Although the exact date is not certain, Federico Fernández Cavada was executed in July 1871. He was survived by his wife, Carmela Merino, and their son Samuel.

The youngest Fernández Cavada, Adolfo (1832-1871), followed in his brother Federico's footsteps. Having served in the Union Army in the 23rd Pennsylvania Infantry and as an aide to General A. A. Humphreys, Adolfo joined the Cuban struggle for independence and served as Commander of the District of Cienfuegos, later succeeding his brother as Commander-in-Chief of the Cinco Villas. On 18 December 1871, he was killed in battle at the coffee estate "La Adelaida" near Santiago de Cuba.

While his brothers took up arms to support the Cuban cause, Emilio (1830-1914) rallied support for the independence efforts from Philadelphia. He was an active fundraiser and information relay from his brothers to exiled strategists. With other exiles in Philadelphia and New York, Emilio Fernández Cavada raised funds and funneled arms and munitions to the insurgent forces on the island. Emilio later resettled with his family in Cienfuegos and fathered six children: Isidoro, Inés, Angela, Emilio (1866-1947), Adolfo, and Fernando, whose son Fernando Fernández-Cavada donated this collection to the Cuban Heritage Collection.

Emilio's son Emilio Fernández-Cavada Suárez del Villar trained as a doctor in Philadelphia and in 1896 joined Cuba's War of Independence (1895-1898) as a Lieutenant Colonel. His death was misreported in Liberating Army records when in fact he had escaped the island. Emilio later returned to Cuba and married Hortensia Elizondo, with whom he lived in Cienfuegos until his death in 1947.

Scope and content

The Fernando Fernández-Cavada Collection consists primarily of the correspondence of Federico, Adolfo, and Emilio Fernández-Cavada, as well as of Emilio Fernández-Cavada Suárez del Villar. Many of the letters are written in code and have been transcribed. A large number of letters in Series I and II from Federico and Adolfo are addressed to "Netts," the code name for their brother Emilio in Philadelphia. Series III contains letters from leaders of the Cuban Revolutionary Party in the United States to Emilio. The correspondence in this collection deals primarily with the insurrection in Cuba and particularly with the activities of Cuban exiles in support of the war. Also included in this collection are clippings and three photographs of the Fernández-Cavada brothers, as well as Emilio Fernández-Cavada Suárez del Villar's war diary from 1896 to 1898 (Series III).

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Gift of Fernando Fernández-Cavada, 1997

Arrangement

The Fernando Fernández-Cavada Collection is organized into four series.
Please see the Finding Aid/Inventory section of this guide for more detailed information.

Alternative form available

Browse the digital objects in this collection
<http://merrick.library.miami.edu/cubanHeritage/chc5006/>

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

Cuban Heritage Collection Manuscripts Collections:

CHC0398 Cordovés and Bolaños Family Collection

Folder 16: Treaty of Zanjón = Pacto de Zanjón, February 1878.

Published material in CHC and/or the University of Miami's Otto G. Richter Library:

Davis, Oliver Wilson. Sketch of Frederic Fernández-Cavada, a Native of Cuba: Showing partially what one of his friends knew of him as a soldier, a gentleman, a poet, a diplomat, an author, a patriot, and a victim . Washington, DC: 1963.

NOTE: An uncataloged copy of this book is located in Box 1 of this collection. It is signed by the donor, Fernando Fernández-Cavada.

Cavada, F. F. (Federico Fernández). Libby Life: Experiences of a Prisoner of War in Richmond, Va., 1863-64 . Philadelphia: King & Baird, 1864.

Collazo, Enrique. Desde Yara hasta el Zanjón: apuntaciones históricas . Habana: Tip. de "La Lucha," 1893.

Escalera, Juan V. Campaña de Cuba (1869 á 1875) . Madrid: Impr. de los Señores Rojas, 1876.

Gelpí y Ferro, Gil. Álbum histórico fotográfico de la guerra de Cuba desde su principio hasta el reinado de Amadeo I: dedicada a los beneméritos cuerpos del ejército, marina y voluntarios de esta isla .

Habana: Impr. "La Antilla," 1872.

Leyva y Aguilera, Herminio C. El movimiento insurreccional de 1879 en la provincia de Santiago de Cuba (La Guerra Chiquita) . Havana: Impr. Y Papelería "La Universal," 1893.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:57

Access points

- Fernández Cavada, Adolfo, 1832-1871 -- Correspondence (subject)
- Fernández Cavada, Emilio, 1830-1914 -- Correspondence (subject)
- Fernández Cavada, Emilio, d. 1947 -- Correspondence (subject)
- Fernández Cavada, Federico, 1831-1871 -- Correspondence (subject)
- Cuba -- Politics and government (place)

Series descriptions

Series id6389: Federico Fernández Cavada Papers

Date: n.d., 1846-1976 (bulk dates 1869-1871) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series I contains letters to and from Federico Fernández Cavada. His primary correspondents are his mother, Emily Dutton, his wife, Carmela Merino, and his brother Emilio, code named "Netts." Two war documents are also in this series, including a "Brief Sketch of Operations of the Cienfuegos Division of the Liberating Army of Cuba." A photographic print of an oil portrait of Federico can be found in this series, as well as photocopies of his letters held by the Cuban Archives and the National Archives of the United States.

Physical description: 16 folders (Box 1)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id384130	File -			1
id384131	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Correspondence from F.V. Aguilera	1870		1 1
id384132	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Correspondence from V. Garcia	Undated, 1870		1 2
id384133	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Correspondence to Emily Dutton (mother)	Undated		1 3
id384134	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Correspondence to Fernando Escobar	1870		1 4
id384135	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Correspondence to Carmela Fernandez (wife)	1869-1871		1 5
id384136	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Correspondence to "Netts" (Emilio Fernandez - Cavada)	Undated, 1869-1871		1 6
id384137	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Correspondence to Unidentified	ca, 1870		1 7
id384138	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Correspondence to Various (photocopies)	1870		1 8
id384139	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Transcripts of Unidentified Letters	Undated		1 9
id384140	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: "Brief sketch of operations of the Cienfuegos Division of the Liberating Army of Cuba"	c. 1869		1 10

id384141	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: "Manifestación a los hacendados Cubanos de las Villas que prestan su apoyo al Gobierno Español"	1869	1 11
id384142	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Union Army Documents (photocopies)	1862-1865	1 12
id384143	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: United States Citizenship Petition (photocopy)	1856	1 13
id384144	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Clippings	1869, 1916, 1976	1 14
id384145	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Diary	1846-1848	1 15
id384146	File - Fernandez Cavada, Federico: Portrait	Undated	1 16

Series id6390: Adolfo Fernández Cavada Papers

Date: n.d., 1861-1872 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This small series contains Adolfo Fernández Cavada's correspondence, primarily to "Netts," the code name for his brother Emilio in Philadelphia.

Physical description: 8 folders (Box 1)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id384147	File -			1
id384148	File - Fernandez Cavada, Adolfo: Correspondence from Carlos Manuel de Céspedes to Emily Dutton	1872		1 17
id384149	File - Fernandez Cavada, Adolfo: Correspondence to Boker, George M.	1871		1 18
id384150	File - Fernandez Cavada, Adolfo: Correspondence to "Netts" (Emilio Fernandez - Cavada)	Undated, 1870-1871		1 19
id384151	File - Fernandez Cavada, Adolfo: Correspondence to "Pac"	Undated		1 20
id384152	File - Fernandez Cavada, Adolfo: Correspondence to Unidentified	Undated, 1869-1871		1 21
id384153	File - Fernandez Cavada, Adolfo: "Organización Militan del Distrito de Cienfuegos"	c. 1870		1 22
id384154	File - Fernandez Cavada, Adolfo: Diary	1861-1871		1 23
id384155	File - Fernandez Cavada, Adolfo: Portrait	Undated		1 24

Series id6391: Emilio Fernández Cavada Papers

Date: n.d., 1866-1947 (bulk dates 1866-1874) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series III consists of letters received by Emilio Fernández Cavada from leaders of the Cuban Revolutionary Party, including Miguel de Aldama, Ignacio F. Alfaro, and Hilario Cisneros. Photocopies of Emilio's letters that are held by the Cuban Archives are also in this series. Sub-series A contains the materials of Emilio's son Emilio Fernández Cavada Suárez del Villar. Of special interest is his war diary of 1896 to 1898.

Physical description: 28 folders (Box 2)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Subseries id6392: Emilio Fernández-Cavada Suárez del Villar Papers**

Date: n.d., ca. 1896-1947 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

id384156	File -		1
id384157	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from F.V. Aguilera	1874	1 25
id384158	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from Miguel de Aldama	1869-1871	1 26
id384159	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from Ignacio F. Alfaro	1869	1 27
id384160	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from Ignacio F. Alfaro	1870	1 28
id384161	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from Ignacio F. Alfaro	1870	1 29
id384162	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from Ignacio F. Alfaro	1871	1 30
id384163	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from Nicolas Azcarate	1870	1 31
id384164	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from German Barrios	1866-1869	1 32
id384165	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from Javier Cisneros	1868-1872	1 33
id384166	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from Hilario Cisneros	1869-1870	1 34
id384167	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from Juan Jova	Undated, 1869-1871	1 35
id384168	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from J. Ml. Mestre	1869-1870	1 36

id384169	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence from Morales Lemus, Jose	Undated	1 37
id384170	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence to Various (Photocopies)	1868-1869	1 38
id384171	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Correspondence to Various (Photocopies)	1870-1872	1 39
id384172	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Portrait	Undated	1 40

Series id6393: General Materials

Date: n.d., 1866-1974 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains several clippings, a collection of cancelled stamps, and unidentified letters.

Physical description: 5 folders (Box 2)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id384187	File -			1
id384188	File - General Materials: Transcripts of Unidentified Letters	Undated, 1869-1870		1 53
id384189	File - General Materials: Codes	Undated		1 54
id384190	File - General Materials: Postage Stamps (used) - Cuba	c.1968		1 55
id384191	File - General Materials: "Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Escrito" (extract)	1974		1 56
id384192	File - General Materials: Pablo Fernandez Abeza	1946		1 57
id384129	File - Box 1	1846-1974		1

Series id384173:

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id384174	File -			1
id384175	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Correspondence from Hector Betancourt	1902		1 41
id384176	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Correspondence from M. Pastor	1898		1 42

id384177	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Correspondence from Horacio Sierra	1927	1 43
id384178	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Clippings: Cuban War for Independence	Undated, 1947	1 44
id384179	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Clippings: "Un Momento de Conversacion Historica"	1924?	1 45
id384180	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Clippings: Wedding Anniversary	1933-1934	1 46
id384181	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Clippings: In Memorium	1947	1 47
id384182	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Diary	c.1896 - c.1898	1 48
id384183	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Military Pass	1898	1 49
id384184	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Certificates	1917, 1926	1 50
id384185	File - Fernandez Cavada, Emilio: Veterans Associations	Undated, 1945	1 51
id384186	File - Fernandez-Cavada Suarez del Villar, Emilio: Hortensia Elizondo Serice	1947	1 52