

University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

Finding Aid - José Lezama Lima Papers (CHC5047)

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José Lezama Lima Papers

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection
Title:	José Lezama Lima Papers
ID:	CHC5047
Date:	1961-1976 (date of creation)
Physical description:	0.50 linear ft. (1 Box)
Language:	Spanish
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

José Lezama Lima was born to Rosa Lima Rosado and José María Lezama Rodda on 19 December 1910 at the Campamento Militar de Columbia, Marianao, near Havana. Lezama Lima was the second of three children, including two sisters, Rosa and Eloísa. José studied law at the University of Havana and graduated in 1938.

Poet, novelist and essayist, he had a solid foundation in the classics of the Spanish Golden Age and avidly studied the French Symbolists, who influenced his first book of poems: *Muerte de Narciso* (1937). He was one of the founders of the journals *Verbum* (1937), *Espuela de Plata* (1939-1941), *Nadie Parecía* (1942-1944), and *Orígenes* (1944-1956). He also collaborated in many Cuban magazines such as *Gráfos*, *Diario de la Marina*, *Revista de la Biblioteca Nacional José Martí*, and in foreign publications among which were *Revista Mexicana de Literatura*, *El Heraldo Cultural* (Mexico), *Les Lettres Nouvelles* (France), and *Tri Quarterly* (US).

Over the years his works have been studied by many literary critics, one of which, Emilio Bejel, considered that: "Most critics of Spanish American literature agree that José Lezama Lima is one of the truly universal writers of our time. His style, his poetic vision, and the unique role he defines for literature have been a continuing influence in Cuba, as well as throughout Latin America" (José Lezama Lima: *Poet of the Image* [Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 1990] p. 2).

Lezama Lima's works have been translated into many languages. He received the Premio Maldoror (Spain, 1972) for his *Poesías completas*. In 1968 he was honored by the Biblioteca Nacional José Martí and in 1970 by the Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC). Many seminars and conferences have been dedicated to his works, and his literary production still receives international recognition. Months after his mother's death in 1964, Lezama Lima married María Luisa Bautista Treviño. He died in Havana on 9 August 1976.

Scope and content

The José Lezama Lima Papers consist of letters written by José Lezama Lima to his sister Eloísa from 1961 to 1976. There are several letters addressed to his sister Rosa as well as to both sisters. Included with this correspondence are photocopies of photographs of Lezama Lima, a poem, and a memorial card with a note from Eloísa Lezama Lima to Gastón Baquero. This collection also contains an annotated copy of Lezama Lima's book, *Paradiso*.

Notes

Title notes

Arrangement

The José Lezama Lima Papers are organized into three 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/chc5047/>

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:
Berenguer Hernández, Carmen and Víctor Fowler Calzada. José Lezama Lima, diccionario de citas . La Habana: Casa Editora Abril, 2000.
Centro de Investigaciones Literarias de la Casa de las Américas. Interrogando a Lezama Lima . Barcelona: Editorial Anagrama, 1971.
García-Carranza, Araceli. Bibliografía de José Lezama Lima . La Habana: Editorial Arte y Literatura, 1998.
González Cruz, Iván. Album de los amigos de José Lezama Lima . Valencia: Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, 1999.

-----. Diccionario: vida y obra de José Lezama Lima . Valencia: Generalitat Valenciana, Conselleria del Cultura i Educació, Direcció General de Promoció Cultural i Patrimoni Artístic, 2000.
Lezama Lima, Eloísa. Una familia habanera . Miami, Fla. Ediciones Universal, 1998.
Lezama Lima, José. Archivo de José Lezama Lima: miscelánea . Ed. Iván González Cruz. Madrid: Editorial Centro de Estudios Ramón Areces, 1998.
-----. Cartas: (1939-1976) . Ed. Eloísa Lezama Lima. Madrid: Orígenes, 1979.
-----. Como las cartas no llegan- . Ed. Ciro Bianchi Ross. La Habana: Ediciones Unión, Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba, 2000.
-----. José Lezama Lima: diarios (1939-49, 1956-58) . Ed. Ciro Bianchi Ross. Mexico, D.F. Ediciones Era, 1994.
-----. La posibilidad infinita: archivo de José Lezama Lima . Ed. Iván González Cruz. Madrid: Editorial Verbum, 2000.
-----. Para leer debajo de un sicómoro: entrevistas con José Lezama Lima . Ed. Félix Guerra. La Habana: Editorial Letras Cubanas, 1998.
Rodríguez Feo, José. Mi correspondencia con Lezama Lima . Mexico: Ediciones Era, 1991.
Ulloa, Justo C., ed. José Lezama Lima, textos críticos . Miami, Fla. Ediciones Universal, 1979.
CHC5212 Luis J. Botifoll Oral History Project interview with Eloiza Lezama Lima.
Information about related materials is available at <http://merrick.library.miami.edu/cdm/ref/collection/chc5212/id/550>

Accruals

Gift of Eloísa Lezama Lima, 2001 and purchase, 2011.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:43

Access points

- Lezama Lima, Eloísa -- Correspondence (subject)
- Lezama Lima, José -- Correspondence (subject)
- Lezama Lima family
- Authors, Cuban -- 20th century -- Correspondence (subject)

Series descriptions

Series id6396: Correspondence

Date: 1961-1976 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains the letters of José Lezama Lima in Cuba to his sister Eloísa in Miami.

Physical description: 16 folders (Box 1)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id145680	File -			1
id145681	File -			1 1
id145682	File -			1 2
id145683	File -			1 3
id145684	File -			1 4
id145685	File -			1 5
id145686	File -			1 6
id145687	File -			1 7
id145688	File -			1 8
id145689	File -			1 9
id145690	File -			1 10
id145691	File -			1 11
id145692	File -			1 12
id145693	File -			1 13
id145694	File -			1 14
id145695	File -			1 15
id145696	File -			1 16
id145697	File -			1 17

Series id6397: Photographs

Date: [2001] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

In this series are color photocopies of photographs of José Lezama Lima from the 1930s to the 1970s. Eloísa Lezama Lima and María Luisa Bautista, José Lezama Lima's wife, are also pictured.

Physical description: 1 folder (Box 1)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id145698	File -			1
id145699	File - José Lezama Lima photos			1 18

Series id6398: Miscellaneous

Date: n.d., 1966, 1976 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

A poem by Lezama Lima, "Un par de zapatos," which includes an outline drawing of his foot, is included in this series. Series III also contains a memorial card with a note from Eloísa Lezama Lima to Gastón Baquero and an annotated copy of Paradiso.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id145700	File -			1
id145701	File - Poem			1 19
id145702	File - Memorial Card			1 20
id145703	File - Annotated copy of Paradiso			1 21