

# University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

## Finding Aid - Mirta Ojito Papers (CHC5281)

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# Mirta Ojito Papers

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

**Title:** Mirta Ojito Papers

**ID:** CHC5281

**Date:** circa 1970s-2000s (date of creation)

**Physical description:** Boxes

**Language:** Spanish

**Language:** English

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

**Note [generalNote]:**

Other Information:

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Mirta Ojito was born in Havana, Cuba and came to the United States during the Mariel boatlift in 1980. Ojito earned a degree from Florida Atlantic University and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, where she now teaches as a journalism professor. She has won several major awards for her work, including a 1999 award for best foreign report from the American Society of Newspaper Editors, and she shared a 2001 Pulitzer prize for her reporting on race in America. In 2005, Ojito published her memoir of exile from Cuba, *El Mañana* (Finding Tomorrow).

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## Scope and content

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The Mirta Ojito papers contain a collection of clippings, press releases, and government documents relating to the Mariel boatlift, and photographs, clippings, and excerpts documenting Cuban history. Ojito used the files for writing the memoir of her exile in the United States, *El Mañana* (Finding Tomorrow), published in 2005.

The materials found in the collection create a context from which the social and economic cost of the Mariel boatlift, for both Cuba and the United States, can be understood. Various prominent (and at times notorious) figures within the Cuban exile movement are examined.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Arrangement

The materials in this collection are arranged by subject. The original order established by the author has been preserved.

### 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](mailto:chc@miami.edu) for more information.

### Related material

Two boxes of books donated by the creator have been separated into the Cuban Heritage Collection book collection.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
  - **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:1134
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## Access points

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- American literature -- 20th century (subject)
- American literature -- Cuban American authors (subject)
- Exiles -- Cuba (subject)
- Exiles' writings, Cuban (subject)
- Mariel Boatlift, 1980 (subject)

## Series descriptions

### Series id75652: Mariel

Date: undated, 1980-2000 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains news clippings, copies of articles with author's notes and official reports relating to the Mariel boatlift.

Publication status:

Published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id75653	File -			1

### Series id75654: Napoleon Vilaboa

Date: undated, 1965-1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains news clippings and copies of articles about Napoleon Vilaboa, a Cuban spy embedded in Miami's exile community who orchestrated the Mariel boatlift.

Publication status:

Published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id75655	File -			1

### Series id75656: United States Government

Date: undated, 1978-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains news clippings and copies of original documents that detail the United States government's response to the Mariel exodus.

Publication status:

Published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id75657	File -			1
<b>Series id75658: Peru</b>				
<u>Date:</u> undated, 1980 (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content:</u>				
This series contains copies of newspaper articles and government memos regarding the storming of the Peruvian embassy in Havana by Cubans seeking asylum, preceding the mass exodus during the Mariel boatlift.				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
Published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id75659	File -			1
<b>Series id75660: Other Research Materials</b>				
<u>Date:</u> undated, 1980-2004 (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content:</u>				
This series contains articles and reports that provide statistics on the boatlift and its aftermath for Cubans on the island and in exile, as well as the American government's response to the socioeconomic problems caused by a massive refugee population influx.				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
Published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id75661	File -			1
<b>Series id75662: Aftermath</b>				
<u>Date:</u> undated, 1980-2004 (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content:</u>				

This series contains articles and reports that give insight on how the Marielitos were received in the United States, the social and economic costs incurred by the United States during this process and the progress of the Cuban exile community years after the boatlift.

Publication status:

Published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id75663	File -			1
id75664	File -			2

**Series id75665: Materials for Book Chapters**

Date: undated, 1977-1989 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains articles and notes for three chapters of Mirta Ojito's book, Finding Mañana.

Publication status:

Published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id75666	File -			2

**Series id75667: Mike Howell**

Date: 1980-1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains articles relating to Mike Howell, an American fisherman from New Orleans, Louisiana, who covertly took Cuban and Haitian exiles to their respective islands to bring family back to the United States.

Publication status:

Published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id75668	File -			2

**Series id75669: Bernardo Benes**

Date: undated, 1960-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains articles and personal papers relating to Bernardo Benes, a prominent figure in Miami's Cuban exile community who spearheaded a dialogue with Fidel Castro that led to the release of political prisoners on the island.

Publication status:

Published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id75670	File -			2