

University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

Finding Aid - Junta Provincial de Patronato de Matanzas Records (CHC5298)

Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.4.0 Printed: May 21, 2018

Language of description: English

University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection
Roberto C. Goizueta Pavilion
1300 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables
FL
United States
33146
Telephone: (305) 284-4900
Fax: (305) 284-4901
[Email: chc@miami.edu](mailto:chc@miami.edu)
<https://library.miami.edu/chc/>
<https://atom.library.miami.edu/index.php/chc5298>

Junta Provincial de Patronato de Matanzas Records

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Arrangement	4
Notes	4
Access points	5

Summary information

Repository: University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

Title: Junta Provincial de Patronato de Matanzas Records

ID: CHC5298

Date: 1871-1889 (date of creation)

Physical description: Boxes

Language: Spanish

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

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Junta Provincial de Patronato de Matanzas was created in 1880 when the law of patronato was passed in Spain. The patronatosystem represented a legal strategy to gradually abolish slavery in Cuba through an "apprenticeship" process. The patronato was the mechanism established to oversee the transformation of slave owners (masters) into patronos and of slaves into patrocinos. "It represented an intermediate stage between slavery and freedom during which former slaves would owe labor to their former masters, but would receive a token wage in return" ("Gradual Abolition and the Dynamics of Slave Emancipation in Cuba, 1868-86," by Rebecca J. Scott. *Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 63, No. 3 [Aug. 1983], p. 457). The Junta functioned as a provincial entity and, with the civil governor, oversaw the local juntas in municipalities and cities.

The Junta Provincial de Patronato de Matanzas was created in 1880 when the law of patronato was passed in Spain. The patronatosystem represented a legal strategy to gradually abolish slavery in Cuba through an "apprenticeship" process. The patronato was the mechanism established to oversee the transformation of slave owners (masters) into patronos and of slaves into patrocinos. "It represented an intermediate stage between slavery and freedom during which former slaves would owe labor to their former masters, but would receive a token wage in return" ("Gradual Abolition and the Dynamics of Slave Emancipation in Cuba, 1868-86," by Rebecca J. Scott. *Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 63, No. 3 [Aug. 1983], p. 457). The Junta functioned as a provincial entity and, with the civil governor, oversaw the local juntas in municipalities and cities.

Scope and content

The abolition of slavery in Cuba took place gradually over the course of several years. In 1880, the Spanish colonial government instituted a system called patronato, loosely translated as "apprenticeship." Most of the workings of the slave system were preserved, but patrocinos, as former slaves came to be known, received a minimal set of legal rights and were to be paid a token wage. The transition to the patronato system was overseen by a provincial network of government agencies called Juntas de Patronato. The Junta Provincial de Patronato de Matanzas was created in 1880 when the Law of Patronato was passed. As a central body, it processed claims and cases from a series of local juntas throughout the province of Matanzas. The records in this collection contain official documents, correspondence between local juntas and the main junta, and tables reporting names or numbers of patrocinos. The collection also documents the cases of individual patrocinos who were trying to obtain their freedom through the provisions of the new law.

All of the materials in this collection have been digitized and are available through the University of Miami Digital Collections.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Purchase, 2012.

Arrangement

This collection maintains the original order of case folios.

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.

Accruals

All of the materials in Box 1 and folders 1-66 of Box 2 and folders 1-17 of Box 3 are part of a large purchase of a group of materials whose original order was maintained. Subsequent folders added to this collection are from various purchases and gifts and are kept together by accession as they are received.

Other notes

- **Publication status**: Published
 - **Description identifier**: ArchonInternalCollectionID:1209
-

Access points

- Patrocinados -- Cuba -- Matanzas (Province) (subject)
- Slave records -- Cuba (subject)
- Slavery -- Cuba (subject)
- Slaves -- Emancipation -- Cuba (subject)