

Luisa Muñoz del Valle Collection

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Luisa Muñoz del Valle was born in Sancti Spiritus, Las Villas, Cuba on June 4, 1906 of Luis Muñoz Valdés and Francisca del Valle González. She was baptized Luisa María Juana Muñoz del Valle. She started her education at the Colegio San Francisco Javier in Sancti Spiritus. She started her studies in education at the Escuelas Normales de Santa Clara, Las Villas and completed them in the Escuelas Normales de la Habana, receiving her degree in 1930.

She taught in private schools from 1930-1938 while studying for her doctorate. She later went on to complete her doctorate in Pedagogy at the University of Havana, receiving her degree the 18th of November, 1937. During this time she had already started her poetry. Her first major award as a poetess was at the Juegos Florales in Sancti Spiritus where she was awarded the Flor Natural (First Prize) for her poem, "Civilización Occidental" in 1934. In 1935, encouraged by Cuban poets Andrés de Piedra-Bueno and José Angel Buesa, she published her only book of poetry: Angelus.

In 1936, she received national recognition when her poem "Romance de la Virgen de la Caridad" won third place at the Eucharistic Congress and Coronation of Our Lady of Charity. From this point on, she published her poems frequently in magazines such as San Antonio, Azul, El Fénix, La Milagrosa, and Semanario Católico with which she had collaborated since 1928.

Fulfilling an interest she had in journalism, Luisa Muñoz completed studies in journalism at the Escuela Profesional de Periodismo "Manuel Marquez Sterling" in 1950, graduating first in her class, the first time a woman had done so. After spending a year studying in Spain with a scholarship received from the Ministry of Education, she started working as a journalist, particularly for ¡Alerta!, where she edited the daily Catholicism column.

Luisa Muñoz worked less after the Revolution since many newspapers were closed down by the policies of the Castro regime. She chose, however, to remain in Cuba instead of escaping to exile like the rest of her family. She stayed living in Havana, publishing her poems whenever possible, but increasingly her health weakened. Her family in Miami, particularly her brother Dr. Luis B. Muñoz del Valle, tried to convince her to leave during the Mariel exodus in 1980 but she refused because she felt she would burden her family too much. Her health continued to deteriorate until her death on August 2, 1987.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

- 1906, June 4 Born in Sancti Spiritus, Las Villas, Cuba, of Luis Muñoz Valdés and Francisca del Valle González, baptised Luisa María Juana Muñoz del Valle.
- 1927 Family moves from Sancti Spiritus to Havana.
- 1934 Poem "Civilización Occidental, Lema: ¿Sol que desciende a su ocaso final?" awarded "Flor Natural" at the Juegos Florales, Sancti Spiritus using her pen name, Alma del Valle.
- 1935 Publication of her only book of poetry, Angelus, in Havana.
- 1936 Poem "Romance a la Virgen de la Caridad, Lema: Stella Matutina" wins third place at the "Congreso Eucarístico y de la Coronación" at the Coronation of Our Lady of Charity.
- 1937 Receives the degree of Doctor in Pedagogy (Education) from the University of Havana.
- 1950 Graduates first in class from Escuela Profesional de Periodismo Manuel Márquez Sterling, Havana.
- 1951 Travels to Madrid, Spain to as a visiting scholar in Hispanic Studies at the University of Madrid.
- 1951-1961 Reporter and writer for several publications, principally the newspaper Alerta, where she edited the daily Catholic column.
- 1987, August 2 Dies after a long illness at her home in Havana.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

The personal papers of Luisa Muñoz del Valle were donated to the University of Miami Library's Archives and Special Collections Department by her brother, Dr. Luis Muñoz del Valle, in 1991. Friends of Luisa Munoz del Valle mailed materials to Dr. Munoz over a period of three years, following the death of Luisa Muñoz. Luisa Muñoz del Valle was a noted Cuban poet and reporter. She was active in many organizations, including the Catholic Action.

The Papers consist of three boxes of materials and total 1.50 cubic feet. The approximate number of pages in the Papaers is 400, and there are six photogrpahs. Access to the Papers is unrestricted. Of primary importance in the Papers is the poetry of Luisa Muñoz del Valle, most of it unpublished outside of Cuba.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I: Poetry and Prose Works, 1926-1959

Arranged alphabetically by title.

This series contains the poetry (box 1) and prose (box 2) works of Luisa Muñoz del Valle from such Cuban publications as *Azul*, *Semanario Católico*, *La Quincena*, *San Antonio*, *Alerta*, and *El Fénix*.

Series II: Subject Files, 1934- 1987

Arranged alphabetically.

This series includes books, publications, clippings, typescripts, and photographs. Among items of interest are copies of *Angelus* (box 3, folder 1); hymns written by Muñoz del Valle (box 3, folder 10); and photographs (box 3, folder 13).

LUISA MUÑOZ DEL VALLE COLLECTION

BOX 1 POETRY, BY PUBLICATION

Folder

- 1 Asociación de Antiguas Alumnas del Colegio del Apostolado (A.A.A.A.)
- 2 Acción Católica
- 3 Aromas del Carmelo
- 4 Azul
- 5 Diario de la Marina
- 6 Esperanza
- 7 El Fénix
- 8 La Fraternidad
- 9 Hero
- 10 Horizontes
- 11 Juventud Católica Cubana
- 12 Matices
- 13 La Milagrosa
- 14 La Prensa (Habana)
- 15 Revista de la Asociación Femenina de Camagüey
- 16 San Antonio
- 17 Semanario Católico
- 18 Senderos
- 19 Typescript Poetry
- 20 Unidentified Publications
- 21 Unión
- 22 Various Publications
- 23 Vive con la Iglesia

BOX 2 PROSE, BY PUBLICATION

Folder

- 1 Asociación de Antiguas Alumnas del Colegio del Apostolado (A.A.A.A.)
- 2 ¡Adelante!
- 3 Afán
- 4 Alerta
- 5 La Anunciata
- 6 El Avance
- 7 Aromas del Carmelo
- 8 Azul
- 9 Boletín de las Maestras Católicas
- 10 Ellas
- 11 Esperanza
- 12 El Fénix

LUISA MUÑOZ DEL VALLE COLLECTION

BOX 2 PROSE, BY PUBLICATION

Folder

13	Fulgens Corona
14	Horizontes
15	Juventud Católica Cubana
16	Mensaje de María
17	La Milagrosa
18	Pax
19	La Quincena
20	San Antonio
21	Semanario Católico
22	Typescript Prose
23	Unidentified Publications
24	La Voz Guadalupana

BOX 3 MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL

Folder

1	Book - <u>Angelus</u>
2	Clippings - Ceremony, Escuela Profesional de Periodismo "Manuel Márquez Sterling"
3	Clippings - Cuban Poetry Contest
4	Clippings - "Flor Natural Contest"
5	Clippings - General
6	Clippings - Graduation, Escuela Profesional Periodismo "Manuel Márquez Sterling"
7	Clippings - Literary Homages
8	Clippings - Publication of <u>Angelus</u>
9	Extract - Review of <u>Angelus</u>
10	Hymns (Lyrics by Luisa Muñoz del Valle)
11	Identification Cards
12	Letter to grand-niece in the United States
13	Photographs
14	Poetry - Rivas, Jorge - Homage to Luisa Muñoz del Valle
15	Publication - "Corona Poética en Obsequio Devoto a la Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre"
16	Publication - "Luisa Muñoz, espirituana y habanera"
17	Publication - "El mensaje poético de Luisa Muñoz del Valle"
18	Registration of <u>Angelus</u> in National Literary Register
19	Review - Rivas, Jorge (Correspondence, typescript and clipping)
20	Typescript - "La devoción al Corazón de Jesús fue señalada para los postreros tiempos"

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