

Archivo Nacional de Cuba

A Register of Its Records in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Karen Linn Femia



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2001

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2007**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007007>

Collection Summary

Title: Records of the Archivo Nacional de Cuba

Span Dates: 1770-1911

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1770-1805)

ID No.: MSS17376

Creator: Archivo Nacional de Cuba

Extent: 800 items; 3 containers; 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and Spanish

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Transcripts of material found in the Cuban national archives pertaining to Spanish colonial rule in Louisiana and the Floridas. Includes correspondence of the Spanish governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez, correspondence of British traders operating under Spanish protection, in particular William Panton, material concerning commerce and political relations with the local Indian tribes, Spain's part in the American revolution and relations with the newly independent states, and miscellaneous documents, government orders, and land grants.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Archivo Nacional de Cuba

Fonsdeviela, Felipe, 1725-1784--Correspondence

Gálvez, Bernardo de, 1746-1786--Correspondence

Gálvez, José de, 1720-1787--Correspondence

Navarro García de Valladares, Diego José, 1708-1784--Correspondence

Panton, William, 1742-1801

Panton, Leslie & Company

Subjects:

Indians of North America--Florida

Indians of North America--Louisiana

Florida--Commerce

Florida--History

Louisiana--Commerce

Louisiana--History

Spain--Colonies--America--Administration

Spain--Foreign relations--United States

United States--Foreign relations--Spain

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Participation, Spanish

Administrative Information

Provenance:

Copies of the records of the Archivo Nacional de Cuba were procured ca. 1913 through an arrangement with Elizabeth H. West, an archivist at the Texas State Library. An additional item, an index of correspondence, was given by the Carnegie Institution of Washington to the Library of Congress in 1933 and transferred to the Manuscript Division in 1989.

Processing History:

The records of the Archivo Nacional de Cuba are described in *Guide to the Materials for American History in Cuban Archives* by Luis Marino Perez (Carnegie Institution of Washington, July 1907). The collection was reprocessed in 2001.

Copyright Status:

It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Archivo Nacional de Cuba Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

Transcripts of the records of the Archivo Nacional de Cuba span the years 1770-1911, with the bulk of the material dating from 1770 to 1805. The records are in Spanish and English and concern the Spanish colonial administration of Louisiana and Florida. With the exception of a handwritten "Index of correspondence," the items are blueprint copies made sometime before 1913 of typewritten transcripts of documents in the Cuban archive. The transcripts may have resulted from the work of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Its Department of Historical Research was dedicated to finding documentary sources for the study of American history in foreign archives and publishing a series of guides. The *Guide to the Materials for American History in Cuban Archives* by Luis Marino Perez was published in 1907. Records in the present collection are described in the Perez book as document numbers 347, 375, and appendix A. A copy of this guide is in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

The *Cédulas y órdenes* is a collection of Spanish government orders and documents concerning trade and the administration of Louisiana and Florida. The index of correspondence of the *Capitanes-Generales* of Cuba was copied in 1911 before the records were sent from Cuba to Spain. It indexes *legajos* 1-958, "correspondientes al Ramo de Guerra," and includes a brief description for each entry.

The file "Letters of Bernardo de Gálvez," written by the Spanish governor of Louisiana, consists of transcripts of his copybooks of correspondence to the secretary of the Indies, José de Gálvez, and to the *capitanes-generales* at Havana, the Marqués de la Torre and Diego Josef Navarro. Some letters are abstracted while others appear to be full transcripts. Many of the letters relate to military matters, including the assistance given by the Spaniards to the American colonists in revolt, the plans of the Americans to capture Pensacola (1777), and the anticipated attack on New Orleans by the British (1778).

William Panton of Pensacola, founder of the firm of Panton, Leslie and Company, was a Scottish trader who held the exclusive charter from Spain for trade with Indians in West Florida. His file contains transcripts of various items documenting the history of the concession, relations with the Indians, and correspondence, primarily in English, of Panton and his agents. Panton and other traders traveled among the Indian tribes of West Florida, and their letters include personal observations and details related to their travels.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	<i>Cédulas y órdenes</i> , 1770-1785
BOX 1	Index of correspondence of 1766-1823 of the <i>Capitanes-Generales</i> of the island of Cuba, 1911 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Louisiana and West Florida
BOX 1	Letters of Bernardo de Gálvez
BOX 1	Copybook no. 2
BOX 1	Parts I-III, 1777-1779 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Parts IV-V, 1777-1781 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Copybook no. 3, 1777-1781 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Panton, William; Indian commerce; land grants, etc.
BOX 2	<i>Legajo 1</i>
BOX 2	Part I, 1785-1793
BOX 3	Parts II-III, 1783-1800 (2 folders)
BOX 3	<i>Legajo 2</i> , 1780-1807
BOX 3	<i>Legajo 4</i> , 1803-1805
BOX 3	<i>Legajo 9</i> , 1794-1830 (2 folders)