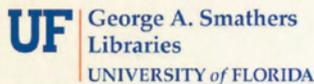
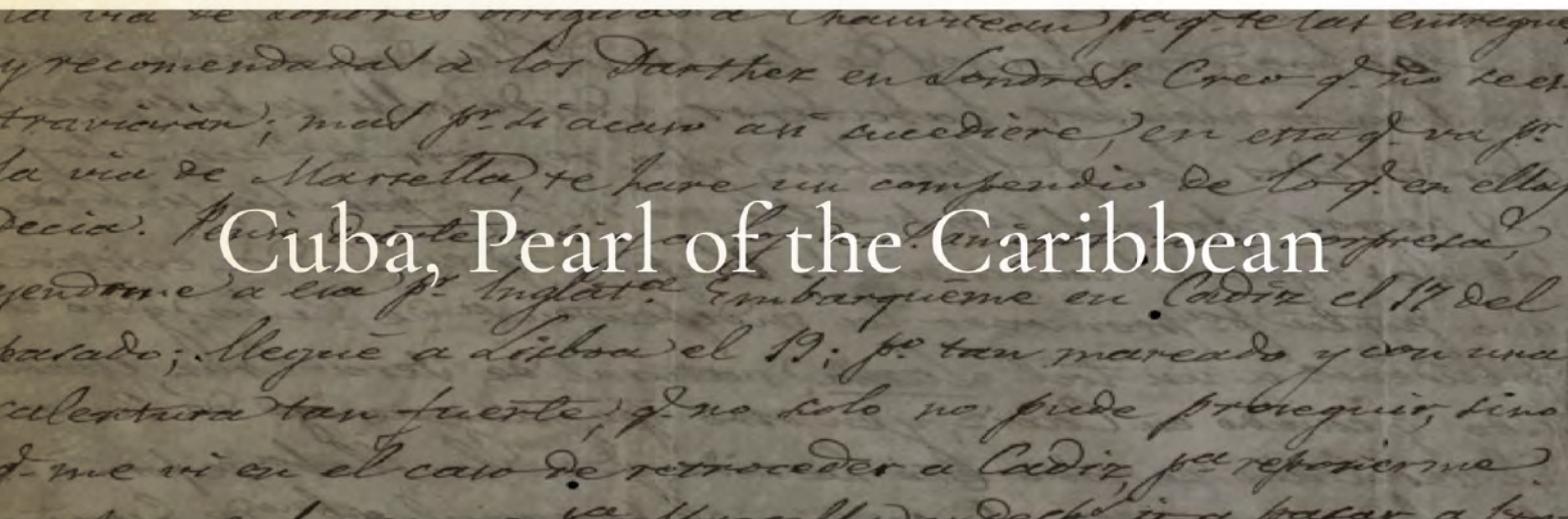


GRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Home Thinkers Gallery Works by Cuban Thinkers General Timeline Zotero Group Bibliography Celebrating Cuba!

en



Cuba, Pearl of the Caribbean

Fig. 1

Exploring the Works and Times of Cuban Intellectuals in the Nineteenth Century

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The project *Exploring the Works and Times of Cuban Intellectuals in the Nineteenth Century* is a yearlong internship to create a digital resource (a website, <http://cubanthinkers.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/>) that promotes the use of the holdings in the Cuban Thinkers collection, a repository of mostly nineteenth century monographs published in Cuba or authored by Cubans in the University of Florida Digital Collections' Cuban Collections (<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cuba>).

Fig. 1 View of home page of the Cuba, Pearl of the Caribbean

The origins of the Cuban Collections go back to 2012 when the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries and the Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí signed an agreement to partner in the digitization of Cuban patrimony materials available on either side of the Caribbean. Since then, both institutions in Florida and Cuba, along with partners in the United States such as Harvard University and the University of Miami, have invested significant effort to make Cuban heritage material accessible through the University of Florida Digital Collections (UFDC) portal.

Likewise, this internship project sought to enhance both the technical and digital skills of a graduate student. In January of 2020, doctoral student Ivette Rodriguez started researching to create digital content about three renowned Cuban thinkers: José Martí, José Antonio Saco, and Félix Varela, three pillars of Cuban modern intellectual thinking and nation-building process. The goal was to know more about the life and historical context of these three Cuban intellectuals and also to create content about their work and contributions to Cuban thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Ivette ended up working on four thinkers by the end of her third semester as an intern. Her process included three phases. First, she researched the life and the public experience of each intellectual and created a comprehensive timeline for each. For this task, Ivette studied masterworks by Professor Eduardo Torres-Cuevas, former director of the Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí, like *Obras: biblioteca de clásicos cubanos* (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00048554/00001>) and other resources available in UFDC like *Iconografía del apóstol José Martí* (<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00078332/00001>). To present the timeline information interactively, Ivette learned how to use the digital tool TimelineJS. Each Cuban author has its page on the website and their timeline (see, for example, José Antonio Saco's: <http://cubanthinkers.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/jose-antonio-saco/>) is included in their individual pages.



UFDC

1845

CROWNED BY THE LYCEUM OF MADRID

Crowned with two golden laurel leaves, the highest honor bestowed by the Lyceum of Madrid, Gertrudis reached the top of Spanish society, second only to queen Isabel II.



Iconografía del apóstol José Martí

NACIMIENTO

José Julián Martí Pérez nace en La Habana, Cuba, hijo de padres españoles, Mariano Martí y Leonor Pérez.

Fig. 2 Timeline section in the Gertrudis González de Avellaneda page

Fig. 3 First slide of the Spanish timeline of José Martí

The second phase in the work process corresponded with the another key component within the website, the abstracts of two books from each of the Cuban intellectuals. The Libraries' catalog and WorldCat's catalog (<https://www.worldcat.org/>) were the main resources where Ivette looked to compile a bibliography of all authored books by José Martí, José Antonio Saco, Félix Varela, and Gertrudis González de Avellaneda. She entered the selected list of titles founded in a Zotero Group Library, which is available for everyone to join (<http://cubanthinkers.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/zotero-group-bibliography/>).

Thirdly, Ivette selected two titles for each author and wrote an abstract for the page "Works by Cuban Thinkers" located in the main site of the project. Eight books now have scholarly abstracts on the project's website.

Obras de pensadores cubanos

<p><u>La Edad de Oro</u> (1889), by <u>José Martí</u></p>	<p><u>Versos Sencillos</u> (1891), by <u>José Martí</u></p>	<p><u>Ideas sobre la incorporación de Cuba en los Estados Unidos,</u> (1848), by José Antonio Saco</p>
<p><u>Historia de la esclavitud</u> (1879), by José Antonio Saco</p>	<p><u>Lecciones de Filosofía</u> (1818) by Félix Varela</p>	<p><u>Cartas a Elpidio</u> (1835, 1838) by Félix Varela</p>
<p><u>Sab.</u> (1841) by Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda</p>	<p><u>Alfonso Munio</u> (1844) de Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda</p>	

Fig. 4 View of the 'Works by Cuban Thinkers' page on the Cuba, Pearl of the Caribbean website (<http://cubanthinkers.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/works/>)

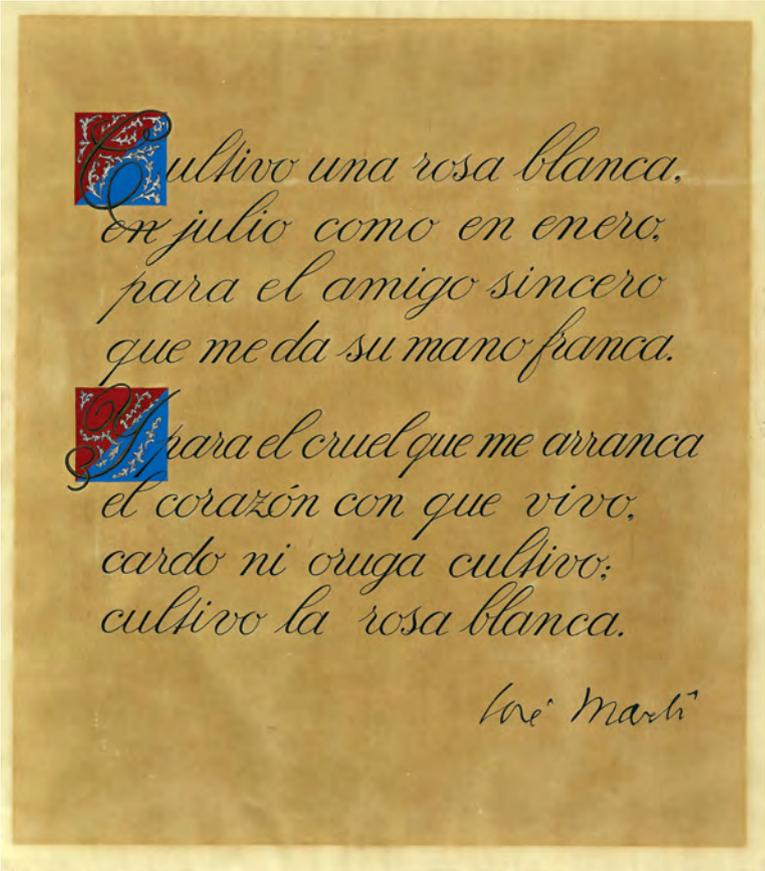


Fig 5. View of “Rosa Blanca,” a poem from Martí’s *Versos sencillos*, (<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00054732/00001>)



Fig 6. Profile of Ivette Rodriguez, PhD student and graduate teaching assistant at the University of Florida’s English Department and George A. Smathers Libraries 2020 intern.

In working on creating digital content, Ivette expanded her skills to present research on the web and eventually to succeed in the job market. Ivette Rodriguez is a third year PhD student and graduate teaching assistant at the University of Florida concentrating on Caribbean Literature. In her dissertation research, she focuses on the influences of Yoruba mythology in Caribbean women’s fiction. The opportunity to work with the Libraries and to explore the digital collections more in depth were an ideal opportunity for advancing both her intellectual and career goals as a student, a researcher in the humanities, and an instructor. After a year co-creating *Cuba, Pearl of the Caribbean*, she mentions, “I am grateful for the ways the work has indeed expanded my understanding of Cuban and Caribbean history. I hope it will similarly impact its users.”

Additionally, Ivette translated all content of the *Cuba, Pearl of the Caribbean* website into Spanish. This feature helped her develop her formal writing skills in Spanish at the same time it amplified the reach of the content of the website to both Spanish and English speakers. In future months, the project will seek contributions from scholars in Cuba and all around the world. All entries will be translated keeping the main and original goal of the project to facilitate open access to the works and worlds of Cuban thinkers.