

Havana, Cuba, Shipping Ledger

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1820-1822



Title Statement

Havana, Cuba, Shipping LedgerHavana, Cuba, Shipping Ledger, 1820-1822 Ms.1988.116

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1988.116

Unit Date

1820-1822

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection includes a ledger maintained by shipping merchant operating in Havana, Cuba (possibly the firm of Miralla, Knight & Co.), with transaction descriptions noting goods shipped, names of ships and shipmasters, dates, and prices.

Creator

Miralla, Knight & Co. (Havana, Cuba)

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Havana, Cuba, Shipping Ledger was purchased by Special Collections in 1988.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the Havana, Cuba, Shipping Ledger commenced and was completed in September 2011.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Havana, Cuba, Shipping Ledger, Ms1988-116, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Administrative History

The entries in this ledger suggest that it was maintained by a firm operating under the name Miralla & Co., and later, Miralla, Knight & Co. An advertisement appearing in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of February 14, 1817, reads in part: "Havana.--Samael Curson [Samuel Carson?] and George Knight, inform their friends and the public, that they have formed a Copartnership in trade, under the firm of Miralla & Co. for the purpose of transacting American Commission Business in Havana." No further record or mention of the firm could be found.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of a single ledger maintained by an unidentified shipping merchant operating in Havana, Cuba, during the early 19th century. Included are descriptions of transactions, with name of ship and shipmaster, goods shipped, destination, and date. The shipments were overwhelmingly bound for merchants in Boston, Massachusetts, and consisted largely of coffee and cigars ("segars") but also included candles, lard, sugar and other goods. The ledger entries suggest that the volume belonged to the firm of Miralla & Co., later operating as Miralla, Knight & Co. A later owner used the volume as a recipe book, pasting into it recipes clipped from newspapers. Many of these were later removed, causing damage to the ledger, but several remain.

Keywords

Ledgers (account books)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Ledger

Unit Date 1820-1822

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

