Collection of Spanish documents concerning Florida and the West Indies: Finding Aid

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Collection of Spanish documents concerning Florida and the West Indies

Dates (inclusive): 1783-1787

Collection Number: mssHM 9471-9548

Creator: Spain. Sovereign (1759-1788 : Charles III)

Extent: 86 pieces in 1 box

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Abstract: This collection contains 86 pieces of official documents, in Spanish, related to the 1783 Treaty of Versailles, particularly in relation to Spanish possession in West Indies.

Language: Spanish.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Collection of Spanish documents concerning Florida and the West Indies, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance
Purchased from the Maggs Bros., 1926.

Historical Note
The Treaty of Versailles of September 3, 1783, which recognized the independence of the thirteen colonies, also ended hostilities between European powers. According to the treaty, Spain recovered Minorca and East Florida. The Treaty was preceded by separate preliminary articles that France and Spain signed on January 20, 1783. Yet Americans were hostile to Spanish control. They began to expand into Florida, first gaining territory called the Yazoo Strip through the Treaty of Lorenzo (Pinckney’s Treaty) in October 1795. By 1821, Spain agreed, by the Adams-Onís Treaty, to the cession of Florida to the United States.

Scope and Content
This collection contains official documents related to the 1783 Treaty of Versailles, particularly in relation to Spanish possession in West Indies. Included are original notifications about the cessation of hostilities directed to the Spanish overseas governors, the Minister of Marine and officers commanding the armed forces from the royal administration and Council of Indies; the acknowledgements and correspondence thereon; the text of two of the Articles of the Peace Treaty, and official proclamations, including a text that had been published without the consent of the King and was later withdrawn and destroyed. Prominent authors include: Juan Antonio Enriquez, Pedro Castejón, José Moffino, and Francisco Xavier Morales.

Some notable items include:

• Enriquez, Juan Antonio. Proclamation of the Peace between Spain and England (1783, Feb. 5). Note: This document was printed and posted in Seville by Enriquez, Minister of Marine at Seville, but was withdrawn and destroyed by the command of the king.

• Castejón, Pedro, marqués de, 1719-1783. To Don Juan Antonio Enriquez. Draft of a letter from the king’s secretary reprimanding Enriquez for exceeding the limits of his authority in publishing the news of the peace (1783, Feb. 11).

• Enriquez to Castejón. Letter vindicating his action, and begging intercession in his behalf (1783, Feb. 19).

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Great Britain. Treaties, etc. Spain, 1783 Sept. 3.
Spain. Sovereign (1759-1788 : Charles III) -- Archives.
Spain. Sovereign (1788-1803 : Charles IV) -- Archives.
Florida -- History -- Spanish colony, 1784-1821 -- Sources.
Spain -- Colonies -- America -- History -- 18th century -- Sources.
Spain -- Foreign relations -- Great Britain.
Spain -- Politics and government -- 1759-1788 -- Sources.
West Indies -- History -- 18th century -- Sources.

Forms/Genres
Government records Spain -- 18th century.
Letters (correspondence) Spain -- 18th century.
Military records Spain -- 18th century.
Official documents Spain -- 18th century.

Additional Contributors
Castejón, Pedro, marqués de, 1719-1783.

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1783 January 29. [Castejón, Pedro, Marqués González de Castejón]. To Joaquín Gutiérrez de Rubalcava. El Pardo, Spain. HM 9471
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