Pedro Villaseñor political papers

Finding aid prepared by Gina C Giang and Clay Stalls.
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Pedro Villaseñor political papers
Inclusive Dates: 1925-1990
Collection Number: mssVillaseñor
Collector: Villaseñor, Pedro
Extent: 3 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
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Abstract: The papers consist of materials that Pedro Villaseñor, a Mexican Roman Catholic nationalist, created and assembled that document the troubled church-state relations of Mexico and their effect in Los Angeles, chiefly in the 1930s.
Language of Material: The records are in Spanish.
Access
Collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please go to following web site.
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Preferred Citation
Pedro Villaseñor political papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Acquisition Information
Gift of Lucila Villaseñor Grijalva, María Elena Villaseñor, and Alicia O. Colunga, August 2017.
Biography
Pedro Villaseñor was born on October 29, 1907 in Coeneo, Michoacán, Mexico. Villaseñor, a Mexican Roman Catholic nationalist, was the Los Angeles leader of the Sinarquistas, a staunchly right-wing, nationalistic, and Roman Catholic organization. Before he worked with the Sinarquistas (which were founded in 1937 in León), he worked with the Asociación Católica de la Juventud Mexicana (founded in Mexico in 1913) in Los Angeles, and he established the Comité Popular de la Defensa Mexicana in Los Angeles in 1935. These too were Mexican right-wing Roman Catholic organizations opposed to the Mexican government's suppression of Roman Catholic practice and education. These activities reflect the impact of Mexico's Cristero War in Los Angeles, for Villaseñor's correspondents clearly had Cristero sympathies.
Pedro Villaseñor married Cledonia Meza (1908-2001) on September 20, 1931. The couple had four daughters: Maria (b. 1932), Lucila (b. 1935), Alicia (b. 1939), and Maria (b. 1948). Villaseñor worked in several industries. He was a laundry-worker, retail grocer in East Los Angeles, and a supporter of Spanish-language theater in the 1970s. He passed away on April 29, 1996.
Scope and Content
This collection consists of materials that Pedro Villaseñor created and assembled that document the troubled church-state relations of Mexico and their effect in Los Angeles, chiefly in the 1930s. It documents transnational politics between Mexico and Los Angeles as well as politics and political organizing and activities within the Mexican community of Los Angeles in the 1930s. It also documents the intellectual and political thought of Mexican conservative Roman Catholicism in Los Angeles and beyond through correspondence from Mexico, Cuba, Peru, and throughout the United States; newsletters; poetry; books; essays; and flyers. Holdings in United States research libraries and archives related to Roman Catholic political resistance to the Mexican government, an important part of twentieth-century Mexican church-state history, are extremely rare. Of particular interest is the large amount of literary material that Mexican conservative Roman Catholics in this collection authored.
Books accompanying this collection are assigned call number RB 646900.
Personal Names
Villaseñor, Pedro

Corporate Names
Catholic Church -- California -- History -- 20th century
Catholic Church -- Mexico -- History -- 20th century
Unión Nacional Sinarquista (Mexico)

Subjects
Nationalism -- Mexico -- History -- 20th century
Synarchism -- Mexico
Church and state -- Mexico

Geographic Areas
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- 20th century

Genre
Essays
Letters (correspondence)
Newsletters
Photographs
Poems

Box 1

Folder 1  Correspondence (letters), documents, and printed matter
Photographs -- Sinarquista meetings (1930-1941)
One at La Placita church
Included: Three photocopies for identification

Folder 2  Letters (correspondence) -- Incoming (1931-1935)
Incoming correspondence to Pedro Villaseñor regarding building of school, subscriptions
to newsletter “Pro Patria,” meetings of Asociación Católica de la Juventud Mexicana, plan
for protest march, and circulation of “Pro Patria” in Mexico. Includes correspondence from
Mexico and throughout the U.S.

Folder 3  Letters (correspondence) -- Incoming and outgoing (1962-1972)
Incoming and outgoing correspondence regarding personal matters and politics to Pedro
Villaseñor from José Aurioles Díaz, Ignacio Martínez Aguayo, and Rodolfo Cabrera

Folder 4  Essays -- Anonymous [undated]
Anonymous history on Mexican Revolution, persecution of Mexican Roman Catholic
Church, and Cristero movement. José Aurioles Díaz essay on the Virgin of Guadalupe and
Mexican identity. Poem on religious persecution by Mexican government

Folder 5  Clippings (information artifacts), poems, and writings (documents) -- Licenciado
Rafael Trujillo (1963-1988)


Folder 7  Letters (correspondence) -- Incoming and outgoing (1930-1936)
Pedro Villaseñor incoming and outgoing correspondence regarding church/state relations in
Mexico, the Roman Catholic Church in Mexico, and subscriptions to “Pro Patria”

Folder 8  Letters (correspondence) and publications (documents) -- Unión Nacional Sinarquista
(1930)
Included: “Patria y Raza” journal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 9</th>
<th>Miscellaneous -- Pedro Villaseñor (1944-1965)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Included: José Aurioles Díaz political essay, liquor licenses, and Rodolfo Cabrera letter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Letters (correspondence) -- Incoming (1956-1976)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pedro Villaseñor incoming correspondence from Sinarquisatas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Included: Roster of Sinarquistas in Southern California?</td>
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<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Letters (correspondence) -- José Villa Barro [undated]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
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<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Essays, fliers (printed matter), letters (correspondence), and poems -- Miscellaneous (1965-1985)</td>
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<td>“Teatro Intímí” and unsigned correspondence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Clippings (information artifacts), essays, and poems -- Rafael Trujillo Herrera (1976)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>Clippings (information artifacts), essays, and letters (correspondence) -- Pedro Villaseñor (1925-1971)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incoming correspondence regarding personal matters, activities of the Comité Popular de la Defensa Mexicana (including newsletter), and newspaper clippings. Letter of 6 January 1935 announces formation of the Comité Popular de la Defensa Mexicana and its list of officers. Essays: (1) Masons, and (2) the Asociación Católica de la Juventud Mexicana relationship with parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>Letters (correspondence) -- Incoming (1971-1981)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pedro Villaseñor incoming correspondence from Rafael Trujillo Herrera. Pedro Villaseñor incoming correspondence from Juan Aguilera Azpeitia and José Aurioles Díaz</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Included: Rafael Trujillo Herrera poems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>Essays, letters (correspondence), and poems -- Pedro Villaseñor (1976-1986)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Note: Some poetry and essays lack attribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 17</td>
<td>Letters (correspondence) -- Outgoing (1982-1983)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pedro Villaseñor outgoing correspondence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 18</td>
<td>Clippings (information artifacts) and poems -- Pedro and Celedonia Villaseñor (1981)</td>
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<td>50th wedding anniversary</td>
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<td>Folder 19</td>
<td>Pamphlets -- “Mártires de Zamora: Joaquín de Silva y Manuel Melgarejo”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[approximately 1926]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Newsletters -- Comité Popular de Defensa Mexicana (1935-1936)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>50 items</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Included: Letter from Pedro Villaseñor to Papa, 1944</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Newsletters removed from album</td>
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<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Oversize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Newspapers -- Sinarquista (Orden) (1940-1988)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Included: Other political newspapers from Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Broadsides (notices) -- Asociación Católica de la Juventud Mexicana and Catholics in Los Angeles rally (1925-1926)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 3

Posters -- Anita Pompa de Trujillo poetry contest [undated]