

**José Ignacio Rodríguez Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2012**

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Revised 2022 October

## Collection Summary

**Title:** José Ignacio Rodríguez Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1860-1907

**ID No.:** MSS38158

**Creator:** Rodríguez, José Ignacio, 1831-1907

**Extent:** 25,000 items

**Extent:** 65 containers

**Extent:** 26 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in Spanish and English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78038158>

**Summary:** Cuban-American lawyer and writer. Correspondence, legal papers, notes, drafts, and other literary papers, newspaper clippings, and miscellany relating to his work before various Latin American claims commissions and other legal work involving Latin American governments, and materials pertaining to his writings on Latin American history.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Mestre, José Manuel, 1832-1886. José Manuel Mestre papers. circa 1860-1870.

Mora, Antonio Maximo, 1818-1897.

Ponce de León, Néstor, 1837-1899.

Rodríguez, José Ignacio, 1831-1907.

Sanguily, Julio.

### Organizations

Bureau of the American Republics (Washington, D.C.)

Chile. Embajada (U.S.)

Colombia. Embajada (U.S.)

El Salvador. Legación (U.S.)

French and American Claims Commission.

Joint Commission of Costa Rica and the United States.

Junta (New York, N.Y.) Junta (New York, N.Y.) records. 1868-1870.

Real Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País (Cuba). Real Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País (Cuba) records. 1863-1869.

United States and Mexican Claims Commission.

Uruguay. Legación (U.S.)

### Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, Salvadoran--United States.

Practice of law--Cuba.

Practice of law--Washington (D.C.)

Refugees--El Salvador.

### Places

Costa Rica--Claims.

Cuba--Claims.

Dominican Republic--Claims.

France--Claims.

Latin America--Claims.

Latin America--Foreign relations--United States.

Latin America--History.

Mexico--Claims.  
Spain--Claims.  
United States--Claims.  
United States--Foreign relations--Latin America.

### **Occupations**

Authors.  
Lawyers.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of José Ignacio Rodríguez, Cuban-American lawyer and writer, were given to the Library of Congress by his niece, Katherine Fisher, through David Rubio of the Hispanic Division of the Library in 1939.

## **Processing History**

The papers of José Ignacio Rodríguez were initially processed in 1939. The finding aid was revised in 2006, 2010, and 2012.

## **Transfers**

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library, including the Geography and Map Division, Prints and Photographs Division, Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Serial & Government Publications Division, and the general collections.

## **Other Repositories**

Other papers of José Ignacio Rodríguez can be found in the University of Florida, Smathers Libraries, Gainesville, Fla.

## **Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of José Ignacio Rodríguez is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## **Access and Restrictions**

The Rodríguez Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, José Ignacio Rodríguez Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Biographical Note**

José Ignacio Rodríguez (1831-1907) was a Cuban-American lawyer, writer, and teacher. Rodríguez left Cuba for political reasons, became an American citizen, and established himself in Washington, D.C., as a lawyer specializing in Latin American affairs. He studied law under Caleb Cushing and was admitted to the bar of the District of Columbia and the

Supreme Court. He held the post of chief translator for the Bureau of American Republics and librarian of the Columbus Library. He served in various capacities for Mexico before the United States and Mexican Claims Commission, acted as secretary for the United States delegation to the International Congress of American States in Mexico in 1902, and was counsel for many claimants before several Spanish and American claims commissions, notably in the Antonio Mora, Julio Sanguily, and Delgado cases, and that of the *Virginius* affair.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of José Ignacio Rodríguez (1831-1907) span the years 1860-1907 and consist of correspondence, legal papers, notes, drafts, and other literary papers, newspaper clippings, and miscellany. The papers are in Spanish and English. The papers are organized into the following series: [Correspondence](#), [American Spanish Claims Commissions](#), [United States and Venezuelan Claims Commission](#), [Claims Against the Dominican Republic](#), [Costa Rica and the United States Joint Commission](#), [American-French Claims Commission](#), [Claims Against the Military Government of Cuba](#), [Bureau of American Republics](#), [Legal Cases and Clients](#), [Puerto Rico](#), [Writings](#), [Personal](#), [Newspaper Clippings](#), and [Other Papers](#).

The collection contains Rodríguez's legal papers and correspondence mostly concerning claims against the governments of Cuba and the Dominican Republic and cases involving individuals and governments before claims commissions. They include the Spanish and American Claims Commission, the French and American Claims Commission, the Joint Commission of Costa Rica and the United States, the United States and Mexican Claims Commission, and the Bureau of the American Republics. Case files in the American-Spanish Claims Commission treat Cuban political figures such as Néstor Ponce de León and Julio Sanguily and cases involving confiscation by Latin American governments of property of wealthy individuals such as Cuban immigrant Antonio Maximo Mora.

Other files pertain to individual litigations stemming from the legations of Chile, Colombia, Salvador, and Uruguay. Also in the collection are papers of the Legation of Salvador relating to the establishment of a legation in Washington, D.C. (1894), and to the extradition of Salvadorean refugees (1894-1895). The [Other Papers](#) series includes the papers of José Manuel Mestre (circa 1860-1870), the archives of the Real Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País, Cuba (1853-1869), and material relating to the Cuban Junta of New York (1868-1870).

## Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in fourteen series:

- [Correspondence](#)
- [American-Spanish Claims Commissions](#)
- [United States and Venezuelan Claims Commission](#)
- [Claims Against Dominican Republic](#)
- [Joint Commission of Costa Rica and the United States](#)
- [French and American Claims Commission](#)
- [Claims Against the Military Government of Cuba](#)
- [Bureau of the American Republics](#)
- [Legal Cases and Clients](#)
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- [Newspaper Clippings](#)
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## Description of Series

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**Personal**

Estate papers, family correspondence, and other personal papers.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

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**Newspaper Clippings**

Clippings and miscellaneous cards, invitations, and printed matter.  
Arranged partially by subject matter; the remainder is unarranged.

**BOX 60-65**

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Papers from other sources collected by Rodríguez including the legation of Salvador, José Manuel Mestre, and various Cuban reform organizations. Also included is a list of materials transferred to other divisions of the Library and a biographical memorandum.  
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