

SOURCES FOR THE
STUDY OF PUERTO RICAN HISTORY:
A Challenge to the Historian's Imagination*

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The 1970s were particularly fruitful for the field of Puerto Rican historiography. A number of works were published, not only on the Island but abroad, which showed the trend of current and future research. New topics were being dealt with from a variety of updated viewpoints and methodologies, and previously studied problems were revised in the light of newly available sources, as was the case, for example, with slavery. Various factors have contributed notably to this situation: the assiduous exchange of ideas among Puerto Rican, Latin American, North American, and European researchers, a process which, although slow, has served to involve Puerto Rico in recent historiographical trends; the involvement of the Island in international affairs; the opening of new collections of valuable historical materials; the institutionalization at the university level of graduate study in the field of history; and, in general, a greater emphasis on Puerto Rican cultural identity.

The variety and dispersion of the sources available to reconstruct Puerto Rican history are a challenge to the historian's imagination. The very political and socioeconomic emergence of the Island since the sixteenth century explains, at least in part, why documents regarding its history are located not only in Puerto Rico, but also in repositories ranging from Madrid, London, and Stockholm to the United States, the Caribbean, and Hispanic America. These can be classified into at least the following categories: (1) official documents produced by the various bodies of the central and municipal governments in Puerto Rico, Spain, and the U.S.; (2) trade documents, especially relating to the consulates,

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quite often found in foreign archives; (3) documents from ecclesiastical and parochial archives; (4) notarial records, which, despite the fact that they are the result of private civil transactions, were preserved under strict legal controls; (5) private document collections; (6) series of published documents; (7) photographic collections; (8) literary and artistic works and scientific research publications; (9) buildings and other architectural samples; (10) archeological artifacts; and (11) oral testimonies.

Researchers in the field of Puerto Rican history have long sought their main sources among those preserved in Spain, primarily the documents from the Archivo General de Indias in Seville and the Archivo Histórico Nacional in Madrid; in Puerto Rico, basically in what is known today as the Fondo de Obras Públicas, the best in terms of organization and cataloging; and, in Washington, D.C., from the papers of the Spanish government in Puerto Rico, which were taken to the National Archives on account of the Spanish American War and recently returned to the Archivo General de Puerto Rico (AGPR).¹

Various events—archives of the jurisdictional office of Puerto Rico at the Audiencia de Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic were lost, the city of San Juan was burned by the Dutch in 1625, the Archivo Histórico suffered a fire in 1929—have led to the disappearance of documents that existed in Puerto Rico relating to the first centuries of Spanish colonization. Thus, the sources preserved in the Archivo General de Indias (AGI), Seville, are indispensable to study the history of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. The research possibilities within its collections encompass practically all facets of human existence, individual and collective, political and economic, civil, military, and religious. Fortunately, the Centro de Investigaciones Históricas (CIH) of the Universidad de Puerto Rico has been developing a program to microfilm documents in foreign archives, especially those of the AGI.² Those who wish to go directly to Seville to research a particular topic shall find a valuable tool in the inventory card catalog prepared at the initiative of the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña and deposited in the AGPR to describe the Puerto Rican sources in the AGI. Though this is a slow process (and still underway), one can save time by consulting those sections for which the inventory is complete.

When studying the nineteenth century, the Fondo de Ultramar from the Archivo Histórico Nacional in Madrid is of extraordinary importance. It includes the papers belonging to the old Ministerio de Ultramar, and its complete inventory for the Puerto Rican series (published in three volumes, plus two currently being printed) can facilitate the researcher's inquiry.³ The Archivo del Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores (Madrid) also includes documents related to topics ranging through the middle of the nineteenth century.

Research into military history is also dependent upon the ar-

chives of the Spanish army: the Servicio Histórico Militar (Madrid), the Archivo General Militar in Segovia, the Archivo de la Jefatura del Servicio Geográfico y Cartográfico del Ministerio del Ejército (Madrid), the Archivo del Museo Naval (Madrid), and the Archivo General de la Marina (La Mancha). In addition to documents dealing with defense against foreign threats and the preservation of internal order on the Island, the military archives contain a considerable number of plans of cities, buildings, and fortifications, all of which are indispensable for the study of urban history and architecture. The files of military engineers, as well as those of the chief fortification architects, are revealing, and a study of their works in different locations in Spain and America allows for methodological and stylistic links of significance in the history of Spanish American art.

To the sources cited above must be added the materials on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries found in Barcelona, in the archives of the Histórico Municipal, the Diputación Provincial, the Junta de Comercio, the Arxiu Más, the Archivo Provincial de los Frailes Menores Capuchinos de Cataluña, the Biblioteca-Museo Balaguer (Villanueva y Geltru), and the Biblioteca Universitaria. In addition to the repositories that we would consider of primary interest, there are others that, even if they do not contain many documents, could be helpful in certain investigations.⁴ Among these, the most important is the Archivo General de Simancas, originally the Archivo del Reino, the papers of which stocked the AGI. It contains documents on the period from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries, and research on certain topics (for example, legal or illegal trade during that period) could not be dealt with completely without taking into account the material to be found there.

During the 1970s, document series made available to the public in Puerto Rico have suggested a variety of topics to be researched, and allow for the use of many methods and techniques, especially relative to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The AGPR initiated a campaign to gather, organize, and catalog materials relating to the Spanish administration, which has put at the researcher's disposal (either completely or partially) series such as those of the Real Audiencia de Puerto Rico, 1832–99, the Intendencia de Puerto Rico, a large section of documents from the government, the Diputación Provincial, the Real Hacienda, and those of the Fortaleza, which correspond to the Oficina del Secretario de Puerto Rico and which have a fairly complete card catalog. To these can be added the aforementioned Obras Públicas holdings, which include the following series: public, religious, and school buildings; municipal works; highways and bridges; local roads; bodies of water; public property (purchase, sale, and boundaries of lots); tax lists; communications; and a variety of other topics.

Worthy of special mention, because less well known and useful

for research on agriculture and urban development, is the *catastro*, the real estate listing of the Administración de Contribuciones y Rentas de la Isla de Puerto Rico, made in 1894. It consists of 174 volumes classified under rural or urban land, about which it offers highly detailed information. For rural land it gives the type of land or farm, the name, the area in which it is located, the type of crops grown, the total acreage in *cuerdas* and hectares, adjacent lands, the name of the proprietor or landowner, etc. Prior changes of land ownership are also noted, as well as the date, the type of contract or record used, the name of the notary who authorized it, the name of the new owner, and pertinent observations. In the case of urban holdings, the cadastre includes the type of land, its name, the street and number or neighborhood and location, the building material, the number of stories, the number of rooms which comprise independent rental units, its surface area measured in rods and meters, the adjacent lots, the name of the proprietor or owner, and general observations. As in the previous case, changes of prior ownership are noted. The cadastre has a preliminary inventory including the name of the town, whether the holdings are rural or urban, the size of the volume, and whether it has been duplicated.

In 1972 the AGPR transferred to its depositories the materials corresponding to the municipal archives, thereby adding an invaluable source for the study of local social, economic, and institutional history. Nevertheless, there is great disparity among the contents of these holdings. While some are extensive, for example, those of Arecibo, San Juan, and Fajardo, others amount to little, such as those from Quebradillas and Cidra. The documents include general correspondence, community record books, budgets, population censuses, and lists and censuses of agricultural, commercial, and industrial wealth, which allow one to examine life as it was in different regions of Puerto Rico. One of the obstacles to using these series is the lack of catalogs and inventories, which often makes it impossible for the researcher to select in advance the specific materials he wishes to examine. The AGPR has already prepared several inventories but much remains to be done. In several cases there are only general topical listings which, though only relatively dependable, facilitate the task. A new *Guía al Archivo General de Puerto Rico* is currently being prepared.⁵ Table 1 provides a general orientation with regard to the municipal holdings in the AGPR.

The archives of the cities of Ponce, San Germán, Mayagüez, Caguas, and Vega Baja have been kept in their original location to guarantee their preservation and accessibility. These are the most complete municipal records, but they too lack catalogs and dependable inventories.

The AGPR is the depository for several private collections of great value. There are what archivists call "full" collections, which are the most voluminous and are cataloged; and "light" collections, which re-

ceive smaller donations and are indexed on cards. This section, which is constantly growing, accumulates a great variety of materials—photographs, newspaper and magazine clippings, theater programs, the programs of political parties, leaflets, circulars, recipes, bylaws, dance cards, musical scores, assorted albums, biographical notes, programs from town cultural activities, and manuscripts. The latter include general correspondence, literary works, legal documents, etc. This source has provided the AGPR with most of its newspaper and magazine collection. As in the municipal archives, the contents of the private collections are not uniform, so the researcher should not expect to find the same type of document in each of them.⁶

Other significant holdings within the AGPR include the map room, with maps and plans from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries; the photographic collection; the music collection, with manuscripts, musical scores, printed materials, and records; the audiovisual collection, with tapes, films, and slides; and the microfilm collection, from various sources and covering an assortment of topics from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, some of which, such as the reproductions of the *San Juan News*, are most interesting.⁷

Of the series recently opened to the public, those of the general and municipal governments now allow one to research topics that were previously almost impossible to study, particularly in the realm of social and economic history. Proof of this can be found in the research projects now in progress on the sugar industry and slavery, coffee production, the free labor system, and the urban development of San Juan—all of which have drawn heavily on these materials. Topics related to economics can also be studied, for example: agricultural and industrial production, including the less important crops such as cotton and rice, mining, livestock breeding and its derivative products; internal and external trade; landholding; currency; and the tax system and the utilization of revenues. In terms of social issues, the list is practically endless, from studies on migration, social classes, and labor to those related to family problems, mendicancy, prostitution, and vagrancy.

Specialized sources may be found for the topic under study. For instance, in the case of urban history, material on the origins and physical growth of towns and cities can be found in the Fondo de Obras Públicas, particularly in the section on municipal works, public buildings, and religious structures. In general, censuses and notarial records can help to reconstruct population distribution. An analysis of urban or rural wealth, then, should take them into account, as well as tax lists, payroll lists, and other materials in the municipal holdings. It should also be remembered that the parish archives and the Registro Demográfico are indispensable to demographic studies.

The notarial records constitute one of the most important and most heavily used collections of the AGPR. They are the public affidavits of sales, barter, contracts, mortgages, wills, marriage contracts, etc. Their organization by districts, towns, and notaries makes it easy and efficient to examine them. A further aid is the *Guía de protocolos notariales* (3 vols.), which indicates the district, town, notary, year, volume (the months, whether there are indexes, receipts, affidavits, etc.), location, and any observations (whether the volume is out of circulation, or includes other towns or notaries, or if the documents are loose sheets, illegible, indexed, etc.). In addition, there is a toponymic index. The *Guía* is a very useful tool for the researcher beginning his work, who needs to know what sources are available (see table 2 for a description of the contents of these holdings).

Apart from their intrinsic value for the history of the Church, the parish archives are a basic source for demographic and social studies. They contain, principally, documents from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, although some material from the eighteenth century is included and, as in the case of Coamo, even materials from the seventeenth century. Most of the documents are found in books of baptisms, confirmations, burials, and weddings; briefs on the levying of taxes and the founding of parishes; and books of circulars and reports on bishops' visits, the establishment of charitable funds, and miscellaneous correspondence. The Colección Puertorriqueña of the Biblioteca José M. Lázaro at the Universidad de Puerto Rico recently initiated a project to microfilm these archives, in the hope of avoiding any irreparable losses, as well as to facilitate research. The archives of Hormigueros, Añasco, and the Orden Tercera de San Francisco have been completed.⁸

Also of great value is the Archivo Eclesiástico de Puerto Rico, which covers basically the nineteenth and the first third of the twentieth century, prior to the creation of the Ponce diocese. For the study of Church history, it is an indispensable source on population and social institutions.

Another area still relatively untouched is twentieth-century Puerto Rican history. Here the historian must give free rein to his imagination in order to find his sources. By law, the AGPR is the official depository for the public documents of Puerto Rico. Despite the fact that the law also regulates the disposition of documents, parts of these materials have often been lost due to their sheer numbers, the lack of trained personnel, or simply chance. In other cases, the materials can be found in the AGPR, but are not available because of restrictions placed upon their use or because they are not organized and classified.⁹ For studies on population, we have already stressed the importance of the Registro Demográfico, created in 1885 and housed today in the Departamento de

Salud. Equally important is the Registro de la Propiedad; its holdings are not centralized, but are found instead in the registry offices of the individual towns.

These sources are complemented by those in the National Archives in Washington, D. C., related to the U.S. administration in Puerto Rico. From 1898 to 1934 the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the Department of War (Record Group 350) was responsible for all records related to Puerto Rico, a task that was later transferred to the Office of Territories and Island Possessions of the Department of the Interior (Record Group 126.)¹⁰ There are also materials among the documents of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and among those of the different federal agencies, such as the Department of Labor. The Library of Congress, the presidential libraries, the New York Public Library, the Widener Library at Harvard, the Berkeley library, and private collections—such as those of Samuel Gompers and William Green relating to the labor movement—also have documents on Puerto Rico.¹¹ These repositories also contain maps and photographs of interest.

The Biblioteca José M. Lázaro of the Universidad de Puerto Rico in Río Piedras houses valuable sources for the study of Puerto Rican history. Its Colección Puertorriqueña is perhaps the most complete in terms not only of books but newspapers and magazines. It possesses documents of interest for the study of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (see appendix 1). It also is the repository for the papers of Ruby Black, an important figure in the twentieth century. The book, newspaper, and magazine collections of the Biblioteca Carnegie, the Ateneo Puertorriqueño, and the Biblioteca Municipal de Ponce complement those found at the Universidad de Puerto Rico.¹² There are still many collections in private hands, with access dependent upon the generosity of their owners. These collections add great possibilities for historical research, especially in light of recent criticism of the dependence upon official documents for the reconstruction of Caribbean history.

In spite of the dispersal of documents throughout the various archives of Spain, Europe, and the U.S., several documentary series have been published. Some of them adopted a bulletin-like format combining documents of different kinds with articles on historical analysis; more recently, however, there has been a greater concentration on the transcription of documents following a chronological or thematic criterion. It is not necessary to stress the convenience for the specialized researcher or the interested amateur, in terms of time and effort, to have compiled in printed volumes those documents to which access is usually difficult (see appendix 2).

As we reflect on the state of the materials accessible to researchers

of Puerto Rican history, we can see limitations, accomplishments, and hopes for the future. Despite their abundance, sources are widely dispersed, a fact that often influences the topics selected for research. This situation is affected in a very special way by the dependence on foreign archives for the reconstruction of Puerto Rican history prior to the nineteenth century and even for some aspects of the nineteenth century itself. The lack of complete and continuing sets of documents such as census records, property lists, registries, etc. presents an obstacle to the development of topics in economic and demographic history. Noteworthy is the extraordinary work being carried out by the AGPR in salvaging and preserving valuable document series. Also worthy of commendation is the effort of the Centro de Investigaciones Históricas for bringing to Puerto Rico microfilms of documents housed abroad.

For the future, there are still untapped resources, even within the archives and collections cited above. New possibilities will arise once the Caribbean and other Latin American countries are surveyed to learn what their archives hold on matters related to Puerto Rico. The close ties among Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the other Caribbean nations which have been neighbors since the beginning of Spanish colonization lead one to think that there is likely to be documentation in some of their archives. Several archival missions have already been undertaken in the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, and the collection housed in the Archivo de la Nación de México is well known; the rest remains to be explored. There are also still many collections in private hands, and it is hoped that in due time they will become part of one of the official centers where their preservation will be assured. We also look to an improved use of certain sources that, due to their very accessibility, are more often than not overlooked. In its buildings and houses Puerto Rico possesses a continuous visual testimony of its historical development. Careful observation of the architectural milieu reveals and suggests situations that stimulate an interest in the past, the present, and the future of Puerto Rico. By the same token, there are still first-hand witnesses to many events who can recreate sketches of the past from memory; sadly, these are often overlooked. The opportunities for research in Puerto Rico are many. They offer a challenge to the historiography of the future and remain open to the initiative and imagination of the historian.

TABLE 1 *Description of Municipal Holdings of the AGPR**

<i>Town</i>	<i>Volume in Cubic Feet</i>	<i>Type of Research Tool</i>	<i>Availability</i>
Aguadilla	13.62	Catalog**	
Aguas Buenas	13.63		Not Available
Aibonito	16.92	Catalog	
Arecibo	779.87		Not Available
Arroyo	55.46		Not Available
Barceloneta	57.90		Not Available
Barranquitas	40.38		Not Available
Bayamón	28.67		Not Available
Cabo Rojo	2.35	Catalog	
Camuy	111.86		Not Available
Carolina	107.16	Catalog	
Cayey	17.39	Catalog	
Ceiba	1.88	Catalog	
Ciales	94.97	Catalog (List)	
Cidra	.92	Catalog	
Coamo	31.02		Not Available
Comerío	44.71		Not Available
Corozal	5.64	Catalog	
Culebra	2.35		Available, but without Research Tool
Dorado	7.99	Catalog	
Fajardo	252.39		Available, but without Research Tool
Guayama	207.57		Not Available
Guayanilla	174.42		Not Available
Gurabo	10.34	Catalog	
Hatillo	121.75		Not Available for 20th century
Hormigueros	47.94	Preliminary Inventory***	
Isabela	124.93	Catalog	
Juana Díaz	66.27	Preliminary Inventory	
Juncos	91.96		Not Available
Lares	166.00	Preliminary Inventory	
Loíza	1.88	Preliminary Inventory	
Manatí	143.35	Catalog	
Maunabo	1.88	Catalog	
Moca	3.76	Catalog	

<i>Town</i>	<i>Volume in Cubic Feet</i>	<i>Type of Research Tool</i>	<i>Availability</i>
Naguabo	15.40	Catalog	
Naranjito	4.23	Catalog	
Orocovis	12.69	Catalog	
Patillas	4.23	Catalog	
Peñuelas	14.57	Preliminary Inventory	
Quebradillas	.47	Catalog	
Rincón	1.88	Catalog	
Río Grande	39.48		Available, but without Research Tool
Río Piedras	Included in San Juan		Available, but without Research Tool
Sabana Grande	31.96		Available, but without Research Tool
San Juan	715.41	Partial Catalog	
Toa Alta	1.13		Available, but without Research Tool
Toa Baja	6.11	Catalog	
Trujillo Alto	29.61		Not Available
Utado	88.78	Preliminary Inventory	
Vega Alta	21.90		Not Available
Vieques	4.70	Catalog	
Yabucoa	12.22		Not Available
Yauco	188.00	Preliminary Inventory	General Description by Decades

*The assistance of AGPR archivists in the preparation of this description is gratefully acknowledged.

**Catalog = itemized description by file.

***Inventory = list with general classification of documents.

TABLE 2 *Description of the Notarial Records at the AGPR*

<i>District</i>	<i>Towns</i>	<i>No. of Notaries</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>No. of Volumes</i>
San Juan	San Juan Cangrejos Carolina Loiza Río Piedras	39	1751– 1911	754
Bayamón	Bayamón Aguas Buenas Dorado Guaynabo Gurabo Naranjito Toa Alta Toa Baja Vega Alta Vega Baja	15	1768– 1911	235
Humacao	Humacao Caguas Cayey Ceiba Corozal Fajardo Juncos Luquillo Naguabo Río Grande San Lorenzo Trujillo Alto Trujillo Bojo Vieques Yabucoa	44	1772– 1915	520
Ponce	Ponce Adjuntas Barranquitos Coamo Guayama* Guayanilla Juana Díaz Orocovis Peñuelas Sabana Grande Salinas Santa Isabel	49	1763– 1926	1,004

Table 2 (con't.)

<i>District</i>	<i>Towns</i>	<i>No. of Notaries</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>No. of Volumes</i>
	Utado Yauco			
Aguadilla	Aguadilla Aguada Isabela Lares Moca Rincón San Sebastián	24	1787– 1923	502
Mayaguez	Mayaguez Añasco San Germán	13	1855– 1923	76
Arecibo	Arecibo Camuy Guayama Hatillo Manatí Morovis Guebradilla Utado	16	1800– 1908	411

*The notarial records of Guayama were transferred to the AGPR in 1980; therefore, a detailed description is not yet available.

APPENDIX 1. Documentary Sources in the Colección Puertorriqueña of the Biblioteca José M. Lázaro de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

Papers of Miguel Guerra Mondragón. Primarily includes official correspondence to the Puerto Rican legislature and matters related to the Liberal and Unión Puertorriqueña parties. Currently being cataloged.

Papers of Ana Roqué de Duprey. Uncataloged.

Papers of Emilio Pasarell. Contains newspaper clippings related to the history of the theater in Puerto Rico, programs, pictures of actors, etc.

Papers of Felix Franco Oppenheimer and Eugenio Rentas Lucas. These make up only approximately one hundred documents. Almost all relate to the poetry of their respective authors. Cataloged.

Papers of the Comité de Transición del Gobierno: 1972 y 1976. Includes documents and reports from the government agencies, prepared especially for the Transitional Committee. Cataloged.

Documents of the Nineteenth Century. These are typed transcriptions of documents whose origin is not known with any degree of certainty. The majority are papers referring to the "captains general," such as appointments, procedural and general business papers, etc. Some few are original documents on a variety of topics. It is currently being cataloged.

Sellés Collection. Documents relating to Puerto Rican education from 1770 to 1943. It contains original manuscripts, but the majority are transcriptions and copies. It includes a variety of information such as registries, data on the students, the physical condition of the schools, etc. In addition it contains some curious printed material from the early twentieth century.

Papers of the Consumer Affairs Department. These include clippings from Puerto Rican and U.S. newspapers. They are cataloged by topic and year. They cover the following topics: the Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados, legal matters, automobiles and insurance, price freezing in the U.S., cooperatives, corporations, the milk industry, medical services, messages from the governor, poverty, social ills, health, Latin America, Universidad de Puerto Rico.

Documents from the Parish Archives. This is the product of a project to microfilm parish records from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Those of Hormigueros, Añasco, Orden Tercera de San Francisco, Hospital de la Concepción, and some from the holdings of the Ayuntamiento of San Germán have been completed.

Papers of the Real Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País. There are twenty-nine bound volumes on a variety of subjects.

Volumes of Bound Manuscripts. These include a variety of topics, featuring a register of royal orders from 1833 to 1884, student exercises organized by school districts (1900–1903), and nineteenth-century documents on Vieques, many of which are written in French.

Photographs taken by A. Moscioni. From the early twentieth century.

APPENDIX 2. Documentary Series Related to Puerto Rico

Actas del cabildo de San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico. 1730–1821. Puerto Rico: Publicación del Municipio de San Juan, 1949–1978, 18 vols.

Autos acordados de la Real Audiencia de la isla de Puerto Rico y las reales cédulas, reglamentos, decretos y circulares comunicadas desde la instalación de dicho Superior Tribunal. Puerto Rico: Imprenta de Márquez, 1857.

Boletín Eclesiástico de la Diócesis de Puerto Rico. Editado por el obispado de Puerto Rico. San Juan, 1852–1959.

Boletín de Historia Puertorriqueña. Dirigido por G. E. Morales Muñoz. San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1948–1950.

Boletín Histórico de Puerto Rico. Editado por Cayetano Coll y Toste. San Juan de Puerto Rico: Tip. Cantero Fernández & Co. 14 vols., 1914–1927.

Bothwell, Reese B. y Lidio Cruz Monclova. *Los documentos . . . ¿qué dicen?* San Juan: Ediciones de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1960.

Caro de Delgado, Aída R., ed. *Ramón Power y Giralta, Diputado Puertorriqueño a las Cortes Generales y Extraordinarias de España, 1810–1812.* (Compilación de Documentos). San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1969.

Catálogo de las cartas y peticiones del cabildo de San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico en el Archivo General de Indias. (Siglos XVI–XVIII). Recopilación y notas por José J. Real Díaz. San Juan de Puerto Rico: Municipio de San Juan, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, 1968.

Crónicas de Puerto Rico, Desde la conquista hasta nuestros días. (1493–1797), Vol. II, (1809–1955). Selección, introducción y notas por Eugenio Fernández Méndez. San Juan: Ediciones del Gobierno, Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, 1957.

Diario de las discusiones y actas de las Cortes. Cádiz, 1811–1813. 23 vols.

Diario de sesiones de la convención consiguiente de Puerto Rico, 1951 y 1952. Oxford, N.H.: Equity House Publishing Corp., 1961–1962. 4 vols.

- Diario de las Sesiones de las Cortes. 1838–1902.* Madrid: Filmillas depositadas en el Centro de Investigaciones Históricas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico.
- Diario de sesiones, procedimientos y debates de la legislature de Puerto Rico, 1953–1962.* San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1975.
- Documentos de la Real Hacienda de Puerto Rico (1510–1519).* Vol. 1. Transcripts y compilados por Aurelio Tanodi. Universidad de Puerto Rico, Centro de Investigaciones Históricas, 1971.
- Esteves Volckers, Guillermo, ed. *Tarjetero histórico de Puerto Rico.* Madrid: R. Manzanera, 1960. *Apéndice.* Madrid: E. Sánchez Leal, 1964.
- Lecturas básicas sobre historia de Puerto Rico.* Escuela Superior, Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, Editorial del Departamento de Instrucción Pública, 1970.
- Leyes de Puerto Rico.* Colección de folletos que incluyen leyes, decretos y reglamentos sobre diversos temas. San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1841–1899, 17 folletos en 1 vol.
- Leyes de Puerto Rico anotadas.* Stony Brook, New York: Equity House, 1954.
- Leyes de resoluciones de la primera asamblea legislativa de Puerto Rico conforme a los textos originales.* San Juan: Tip. "El País", 1901.
- Murga Sanz, Vicente, *Cedulario puertorriqueño (1505–1517).* Río Piedras: Ediciones de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1961.
- . *Historia documental de Puerto Rico.* Vol. 1, *El Concejo o cabildo de la ciudad de San Juan de Puerto Rico (1527–1550).* Vol. 2, *El juicio de residencia, moderador democrático.* Río Piedras: Editorial Plus Ultra, s.f. y 1957.
- . *Puerto Rico en los manuscritos de Juan Bautista Muñoz.* Río Piedras: Ediciones de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1960.
- El proceso abolicionista en Puerto Rico. Documentos para su estudio.* Vol. 1, *La institución de la esclavitud y su crisis. 1823–1873.* San Juan de Puerto Rico: Centro de Investigaciones Históricas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico e Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, 1974, Vol. 2, *Procesos y efectos de la Abolición: 1866–1896.* San Juan de Puerto Rico: Centro de Investigaciones Históricas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico e Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, 1978.
- Ramírez de Arellano, Rafael W., ed. *Cartas, discursos y artículos de Ramón Power y Giralt. Diputado a Cortes por Puerto Rico.* Colección presentada por . . . Quinto Congreso Histórico Municipal Interamericano, República Dominicana, Ciudad Trujillo, 1952.
- Alejandro Tapia y Rivera, ed. *Biblioteca Histórica de Puerto Rico.* Que contiene varios documentos de los siglos XV, XVI, XVII y XVIII. San Juan, Puerto Rico: Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, 1970.
- Tiód, Aurelio. *Nuevas fuentes para la historia de Puerto Rico (Documentos inéditos o poco conocidos cuyos originales se encuentran en el Archivo General de Indias en la ciudad de Sevilla, España).* San Germán: Ediciones de la Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, 1961.

NOTES

1. The Fondo de Obras Públicas is the most extensive part of the holdings which made up the Archivo Histórico of the Universidad de Puerto Rico (AHUPR). An executive order in 1956 directed the transfer of the latter to the newly created AGPR, where it was reorganized and reclassified. The documents belonging to the now-defunct AHUPR are identified in the AGPR as Tarea 58–A1. The Fondo de los Gobernadores Españoles has kept its name in English: "Records of the Spanish Governors of Puerto Rico." Both the holdings of Obras Públicas and those of Gobernadores continue to be the most consulted, probably due to the fact that they combine the wealth of their contents with convenient cataloging. These collections have been used extensively in

- studies on public works, urbanism, slavery, immigration, etc. Among the most recent books that have drawn from these sources are the two-volume work entitled *El proceso abolicionista en Puerto Rico* (San Juan: Centro de Investigaciones Históricas, 1974, 1978) and that of María de los Angeles Castro, *Arquitectura en San Juan de Puerto Rico* (Río Piedras: Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1980).
2. See the brochure on the Centro de Investigaciones Históricas published by the Facultad de Humanidades in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, 1978. It offers a complete description of the center and its different projects. Also see Aída R. Caro Costas, "Los fondos documentales del Centro de Investigaciones Históricas," *Anales de Investigación Histórica* (Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) 4, nums. 1–2 (1977):36–41. The CIH stands out as an important depository for microfilm and photocopies gathered in foreign archives, thereby making possible in Puerto Rico consultation of documents which would otherwise have remained inaccessible to a large majority of researchers.
 3. Archivo Histórico Nacional. Sección de Ultramar. Vol. 1, *Inventario de la Serie de fomento de Puerto Rico*; vol. 2, *Inventario de la Serie Gobierno de Puerto Rico*; vol. 3, *Inventario de la Serie Gracia y Justicia de Puerto Rico*, under the direction of María Teresa de la Peña Marazuela (Madrid: Servicio de Publicaciones del Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia, n.d., 1972, 1975). Volume 4 of the Serie de la Real Hacienda de Puerto Rico has gone to press.
 4. For a detailed description of the different Spanish archives of interest to Puerto Rican matters, see the *Guía de fuentes para la historia de Ibero-América. Fascículo IV, 1 y 2*, 2 vols. (Madrid: Dirección de Archivos y Bibliotecas, published under the auspices of UNESCO and the International Council on Archives, 1966 and 1969).
 5. Currently there is a *Guía al Archivo General de Puerto Rico*, published by the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña in 1964. Also of assistance is the work by Lino Gómez Canedo, *Los archivos históricos de Puerto Rico; apuntes de una visita* (San Juan: Archivo General de Puerto Rico e Instituto de Cultura, 1964). This gives special attention to the parochial archives. The article by Luis de la Rosa Martínez, "Los fondos documentales en el Archivo General de Puerto Rico" (*Anales de Investigación Histórica* 4, nums. 1–2 [1979]:1–19), describes the holdings of the AGPR useful for twentieth-century Puerto Rican municipal history.
 6. The Colecciones Particulares Completas in the AGPR have catalogs and indexes. They are as follows: Rafael W. Ramírez, Gabriel Ferrer Amador, Domingo Sepúlveda, Conrado F. Asenjo, José de Diego, Monserrate Deliz, Dr. Manuel Guzmán Rodríguez, Rodulfo Hernández López, Hugo Margenat, Dr. José Monserrate Marxuach, Ramón Méndez Quiñones, Pablo Morales Otero, Luis Muñoz Rivera, Familia Negrón Muñoz, Antonio Otero, Jorge Ramos Lorenzi, Mariano Riera Palmer, Elisa Tavarez, José S. Alegría, Dr. José Antonio Franquis, Francisco Moreno Marrero, José Limón de Arce, Antonio Mirabal, José Enamorado Cuesta, Luis Muñoz Marín, Raúl Roig, Luis Llorens Torres, Carmelo Filardi, Libros de Cuentos de la Central Rufina radicada en Guayanilla (1913–66) Juano Hernández, Ernesto Ramos Antonini, Samuel R. Quiñones, Robert A. Junghanns, Fernando Callejo y Ferrer. The last five are not available to the public at the present.
 7. The photographic archive basically is composed of private collections, although it also receives materials from other sources of the AGPR and the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña. It is made up of unbound photographs, albums such as those of López Cepero (circa 1892), Alonso (?), and Hartezel (1904), or complete collections such as the so-called "Archivo de Instrucción Pública," which contains prints from 1940 on. There is a breakdown by subject matter and a private inventory for the use of researchers. In addition, the photographs are identified in the catalog collection of origin.
 8. The content of each archive is different and some are more complete than others. None of them has specific guides, but the work of Lino Gómez Canedo, *Los archivos históricos de Puerto Rico*, can serve as a preliminary model. In order to appreciate the usefulness of the parish archives, see the article by Isabel Gutiérrez de Arroyo, "Los libros parroquiales como fuentes de la historia social," *Anales de Investigación Histórica* 4, nums 1–2 (1977): 20–35.

9. The *Guía al Archivo General de Puerto Rico* describes these collections in detail.
10. The following might prove useful: Kenneth Munden and Milton Greenbaum (comp.), *Records of the Bureau of Insular Affairs Relating to Puerto Rico, 1898–1934: A List of Selected Files* (Washington, D.C., 1943); Richard S. Maxwell and Evans Walker, *Records of the Office of Territories: Preliminary Inventory* (Washington, D.C., 1963); Thomas Mathews, "Documentación sobre Puerto Rico en la Biblioteca del Congreso," *Revista Histórica* 6, num. 2 (1956): 89–124; "Puerto Rican Memorial Collection, Alice Gould Materials, Informe del Dr. Arturo Morales Carrión," *ibid.*, pp. 125–42.
11. There is presently a continuing project, under the auspices of the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña and the National Endowment for the Humanities, to describe in one volume the documentary sources on Puerto Rican history to be found in the United States.
12. The Archivo del Ateneo Puertorriqueño has, in addition to newspapers, materials of interest to cultural and educational history.