

*Catálogo de los fondos del Real Consulado de Agricultura, Industria y Comercio y de la Junta de Fomento.* Preface by DR. EMETERIO S. SANTOVENIA. [Publicaciones del Archivo Nacional de Cuba, I.] (La Habana, 1943. Pp. xlv, 655.)

Forty years have passed since Marino Pérez reported that the records of the Real Consulado of Habana possessed sufficient merit to be regarded as the "most precious documents in the Archive." They had already been partially inventoried in the first four numbers of the *Boletín*; but the present catalogue provides such an excellent working guide to the materials that their continued neglect will be inexcusable. Economic historians in particular should applaud the National Archives for inaugurating the new series of catalogues with this detailed inventory of 209 legajos and 211 manuscript volumes, comprising practically all the extant records of the Consulado. For the period covered, 1794-1854, they certainly constitute a *sine qua non* for writing the economic history of Cuba.

Established in 1794, the Real Consulado of Habana survived the overthrow of similar institutions in the Hispanic nations. The Tribunal del Consulado functioned as a commerce court for the entire island; the Junta de Gobierno formed the executive body of the merchant guild; and various other juntas and dependencies of the mercantile organization intervened in almost every phase of the island's economy. Thus, the documents cover a wide range of agricultural, commercial, and industrial topics: coffee, cacao, sugar, tobacco, and silk; quarries and mines; inventions and patents of monopoly; streets, highways, and railroads; telegraph lines, lighthouses, and harbor works. The archives also contain abundant material on run-away slaves (*cimarrones*), immigration, and colonization (Reina Amalia), and some data on such unrelated subjects as schools, academies, hospitals, epidemics, and botanical gardens. Ten thousand entries, classified by subject and name, plus forty-five pages of index, make this about as complete a guide to an archival collection as anyone could reasonably demand.

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*Records of the Bureau of Insular Affairs Relating to Puerto Rico, 1898-1934: A List of Selected Files.* Compiled by KENNETH MUNDEN and MILTON GREENBAUM. (Washington: The National Archives, 1943. Pp. xi, 47.)

This is a companion guide to *Records of the Bureau of Insular Affairs* relating to Cuba, reviewed in a recent number of this journal