

2013

Corral, Wodiska y Ca. Cigar Factory : Records of Chris Corral : A Collection Guide

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

James Anthony Schnur

L. Glenn Westfall

Chris Corral

Laura Woodruff

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/fac_publications

Recommended Citation

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.; Schnur, James Anthony; Westfall, L. Glenn; Corral, Chris; and Woodruff, Laura, "Corral, Wodiska y Ca. Cigar Factory : Records of Chris Corral : A Collection Guide" (2013). *Faculty Publications*. 2999.

https://digital.usfsp.edu/fac_publications/2999

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Scholarly Works at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.

The content within this document:

Miscellaneous Collections of L. Glenn Westfall

have been relocated to the
USF Tampa Campus Library,
Special Collections
Department.

This document has been kept in the USFSP Digital
Archive for its historical value to reflect the
collection as it had existed at an earlier time and
to show evidence of the work of the creator.

For access to the collections on or after 1 May 2016,
please contact the Special Collections Department in
the USF Tampa Campus Library

Corral, Wodiska y Ca. Cigar Factory
Records of Chris Corral
[Donated by L. Glenn Westfall]



Cigar Makers and "El Lector" at the Corral, Wodiska y Ca. Factory, Circa 1930
(Image courtesy of Burger Brothers Collection, USF Libraries System)

A Collection Guide by
Jim Schnur
Assistant Librarian
Laura Woodruff
Archives Intern

Special Collections and Archives
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

March 2006

Introduction to the Collection

During the early and mid-twentieth century, Tampa was known as “Cigar City” due to the numerous cigar factories in both Ybor City and the nearby municipality of West Tampa (now part of Tampa). The Corral, Wodiska y Ca. Factory occupied a notable place along the skyline at 2612 Fourteenth Street. Chris Corral, a grandson of the co-founder of the factory, worked closely with L. Glenn Westfall to preserve the records of this factory. Some of Corral family records were donated to USF St. Petersburg by way of Dr. Westfall during the summer of 2005. This collection contains official documents, stock and shareholders’ information, meeting minutes, cigar label art, family photographs, family clippings, and similar records of an important factory in Tampa.

“Only the Finest Shall Enter Here”



Exterior of factory built in 1920s. Burgert Brothers Collection (left) and Robertson and Fresh Collection (right).

This collection comprises a variety of materials that document the history of the Corral family as well as the Corral, Wodiska y Ca’s rise in Tampa in the early 1900s. While many clippings and photographs document personal achievements and events in the Corral family, stockholder records and meeting minutes (dating to 1911) paint a picture of business activities that span across much of the twentieth century. Family newspaper clippings focus on the life of Manuel (“Manny”) Corral, Jr., offering a portrait of his accomplishments in varsity football, his graduation, and his marriage. A high-quality Cuban cigar box holds a plethora of clippings surrounding Manny’s football successes and his varsity letters. He appears in a variety of photographs that include—but are not limited to—varsity football images, family portraits, candid shots, and passport photographs.

Corral, Wodiska y Ca. began to manufacture high-quality Havana cigars in 1905. Over time, a sign stood above the entry door to the factory and storage areas that proclaimed, “Only the Finest Shall Enter Here.” The family maintained its involvement with this business until the mid-1980s. Overall, this collection will appeal to historians and researchers who have an interest in the cigar industry of Tampa, immigration history along the west coast of Florida, or family histories in the region.

Preservation Note

While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of archival materials, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. Special preservation attention should be given to minutes and papers glued with adhesives and fastened into stockholder books due to the fragile and sometimes brittle condition of the paper. To prevent further damage to the fragile items in this collection, avoid exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. Protective gloves should be worn when handling all fragile materials and all photographs. While no restrictions limit access to this collection, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection. Patrons using this collection must adhere to copyright and fair-use guidelines and provide proper citation of sources appearing in their research.

Provenance of the Corral, Wodiska y Ca. Cigar Factory Records

This collection falls under the Local and Regional History provenance of the Special Collections and Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg.

Scope and Contents

The materials in this collection occupy one acid-free document box (1.50 ln. ft.).

Biographical Note: Dr. L. Glenn Westfall

L. Glenn Westfall has researched and published in the field of Florida history. Westfall earned a B.A. at Kent State University and a master's degree at Arizona State University. He completed his Ph.D. in History at the University of Florida. His dissertation, entitled "Don Vicente Martinez Ybor, the Man and His Empire: Development of the Clear Havana Industry in Cuba and Florida in the Nineteenth Century," examined Ybor's contributions to the development of the cigar industry in Florida. He retired after a long and successful career at Hillsborough Community College and also taught at the University of South Florida. In addition to his classroom activities, Westfall has worked as a consulting researcher for historic preservation projects and has served in leadership roles with the Tampa Historical Society and other organizations.

Related Collections

Researchers interested in Tampa's cigar industry should also examine other collections donated by Glenn Westfall to the USF St. Petersburg library. The library at USF Tampa and the City of Tampa Archives may also have primary source collections of interest. Scholars may also want to consult the following articles available in digitized format through the USF Libraries System:

Brown, Earl J. "A Look at Some of Tampa's Cigar Factories Inside and Out: A Photographic Essay," *Sunland Tribune* 8 (November 1982): 73-75, 77-80, 82-84.

Westfall, L. Glenn. "Hidden Treasures of Tampa History in Tobacco Journals and Cigar Label Art," *Sunland Tribune* 8 (November 1982): 53-55, 58-60, 62.

Yglesias, Jose. "The Radical Latino Island in the Deep South," *Tampa Bay History* 7 (Fall/Winter 1985): 166-169.

Container Listing

- Folder 1: Cigar Lithography**
Box artwork for “Corral de Luxe,” a pure Havana cigar from Corral, Wodiska y Ca.
- Folder 2: Corral, Manuel “Manny”—Clippings and Certificates**
- Folders 3-4: Corral Family Photographs**
Includes original portraits and photographic reproductions of materials from the Corral family.
- Folders 5-6: Stock Certificates**
Two booklets of stock certificates for Corral, Wodiska y Ca., including the first stock book of the company in which Edward Wodiska acquired 250 shares on 10 October 1911.
- Cigar Box Cigar Box: La Diligencia, Habana**
Contains a varsity letter and “Class of 1944” numbers for Manny Corral, as well as clippings about his athletic achievements.
- Bound Book Meetings and Business Records, 1911-1943**
- Bound Book Meetings and Business Records, 1943-1967**
- Bound Book Meetings and Business Records, 1967-1975**
- Bound Book Meetings and Business Records, 1976-1981**
- Bound Book Meetings and Business Records, 1982-1987**