



Highlights of Special Collections + Archives

Archive Day 2020

Miami-Dade Public Library System

Collections Overview



16MM FILM
COLLECTION



CUBAN COLLECTION



GENEALOGY
COLLECTION



HELEN MUIR
FLORIDA
COLLECTION



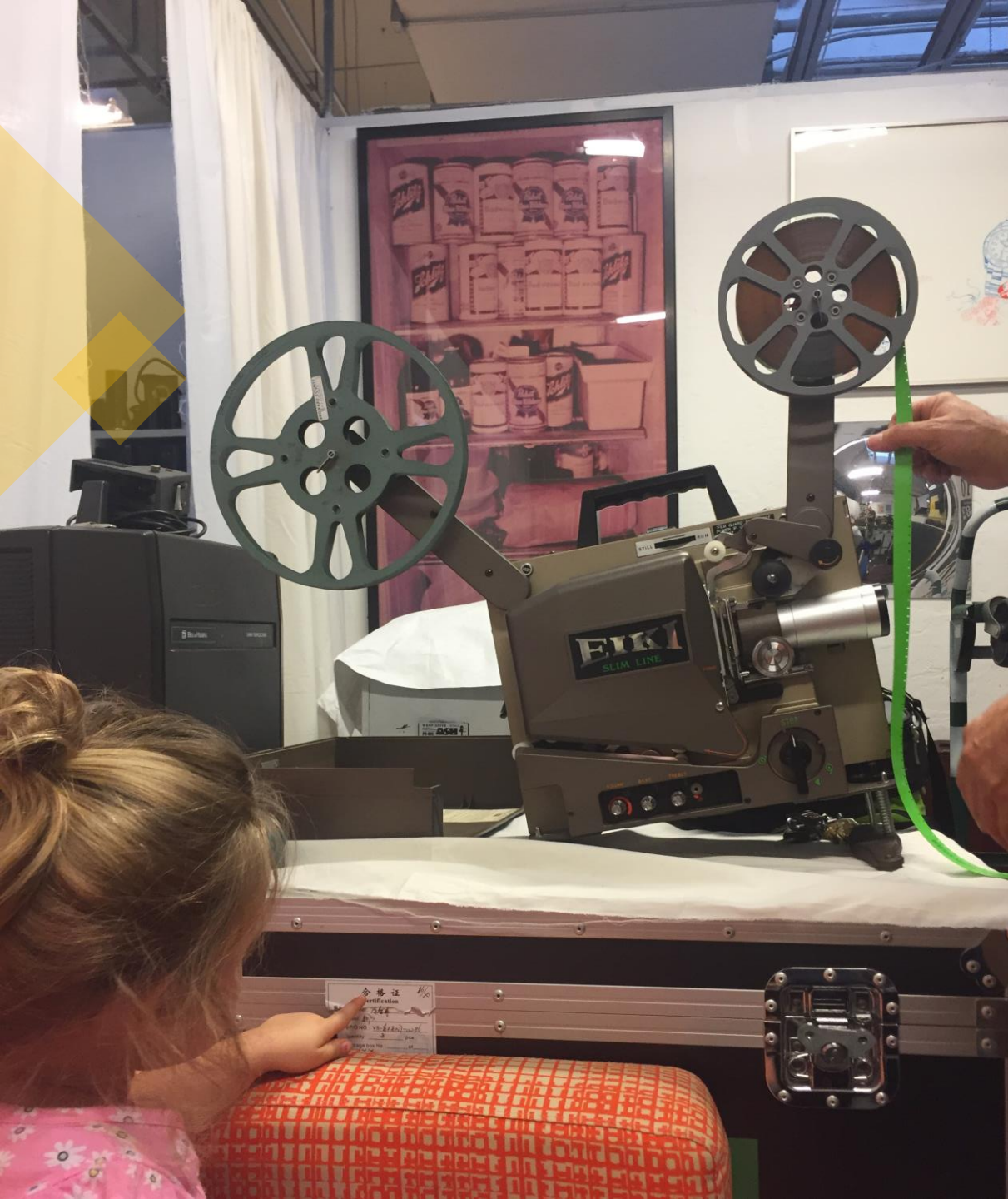
RARE &
ANTIQUARIAN
BOOKS



THE VASARI
PROJECT



Film Collection (16 mm)

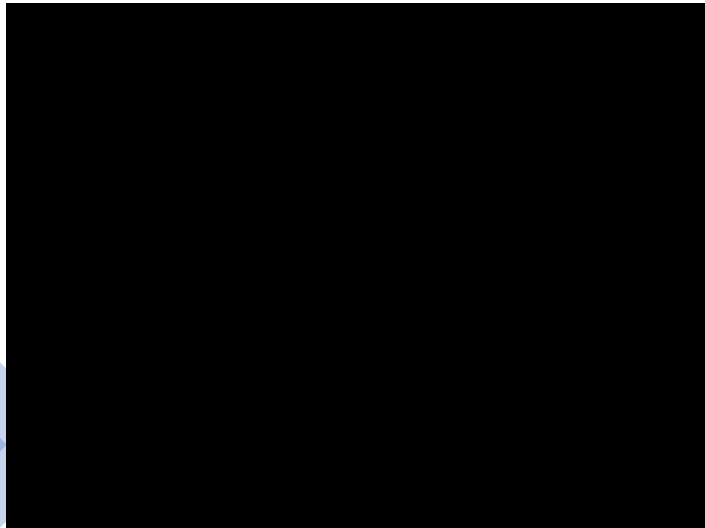


Film Collection (16 mm)

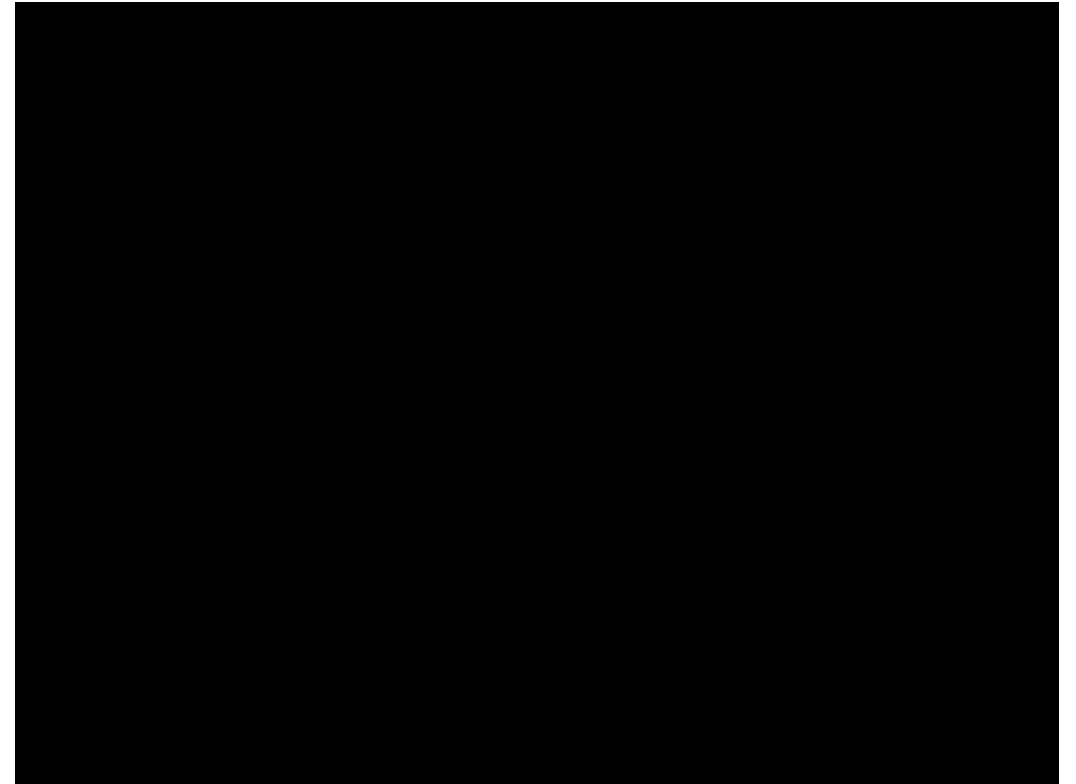
The 16mm film collection had existed within the library for over 55 years. Its first films were part of the City of Miami's public library and began in the 1960s before there was a county library. When MDPLS was formed, the County supplemented its local funding for films with Federal LSCA grants (Library Services and Construction Act) which was enacted in 1964 by the U.S. Congress and ceased in 1995.

Film Collection (16 mm)

Apart from leased feature films, all films were purchased for free exhibitions for the life of the print within the collection include Experimental/avant-garde art films, Non-narrated films, Children's films, Black history, Floridiana, and local history. Today there are over 4,000 films within the collection.

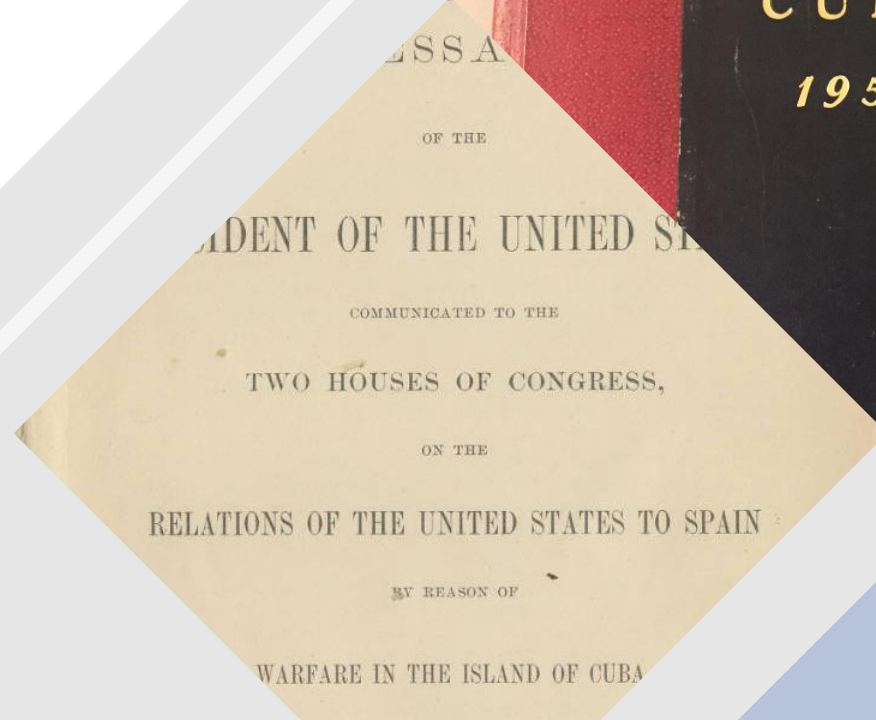
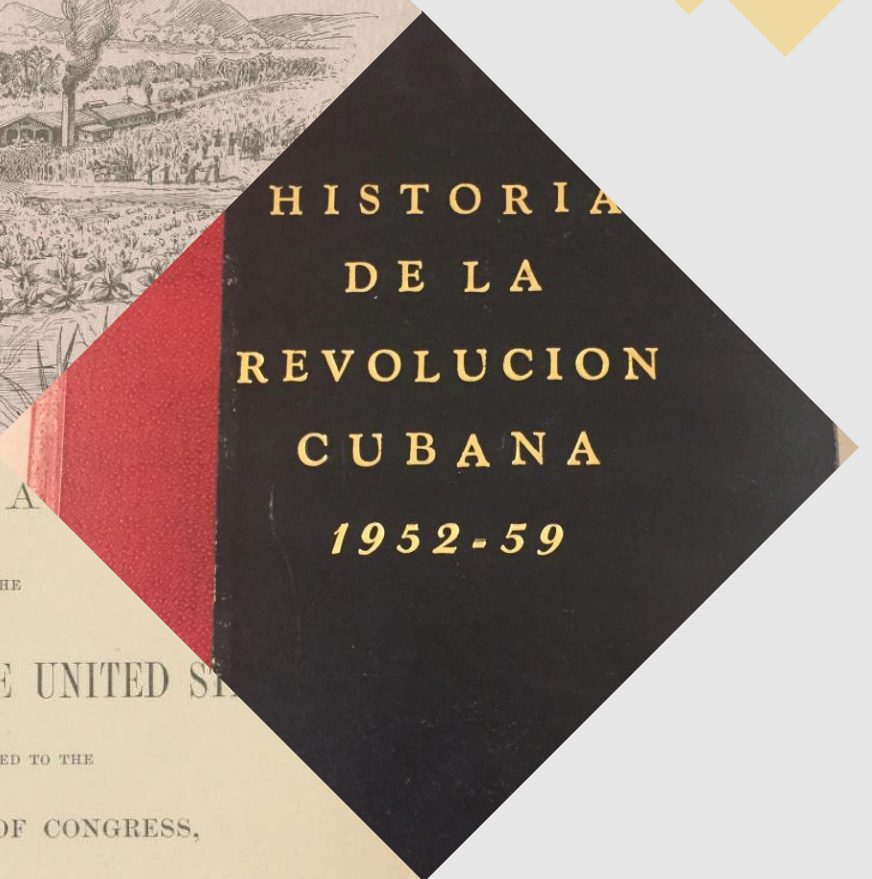
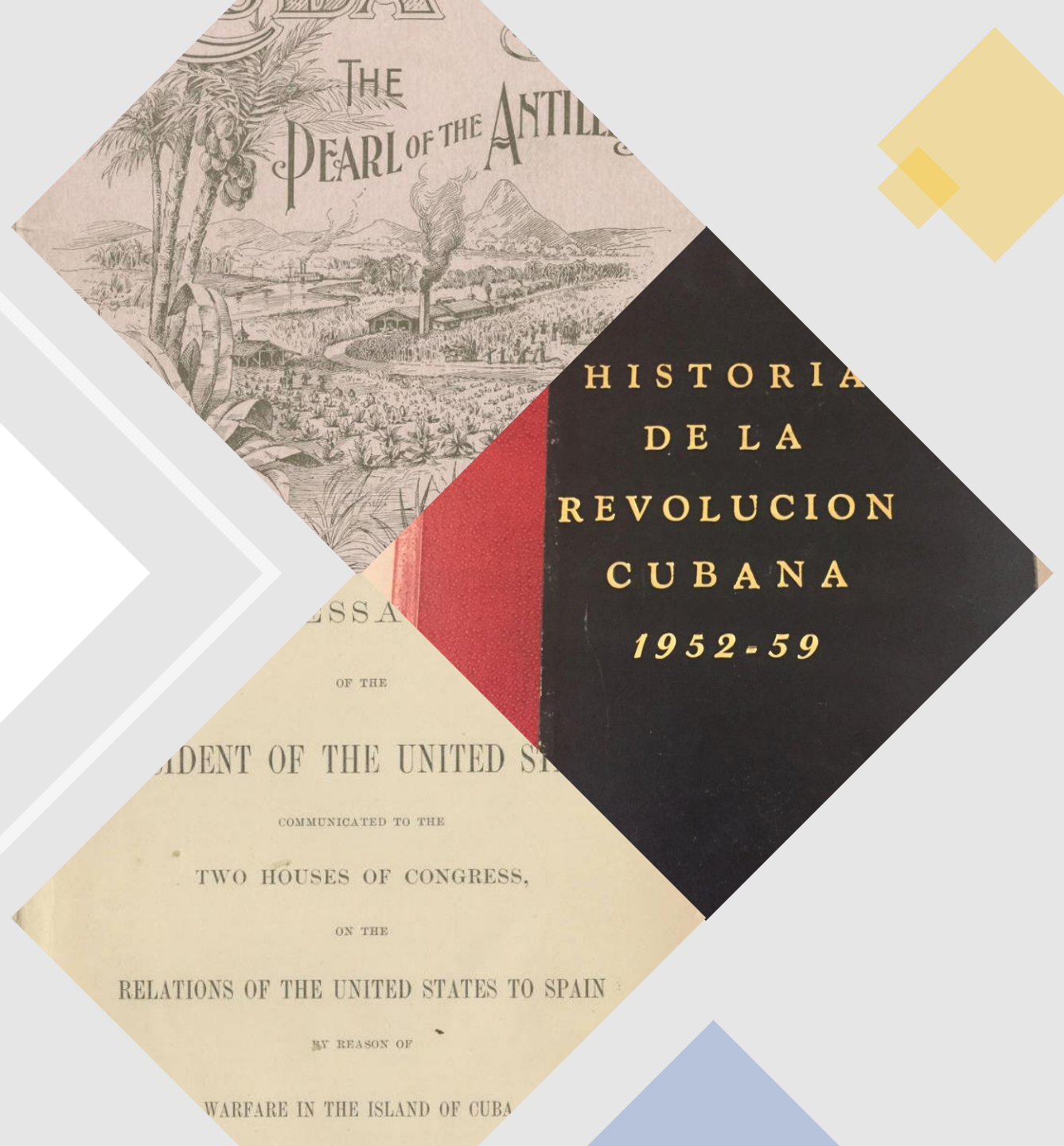


["Early Abstractions" \(1946-57\), Pt. 3](#)



[This story, originally aired in October 1977 on WTVJ's news magazine show "Montage," introduces the Miami-Dade Public Library's ArtMobile.](#)

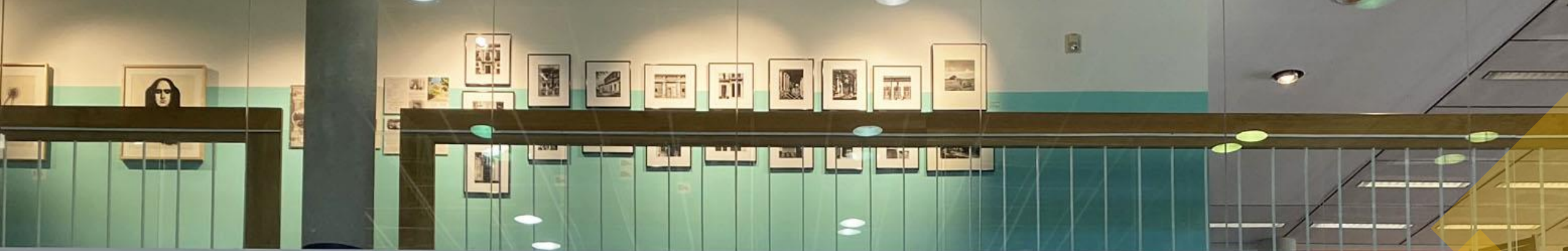
Cuban Collection



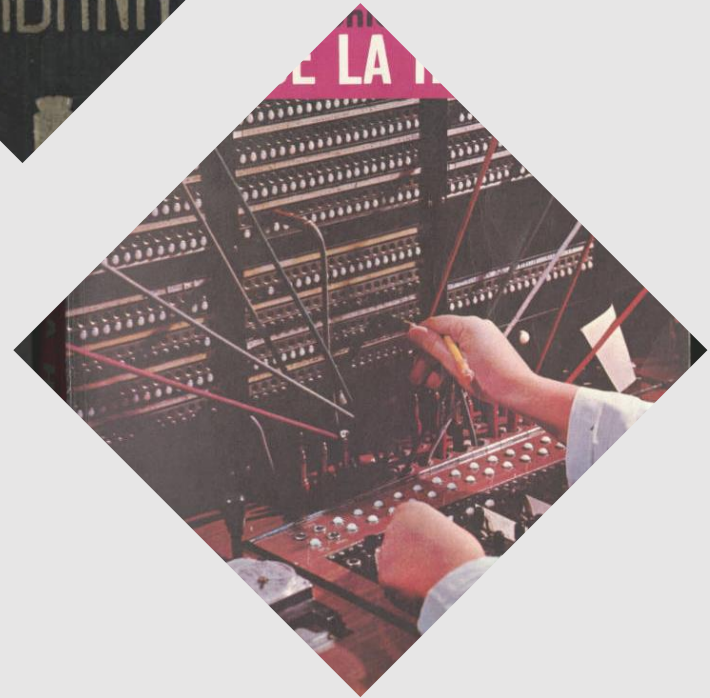
Cuban Collection

The Cuban Collection houses histories on the island; poetry and fiction by Cuban authors; tourism ephemera; cartography; and historical documents. Formerly available in the Spanish language section of the library, the collection's rarity, comprehension of pre-revolution documentation makes the collection stand out as one of our premier collections and under-recognized collection.





Genealogy Collection

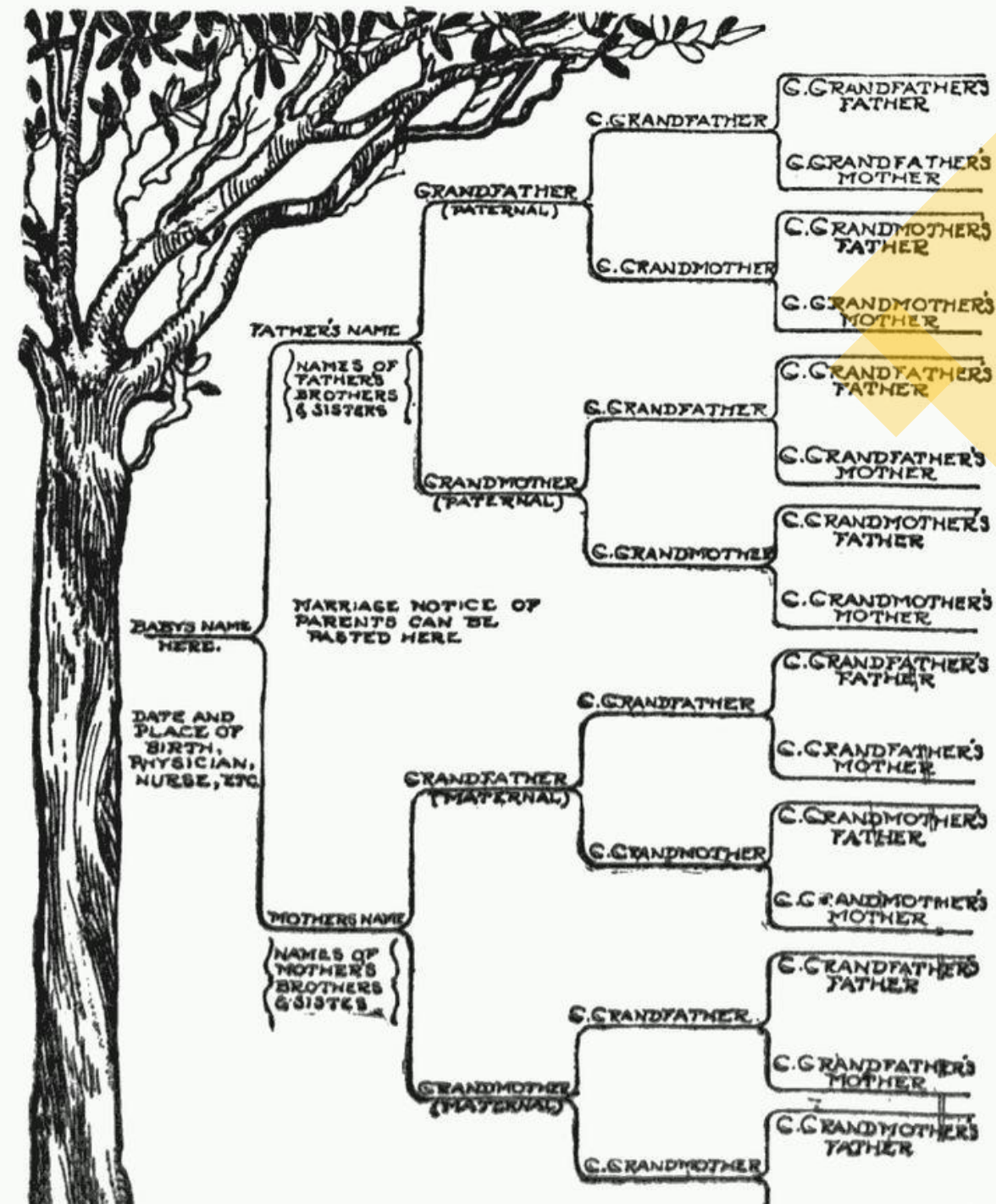


Genealogy Collection

Our Genealogy collection includes publications from every state in the U.S., books, immigration and passenger lists, and other genealogy research materials.

Our professional library staff also provide research assistance and respond to queries locally, nationally, and internationally.

It includes Ann McFadden indexed for Death, Adoption, and Birth notices from the Miami Herald from circa 1890-2008.



Helen Muir Florida Collection





Helen Muir Florida Collection

Helen Muir was an American reporter and author. Her career included writing and editing for newspapers and magazines, primarily in Miami, and she published four books focused on Miami's history. She played a pivotal role in creating the Miami-Dade Public Library System.

In 2004, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution to name the Florida Collection in her honor to recognize her pioneering efforts, unparalleled advocacy, and steadfast commitment to the Miami-Dade Public Library System.

The Miami-Dade Public Library's history is also recorded at length from the very beginning of the Miami City Library.

Helen Muir



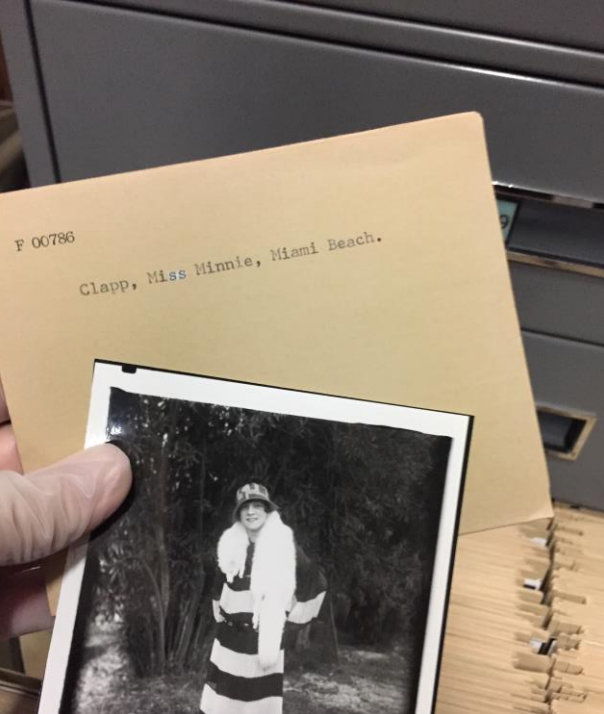
Helen Muir Florida Collection

The collection contains a broad range of information about the Sunshine State, with special emphasis on South Florida. The collection is comprised of works by Florida authors and Floridiana including rare books, documents, photographic and indexes of regional newspapers.

A variety of original manuscripts from Florida authors and poets are included within our archives which spans over 500 authors, and approximately 96 linear feet.

Topics within the collection include Spanish American War, Florida Treaties, Poster Collection of Events.





Helen Muir Florida Collection

It also includes the Gleason Waite Romer Collection of 17,500 photographic negatives and prints (currently available in part on our digital collections page) that show Miami's history from 1925 through the 1950s.



Rare + Antiquarian Books

Includes a wide range of books of rare and high monetary value including Catesby's first edition. It is unclear whether the items housed together are all in the Polaris catalog.



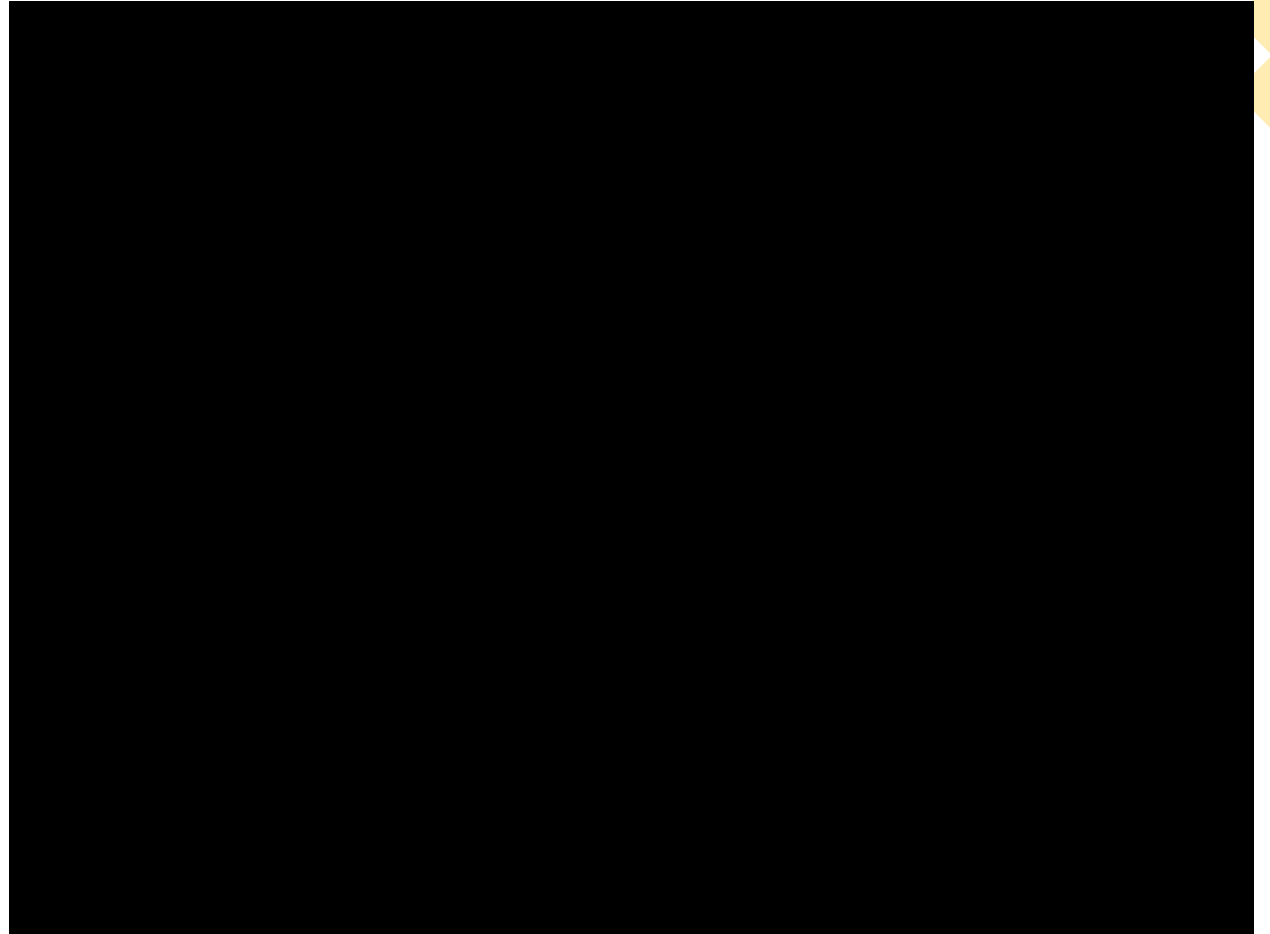


The Vasari Project

The Vasari Project

The Vasari Project is a library collection dedicated to documenting, collecting and preserving Miami-Dade County's art history from 1945 to the present.

It is a living archive that grows through contributions from artists, art professionals, exhibition spaces, galleries, institutions, and private donors. The archive collects documentation rather than original works of art comprised primarily of printed matter: correspondence, press clippings, photographs, posters, books, exhibition catalogs, artists' files, oral histories, and other ephemeral materials.



[Miami's public library in Bayfront Park becomes a canvas for artist Purvis Young in this WPLG news story, reported by Morry Alter.](#)

The Vasari Project

As of 2010, the Vasari Project Archive holds over 300 archival cartons containing at least 6,000 items documenting all aspects of Miami's art history, including substantial documentation of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's Surrounded Islands and other major projects. Reproductions of Vasari materials appeared in the 2007 book *Miami Contemporary Artists*. In 2008, the archive loaned archival materials to El Museo del Barrio for the landmark exhibition *Arte No Es Vida: Actions by Artists of the Americas, 1960-2000*, which traveled to museums in Mexico, Colombia, Brazil and Argentina through 2011.

In 2019, with the help of an MDC Cultural Affairs Grant, Vasari Project commissioned a "zine" to be produced in order to orient and introduce the public to the archive. [Please download a copy.](#)



The Vasari Project

In 2019, the archive loaned items to the Copper Hewitt Smithsonian Museum of Design in New York, for the exhibition [Willi Smith: Street Couture](#) on view from March 13 – October 25. The Vasari Project is a resource for ongoing research, scholarship, publications, artists' projects, exhibitions and events.



Christo: Surrounded Islands. Project for Biscayne Bay, Greater Miami, Florida, 1980-1983
Christo: Surrounded Islands. Project for Biscayne Bay, Greater Miami, Florida, 1980-1983