



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Emiliano Martinez Collection

NMAH.AC.0176

Robert S. Harding

1985

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	3

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Emiliano Martinez Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1984
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0176
<b>Creator:</b>	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Community Life (Collector) Ahlborn, Richard E., 1933-2015 (Interviewer) Martinez, Emiliano (Author) Martin, Juana (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.15 Cubic feet (1 box)
<b>Language:</b>	Interview conducted in Spanish.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Emilio Martinez.

### Provenance

Interview made for museum, 1984.

### Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Community Life(now Division of Cultural and Community Life).

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Robert Harding, 1985

### Preferred Citation

Emiliano Martinez Collection, 1984, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

The story of Emiliano Martinez, a Cuban refugee, was publicized as an example of the ingenuity and survival skills of recent immigrants to this nation. Martinez fled Cuba in one of the freedom flotillas of 1980. After a year in a refugee camp at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, he arrived in Washington, D.C. in April 1981. He shared apartments with other Cuban refugees until October 1982. Using his carpentry skills, he constructed a hut on undeveloped land at the National Zoo, where he lived from December 1982 until March 1984. He then moved into a boarding house in the Adams-Morgan neighborhood. He made his livelihood by selling aluminum cans to a Safeway grocery store for an average of sixty-five dollars a month.

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## Scope and Contents

Papers and photographs related to the immigration experience of Cuban refugee Martinez: a story from the Washington Post, March 12, 1984; a 45-minute cassette recording of an interview (in Spanish) by Richard E. Ahlborn with Martinez; a transcription in Spanish of the interview; six photographs of the hut taken by a zoo photographer; a covering memorandum from Ahlborn; a copy of Martinez's earnings from the sale of cans; and a diagram of his hut. Ahlborn, a curator in the Division of Community Life, was assisted by Juana Martin, a social worker.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Carpentry
- Emigration and immigration
- Hispanic Americans -- 1950-2000
- Housing
- Political refugees
- Poverty

Types of Materials:

- Audiocassettes
- Audiotapes
- Interviews -- 1980-2000
- Oral history
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 1980-2000
- Transcripts

Places:

- Fort Chaffee (Ark.)

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## Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Accounting sheet of monthly earnings of Emiliano Martinez
Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs of Martinez's hut at National Zoo; and sketch of hut floor plans
Box 1, Folder 3	Cassette tape: 45 minute interview of Emiliano Martinez by Richard Ahlborn, and Juana Martin 1 Cassette tape
Box 1, Folder 4	Transcripts of taped interview of Emiliano Martinez (in Spanish)