

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER
Fondo “José Martí Pérez”

REF N° 2004-51

PART A

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1. SUMMARY

The work of José Martí (1853-1895) is a major educational component of the best cultural legacy of mankind. As a thinker and a politician, Martí led the way in the fields of literary creation and social action. His permanent influence particularly in Latin-American culture goes far beyond the literary and artistic spheres and is a legitimate element of what is considered authentically ours.

Martí's defence of the self-determination of the peoples and nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America make his ideas a permanent reference for our times. By demonstrating the structural relationship of such diverse regions and peoples as peripheral territories of the centres of world power, José Martí relates Latin America to the area which would later be defined as the “Third World”, while at the same time reinforcing Latin-American cultural identity in contemporary discourse when he shows its distinctiveness as a member of that community segregated by the centres of power at the world level. His liberating ideal, his defence of cultural diversity, his humanist cosmic vision and his ethics of services, on the other hand, are the foundations of a strong and coherent ideology opposed to the arguments of social, racial and geographical superiority still in force.

As a witness and decisive player in the international relations of his time, Martí's documents are extremely valuable. His writings succeed in showing the diplomatic, political and economic manoeuvres of the inventors of Pan Americanism – an instrument of the groups of power in the United States of America – in the construction of that country as a world power.

As a writer, José Martí is one of the masters of universal literature. Possessing a vast culture and enormous creative talent, he produced during his short life of unusual intensity, a written corpus in prose and verse that formed one of the most powerful foundations of modern literature in the Spanish language.

Like Charles Baudelaire, Arthur Rimbaud or Walt Whitman in their respective tongues, he was one of the fathers of literary modernity in the Spanish-speaking world. Rubén Darío and Domingo Faustino Sarmiento publicly acknowledged in writing his mastery as a writer. He was compared with Victor Hugo. He undertook a renewal of the Spanish language and applied with originality to his prose and poetry, techniques that were similar to those used by Parnassians and symbolists. His language, syntax and use of adjectives showed a radical novelty, and he put in practice modern poetical resources such as synesthetic metaphors, poetical enumerations, binary structures, free verse and rupture of systems. His conviction that “there will be no Spanish American literature until there is a Spanish America” filled the pages of the main newspapers of Latin America, turning him into the first Cuban figure to attain wide continental echo. His literature not only leads to a renewal of language, but carries with it an integral catching of reality and universal culture, and particularly, the culture of the hemisphere. Together with the praise of the great personalities of culture, science, industry and politics, he gives us portraits of his time and an even more penetrating study of the social restlessness of the final years of the 19th century. His topics cover practically all relevant topics of modernity and his meditative prose is as much loaded with poetry as his poetry is filled with meditation, submitting the genres to extreme tensions.

He is considered a classic of universal literature, and his texts have been translated to several languages because of their literary value and their theses on the spirit of America in favour of a humanism seen from the universe of the poor of this Earth, although the fact that he is a Third World writer prevents him from being as widely available as he deserves.

All this explains the importance of the study and conservation of this documentation as an invaluable artistic and historical legacy in its vast aesthetic, political, social and economic aspects – since they address problems and solution that are totally valid in contemporary societies – and as inseparable component of a new model of sustainable development.

The importance of the historical figure of José Martí is acknowledged by UNESCO, through the creation by this Organization in 1995 – on the centennial year of his fall in combat – of the “José Martí” International Prize and the declaration naming our apostle one of the personalities of that year. Likewise, the 31st General Conference of UNESCO in 2001 approved the decision of associating in the 2002-2003 biennial period, the celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth.

2. DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR

2.1 Name

Centro de Estudios Martianos

2.2 Relation with the proposed element of documentary patrimony

The Centro de Estudios Martianos (Centre for Martí Studies), created by Decree No. 1 of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba dated May 19, 1977 and attached to the Council of State on April 9, 1997 by agreement adopted by that organ, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph b, part Second of Decree No. 1 of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba dated May 19, 1977, has among its functions, according with part Second of the resolving section of Resolution No. 1 of the National Commission of Monuments, to bring together and conserve all the manuscripts, original editions, photographs and other materials of José Martí (See annex 2. Legal Documents; 2.a. Decree No. 1 of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba (excerpts), 2.b. Resolution No. 1 of the National Commission of Monuments (excerpts) and 2.c. Law of Protection to the Cultural Patrimony of August 16,1977 (excerpts)) .

2.3 Persons to contact

Dr. Rolando González Patricio, director of Centro de Estudios Martianos.

Information on the person

Centro de Estudios Martianos. Calzada No. 807, esq. a 4, El Vedado, Plaza de la Revolución, La Habana, Cuba.

Telephones: 55-2297, 55-2298, 66-2203

Facsímile: 33-3721

E-mail: amari@ceniai.inf.cu

3. IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

3.1 Name and identification details of items being proposed.

Name: “José Martí Pérez” Fonds.

Proprietor: Centro de Estudios Martianos (Council of State)

Caretaker: Archive of the Office for Historical Documents of the Council of State.

Province: Ciudad de La Habana.

Address: Calzada No. 807 esq. a 4, El Vedado, Plaza de la Revolución, Ciudad de La Habana, Cuba.

3.2 Description

The inventory of the documentation of the “José Martí Pérez” fonds lists 2,435 documents (a total of 7,177 page) corresponding to the period of 1827 to 1895, of the literary, journalistic, revolutionary, diplomatic, biographical and personal work of this figure, as well as his correspondence with different persons, including his family. Of these, 1,821 are manuscripts by José Martí and 415 are documents on Martí or related to him. It likewise comprises graphic and bibliographic materials and a varied collection of items in which he featured or others that for different reasons were added to the group of documents.

The classification given to this instrument of consultation and control has been made according to thematic groups that represent the fields of action of this personality, and have been organized in alphabetical and chronological order, according to each case.

The dates and places that appear in the descriptions are the result of exhaustive research on the life and work of the author.

Inventory (Name and information of the proposed elements)

Below is the scheme followed in the creation of the inventory of the documentation that makes up the “José Martí Pérez” Fonds. Full details are available in the Spanish version of the nomination.

Inventory of the documentation of the “José Martí Pérez” Fonds

- I Documents on the literary and journalistic work of José Martí.
 - 1.1.- Notes
 - 1.2.- Articles
 - 1.3.- Chronicles
 - 1.4.- Speeches
 - 1.5.- Judgements
 - 1.6.- Poetry
 - 1.7.- Prose
 - 1.8.- Theater
 - 1.9.- Translations
 - 1.10.- Other documents created by him
 - 1.11.- First editions
 - 1.12.- Publications in which he collaborated
- II Documents related to the political and revolutionary activities of José Martí and of the patriotic clubs of the emigration.
- III Documents relative to his diplomatic activity.
- IV Correspondence sent by José Martí.
- V Correspondence sent to José Martí by different persons.
- VI Correspondence between different persons on José Martí.
- VII Biographical and personal documents.
- VIII Iconography.
- IX Documents relative to his family.
- X Documents subsequent to his death.
- XI Documents put together in the Fonds.
- XII Bibliography of the titles of his personal library in New York.

Bibliographical data and/or data on the registry

There is an extensive bibliography that refers to the “José Martí Pérez” Fonds. Among them stand out:

Martí, José. Epistolario. La Habana: Editorial Ciencias Sociales, 1993. 5 t.

Martí, José. Obras Completas: Edición crítica. La Habana: Centro de Estudios Martianos, 2000-. 8 t.

Estrade, Paul. José Martí. Los fundamentos de la democracia en Latinoamérica. Madrid: Ediciones Doce Calles. 2000.

Summary of Provenance

The “José Martí Pérez” Fonds owes its origin to the efforts made by Carmen Miyares and Gonzalo de Quesada y Aróstegui in the conservation, research and compiling of Martí’s documents, as well as from documents voluntarily donated by emigrants, veterans of the wars Cuban Independence and relatives or friends. The first output was the publication of the first *Obras Completas (Complete Works)* of José Martí between 1900 and 1915. This work was continued by Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, who replaced his father in the conservation and compiling together of Martí’s papers. When the latter died, Gonzalo de Quesada y Michelsen, fulfilling his father’s will, handed over the documents, as Patrimony of the Nation, to Dr Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Councils of State and of Ministers. Celia Sánchez Manduley, as secretary of the Councils of State and of Ministers, took up the task of preserving them, and in September 1976 all documents were moved to the Archive of the Office for Historical Matters of the Council of State. In 1977, with the creation of the Centro de Estudios Martianos, other documents in possession of different institutions of the country such as the National Archive, the National Library, the Bacardí Museum, the Fragua Martiana, Martí’s native house and the Historian’s Office of Ciudad de La Habana were added to those already existing in the Archive of the Office of Historical Matters of the Council of State. Documents that had been in private hands were added to them, among them several originals. At present the fonds continues to grow with eventual donations.

The books in José Martí’s personal library in New York that were found in his office were delivered by Carmen Mantilla in 1920 to the Cuban doctor Julio Villaldo. Afterwards, Villaldo sent them to the Historian of the City of La Habana, Doctor Emilio Roig de Leuchsenring, who kept them until the inauguration of the “Martí” Hall at the “José Martí” National Library on January 28, 1968.

Analysis or assessment of physical state and condition

The “José Martí Pérez” fonds is made up mainly of manuscripts written in different types of ink, among which the ferrogalic were predominant fonds also contains a collection of photographs using different techniques and formats (ferrotypes, albumins and silver gelatine), made in photographic studios in Spain, the United States of America and Jamaica.

In 2001 restoration of the most damaged documents of the fonds began but it was not until 2003 that a statistical programme became available for the diagnosis of the preservation of the entire document collection.

The restoration of the documents of the “José Martí Pérez” Fonds is carried out in a properly equipped laboratory where more than 130 documents have been processed up to the present (or a total of 350 pages): by traditional and manual techniques, that consists in gluing Japanese paper sheets on both sides of the document and also by the elimination of acids with calcium hydroxide.

All restoration processes have been carried out according to the following principles:

- Respecting the original document and its informational content.
- Guaranteeing legibility of the text.
- Reinforcing the document in question.
- Permanency of the materials, both of the original support and of those used in the restoration.
- Non-traumatic reversibility of the process used in the intervention.

Referees

Dr. Cintio Vitier: National Prize in Literature and Juan Rulfo Prize. E-mail: amarti@ceniai.inf.cu

Dra. María Luisa Laviana: Professor at the University of Seville. E-mail: laviana@cica.es.

Dr. Iván Schulman: Professor of Merit at the University of Illinois. E-mail: schulman@aug.com

Dr. Paul Estrade: Professor of Merit at the University of Paris VIII. E-mail:paul-mouny.estrade@wanadoo.fr

The following institutions may likewise give testimony:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Mail address</u>	<u>Directive</u>
Oficina del Programa Martiano	E-mail jmarti@cubarte.cult.cu Facsímile (537) 33455	Armando Hart
Archivo Nacional de la República de Cuba	E-mail arnac@ceniai.inf.cu	María Berarda Salabarría
Consejo Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural	E-mail patrim@infoarte.cult.cu	Martha Arjona

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION / ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

4.1 Authenticity?

Martí's documents, which were part of his personal possessions in charge of Carmen Miyares and Gonzalo de Quesada y Aróstegui, make up the major part of the fonds. It should be added that many of these documents bear José Martí's personal signature or correspond to those published under his name or an acknowledged pseudonym. Those that do not bear a signature are identified as his because of his handwriting and style. Documents that cannot be certified as authenticity are not included in this fonds. Numerous and renowned specialists, both Cuban and foreign, testify the validity of the documents that are part of this collection.

4.2 World significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability:

In spite of the dispersion of Martí's work, the fonds has the largest number of original documents of José Martí that are known. It should be underlined that it is eventually increased with new donations and findings.

The "José Martí Pérez" Fonds is made up of original manuscripts of this personality, first editions of his works and papers addressed or related to him, as well as with titles of his personal library and photographs of his time.

Considered one of the most important American thinkers of all times, José Martí adds to his invaluable and diverse literary production – which acknowledges him as initiator of modernism – an extensive political and diplomatic activity. Martí's emancipating project extends beyond the frontiers of his country and time, since he understood and offered solutions to existing problems for peoples of similar or equivalent conditions of structure and development. His work is of particular usefulness to knowledge of the historical and sociological peculiarities of the then colonial territories and of the young nations recently emerged from colonial status, the majority of which are grouped today in the so-called Third World countries, with problems that originated or were inherited from that time.

On the other hand, the profound humanist content of Martí's thought offers useful elements to all genuinely emancipating proposals. As the key figure of 19th century thought and action in Latin America, his life and work are an essential part of the wealth of ideas of the continent, particularly in those countries that he called *Our America*. His defence of autochthony, search for original solutions of a political, economic, social and cultural nature to the conflicts generated in countries in upheaval, and his influence as a thinker and politician have led him to be regarded today as one of the theoretical cornerstones of Latin American identity and integration as well as necessary ideological reference for every reform movement in Latin America. Martí's work is vital to understanding the process of creating of a genuine Latin American identity, which received particular impetus in the last years of

the 19th century. In conclusion, his legacy is estimated as an important source of knowledge of both the history and the present of the American hemisphere and the world.

4.3 Criteria of time, place, persons, subject and theme, form and style

Time

Martí was fully conscious of the meaning of his time in the world and in America, and this was his greatest discovery, the one that contributes a universal character to his whole work. As a pioneer of modernism, “Spanish form of the universal crisis of literature and of the spirit, which around 1885 started the dissolution of the 19th century and which showed itself in art, science, religion, politics and gradually in the remaining aspects of life, therefore with all the attributes of a deep historical change whose process continues today” (Onís, Federico, “Martí y el modernismo”; *1.Letras. Cultura en Cuba*, La Habana, Editorial Pueblo y Educación, p. 303), Martí appears to our eyes as the supreme cultivator of the ideas, forms, trends and attitudes that have fortunately survived of this movement. His work of prose and verse: his speeches, essays, poems, articles, diaries and letters, are full of new ideas that forecast the currents and directions that culture and politics in Latin America would followed in their subsequent development. They also warn of the errors and deviations which later occurred, only to be overcome in order to return to the safe road pointed by him. In Martí appears the essential nature of the new period that began with him more so than with anyone else in Spanish American life and literature. In one of his notes he wrote: “There is only one way to live after death: to be a man of all times – or a man of his time.” Very early he saw how in 1880 the 19th century world entered into a period of transition in which a new world was being incubated where the creative American originality in all fields would have its place. That period of transition is the one he defines. Already in 1882 he wrote: “This age of splendid elaboration and transformation, (...). And now there is a sort of dismembering of the human mind. Others were the times of the high walls; this is the time of the shattered walls.” He spoke of “this age of genesis” noting that “we are in times of boiling, not of condensation; of mixture of elements, not of hard work of united elements”; the same thing was said in 1890: “... in times of so many mixtures as there are now, where the peoples boundlessly copy that of others”.

These images, which are consistently repeated throughout the work of Martí, express his vision of the age as a decomposition of the past and of the utmost creative liberty in search of the future, which were characteristic of Latin American modernity. These ideas informed what he said about poetry and art, language and style, in general, or referring to his own work or to his concept of America: “It does not adapt, it innovates; mediocrity copies, originality dares”. The struggle of his life was for his liberty and that of all, of his native land and of America, not only political liberty in the relations of men and peoples, for which struggles were carried on in the 19th century, but another deeper and more absolute liberty: that of being what one is and of expressing intimate originality without shackles.

As the protagonist of the cultural and political life of different Latin American countries, chronicler of the United States of America and privileged actor of key hemispheric events that shook the last quarter of the 19th century with consequences still pertinent today, his personal documentation is of inestimable value for the knowledge of hemispheric and global reality.

Place

Several of his writings, particularly his chronicles about the United States and his travel diaries in Latin America recreate the landscape and customs of the peoples of these regions of the hemisphere, broaching as an inseparable unit the communion of the individual with his geography. Praise of the hemisphere is one of José Martí’s contributions to extolling Latin American geography and populations. The continental identity defended by him, by including among its elements the necessary adaptation of the individual and society to the geographic environment in which they develop, succeeds in offering a coherent picture of Latin American societies. In his writings and notes, nature, individual and society appear intimately related as a solid cultural universe. Nobel Prize winner Gabriela Mistral, referring to the adaptation of Martí’s writing to his environment and particularly praising his originality, underlined:

“Before and after José Martí, no one has rolled in the juice and in the (...) essences of this soil. This man must be called, among other things, the great loyal one. He will be so for many things, but mainly for having taken over to the spoken and written expression the great whole, hot and fragrant breathing of his surrounding atmosphere and having emptied in it the cornucopia of its geographic wealth” (Mistral, Gabriela: “La lengua de Martí”, *1. Letras y Cultura en Cuba*, Ciudad de La Habana, Editorial Pueblo y Educación, 1989, p. 232).

People

In his writings and meditations, José Martí maintains a popular perspective, whether North American, Latin American, African, Asian or European. Outstanding in all his work is the significant role he attributes to the major groups of population and particularly to the Indians and mixed races of Latin America as essential elements in the formation of the national identity of their respective countries. His diverse genres and topics describe and explain attitudes, actions and life in general of characters, individuals and groups of population of different regions and cultures. His masterly portraits of characters of scientific, artistic, political and military life of Latin America and the United States, in which he summarizes social interests and expressions as example of particular historical occasions, do not obliterate his descriptions of the daily life of humble men and women. Of extreme interest are his descriptions and discoveries of structural features that are common to the people today called “peripheral” or Third World peoples.

Subject

The themes handled by Martí impress because of their diversity and treatment. As a thinker, he was interested in the study of universal culture in its most different meanings. History, sociology, economy, society and art are recurring themes in his writings, speeches and notes.

With the restlessness of a statesman and aesthetic zeal he broaches the most diverse problems. He shows particular interest for changes in the artistic, social, economic or scientific spheres. His writings range from the critical portraits about the Spanish painter Goya and the American poet Walt Whitman (whom he made known in Latin America) to those of the politician and military leader Ulysses S. Grant, the Liberator Simón Bolívar and the German philosopher Karl Marx; from the valuation of the literature of the Spanish Golden Era to the French of the end of the century poetry and the impressionist period; from political events to scientific discoveries and the technological advances of that time. The Cuban intellectual Juan Marinello wrote about him: “There is no writer in the Spanish world of such wide repertory of themes and problems. Martí is all his world and all his time” (Juan Marinello: “La crítica literaria de José Martí”, *1 Letras y Cultura en Cuba*, La Habana, Editorial Pueblo y Educación, 1989, p.353).

Form and style

Martí was one of the first modern spirits of his century, initiator of a historical age, with its corresponding literature. He was the man who put into context and redefined the group values with new optics: that of the individual who seeks to place himself in the present, but with a view to the future. Not without reason did he state in his article “El carácter de la *Revista Venezolana*”: “(...) we live at a time of incubation and sprouting, in which, having lost the ancient jambs, we walk as if in the dark in search of the new”.

Martí’s voice goes beyond his time and his space. He proposes to readapt to the new world and the revalidation of ethical and aesthetic concepts with a different style from that of his contemporaries. His style adapted to the handled theme; thus, he used a different language for each subject and warned about it on several occasions: “(...) one is the language in the office: another, the language in the restless parliament, another, the tongue that speaks the harsh polemics, another, the quiet biography”. The Spaniard Miguel de Unamuno states that Martí’s expression is so original that he defines it as “protoplasmic” because in it he sees the fusion of prose and poetry similar to the language of the Hebraic psalms (Unamuno, Miguel: “Sobre el estilo de Martí”, *1. Letras, Cultura en Cuba*, Ciudad de La Habana, Editorial Pueblo y Educación, 1989, p. 219); the Chilean Gabriela Mistral admits that “the originality of Martí has endured the test of all possible teachings” because of

its “originality in the tone, originality in the vocabulary, originality in the syntax” (Mistral Gabriela: *La lengua de Martí*, 1. *Letras. Cultura en Cuba*, Ciudad de La Habana, Editorial Pueblo y Educación, 1989, p. 226); and the Dominican Pedro Henríquez Ureña, on the other hand, points out that “Martí achieved the reform of style equipped with a profound knowledge of the language and of the classics. His style does not show similarities with the stationary style of the majority of his contemporaries of Spain, at times it has the emotional intensity of Theresa of Jesus, the measured and suggestive elegance of Gracián, the compulsion-free mastery of the Golden Centuries, centuries in which the Castilian language developed in harmony with contemporary trends, showed the spirit and the life of the race better than today. But Martí’s style wanted to be and was modern, “current”, as that of the modern writers of the active and fruitful countries in which the language develops, just like everything: expression of the multiple and complex life of the age. Wise style in structure, clear in concept, original in images, infinitely varied in expression and above all, personal and “human”, and always rich in thoughts (Henríquez Ureña, Pedro: “Martí escritor”, 1. *Letras. Cultura en Cuba*, Ciudad de La Habana, Editorial Pueblo y Educación, 1989, p. 214).

4.4 Issues relating to rarity, integrity, threat and management

Rarity

The social value of this collection is measured because it is an indisputable part of the revolutionary legacy of the continent at a historical moment in which the hegemony of the United States seriously threatened the freedom and independence of the remaining countries of the hemisphere. The special circumstances in which it was his fate to live and his leading role in crucial events of the history of the hemisphere make his documentation an exceptional testimonial source.

Integrity

The original documents included in the “José Martí Pérez” fonds are unique, irreplaceable pieces that form the largest collection of originals of this personality.

Threat

The climate of Cuba is semi-tropical, with an annual average temperature of 25,5°C. The extremes of heat and relative humidity – which in the summer average 27°C and 80%, respectively – are caused by the dominant winds from the Northeast. The annual average rainfall is 1.320 mm, and more than 60% occurs during the rainy season, which extends from May to November. The Island is located in a region that is frequently ravaged by tropical hurricanes that occur during the months of August, September and October.

Taking into consideration the climatic conditions, the age and characteristics of the documents, the potential risks to the collection are periodically evaluated. Correspondingly, an action plan against catastrophes has been created, which is divided into three phases. (See annex 6. Strategic Plan for the Preservation of the Archive of the Office for Historical Matters of the Council of State, in the Spanish copy of the present document).

The institution also has an Action Plan. (See Part 6, Action Plan).

5. LEGAL INFORMATION

5.1 Owner of the documentary heritage

The Centro de Estudios Martianos, an institution attached to the Council of State, with legal domicile at Calzada No. 807 esq. A calle 4, El Vedado, Plaza de la Revolución, Ciudad de La Habana, Cuba, according with paragraph Second of the resolving part of Resolution No. 1 of the National Commission for Monuments, is the proprietor of this documentary patrimony.

(See in annex 2, annex 2.b. excerpts of the Resolution No. 1 of the National Commission for Monuments).

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage

Archive of the Office for Historical Matters of the Council of State

Director: Dr. Pedro Álvarez Tabío

Línea No. 1009 entre 10 y 12, El Vedado, Plaza de la Revolución, La Habana, Cuba.

5.3 Legal status

a) Category of ownership

Public

b) Access conditions. Accessibility.

In order to avoid accelerated deterioration of the original documents of the collection and minimize excessive handling of the originals, access has been limited to the matrix copies (photocopies, microfilms, negatives) and only in cases of very specific studies by experts on the work of Martí is work with originals allowed, using cotton gloves in conformity with international standards for the handling of documents. The fonds is public and therefore may be consulted without cost and restrictions. The specialized library of the Centro de Estudios Martianos has photocopies of originals and microfiches that may be consulted at no cost. Photocopies of originals may likewise be obtained at very low cost.

c) Copyright status

There is no copyright on the contents of these documents. All the work of José Martí is in the public domain in accordance with Cuban copyright law – author’s life period and 50 years following his death. (Law No. 14, Law of Copyright and Decree Law No. 156).

d) Management

The director of the Centro de Estudios Martianos manages, represents and directs the actions concerning restoration, conservation and dissemination of Martí’s work. The budget for the preservation and conservation of the “José Martí Pérez” fonds, located in the Archive of the Office for Historical Matters of the Council of State, is included in the budget of the Centro de Estudios Martianos.

e) Other elements

The Centro de Estudios Martianos is the sole proprietor of the “José Martí Pérez” fonds, although it shares custodial responsibility with the Archive of the Office for Historical Matters of the Council of State, an institution with the ideal conditions for the preservation of the documentary collection. This Archive is subordinate with respect to the “José Martí Pérez” fonds to the Centro de Estudios Martianos, and its work regulations and preservation plans.

In the national territory there are acknowledged owners of José Martí originals documents who have supplied copies of these to the Centro de Estudios Martianos; in accordance with article 5, chapter 2 of the Law of Cultural Patrimony of August 16, 1977, which stipulates: “*All natural or juridical persons who are holders of any title of assets that are Cultural Patrimony of the Nation are obliged to declare them, following the notification, before the National Registry of Cultural Goods of the Republic of Cuba, which will not imply a modification of the title of property*”. (See in annex 2. Legal Documents, annex 2.c, excerpts of the Law of Protection of the Cultural Patrimony Spanish version).

6. MANAGEMENT

6.1 The Archive of the Office for Historical Matters of the Council of State, where the “José Martí Pérez” fonds is located, has a Strategic Preservation Plan that has been drawn up, based on the Plan for the Preservation of Collections, prepared by the Canadian Conservation Institute, the Preservation Division of the Library of Congress of the United States and the Association for the Conservation of the Cultural Patrimony of the Americas.

The Strategic Plan contains several measures to be carried out to avoid, control or prevent possible damage of documents, and comprises five action periods. It foresees nine impairment agents as well as a group of preservation and conservation guidelines (see annex 6. Strategic Preservation Plan, in the Spanish copy of the present document).

With the purpose of conserving the materials that make up the Archive of the Office for Historical Matters of the Council of State, they are kept in high-level safety vaults placed on metal shelves and neutral pH files. They are additionally handled with cotton gloves, worn by the personnel in charge of the fonds, who are the sole persons with access to the security vaults where a temperature of 19°C, relative humidity of 60% and complete darkness are maintained.

The access policy for the preservation that has been followed up to the present has been to make microfiches of the whole documentary fonds to provide photocopies for access although they are not of the best quality. More than 80% of the documentation has been micro-filmed in 35 mm. rolls. There are 1,795 quality negatives of documents, but they do not cover the totality of the fonds. In spite of having the equipment and personnel, the inputs required to complete the work are lacking. It should be mentioned that there are adequate storage conditions for originals, microfilms and photocopies at the Archive of the Office for Historical Matters of the Council of State.

The Centro de Estudios Martianos seeks to have the “José Martí Pérez” fonds inscribed on the Memory of the World Register in order to contribute to the conservation of this valuable patrimony. The approval of the original documentation by José Martí as part of the world documentary heritage would be a just tribute to the work of the most relevant and universal personality of America in the last half of the 19th century. The conservation of this legacy – of vital importance for the interpretation of the Latin American and hemispheric reality in a moment of definition of its identity, as well as outstanding for its cultural relevance in the creation of an American expression of its own – has, in our opinion, justified merits to be included in this programme. Its acknowledgement would likewise contribute to attracting a study of one of the most solid, coherent and far-reaching works of the 19th century at a moment in which mankind requires new and original forms of expression and integrationist ideas, which may well be based on the cultural heritage accumulated by those who up to the present are considered peripheral peoples and cultures of the world.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultations made before the nomination with the owner and custodian of the patrimony and with the Regional and National Committees of World Memory.

The candidature to approve the “José Martí Pérez” Fonds as part of the Memory of the World Programme of UNESCO is submitted by the Centro de Estudios Martianos as proprietor. The proposal was studied and approved by the National and Regional Committees of the Memory of the World, and suggested for the study of its registration in the Memory of the World.

PART B

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

8. RISK EVALUATION

8.1 Political situation:

The “José Martí Pérez” fonds, as custodian of the largest part of the original documents of the apostle of the independence of Cuba, is considered part of the patrimony of the Cuban nation. For that reason, the Cuban state, in spite of economic restrictions, ensures the care and conservation of these documents by appointing resources, whether of financial or material nature. It is a priority of the Cuban government to care and maintain the building where this fonds is located, as well as to defray the costs of the work by the personnel in charge of the documentation and to support their technical and professional upgrading.

The country's political, social and economic stability is an element that positively influences the conservation and preservation of the work of one who is considered one of the cornerstones of Cuban nationality and Latin American identity.

Natural environment

The Archive of the Office for Historical Matters – seat of the “José Martí Pérez” fonds – is located near an avenue of medium level traffic. It should be underlined that the building is in excellent conditions from the construction point of view, is properly equipped and air conditioned, which prevents the contaminating effects of the gas emanations from the automotive vehicles travelling along that avenue. Likewise, the civil infrastructure of the building where the fonds is located ensures us safety in the face of any natural contingency common to a country like Cuba, located in a geographical zone that is scourged by hurricanes.

The fonds benefits from a Catastrophe Plan managed in three phases, which include the regular evaluation of risks in its preventive phase, actions to minimize the damage in exceptional cases and a last resort of response and rehabilitation. The data is not attached since it is restricted information for the sole use of the institution. (See annex 6. Strategic Preservation Plan, in the Spanish copy of the present document).

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESERVATION

9.1 Complex investments have been made in the vaults of the Office for Historical Matters where the documentation to which the present proposal refers is conserved. In some cases, these investments have been destined to the installation and in others to the modernization, of the following systems: the alarm system burglar, ventilation and air-conditioning system, which ensures steady and adequate temperature and relative humidity levels; fire detection system, protected electrical networks and a lighting anti-deflagration (anti-explosives) system with UV filters. The installation of an automatic fire extinction system with inert gas is also foreseen.

The Strategic Preservation Plan mentions the measures that have been adopted and that will be taken in the future to safeguard the “José Martí Pérez” fonds.