

THE QUESADAS OF CUBA:
BIOGRAPHERS AND EDITORS OF JOSÉ MARTÍ Y PÉREZ

STUDENTS of the life and writings of José Martí y Pérez (1853-1895), the National Hero of Cuba, will be forever indebted to the lifelong efforts of Martí's close friend, fellow revolutionist, and "literary heir," Gonzalo de Quesada y Aróstegui, and to those of his son, Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda. Through painstaking research and editing they have preserved, over a period of nearly seventy years, the record of Martí's prodigious writings as a revolutionist, journalist, novelist, dramatist, and poet. It is no exaggeration to say that most of the writing on this remarkable Cuban is derived from their carefully edited collections of his works. Gonzalo de Quesada y Aróstegui, as one of the architects of Cuban independence, Cuba's first Minister to the United States, and major participant in the early International Conferences of American States, is deserving of special attention by scholars in the Americas. Now that a third official edition of Martí's writings is nearing completion by Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda in Cuba, a biographical and bibliographical sketch of the Quesadas, father and son, is in order.

Gonzalo de Quesada y Aróstegui was born on December 15, 1868, in Havana, Cuba. He was educated in the United States, graduating with a law degree from New York University in 1891. His attendance at political rallies of Cuban exiles in New York eventually brought him into contact with another prominent revolutionist, José Martí. The latter, exiled from Cuba in 1871, had secured a law degree in Spain in 1874, and from there had gone to Mexico the following year, where he wrote for the *Revista Universal*. A brief teaching career in Guatemala, marriage to a Cuban exile in Mexico, Carmen Zayas-Bazán, and return to Cuba in 1878 followed. This move was made possible by a general amnesty granted to political exiles at the end of the Ten Years' War. The failure of the Cuban insurgents to achieve independence from Spain did not prevent Martí from engaging in further political activities.

As a result he was again exiled to Spain in 1879, and from there, in 1880, he went to New York, which was to be his base for organizing the overthrow of the Spanish regime in Cuba. For the next fifteen years he recruited resources for the revolution, supporting himself by writing for New York newspapers, such as the *Sun* and the *Hour*, and for periodicals in Latin America, especially *La Opinión Nacional* in Caracas, *La Nación* in Buenos Aires, and *El Partido Liberal* in Mexico City, as

well as other newspapers in South America. He also did translations for Appleton and Company and, on his own, translated and published Helen Hunt Jackson's *Ramona*. His repertory of original work included plays, a novel, poetry, a children's magazine, *La Edad de Oro*, and a newspaper, *Patria*, which became the official organ of the Cuban Revolutionary party.

Martí's earlier contacts with Quesada were strengthened through the latter's role as a diplomat. Quesada was secretary to Argentina's delegate to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D. C., from October 2, 1889, to April 19, 1890. Martí and Quesada corresponded about the meetings, and it was in a letter of October 19, 1889, that Martí expressed fears that the United States would attempt to annex the island. When the Cuban Revolutionary party was formally proclaimed on April 10, 1892, by all the Cuban and Puerto Rican groups in exile in the United States, Martí was elected Chief Delegate (President). The new head of the revolutionary movement appointed Gonzalo de Quesada as Secretary of the party. Martí's estimate of Quesada was also made explicit in the introduction to his "favorite pupil's" first book, *Mi primera ofrenda*, in 1892,

You are good, temperate, not afraid of the truth, and unassuming; you admire the brave and love the humble . . . Content yourself in these years of preparation by fostering, as your book will do, respect for virtue, for piety among men, and for the unification of our America. I am very fond of you, because of your courageous and pious soul.¹

Quesada's efforts on behalf of Cuban independence were complemented by the publication of two more books, *Patriotismo, cuentos de guerra*,² translations from French writers, in 1893, and *Ignacio Mora*,³ in 1894, an account of a Cuban patriot in the Ten Years' War. Martí referred to the latter work in *Patria* as a "fortunate book, already in demand before printing."⁴

Martí in the same years, often in ill health, travelled tirelessly between New York, Florida, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico seeking financial support and volunteers to arm an attempt to overthrow Spanish rule, which was becoming progressively more tyrannical toward the Cubans. Eventually plans were readied for embarking from Fernandina, Florida. The conspirators were betrayed by

¹ Gonzalo de Quesada, *Mi primera ofrenda* (New York, 1892), 152 pp.

² Gonzalo de Quesada, *Patriotismo, cuentos de guerra* (New York, 1893), 214 pp.

³ Gonzalo de Quesada, *Ignacio Mora* (New York, 1894), 184 pp.

⁴ *Obras completas de Martí*, ed. Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda (74 Vols.; La Habana, 1936-1949), XIV, 174-175.

one of their number, however, and the advance party was arrested January 12, 1895, and their arms confiscated. Quesada's mother-in-law came to the rescue with an offer to furnish bail, although Quesada himself was not among those arrested.

Distraught but not daunted by this disaster, Martí painfully set about recovering their losses, and making further contacts for a coordinated movement inside and outside of Cuba. On January 29, 1895, Martí signed, as head of the Cuban Revolutionary party, an order for a general uprising in Cuba, with secret instructions sent to Juan Gualberto Gómez. Antonio Maceo and Flor Crombet were engaged to invade the island from a base in Costa Rica.

In the meantime Martí left New York on January 31 for Montecristi in the Dominican Republic, where he met with General Máximo Gómez, whom Martí had persuaded to lead an expedition to Cuba. During February they anxiously awaited word of the general uprising ordered by Martí. The revolt finally took place February 24, and word reached Martí two days afterwards. A month later, still in the Dominican Republic, Martí and Gómez proclaimed the *Manifiesto de Montecristi*, an exposition of the purposes and principles of the Cuban revolution.

In anticipation of his departure for Cuba, and the risks that might lie ahead, Martí wrote his "literary will" on April 1, 1895, leaving his personal papers and manuscripts to Gonzalo de Quesada, with instructions for editing. After commenting that much of his writing in newspapers in Honduras, Uruguay, and Chile would remain scattered and irretrievable, he asked Quesada to arrange his papers in the following volumes: I and II, North Americans; III, Hispanic Americans; IV, North American Scenes; V, Books about the Americas (both North and South); VI, Literature, Education, and Painting. Another volume was to contain his poetry, especially *Ismaelillo*, *Versos sencillos*, and selections from his *Versos libres*. Martí urged Quesada to publish *Ismaelillo* before any other poems, since he considered this to be his best work. An additional volume was to be devoted to his translation of the poem *Lalla Rookh*, but Martí's version has never been found.

With regard to his writings on Cuba, Martí wrote that none of them seemed worthy of his native land. Feeling that participation in the invasion was the best way to serve his country, he wrote,

You know that service is the best way to express myself Shall we fail also in today's hopes, now that everything is ready? And to suffer less, I think about you and what to do with my writings, which I never thought about before. My affection for you is great, but I am surprised

that the moment has arrived to tell you so, because I am not accustomed to talk about my personal feelings. . . . Man died on the cross in one day. Martí does not rest nor speak. Do you think that I have given you enough of a guide for a few of my papers?

He then concluded his "literary will" on a very personal note to Quesada, "I have no desire to lift my hand from this paper, as if I had your hand in mine, but I will close, to avoid the temptation of putting into words those things which are better left unsaid."⁵

This, then, was the content of Martí's instruction to his favorite pupil for the publication of his works, in case he should not return. The author's premonition of death was well-founded. The invasion party, with Máximo Gómez at its head, left the Dominican Republic April 1, 1895. After heartbreaking delays and defections by companions, the pitifully small task force of six persons landed at Playitas, near Maisí Cape, Cuba, on April 11. The party eventually contacted Cuban rebels headed by the Maceo brothers, and joined in skirmishes with Spanish troops. It was in one of these encounters that Martí was shot and killed, May 19, 1895.

The death of the head of the Cuban Revolutionary party was a blow to the aspirations of the Cuban rebels, inside and outside of the island, but the fighting continued with alternating successes and failures until the entry of the United States into the war in 1898. Tomás Estrada Palma, the future first President of the Cuban Republic, succeeded to the presidency of the Cuban Revolutionary party, and Quesada continued as its Secretary.

In 1896 Quesada brought forth a book in English, written with Henry D. Northrop, as a tribute to Martí, and as a vehicle for attracting North American support for the cause of Cuban independence. Its title page was eloquent, if somewhat flamboyant in the style of the times, reading as follows, *THE WAR IN CUBA Being a Full Account of her Great STRUGGLE for FREEDOM Containing A Complete Record of Spanish Tyranny and Oppression; Scenes of Violence and Bloodshed; Frequent Uprisings of a Gallant and Long Suffering People; Revolutions of 1868, '95-'96. DARING DEEDS OF CUBAN HEROES AND PATRIOTS, Thrilling incidents of the Conflict; American Aid for the Cause of Cuba: Secret Expeditions, Inside Facts of the War, Etc., Etc., Together with a Full Description of Cuba, Its Great Resources; Products and Scenery of the "Queen of the Antilles;" Manners and Customs of the People, Etc., Etc.*⁶ The same publishers

⁵ *Ibid.*, I, 15-20.

⁶ Gonzalo de Quesada, *The War in Cuba* . . . (Washington, D. C., 1986), 584 pp.

(Liberty Publishing Co.), in recognition of the popularity of the work, brought forth a revised and enlarged edition in the same year.⁷

In a chapter entitled "Distinguished Cuban Patriots: The Founders of Liberty," Quesada devoted thirteen pages to a highly laudatory biographical sketch of Martí, whom he called the "sublime figure of the Cuban genius." The following excerpts are representative:

If ever there was a directing hand in a revolution it was that of José Martí in the Cuban. He had calculated the time when the tempest would break forth, and had prepared the conditions so that the torrent would not find any obstacles in its way; he had prophesied its march and triumph. The originality of this extraordinary man consisted in this intuition, in this ability to forecast the events which were to follow with such mathematical exactness.

His life is like the symbol of his country's history; in his diverse and versatile accomplishments, in the salient virtues of his character, he embodied those of his native land; even in his glorious death and his immortality we see the future of Cuba which must give even her blood to conquer her deserved place among the great. . . .

Martí may not have made the Revolution, but he was the one who, thoroughly disinterested, brought together in a sublime embrace those of yesterday and today, those who wield the sword without which no nation can attain its independence, and those who will make the laws, without which no independence can be maintained nor the Republic founded. . . .

In those last days when Martí was with me, in January of 1895, I saw him in another light, so different from the others before, and the man grew in grandeur; indeed, it could be said of him, that to know him was to appreciate him, that to know him well was to love him forever.

And it could not be his enthusiasm of a believer, nor his dreams as a patriot, nor his eloquence, nor his constant and unobtrusive teaching which drew those who were around him more closely to his heart. No; those were times of doubt, of discouragement and of defeat, and yet who could fail to admire that man who would not leave his friends alone in trouble, in Florida, but would rush to share with them their sadness?

Over all the Island there palpitates with the same patriotism and fervor today as a year ago, as it will while a single Cuban lives, the spiritual José Martí, who guides, from above, our armies to victory; who consoles the suffering, the exiled, the orphan, the widow; who watches with unceasing vigilance for the welfare of his children; who welcomes his brothers-in-arms who have joined him in the heaven of immortality! José Martí, O father! you live in us, you can only die when, consumed by the flames or submerged in the waves, Cuba shall be no more! ⁸

⁷ Gonzalo de Quesada, *The War in Cuba* . . . (Rev. ed.; Washington, D. C., 1896), 775 pp.

⁸ Gonzalo de Quesada, *The War in Cuba* . . . , pp. 513-526.

Thus did Quesada, who in another passage referred to himself as Martí's "son," pay tribute to the man who was to become one of the most widely admired figures in the Spanish-speaking Americas.

As the United States entered the Cuban war for independence in 1898, three editions of Quesada's *The War in Cuba* . . . appeared, each retitled, each slightly revised, and differing in length.⁹

Quesada's wide ranging public relations contributions to the war effort as Cuban chargé d'affaires in Washington also included a chapter in a book edited by Juan Guiteras in 1898, *Free Cuba. Her oppression and struggles for liberty. History and description of the island. The history of the war for independence by G. de Quesada* . . .¹⁰ The year before, in 1897, Quesada had brought out a small publication with the vigorous title, *The Spanish Idea of Autonomy. A Birthright for a Mess of Pottage*.¹¹

At the end of the Cuban-Spanish-American War in 1898 Quesada returned to Havana, but was back again in the United States in 1899 as "Special Commissioner" for Cuba. In 1900 President McKinley named him to represent Cuba at the World's Fair in Paris.¹² During this assignment Quesada published a work in French highlighting characteristics of the emerging nation.¹³

⁹ Gonzalo de Quesada and Henry Davenport Northrop, *America's battle for Cuba's freedom: containing a complete record of Spanish tyranny and oppression. American aid for the cause of Cuba, inside facts of the war, etc., etc. Great resources; products and scenery of the "Queen of the Antilles"; manners and customs of the people, etc., etc., To which is added a full account of the destruction of the battleship "Maine"* (Philadelphia: National Publishing Co., 1898), 768 pp. Gonzalo de Quesada, *Our War with Spain. An authentic, complete, history prepared from official and other reliable sources. Including also a full official history of Cuba's War for freedom* (Philadelphia: Franklin Book Co., 1898), 666 pp. Gonzalo de Quesada and Henry Davenport Northrop, *Cuba's Great Struggle for Freedom; containing a complete record of Spanish Tyranny and oppression, scenes of violence and bloodshed; Daring deeds of Cuban Heroes and patriots, Thrilling incidents of the Conflict; American Aid for the cause of Cuba; Secret expeditions; inside facts of the war, etc., etc., Great resources; products and scenery of the "Queen of the Antilles;" Manners and Customs of the People, etc., etc., To which is added a full account of the destruction of the battleship "Maine" and the Report of the Naval Board; Hurried preparations for war with Spain, etc., etc.* (n. p., 1898), 758 pp.

¹⁰ Juan Guiteras (ed.), *Free Cuba. Her oppression* . . . (Philadelphia, 1898), 619 pp.

¹¹ Gonzalo de Quesada, *The Spanish Idea of Autonomy* . . . (Washington, 1897), 6 pp.

¹² Emilio Roig de Leuchsenring, "Gonzalo de Quesada y Aróstegui," *Gráfico* (La Habana), 17 de enero de 1915, reprinted in *Patria* (Le Habana), XIV (diciembre de 1958), 4-5.

¹³ Gonzalo de Quesada, *Cuba a l'Exposition Universelle Internationale de 1900 a Paris* (Paris, 1900).

Soon after Quesada's return to Cuba he was elected as delegate from the province of Pinar del Río to the Constitutional Convention meeting in 1901 in Havana. Upon the establishment of the Republic in that year Quesada's services to the revolution were recognized by his appointment as the new country's first full-fledged Minister to the United States, a post he held until February, 1909.

One of his important assignments during this period was to represent Cuba in 1904 in negotiating the Hay-Quesada Treaty, which gave Cuba jurisdiction over the Isle of Pines, although it was not approved by the United States Senate until twenty-one years later. Quesada's defense of Cuba's right to the island appeared in 1909 in the *North American Review*,¹⁴ and was reprinted in Cuba in the same year,¹⁵ as well as in another treatment in 1924.¹⁶

Among Quesada's works was a voluminous official handbook on Cuba, printed in 1905 by the United States Government Printing Office under the sponsorship of the International Bureau of American Republics.¹⁷

In the following year he represented Cuba at the Third International Conference of American States in Rio de Janeiro, and in 1907 attended the Hague Peace Conference as Cuba's representative.¹⁸ His address at that meeting was printed in English in Rotterdam as *Arbitration in Latin America*, and was reprinted in Spanish by the United States Government Printing Office in 1908.¹⁹ Quesada was decorated by Russia for his work at that conference.

In 1908 Quesada was again in Europe, this time doing research on immigration. A series of studies on France, Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway resulted from these investigations.²⁰

¹⁴ Gonzalo de Quesada, "Cuba's Claims to the Isle of Pines," *North American Review*, CXC (September, 1909), 594-604.

¹⁵ Gonzalo de Quesada, *Los derechos de Cuba a la Isla de Pinos* (La Habana, 1909), 31 pp.

¹⁶ Gonzalo de Quesada, *The Title of the Republic of Cuba to the Isle of Pines* (Washington, D. C., 1924), 56 pp.

¹⁷ Gonzalo de Quesada, *Cuba* (Washington, 1905), 541 pp.

¹⁸ See: Enrique H. Moreno Plá, *Gonzalo de Quesada, Estadista* (La Habana, 1962), for an excellent biographical sketch of Quesada as a diplomat (32 pp.).

¹⁹ Gonzalo de Quesada, *Arbitration in Latin America* (Rotterdam, 1907), 136 pp. Also, *La América Latina y el Arbitraje internacional. Discurso pronunciado por el Sr. Gonzalo de Quesada, Ministro de Cuba en los Estados Unidos en el Banquete de la Conferencia de Arbitraje* (Washington, 1908).

²⁰ Gonzalo de Quesada, *Emigración. Francia, Portugal, Suiza* (La Habana, 1909), 84 pp.; *Francia; estudio sobre emigración* (La Habana, 1909), 27 pp.; *Suecia. Estudios sobre emigración* (La Habana, 1912), 13 pp.; *Dinamarca. Estudios sobre emigración* (La Habana, 1912), 11 pp.; *Noruega. Estudios sobre emigración* (La Habana, 1913), 11 pp.

In 1910 Gonzalo de Quesada accepted appointment as Cuba's Minister to Germany, a post he held until his death there on January 9, 1915. Soon after his assignment to Berlin he left for Buenos Aires to represent Cuba at the Fourth International Conference of American States. While in Argentina Quesada took advantage of his visit to obtain articles and letters written to *La Nación* by José Martí, to add to his collection of materials on the Cuban patriot.²¹

During Quesada's years as Minister to Germany he published a pamphlet on the Chinese and Cuban independence movements,²² as well as a book on Germany.²³ Of greater significance to students of Martí, however, were the efforts of Quesada in the period from 1900 to 1915 in carrying out the Cuban Apostle's instructions for the collection and publication of his works. The first volume, printed in Washington, D. C., appeared in 1900. The remaining thirteen volumes under his editorship were published in Rome, Berlin, and Havana.²⁴ In his introduction to Vol. 6 in 1909 he commented on the bittersweet rewards that this work entailed:

In spite of the difficulties which I have had in collecting the materials to make the literary work of Martí known in Cuba—certainly not as disheartening as the apathy with which our people receives them—I am not dismayed, since with its publication, at the same time that I keep alive his venerable memory, I serve my country.²⁵

After Quesada's death in 1915, his widow, Angelina Miranda de Quesada, edited Vol. 15 of Martí's works in 1919. Vol. 16, the last in this edition, did not appear until 1933, when it was brought out by the third member of the family, their son, Gonzalo.²⁶

Although the elder Quesada found the general public in Cuba indifferent to his efforts to print Martí's writings, other editors, inside and outside of Cuba, were inspired to follow his lead with their own selections of the Apostle's writings. Américo Lugo, the Dominican writer, brought out an edition in 1910 in Paris. Others appeared, edited by

²¹ Letter to author from Dr. Enrique H. Moreno Plá, Havana, November 30, 1963.

²² Gonzalo de Quesada, *The Chinese and Cuban Independence* (Leipzig, [1912?]), 15 pp.

²³ Gonzalo de Quesada, *La patria alemana* (Leipzig, 1913), 382 pp.

²⁴ *Martí*, ed. Gonzalo de Quesada (16 vols.; Vol. I, Washington, 1900; Vols. II and III, La Habana, 1901-1902; Vol. IV, La Habana, 1905; Vol. V, Roma, 1905; Vols. VI-IX, La Habana, 1908-1910; Vol. X, Berlin, 1911; Vols. XI-XIV, La Habana, 1913-1915; Vol. XV, ed. Angelina Miranda de Quesada, La Habana, 1919; Vol. XVI, ed. Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, La Habana, 1933). Vol. XVI is entitled *Martí, Flores del destierro*.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, VI, 6.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, Vols. XV-XVI.

such well-known writers as Rafael G. Argilagos, Max Henríquez Ureña, Rubén Darío, Néstor Carbonell, Ventura García Calderón, Armando Godoy, Alberto Ghirardo, Félix Lizaso, and M. Isidro Méndez.²⁷

As already indicated, the task of completing the editing of Martí's papers fell to the widow of Gonzalo de Quesada y Aróstegui, Angelina, and to their son, Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda. The latter was born in Washington, D. C., March 2, 1900, and received his education in civil engineering in Berlin. After the death of the elder Quesada, Gonzalo and his mother returned to Havana. Quesada entered journalism, a career which he followed for many years, in addition to teaching, publication of scholarly works, and governmental assignments. Above all he has spent the time in dedication to editing the works of Martí, and to the establishment in Havana of the Museo Nacional José Martí, and the Fragua Martiana, a library, museum, and school devoted to books and courses on Martí, as well as to the collection of items significant in the life of the Cuban patriot.

Quesada's first important job was as Cuban News Editor of the *Havana Post*, an English language newspaper. Occupying this position from 1922 to 1929, he subsequently wrote for *Havana PM*, *Carteles*, *Bohemia*, and *Ecos*. He was the founder, and then Director of the Museo Nacional José Martí from 1928 to 1930, and briefly served as Director of the Capitol Library in 1933.

His last regular newspaper assignment was with the *Havana Post*, where he continued to appear as a columnist until 1959.

Although Quesada's major literary efforts have concerned publications of and about Martí, he has produced many works on Cuban history and politics, and is the author of various works of literature.²⁸

²⁷ *Flor y lava*, ed. Américo Lugo (Paris, 1910), 372 pp.; *Granos de oro*, ed. Rafael G. Argilagos (La Habana, 1918), 146 pp.; *Páginas escogidas*, ed. Max Henríquez Ureña (Paris, [1919]), 172 pp.; *Versos escogidos de Martí*, ed. Rubén Darío (Paris, [1919]), 172 pp.; *Obras completas de Martí*, ed. Néstor Carbonell (8 vols.; La Habana, 1918-1920); *Madre América*, ed. Ventura García Calderón (Paris, 1922), 123 pp.; *Obras completas de Martí*, ed. Armando Godoy y Ventura García Calderón (2 vols.; Paris, 1926); *Obras completas*, ed. Alberto Ghirardo (8 vols.; Madrid, [1925]-1929); *Epistolario de José Martí*, ed. Félix Lizaso (3 vols.; La Habana, 1930-1931); *José Martí, obras completas*, ed. M. Isidro Méndez (4 vols.; 2nd ed., La Habana, 1948).

For an analysis of the publishing record of Martí's works, see the present author's *José Martí, Cuban Patriot* (Gainesville, Florida, 1962), pp. 97-101. For an extensive listing of Martí's writings, from books to newspaper entries, see the comprehensive and indispensable study by Fermín Peraza Sarausa, *Bibliografía martiana, 1853-1955* (2nd ed. rev.; La Habana, 1956), 720 pp., and his *Cronología de la obra martiana* (La Habana, 1955), 43 pp. The former lists 1,740 original and reprinted works of Martí.

²⁸ Among such works by Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda are: *Del casco al gorro frigio (Mis impresiones de la Gran Guerra)* (La Habana, 1928), 303 pp., which was awarded

Quesada's efforts to make Martí better known and appreciated by his countrymen may be divided into literary production, teaching, and direction of social programs and patriotic institutions.

The private papers of José Martí have remained in the hands of the Quesada family. With these as an indisputable source Quesada, after adding the last volume to his father's collection in 1933, in the same year began his own collection, *Papeles de Martí*, a three-volume work completed in 1935.²⁹ The following year he began the task of editing the comprehensive *Obras completas de Martí*, a collection of seventy-four volumes completed in 1949.³⁰

At the present time Quesada is the Director of the first governmental collection of the *Obras completas de Martí*, which is being published by the Editorial Nacional de Cuba. The first volume appeared May 19, 1963. This latest edition, with the addition of a few letters and manuscripts by Martí, will contain the same materials as the seventy-four volume edition. Quesada writes, "We also plan to publish all the pictures of Martí in one volume and a very carefully prepared index. You can well imagine how my eyesight is, but I do not shrink from this work as my father's and my goal is to print everything Martí wrote and to make it available to students."³¹ Quesada is also editing additional volumes of his father's private and public papers, which he anticipates will be published in the near future. Two volumes were previously brought out by the Academy of History of Cuba in 1948 and 1951.³²

In addition to his official assignment as Director of the latest *Obras completas de Martí*, Quesada in 1963 published *José Martí. Páginas inéditas o dispersas*,³³ and an educational, illustrated booklet, in color, *José Martí*, for children.³⁴

a gold medal in the Inter-American Exposition in Seville in 1930; *Cloroformo (Cuentos)* (Madrid, 1933), 311 pp.; *En Cuba Libre! (Historia documentada y anecdótica del Machadato)* (2 vols.; La Habana, 1938); and *Una misión cubana a México en 1896* (La Habana, 1939), 54 pp., a paper read at the time of his admission to the Cuban Academy of History in 1939.

²⁹ *Papeles de Martí*, ed. Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda (3 vols.; La Habana, 1933-1935). See also *Martí, versos de amor*, ed. Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda (La Habana, 1933), 70 pp.

³⁰ *Obras completas de Martí*, ed. Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda (74 vols.; La Habana, 1936-1949).

³¹ Letter to author from Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, Havana, Cuba, December 11, 1963.

³² Academia de la Historia de Cuba, *Archivo de Gonzalo de Quesada, Epistolario I* (La Habana, 1948), 253 pp.; Academia de la Historia de Cuba, *Archivo de Gonzalo de Quesada, Epistolario II* (La Habana, 1951), 356 pp.

³³ *José Martí. Páginas inéditas o dispersas*, ed. Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda (La Habana, 1963), 316 pp.

³⁴ Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, *José Martí* (La Habana, 1962), 32 pp.

To return to earlier publications about Martí, Quesada's first important treatment appeared in Havana in 1929 as *Martí, periodista*,³⁵ an account of Martí's life as a journalist. This was followed in 1939 by *Facetas de Martí*, a biographical study.³⁶ A similar work appeared in 1948 as *Anecdotario martiano, nuevas facetas de Martí*.³⁷ Quesada's major biography, *Martí, hombre*, was published in 1940, and reprinted in 1944 and 1960, with a preface by Emil Ludwig.³⁸

Two years after the first printing of *Martí, hombre*, Quesada, brought out *Alrededor de la acción en Dos Ríos*, an account of the circumstances of Martí's death.³⁹

In 1943 Quesada saw the publication of his *Mujeres de Martí*,⁴⁰ a biographical study of the women in Martí's life, among them his wife, Carmen Zayas-Bazán; María, the daughter of General Miguel García Granados, former President of Guatemala; and especially, Carmen Miyares de Mantilla, whom Martí loved most deeply of all. Carmen Miyares was the mother of Martí's daughter, María. Both mother and child had a very deep influence on the life of Martí, although this is seldom acknowledged. Cesar Romero, the distinguished actor, and his sister, María, the children of María, and the grandchildren of Martí, have underscored this lack of consideration by other writers in letters to the author.⁴¹

As another aid to students of the life of Martí, Quesada and Orlando Castañeda y Escarra published *Fechas martianas, tabla cronológica de la vida de Martí, y calendario martiana* in 1960.⁴²

Quesada's extensive publications on Martí, including many articles not mentioned here,⁴³ have been accompanied by a long career in teaching. In 1941 he founded the Martí Seminar, a two-year course in the Extension Division of the University of Havana, and he has been its Director ever since. It is a vehicle for intensive study of the life and writings of

³⁵ Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, *Martí, periodista* (La Habana, 1929), 241 pp.

³⁶ Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, *Facetas de Martí* (La Habana, 1939), 241 pp.

³⁷ Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, *Anecdotario martiano, nuevas facetas de Martí* (La Habana, 1948), 209 pp.

³⁸ Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, *Martí, hombre* (La Habana, 1940), 316 pp.

³⁹ Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, *Alrededor de la acción en Dos Ríos* (La Habana, 1942), 101 pp.

⁴⁰ Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, *Mujeres de Martí* (La Habana, 1943), 74 pp.

⁴¹ Letters to author July 5, 1963, and September 16, 1963.

⁴² Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, y Orlando Castañeda y Escarra, *Fechas martianas, tabla cronológica de la vida de Martí, y calendario martiano* (La Habana, 1960), 72 pp.

⁴³ See Fermín Peraza Sarausa, *Bibliografía martiana, 1853-1955*, pp. 511-518 for a partial listing.

the Cuban Apostle. Quesada has also participated in the Cátedra Martiana, a lecture series established in 1950 at the University of Havana to provide a platform for distinguished writers on Martí. For several summers he gave courses on Martí in English at the University of Havana for the benefit of students from the United States.

Graduates of the Martí Seminar are invited to join an organization called the Asociación de los Antiguos Alumnos del Seminario Martiano, which meets in the Fragua Martiana. After the closing of the Museo Nacional José Martí, which Quesada had founded in 1928 he conceived the idea of building a library and cultural center dedicated to Martí. He aptly chose Las Canteras de San Lázaro, an abandoned stone quarry in Havana, where Martí had been sentenced to hard labor as a political prisoner in 1870. Ground for the project was broken in 1950, and a building, with an adjoining park, was inaugurated in 1952 as a national monument, the Fragua Martiana y Rincón Martiano, by the President of the Republic, Carlos Prío Socarrás. The dedication preceded by one year the widely-celebrated Centennial of the birth of Martí in 1953.

With the Fragua as headquarters, Quesada has directed numerous patriotic and literary activities, including the publication of *Patria*, a monthly journal, founded in 1944 and named after the newspaper which Martí edited in New York. Activities at the Fragua have been too many to mention in detail here.⁴⁴ To cite only a few, there have been yearly solicitations of funds to provide bassinets and clothing for children born on January 28, the anniversary of Martí's birth; establishment of "Grupos Infantiles" to spread the patriotic teachings of the Apostle; founding of a recreation center in the country, "Los Pinos Nuevos," in honor of Martí; and patriotic meetings. The Fragua also contains a library of books by and about Martí, and many items that belonged to him—his desk, prisoner's chains, and historic documents, such as the original *Manifiesto de Montecristi*.⁴⁵

In deference to Quesada's wishes, further exploration of his extensive activities on behalf of Martí will not be made here, since he writes, "Please don't write too much of yours truly. I still insist that the real credit for saving Martí's writings goes to my father, who zealously guarded his papers from loss, deterioration, or falling into unworthy hands."⁴⁶ This disclaimer, however, should in no way obscure Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda's very important services to Martí.

⁴⁴ See Richard B. Gray, *José Martí*, pp. 111-118.

⁴⁵ Richard B. Gray, "José Martí and Social Revolution in Cuba," *Journal of Inter-American Studies*, V (April, 1963), 249-256.

⁴⁶ Letter to author from Gonzalo de Quesada y Miranda, December 11, 1963.

Many articles and books have been written about Martí in the past thirty years. The most complete bibliography, by Fermín Peraza y Sarausa, lists over 10,000 items, and of these more than one hundred are full-length books.⁴⁷ Nevertheless, in 1933 when Quesada was struggling to publish the last volume in his father's collection, he found it very difficult to locate a publisher. Later, writing in 1947, he complained, "Today publishing houses fight for an opportunity to make known the works of Martí, and at that time nobody wanted to aid me in the task of finishing the work begun by my father."⁴⁸

The Spanish-speaking world is well aware of the stature of José Martí as a writer and patriot. Perhaps the way to that appreciation and understanding was prepared by some of the greatest writers of Latin America and Spain. Among them was Gabriela Mistral, recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1945, who said of the Cuban Apostle in 1920,

I venerate Martí, I have a tender and penetrating admiration for him, and when I mention his name, it is more than just four syllables that I speak. His was the beautiful soul supreme and the true initiator of modernism—of a renovation of spirit and form—in our American literature.⁴⁹

In 1928 Fernando de los Ríos said of Martí,

My pretensions are humble: I come to give my offering to the memory of the most moving, profound, and compassionate personality that the Spanish soul has produced up to now in the Americas.⁵⁰

In the opinion of Andrés Iduarte, the well-known Mexican author, writing in 1945,

No other Hispanic American has known the United States so well nor has admired and divulged so much the grandeur of its institutions and its men of letters and its government With regard to his life, so fundamentally American because of his status as a well-rounded Hispanic American and a New Yorker in action, there is in Martí a continental spirit which we do not find in any other man of his time.⁵¹

One more estimate of Martí should be cited here. It is by Juan Ramón Jiménez, Spanish poet in exile in Puerto Rico and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1956.

⁴⁷ Fermín Peraza Sarausa, *Bibliografía martiana, 1853-1955*.

⁴⁸ *Obras completas de Martí*, LXX, 13.

⁴⁹ Letter from Gabriela Mistral to Federico Henríquez y Carvajal, Temuco, Chile, noviembre de 1920, in *Social*, VI (mayo de 1921), 64.

⁵⁰ Fernando de los Ríos, "Reflexiones en torno al sentido de la vida en Martí," *Archivo José Martí*, IV (enero-diciembre de 1947), 21-30.

⁵¹ Andrés Iduarte, *Martí, escritor* (México, 1945), p. 23.

Darío owed him [Martí] a great deal, Unamuno quite a bit, and Spain and Spanish America, in large part, are indebted to him for making known the poets of the United States. Martí, in his travels of exile . . . incorporated the very best of the United States into Hispanic America and Spain better than any other writer in the Spanish language.⁵²

Many other writers, including Rubén Darío, Rufino Blanco Fombona, and Amado Nervo have indicated their high esteem for the Cuban author and patriot.

For some strange reason Martí has remained relatively unknown and unappreciated in the United States. His name is not unfamiliar in Tampa, Key West, and Miami, Florida, where he is honored by busts in public parks. He is recognized by North American students of Latin American history and literature, but, prior to the 1965 edition, *Encyclopedia Britannica* had not published his biography.⁵³

Ironically, his long residence in the United States (1880-1895) as a writer for the *New York Sun*, his career as a revolutionist for Cuban independence, and his extensive reputation as an interpreter to Latin America of United States customs, literature, and politics have received scant attention from scholars in this country.

Until the appearance of the author's *José Martí, Cuban Patriot*, no North American had ventured to bring a book about Martí into print. Several biographies have been translated into English, namely, Jorge Mañach's *Martí, Apostle of Freedom*,⁵⁴ and Félix Lizaso's *Martí, Martyr of Cuban Independence*.⁵⁵ A slender volume by Manuel Pedro González, *José Martí, Epic Chronicler of the United States in the Eighties*,⁵⁶ is another contribution in English by a Cuban.

Juan de Onís, on the 100th anniversary of Martí's birth brought out a book of translations with the title *The America of José Martí*.⁵⁷ It consisted of Martí's sensitive appreciations and character sketches of such noted contemporaries as General Grant, Roscoe Conkling, Jesse James, Peter Cooper, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. With these few exceptions, however, the great bulk of Martí's writings and the works

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 302.

⁵³ Letter to author from the Board of Editors, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Chicago, Illinois, July 19, 1963.

⁵⁴ Jorge Mañach, *Martí, Apostle of Freedom*, trans. Coley Taylor (New York, 1950), 363 pp.

⁵⁵ Félix Lizaso, *Martí, Martyr of Cuban Independence*, trans. Esther E. Shuler (Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1953), 260 pp.

⁵⁶ Manuel Pedro González, *José Martí, Epic Chronicler of the United States in the Eighties* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1953), 79 pp.

⁵⁷ *The America of José Martí*, ed. and trans. Juan de Onís (New York, 1953), 335 pp.

about him are reserved for readers of Spanish. Hopefully Quesada's important biography, *Martí, hombre*, may some day be made available in an English translation.

The Quesadas have not been alone in the Spanish-speaking world as biographers and editors of José Martí. Their dedication to the preservation of his works and the promulgation of his spirit, however, are unexcelled, and probably will never be equalled. To quote Martí, "Every man is born a king, the task is for him to find the tools to build himself a throne."⁵⁸ The Quesadas, father and son, have built lasting monuments on the inheritance left by Martí in his literary will, and they richly deserve the gratitude of their countrymen and students of the Apostle's life and writings. As long as José Martí is read and emulated by Cubans inside and outside of Cuba, the torch of liberty will never be extinguished, and the blessings of independence will not be forgotten.

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⁵⁸ *Obras completas de Martí*, XXIX, 19.