

volume of plates—numbering 631 in the list of illustrations, but running to 713 by actual count. Because they were printed on stock paper, their quality is not high, but this is the most extensive published collection of Charleston architectural photographs. Given the number of things Waddell wants to talk about, the plates cannot be sequential, and it is cumbersome to constantly flip back and forth from plate 30 to plate 494 to plate 262A. There are also enough mistakes in the text references to plates to be irritating. But these are minor problems that detract little from the enormity of Waddell's undertaking. While his book does not supersede all earlier books on Charleston architecture, it is an impressive contribution and scholars will be debating his conclusions for a long time to come.

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*Cuban Confederate Colonel: The Life of Ambrosio José Gonzales.* By Antonio Rafael de la Cova. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2003. Pp. xxx, 537; \$59.95, cloth.)

Throughout the twentieth century, Ambrosio José Gonzales remained a forgotten historical personage. During the 1850s, however, the Cuban native prominently participated in the ongoing insurrectionary movement to liberate the island from Spanish colonial rule. He was a key liaison between those native rebels and the American military adventurers, known as filibusters, seeking to conquer Cuba. After such ventures were forestalled repeatedly, Gonzales chose to settle in South Carolina. Accordingly, in April 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate army, eventually gaining the rank of colonel. Despite his notable career, he died in relative obscurity in New York City in 1893. Subsequently, Gonzales's early career usually gained a cursory review in the various monographs dealing with the filibustering movement. By writing *Cuban Confederate Colonel*, the author has reestablished Gonzales's historical importance.

A scion of an affluent Cuban family, Gonzales was born on October 3, 1818, in Matanzas, Cuba. By 1828 his father had enrolled him at the French Institute, a military academy in New York City, where he established a lifelong friendship with Pierre G. T. Beauregard, the future Confederate general. For the remainder of his life, Gonzales displayed a marked affinity for American culture. A precocious linguist, he was fluent in several languages, especially English. He ultimately returned to Cuba to teach school as well as earn a law degree at the University of Havana.

At the age of twenty, he became active within Cuban revolutionary politics. Apparently, Gonzales and his associates were not averse to the prospect of eventual annexation by the United States. Due to his proficiency

in English, he became a key liaison with prominent American sympathizers. On behalf of General Narciso Lopez, the foremost rebel leader, Gonzales traveled extensively throughout the United States and cultivated friendships with prominent southern political leaders, including John C. Calhoun, Jefferson Davis, and John Anthony Quitman. An especially intriguing episode, revealed in *Cuban Confederate General*, was Gonzales's unsuccessful effort in New York City during August 1849 to recruit Colonel Robert E. Lee's military services for a projected invasion of Cuba. Interestingly, none of Lee's major biographers have connected his evident ties with the filibustering movement.

Since Cuba possessed a slave system, the annexation movement was particularly popular with white southerners. Consequently, Gonzales made many sojourns throughout the southern states, including South Carolina. In 1851, during a lengthy stopover in Charleston, he became friends with William Elliott, a prominent planter-politician from Beaufort District. Gonzales began a regular correspondence with various members of the Elliott family, and he cultivated a romantic relationship with Harriet "Hattie" Rutledge Elliott, his friend's teenage daughter.

Meanwhile, several filibustering expeditions into Cuba were abject military failures. It seems that by 1853 Gonzales had virtually abandoned revolutionary politics and decided to settle permanently in South Carolina. He married Harriet Elliott on April 17, 1856, at her father's estate, Oak Lawn Plantation. In the five years prior to the Civil War, Gonzales pursued several abortive business ventures.

Through General Beauregard's influence, on April 18, 1861, Gonzales was permitted to join the Confederate army as a volunteer aide-de-camp. He was one of only approximately seventy Cuban natives to participate in the Civil War, and upon being promoted to colonel, he attained the highest rank of any Cuban expatriate serving on either side. Apparently, though, an elevation to a generalship was damaged by his firm friendship with Beauregard. By 1862 Beauregard and President Jefferson Davis had become bitter enemies. The president ignored several recommendations that Gonzales be promoted to brigadier-general, and Major General Robert E. Lee refused to comply with Gonzales's requests that he intervene on his behalf. In any case, Gonzales spent most of the war as chief of artillery within the Department of South Carolina. His most notable combat experience occurred on November 30, 1864, at the Battle of Honey Hill, a minor Confederate victory. He was serving with Major General Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina when the war concluded in April 1865.

For the remainder of his life, Gonzales struggled to attain financial security. After assuring Spanish authorities that he possessed no further interest in the independence movement, by 1869 Gonzales had returned to Cuba, but he was unable to earn a living even in his homeland. On

September 17, 1869, his wife tragically died during a yellow fever outbreak. Following her passing, the widower went back to South Carolina, where he left his children with various of his wife's relatives. He generally maintained sporadic contact with his offspring after 1869. At one point, in effort to contact his deceased spouse's spirit, a bereaved Gonzales fatuously sought a shady spiritual medium's assistance. He resided in various locales, notably New York City, while his health steadily deteriorated. On July 31, 1893, he died at St. Barnabas Hospital in New York City, four years prior to the Spanish-American War.

Throughout *Cuban Confederate Colonel*, the author provides readers with a well-written, readable text. De la Cova skillfully utilizes the majority of extant, primary manuscript collections involving Gonzales to be found within archives in Cuba, Spain, and the United States. Unlike various other biographers, the author does not submerge Gonzales amidst voluminous contextual information; instead, he includes a comprehensive bibliography of relevant secondary works with the monograph. There is one important aspect of Gonzales's personal life, however, that is not explored adequately.

Doubtless, the handsome, debonair Cuban could have secured a rich widow for a second wife, thereby gaining financial security during his latter years. Throughout adulthood, many women certainly were attracted to Gonzales, but he was no philanderer and genuinely loved his wife. Furthermore, he consciously remained a widower after her death. This admirable quality ultimately brought considerable personal pain to Gonzales.

Apparently, Emily Elliott, his sister-in-law, expected to marry the widower. The author suggests that she had been infatuated with the Cuban since 1855 and never accepted the proposition that Gonzales was intent upon remaining faithful to his wife's memory. Consequently, by 1872 the bitter woman was attempting systematically to alienate the Gonzales children from their father. Other members of the Elliott family assisted in this vindictive effort, as well. Fortunately, in 1884 an adult Ambrose Gonzales resumed personal contact with his father, and through Ambrose's positive influence, his siblings did likewise. The author, though, never fully connects the various strands of this major drama within Gonzales's life, and he does not highlight the reality that Gonzales was not an irresponsible, feckless adventurer, devoid of character.

In any case, *Cuban Confederate Colonel* is a useful addition to the historical literature dealing with both the antebellum American filibustering movement and the Civil War. Professional historians and the general reading public alike will find this detailed biography most informative.