Luis Aury Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78083382

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009074

Prepared by Margaret McAleer

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April
Collection Summary
Title: Luis Aury Papers
Span Dates: 1801-1911
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1801-1822)
ID No.: MSS83382
Creator: Aury, Luis
Extent: 62 items
Extent: 1 container
Extent: 0.25 linear feet
Language: Collection material in French and Spanish
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78083382
Summary: French privateer and governor of an independent republic which he established in Galveston, Texas. Correspondence, legal records, and other papers relating to Aury's experiences as a member of French naval forces sent to Hispaniola in 1802, corsair conducting raids on English and Spanish ships in the Caribbean Sea, naval commander for the United Provinces of Rio del Plata (Provincias Unidas del Rio de la Plata), and governor of an independent republic in Galveston, Texas.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Aury, Luis.

Subjects
Privateering--Caribbean Sea.

Places
France--History, Naval--19th century.
Galveston (Tex.)--History.
Hispaniola--History.
Provincias Unidas del Rio de la Plata--History, Naval.
Texas--History--1810-1821.

Occupations
Naval officers.
Privateers.

Provenance
The papers of Luis Aury, French privateer and governor of an independent republic in Galveston, Texas, from 1816 to 1817, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1995. A commission was transferred from the Manuscript Division's Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection in 1996.

Processing History
The papers of Luis Aury were arranged and described in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2009.
Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Luis Aury is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Luis Aury are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Luis Aury Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Luis Aury (circa 1787-circa 1821) span the years 1801-1911, with the bulk of the material dating from 1801 to 1822. The papers, written in French and Spanish, include originals and copies of correspondence, records relating to the settlement of Aury's estate, legal documents, a commission, and a newspaper. The correspondence consists largely of letters written by Aury to his family between 1801 and 1816. One of the earliest of these, written while Aury was still an apprentice, describes his experiences as a member of French naval forces sent to Saint-Dominigue in 1802. Letters after 1808 recount his exploits as a corsair conducting raids on English and Spanish ships in the Caribbean.

Financial records relating to the settlement of Aury's estate in 1821 include a ledger and other accounts which provide information on his activities as naval commander in the Caribbean on behalf of the United Provinces of South America (later renamed the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata). The records list, among other things, Aury's expenses, ships, prize cargoes, and personal property as well as the names of his creditors, officers, and crew.

Other items include a commission authorizing raids on Spanish ships which was signed by Aury while governor of an independent republic established by him in Galveston, Texas, in 1816. An edition of a Paris newspaper, Le Constitutionnel, contains a brief summary of Aury's activities from 1818 to October 1819.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.
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