



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Roland T. Ely papers

1951-1961

MssCol 4366

Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2018

Summary

Creator: Ely, Roland T., 1924-

Title: Roland T. Ely papers

Date: 1951-1961

Size: .67 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Roland T. Ely.

Abstract: Roland T. (Roland Taylor) Ely (1924-2014) was an American historian, known for his work on New York City merchant and banker Moses Taylor (1806-1882) and sugar production in 19th-century Cuba. The Roland T. Ely papers, 1951-1961, contain his slide presentation "Moses Taylor and the Cuban Trade, 1832-1882," describing his use of The New York Public Library's Moses Taylor Papers and his research in Cuba while a doctoral student. Also included are some of Ely's research computations on Moses Taylor's business finances; typescripts of his academic writings on contemporary United States-Latin American relations; documents relating to a film project promoting inter-American relations by Student-to-Student, Inc. with the Princeton Film Center; copies of awards received from the governments of Argentina and Ecuador; and copied news clippings relating to Ely's professional activities and his research in Cuba, with some loose printed matter. A few items are in Spanish.

Preferred citation: Roland T. Ely papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English English and Spanish.

Processing note: Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2018

Creator History

Roland T. (Roland Taylor) Ely (1924-2014) was an American historian, known for his work on New York City merchant and banker Moses Taylor (1806-1882) and sugar production in 19th-century Cuba. He is also known for hosting Fidel Castro at his house during Castro's visit to Princeton, New Jersey in 1959. Ely received his B.A. degree from Princeton University (1946) and his M.A. and Ph.D degrees from

Harvard University (1949, 1959), studying with maritime historian Robert G. Albion. His Harvard Ph.D thesis, *From counting-house to cane field: Moses Taylor and the Cuban sugar planter in the reign of Isabel II, 1833-1868*, was translated and published as *Cuando reinaba su majestad el azúcar* (Buenos Aires, 1963). A Fulbright scholar, he held professorships and visiting professorships in Latin American studies at various universities. Ely taught at Rutgers University and Northern Illinois University, and spent the latter part of his career at Universidad de Los Andes in Mérida, Venezuela. Roland T. Ely died in Mérida in 2014.

Scope and Content Note

The Roland T. Ely papers, 1951-1961, contain his slide presentation "Moses Taylor and the Cuban Trade, 1832-1882," describing his use of The New York Public Library's Moses Taylor Papers and his research in Cuba while a doctoral student. Also included are some of Ely's research computations on Moses Taylor's business finances; typescripts of his academic writings on contemporary United States-Latin American relations; documents relating to a film project promoting inter-American relations by Student-to-Student, Inc. with the Princeton Film Center; copies of awards received from the governments of Argentina and Ecuador; and copied news clippings relating to Ely's professional activities and his research in Cuba, with some loose printed matter. A few items are in Spanish.

The slide presentation comprises a typescript narration, two boxes of glass color stereograph slides shot by Ely, an accompanying Esso map of Cuba marked by Ely, and a photostatic copy of a Moses Taylor portrait. The text and slides are marked as a duplicate set. The spoken presentation consists of an introduction (9 pages), and text (60 pages) keyed to each slide in Boxes I and II (30 slides each). Ely's stereoscopic slide viewer is included in the collection.

Roland Taylor Ely presented "Moses Taylor and the Cuban Sugar Trade, 1832-1882" before an unidentified audience in Princeton, New Jersey, probably in the late 1950s. The slides were created during the course of his doctoral research on Taylor (no apparent relation), which began in 1951. The introduction describes the life and career of Moses Taylor (1806-1882), with reference to the portrait and the map showing locations visited by Ely. The first box of slides describes his work organizing, and conducting research in, the unprocessed Moses Taylor papers at The New York Public Library, and similar labors in the papers of Tomás Terry, Taylor's business associate, at Cienfuegos, Cuba. Also depicted is the "central" (sugar mill) Constancia, owned by Fernando de la Riva, and his estate "Hormiguera," where Ely stayed during his time at Cienfuegos. Ely's discussion of Taylor's business with sugar planters in the valley near Trinidad carries over into box II. Box II then describes his visits to old sugar plantations in the provinces of Matanzas and Oriente under the guidance of Cuban sugar industrialist Julio Lobo (1898-1983) and his younger daughter, Miss [María Luisa] Lobo. Ely concludes with a trip to Santiago de Cuba to see old sugar and coffee plantations, in connection with his own family history. The slides include images of the Lobos, Ely and his wife, and house guests at the Lobo residence at the central "Tinguaro" in Matanzas. Julio Lobo fled Cuba in 1960 as a result of Fidel Castro's nationalization of the sugar industry. There is no mention of Castro or Lobo's loss of assets in the presentation.

Key Terms

Subjects

Archives -- Processing
Coffee industry -- Cuba -- History

Latin Americanists -- United States
Merchants -- New York (State) -- New York
Slavery -- Cuba -- History
Sugar trade -- Cuba -- History

Occupations

Capitalists and financiers
Historians.
Merchants.
Teachers.

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Color slides
Maps (documents)
Typescripts

Geographic Names

Cuba -- Description and travel
Latin America -- Study and teaching (Higher) -- United States

Names

Ely, Roland T., 1924-
Lobo, Julio, 1898-1983
Taylor, Moses, 1806-1882
Harvard University -- Alumni and alumnae
Princeton University -- Alumni and alumnae

Container List

- Slide presentation "Moses Taylor and the Cuban Sugar Trade, 1832-1882"
- b. 1 f. 1 Typescript narration 1950s
 - b. 1 f. 2 Esso Standard Oil Company map, Repu_blica de Cuba undated
 - b. 1 f. 3 Portrait of Moses Taylor undated (Photocopy.)
 - b. 2 Slide box I 1950s
 - b. 2 Slide box II 1950s
 - b. 2 Slide viewer
 - b. 1 f. 4 Dissertation research computations 1950s
 - b. 1 f. 5 Writings, documents, awards, news clippings 1951-1961
Most items are copies.