

**Memory of the World Register - Nomination Form**  
**Venezuela - General Archive of the Nation - Writings of The Liberator Simón Bolívar**

**Abstract**

The work of Simón Bolívar is of universal importance. His writings constitute a political, social and military record which is still pertinent to the affairs of American and European countries. The importance of his actions is immeasurable and his political thought and vision of the future are incomparable.

**Identity and Location**

**Name of the Documentary Heritage:** Writings of the liberator Simón Bolívar

**Country:** Venezuela

**State, Province or Region:** Caracas, Federal District

**Address:** Av. Urdaneta, Esquinas de Santa Capilla y Carmelitas, N° 15

**Name of Institution:** General Archive of the Nation

**Legal Information**

**Owner:** The nominated documentary heritage is owned by the Venezuelan nation

**Custodian:** Ministry of Internal Affairs. Ceremonial and Historical Heritage Department representing the General Archive of the Nation.

**Legal Status:**

**Category of ownership:** Public

**Details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage:**

- National Archive Law, articles 1, 4, 11, 12, 15

- Regulations of General Archive of the Nation, article 8, letter d

**Accessibility:** Restricted. Only for researchers

**Copyright status:** -

**Responsible administration:** Ministry of Internal Affairs Ceremonial and Historical Heritage Department with the General Archive of the Nation, a department answerable to the Justice Ministry.

A public institution. Governed by the Law of National Archives and its internal regulations. Funded by a budget allocated by the Justice Ministry for internal finance. The General Archive of the Nation is responsible for organising, conserving, preserving and disseminating the documentary heritage in its custody.

**Identification**

**Description:** The nominated series includes manuscripts and printed items signed by the Liberator Simón Bolívar. The series includes more than 82,000 original documents, including: Family and personal letters; Deeds; Decrees;

Orders; Proclamations; Speeches; War Dispatches; Military appointments; Press publications

**Bibliographic details:** Indexes. the description of the nominated documentary heritage contains all details required by International Rules of Documentary Description.

**Visual documentation:** The documentation has been photocopied and microfilmed.

**History:** The Archive of Pedro Briceño Méndez kept the documents from 1813 to 1818.

Documentation corresponding to the period from 1819 to 1830 was kept by General O'Leary.

The remainder was kept by Juan Francisco Martin.

The section kept by Pedro Briceño Méndez was transferred to Mr Ramón Aspúrua and subsequently transferred to the National History Academy in 1915. The section of the Archive of the Liberator in the keeping of Juan Francisco Martin was transferred to Paris. His nephew Mr José Maria Quiñones kept the Liberator's papers for several years, but the Ministry of Venezuela managed to buy them and add them to the Archive of the Liberator. This archive continues to increase in size as more acquisitions are made from institutions and individuals.

**Bibliography:** Some of the many and varied publications on the Bolivar collection are as follows:

- 9018 Documents published in 27 volumes, up to 1824, by the Board of Publication for the Writings of the Liberator.
- Daniel Florencio O'Leary: *Memorias de O'Leary* [Memoirs of O'Leary]
- Vicente Lecuna: *Papeles de Bolivar y Crónica razonada de la guerra de Bolivar* [Papers of Bolivar and Annotated Account of Bolivar's War]

### **Management Plan**

The nominated series of documents covers everything related to Simón Bolivar's actions in Venezuela and America. This documentation is of such great importance that public access is restricted: access is only permitted to researchers. The General Archive of the Nation is about to move. The building process is nearly completed and we are currently deciding on the best way to organise the material when it is rehoused.

The new home of the General Archive of the Nation is a concrete structure built to house the documentation and designed to meet the Archive's requirements into the next century. The storage areas are distributed over 7 floors, with areas ranging from 2 thousand to 4 thousand square metres per floor. Furnishings are currently being purchased. These have been chosen for their ability to meet practical document storage needs and user requirements.

As far as environmental conditions are concerned, the General Archive of the Nation is equipped with an air conditioning system with state-of-the-art humidity and temperature control. The lighting is sufficient and adequate. The nominated material is currently kept in a 35 m<sup>2</sup> chamber.

It is located on an open metal shelving unit with four shelves measuring 36 cm in height and 33.5 cm in depth. This chamber is not equipped with central air conditioning or air extractors. The lighting is fluorescent. No temperature control is fitted, despite the high temperature and fluctuating relative humidity. Because this documentation is located in the city centre, it has been subject to considerable damage as it is exposed to a high exhaust emission level at virtually all times of day. The documents also display general dirtiness, dye oxidation and fading. The paper is also acidic, badly bound, damaged by improper use and repaired inappropriately with adhesive tape and patches. The General Archive of the Nation is also equipped with fire extinguishers, which are overhauled regularly and No Smoking signs. The building is fumigated twice a year to control biological agents. The area is inspected constantly in order to detect the presence of leaks.

#### **Assessment against the Selection Criteria**

**Influence:** The work of Simón Bolívar is of universal importance. His writings constitute a political, social and military record which is still pertinent to the affairs of American and European countries. The importance of his actions is immeasurable and his political thought and vision of the future are incomparable. Cuba, Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo and Costa Rica also feature in his writings.

**Time:** The Nineteenth Century was a time of great philosophical changes and important due to the introduction of new policies which were to transform America. Throughout twenty years of ceaseless activity, the Liberator scrutinised contemporary American society, studied its history and looked to the future in a never-ending quest for rules which could serve as a guide for his actions. He instigated and oversaw the struggles for independence in the countries which are now the Republics of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. He also oversaw the creation.

**Place:** Venezuela was the birthplace of the emancipatory drive in America and may therefore be considered a place of great historical importance for humanity. Bolívar's political and military actions permeated and dominated the history of the southern continent, from the Caribbean to the Andes on the Pacific Coast.

**People:** Simón Bolívar, the Liberator, was undoubtedly a supreme personage within the documentary heritage of Venezuela and South America. This incomparable figure was privileged to possess all the attributes of both a man of action and a great thinker to the highest degree.

**Contextual assessment:** The Writings of the Liberator constitute a unique documentary source of its kind. It is therefore comparable to any other set of documents whose intrinsic value makes them of key importance in the reconstruction of historical events in various present-day nations: Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela.

**Authenticity:** The nominated documents are authentic and true.

### **Consultation**

**Owner:** The Venezuelan Nation

**Custodian:** Ministry of Internal Affairs. Department of Ceremonial and Historical Heritage, representing the General Archive of the Nation

**Regional or National Memory of the World Committee:** National Memory of the World Committee, Venezuela

### **Independent institutions and experts:**

- Academia Nacional de la Historia [National Academy of History]  
Palacio de las Academias, Av. Universidad Bolsa a San Francisco, Caracas,  
Venezuela Telephone: (58-2) 482-67-70 Fax: (58-2) 481-75-47

- Sociedad Bolivariana de Venezuela [The Bolivarian Society of Venezuela]  
Esquina de San Jacinto, Caracas  
Telephone: 545-72-71

### **Nominator**

**Name:** Guillermo Briceño Porras

**Relationship to documentary heritage:** Director of the National Archive of the Nation

**Contact person:** Guillermo Briceño Porras

**Contact details:** Archivo General de la Nación, Av. Urdaneta, Esquinas Santa Capilla y Carmelitas N° 15, frente al Banco, Central de Venezuela, Caracas, 1010A Venezuela, P. O. Box 3910, Telephone: 02-862-99-07; Fax: 02-81-93-28

### **Assessment of Risk**

**Political climate.** Does not represent a threat to the documentary heritage.

**Environmental and physical conditions:** The General Archive of the Nation is equipped with technological aids for preservation of the documentary resource.

The General Archive of the Nation is currently allocated US\$ 20,000 a year for preservation. This amount is allocated for the maintenance of the equipment used, purchase of materials and physical preparation for material preservation, payment of qualified personnel.

### **Preservation Assessment**

The General Archive of the Nation has its own Conservation and Restoration Department in addition to special computer equipment.