

M2131

SELECTED DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
AND U.S. SUPREME COURT RECORDS  
CONCERNING  
MEXICAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES  
IN THE UNITED STATES,  
1906–1922

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## INTRODUCTION

On the 15 rolls of this microfilm publication, M2131, are reproduced selected records concerning Mexican revolutionary activities in the United States, primarily from 1906 to 1922. These records are part of General Records of the Department of Justice, Record Group (RG) 60, and of the Records of the Supreme Court of the United States, RG 267.

## BACKGROUND

Porfirio Díaz was president of Mexico from 1876 to 1880 and 1884 to 1911. During his years in office, he instituted changes to the Constitution of 1847 that restricted the freedoms of Mexican citizens. Discontent arose. In the 1890s, students and others spoke out in opposition to the government and established the Liberal Party of Mexico to promote their agenda. Ricardo Flores Magón and others wrote against the Mexican Government in periodicals that were suppressed, and he and other writers and revolutionaries were jailed. Flores Magón, his brother Enrique, and others fled to the United States, first to Texas, then to Missouri, and finally to California, to reestablish their periodical, *Regeneración*, and to continue efforts to foment revolution in Mexico. Their 1906 and 1911 attempts at armed coups, directed from U.S. soil, failed to overthrow the Mexican Government. Other Mexicans, such as Baltazar Avilés, ex-governor of Baja California, were also involved in schemes planned and financed on U.S. soil to force regime change.

Revolution to replace Díaz did succeed in Mexico under the leadership of Francisco I. Madero in 1910–13, although civil war continued for several years after Madero was assassinated in 1913. A new constitution was not written until 1917. Flores Magón and his closest followers did not support Madero's revolution. For Flores Magón, who had by 1910 become an anarchist, the 1910 revolution meant simply that a new government was in place, while most of the same social justice issues remained unresolved. Thus he continued to promote radical changes in Mexico through his writings.

The U.S. Department of Justice closely monitored the activities of Flores Magón and other Mexican revolutionaries in the United States because of their activities in planning a revolt in Mexico, as well as their writing and publishing an anarchistic newspaper intended to incite people to take up arms. The Department prosecuted them for violations of U.S. neutrality, espionage, and postal laws. The State Department, concerned about maintaining good relations with the Mexican Government, forwarded to the Justice Department copies of reports received from U.S. consular officials in Mexico. The Justice Department also received reports and copies of court documents from U.S. attorneys and U.S. marshals regarding proceedings against Flores Magón and others.

Ricardo Flores Magón's death in prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on November 21, 1922, marked the end of most of the Department of Justice's concern with Mexican revolutionary activities.

## RECORDS DESCRIPTION

### GENERAL RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (RG 60)

The Department of Justice records reproduced in this microfilm publication are selected files from its Straight Numerical Files, 1904–74, and Classified Subject Files, 1914–41.

The Straight Numerical Files, 1904–74 (ARC Identifier 583895),\* are arranged by a numerical filing system, beginning with the number 25013. Each case or subject, when the first papers on it were filed, was given a consecutive number with no distinction as to class, nature, or subject. This filing scheme was gradually replaced by the Classified Subject Files and other record series. As a general correspondence file, it contains both letters received and copies of letters sent, as well as materials enclosed with the letters. Although the straight numerical files gradually became much less significant after 1912, no uniform rule was applied to divide material between them and the classified subject files. For many subjects both record series must be examined. Files numbered 43718, 90755, and 180187 are included in this microfilm publication.

The Classified Subject Files, 1914–1949, are arranged by a subject-numeric system that uses a numerical file designation usually made up of two or three parts separated by dashes. These files consist of (1) records created in carrying out the Department's responsibilities in matters arising under U.S. laws and on which legal action was taken or considered, and (2) records created by the Department on administrative matters. Included are letters received, copies of letters sent, memorandums, reports, copies of court case papers, and other records. The selected files reproduced in this microfilm publication, 9-19-290 and 71-1-59, are from Class 9, European war matters litigation case files (ARC Identifier 601674), and Class 71, neutrality litigation (ARC Identifier 2789166).

### RECORDS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES (RG 267)

The records of the Supreme Court of the United States reproduced in this microfilm relate to Appellate Case No. 21153, *R. Flores Magón, Antonio I. Villarreal, and Librado Rivera, Appellants v. The United States*, relating to criminal proceedings against the appellants. The records include selected pages from the Court's 1907 and 1908 dockets, selected pages from its 1907 and 1908 minutes, the transcript of the record on appeal from the U.S. Circuit Court, and the Supreme Court's correspondence file.

### GENERAL REMARKS

These records were filmed by National Archives in 1967 in response to a customer order. The National Archives retained a negative copy of the film, which was assigned the number M2131 in 2008 in order to issue it as a National Archives Microfilm Publication.

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\* The Archival Research Catalog (ARC) is available for research online at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

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ROLL	CONTENTS (SERIES/FILE NO.)	DATE SPAN
1	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STRAIGHT NUMERICAL FILES 90755 (part)	Oct. 1906–May 1909 <i>This large multipart file consists of correspondence between the Department of Justice and U.S. attorneys, U.S. marshals, the Department of State, the Mexican government, and private individuals. Also includes copies of affidavits, court documents, correspondence from U.S. consular officials to the Department of State, and so forth.</i>
2	90755 (part)	May 1909–Nov. 1910
3	90755 (part)	Nov. 1910–Mar. 1911
4	90755 (part)	Mar. 1911–Jan. 1912
5	90755 (part)	Feb.–July 1912
6	90755 (part)	July 1912–Feb. 1913
7	90755 (part)	Feb.–May 1913
8	90755 (part)	May 1913–Mar. 1940
9	90755, Misc. Sections 1–3	July–Nov. 1913 <i>Telegrams on the Mexican situation</i>
10	90755, Misc. Section 4	Nov. 1913–July 1914 <i>Telegrams on the Mexican situation</i>
11	90755-A	Jan. 1911–Nov. 1912
12	90755, Enclosures (part)	ca. 1908–ca. 1920 <i>Spanish-language protests regarding arrest on June 14, 1911, of Ricardo Flores Magón, Enrique Flores Magón, Librado Rivera, and Anselmo L. Figueroa.</i>  <i>English-language telegrams and letters</i>  <i>Court records regarding U.S. v. the Schooner Lucy H., U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida</i>  <i>“Preliminary Report of the Subcommittee of Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate,” May 1920</i>

*Transcript of Record, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, No. 2067,  
Antonio De P. Araujo v. United States (1910)*

*Booklet, "Godmanity," by Earl Hill (Kansas City, Mo.: the author, 1908)*

*Booklet, "God's Message to Mankind," by Earl P. Hill (Kansas City, Mo.:  
the author, 1908)*

*Treaty between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic,  
proclaimed July 4, 1848*

*Booklet, "A New Constitution for Mexico," by Henry Brunner (New  
York/Paris: the author, n.d.)*

- 13                    90755, Enclosures (part), transcripts or copies of trial exhibits from *U.S.  
v. Enríque Flores Magón, et al.*

*State Exhibit J, Photos of Revolutionaries, plus the following: A-9 thru Z-9,  
A thru Z, A-2 thru Z-2, A-3 thru Z-3, A-4 thru Z-4, A-5 thru Z-5, A-6  
thru Z-6, A-7 thru Z-7, A-8 thru Z-8, A-10 thru Z-10, A-11 thru G-11*

*Exhibit ZZ*

*Exhibit ZZZ*

*Exhibits A-1 thru Z-1 (possibly part of "Exhibit ZZZ")*

*State Exhibit A*

*State Exhibit B, consisting of 108 numbered items*

*State Exhibit C, consisting of 25 numbered items*

*State Exhibit D, consisting of A-1 thru A-57, B-1 thru B-4, and C thru Z*

*State Exhibit F, consisting of A-1 thru V-1*

*State Exhibit G, newspaper clippings*

*State Exhibit H*

*State Exhibit I*

- 14                    43718                    1904–8  
*Concerns preventing persons in the U.S. from undertaking armed actions  
against the Mexican Government*

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CLASSIFIED SUBJECT FILES

71-1-59                    1928–34

*Concerns the convictions of various persons for conspiracy to violate U.S.  
neutrality laws and related issues before the Special Claims Commission of  
the United States and Mexico*

9-19-290                    1919–22, 1966

*Concerns the conviction and imprisonment of Ricardo Flores Magón and  
others for violations of the Espionage Act and other laws*

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STRAIGHT NUMERICAL FILES

180187                    1916–19

*Correspondence concerning U.S. v. Enríque Flores Magón, et al.,  
indictments of various persons for sending objectionable matter through the  
mails*

90755-I

*Correspondence, affidavits, court documents, and so forth, primarily relating to case of U.S. v. Baltázar Avilés, et al., to invade Baja California, 1914–17*

15 SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

*All items relate to Appellate Case No. 21153, R. Flores Magón, Antonio I. Villarreal and Librado Rivera, Appellants v. The United States.*

Docket, October Term, 1907, unpaginated (two facing pages)

Docket, October Term, 1908, p. 63

Minutes, October Term, 1907, pp. 630–31, May 18–June 1, 1908

Minutes, October Term, 1908

pp. 105–22, Nov. 2–9, 1908

pp. 144–271, Nov. 16, 1908–Jan. 4, 1909

Transcript of Record on Appeal from the Circuit Court of the United States of America, in and for the Southern District of California, Southern Division, in the Matter of the Application of R. Flores Magón, Antonio I. Villarreal, and Librado Rivera, for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. Appeal from a Judgment and Order made February 10, 1908.

Correspondence File