

Special Visitors at the Piñero Collection



The grandchildren of Governor Jesús Piñero. From left to right: Christopher Buck, Leticia Piñero, Lisa Piñero and Carlos Piñero.

On February 6th, the Piñero Collection was privileged to receive a group of very special visitors. The four grandchildren of Governor Piñero visited the Reading Room to learn about the activities that are carried out in the Collection and to learn firsthand about the progress of the construction of the new "Jesús T. Piñero Library". On the following day, the group visited the Piñero House Museum and were able to dialog with the new Director of the Museums and Parks Program of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, Mr. Edgard Rodríguez Luiggi. They learned about plans for future activities at the museum as well as the work being done to maintain the structure.

At the UNE we are grateful to the Piñero family for the deep interest they have always shown in the work being done at the Piñero Collection.

Programming for the month of March



The Jesús T. Piñero Library now has a weekly program of interviews and analysis that is available to the public through our channel on [YouTube](#). In every edition important topics of contemporary Puerto Rico are discussed. Each Thursday morning a new program is made available. We invite our friends to enjoy the programming we have provided for the month of March. This includes:

Thursday, March 6:

Dr. Beatriz Morales —

"The Social Responsibility of Universities"

Thursday, March 13:

Dr. José C. Arroyo Muñoz —

"Rebeldes al poder: Political groups and ideological conflicts in Puerto Rico, 1959—2000"

Thursday, March 20:

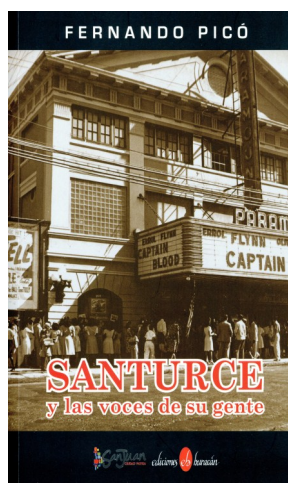
Mr. José Julián Ramírez —

"The Cooperativist Movement in Puerto Rico: Present and Future"

Thursday, March 27:

Dr. Francisco Catalá —

"Promesa rota" and a Critical Look at Puerto Rico's Economy"



BOOKS



Santurce y las voces de su gente

Fernando Picó

Ediciones Huracán (co-edition City of San Juan), 2014

During the past several years, Fernando Picó has shared with the reading public a series of important investigations about a number of communities in Puerto Rico, among them Caimito, Cayey, and Carolina. In his latest publication Picó examines the life of a community which has come to be symbolic of Puerto Rico during the decades of the 30s, 40s and 50s — Santurce. In the introduction to the book the author states that his intention is to “present Santurce at the peak of its urban growth” and takes note of the fact that during the 1940s over half the population of San Juan lived in the area of Santurce. He indicates that his goal is to describe the wide variety of groups, social classes, communities and identities that made up Santurce. Through his descriptions of these groups he seeks to reflect their daily lives and let their voices be heard. He reaffirms the value of description as part of historical narrative and adds that “the old distinction which states the analysis is more scientific than description is today being questioned.”

In order to discover the voices of “santurcinos”, Picó utilizes three important sources: the federal census of Puerto Rico for the years 1930 and 1940 as well as the special PRRA census of 1935; the newspapers of the era as well as the daily logs (“libros de novedades”) of the police stations in Santurce. This particular source, frequently used by the author in previous historical studies, gives a picture of daily life in the streets of Santurce from the point of view of the officers of the law as well as neighbors and visitors. In these reports we learn about the conflicts, needs, and social dynamics of communities such as Barrio Obrero, el Fanguito, Shangai, Tras Talleres as well as Condado and Miramar. In order to hear the variety of voices that make up Santurce, Picó analyzes diverse groups that he identifies by: nationality, occupation, geographical location, as well as their relations with the law. A fascinating section of the book is dedicated to the “transgressors” — those residents who find themselves at one point or another, on “the other side of the law”. This includes the homeless, children who sell chewing gum outside neighborhood theaters, distillers and sellers of “moonshine” as well as those who live a “disordered life” (i.e. prostitutes). The police logs allow us to know these people by name, age and social relations. The logs oftentimes allow the reader to read the arguments that the transgressors offer to defend themselves and their actions.

In the last chapter of the text, Picó describes the ideological visions and constructs of the residents of Santurce. The expectations, fears, prejudices, tastes, solidarities and needs of residents are manifested through the media, the organizations and activities of neighbors. The author analyzes the press, commercial advertising, entertainment offered for example in local movie theaters as well as the favorite radio programs of the era as examples of how the residents of this unique area viewed the world at large as well as their own lives.

Anyone who reads this book will come to the conclusion that Picó deeply enjoyed his investigation of the history of Santurce. His lively and colorful descriptions of everyday life on the streets of Barrio Obrero, Tras Talleres and Condado communicate an enormous respect for the lives of the residents of the zone. This work is an excellent invitation to learn more about the dynamics and patterns of daily life in urban Puerto Rico.



El Fanguito (1936).

Image: Jesús T. Piñero Collection

Caribbean Conferences 14

The series of conferences organized by the Institute of Caribbean Studies of the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras continues this semester. The program for the month of March is as follows:

Comparing Democracy and Elections in Cuba, Venezuela and the United States

Arnold August
Thursday, March 6, 1:00 — 3:30 p.m.

Trujillo's Anti-haitian Project in the Files of Instrucción Pública

Dra. Elissa Lister
Thursday, March 11, 1:00—3:30 p.m.

Book presentation: Historia Dominicana

Orlando Inoa, Pedro San Miguel, Elissa Lister
Thursday, March 13, 10:00—12:00 m

Economy, commerce and society in Haiti and the Dominican Republic

“Growth and Commercial Imbalance in Hispaniola, 1960—2013” Paul Latortue
“Sentence 168-13 in the Context of Dominican-Haitian Relations” Miguel Ceara Hatton
Thursday, March 13, 1:00—3:30 p.m.

“La guagua va en reversa”: Realities of the Dominican Community in Puerto Rico — Dr. Ruth Nina
jueves, 13 de marzo, 6:30—9:00 p.m.

Piñero House Museum Activities for the month of March



Workshop: Sculpture with PVC

March 1, 8, 15, 29
Professor:
Melquíades Rosario
9 am to 12 pm
To reserve a space call:
787-876-0562



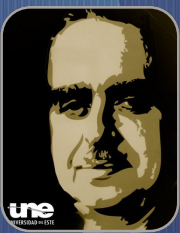
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The **Carta Informativa** is the work of:
Leticia Delgado, Norayma Celpa and Jaime Partsch

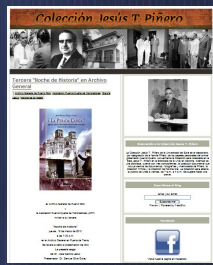
Piñero Reading Room

Monday thru Friday
7:00 am to 5:00 p.m.

Tel. 787-257-7373 ext. 3025



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BLOG

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