



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (186)

TEXT: *Dos norteamericanas en la Guerra de Cuba (1868-1878): Josephine T. del Risco y Eliza Waring de Luaces*

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EDITOR: Jorge Camacho

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I. OVERVIEW & SIGNIFICANCE

This volume is a critical recovery of two essential female testimonies from the Ten Years' War (1868-1878) in Cuba. It presents, for the first time in their original English versions alongside Spanish translations, the accounts of **Eliza Waring de Luaces** and **Josephine T. del Risco**. Both women were American citizens married to Cuban independentists in the Camagüey province.

While traditional historiography focuses on the battlefield, these texts offer a "rear-guard" perspective, documenting domestic survival in the *manigua* (Cuban woods), the management of rebel hospitals, and the profound social displacement caused by the conflict. This edition is vital for studies on *testimonio* literature, 19th-century transnationalism, and the construction of female identity during the birth of the Cuban nation.

II. CONTEXT & CRITICAL APPROACHES (by Jorge Camacho)

The "Testimonio" as Resistance:

Analyze these accounts within the framework of John Beverley's theory of *testimonio*. Discuss how these women speak for themselves rather than "being spoken for" by official male chroniclers.

Examine the significance of the "recovered" text: Eliza Waring's account was previously known only through **José Martí's** Spanish translation; this edition restores the lost original English source.

Gendered Spaces and the "Double Gaze":

Analyze the "conditioned position" of the female narrator. How does their role in curing the wounded, making ammunition, and managing household survival in the woods create a different "archive of grievances" than military logs?

Contrast their accounts with the pro-Spanish satirical press of the time (e.g., *El Moro Muza*), which demonized women in the *manigua* as "immoral" to delegitimize the rebel cause.

Displacement and Identity (Anatopism):

Explore the concept of "anatotism" (objects out of place): using gold pins for sewing or horsehair for toothbrushes. How does the loss of "aristocratic" comforts (mirrors, fine clothing) fuel their transformation into patriots?

Discuss the "before and after" identity shift: from the opulence of sugar mills (*ingenios*) to the destitution of mountain huts.



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The Ambiguity of Abolition:

Analyze the case of the slave **José del Carmen**. Discuss the ideological contradictions of the 1869 Constitution: declaring all inhabitants free while simultaneously considering them "soldiers" bound to their former masters for the duration of the war.

III. ADVANCED DISCUSSION & RESEARCH PROMPTS

The Subversive Jester's Irony: In Eliza Waring's account of the De Mola family massacre, analyze how she uses irony and dehumanizing metaphors for the Spanish troops ("hyenas," "tigers") to galvanize international empathy.

Transnational Loyalty: How did being "protected" American citizens complicate their status? Discuss the psychological trauma of being caught between two countries while fully committed to the Cuban independence cause.

Martí as Translator: Compare the tone of the original English accounts with the linguistic flourishes added by José Martí in his Spanish translation. How does translation serve as a political tool?

Survival as Epic: Does survival in the *manigua* constitute a "heroic" act in these narratives, or is it presented as a raw, anti-heroic struggle for bare existence?

IV. RELATED STOCKCERO RESOURCES

- **Voces de Cuba Bundle:** [*Maestra voluntaria \(Daura Olema\)*](#), [*Dos norteamericanas...*](#), [*Cien botellas en una pared*](#), [*El Che Guevara*](#), [*Entre la Libertad y la Servidumbre*](#).
- **Hispanic Heritage Thinkers Bundle:** [*Entre la Libertad y la Servidumbre*](#), [*Rule of Law: The Path to Freedom*](#), [*Los '90: Otro traspié de Luz del Día*](#), [*La Falacia de la Civilización Occidental*](#), [*El Che Guevara*](#), [*Historia del peronismo III - la violencia*](#), and [*Peregrinación de Luz del Día*](#).

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