

12-1-1997

## From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory>

---

### Recommended Citation

Tampa Bay History (1997) "From the Editors," *Tampa Bay History*. Vol. 19 : Iss. 2 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol19/iss2/2>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Access Journals at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Tampa Bay History by an authorized editor of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact [scholarcommons@usf.edu](mailto:scholarcommons@usf.edu).

## FROM THE EDITORS

The slogan "Think Globally, Act Locally" reflects a new reality of the twentieth century. Revolutionary changes in communication mean that significant events are experienced worldwide, especially during wartime when conflicts have reverberations far from the actual battleground. Both world wars were certainly felt locally, but so too were smaller struggles that changed the lives of distant people who thought globally and acted locally.

One such conflict was the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s, and this issue of *Tampa Bay History* is largely devoted to examining the impact of that struggle on residents of the Tampa Bay area. Sometimes referred to as the first battle of World War II, the Spanish Civil War was a complicated national conflict that was internationalized by the intervention of Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy, which aligned themselves with opponents of the constitutionally created Republic of Spain. This produced an outpouring of support for the Republic from around the globe. In Tampa Spanish immigrants were joined by Cuban and Italian residents in a wide-ranging campaign to defend the Spanish Republic. The sixtieth anniversary of this heroic effort provides an occasion to relate the local impact of an international event that gripped Tampa's immigrant community during the 1930s.

As the credits of the articles in this issue suggest, one person is principally responsible for reconstructing the history of the impact of the Spanish Civil War on Tampa. Ana Varela-Lago, herself an immigrant from Spain, has used her knowledge of Spanish history and Tampa's immigrant community to collect documentation from here and abroad, interview local participants, organize exhibits, and write the story of a crusade that had survived primarily in the memories of aging Tampanans.

In addition to the articles in this issue, three current exhibits in Tampa commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of American aid to the Spanish Republic. One, a locally created exhibit, is temporarily installed at the Centro Asturiano, located on the corner of Nebraska Avenue and Palm Avenue in Ybor City. A national traveling exhibit, entitled "Shouts from the Wall: Posters and Photographs from the Spanish Civil War," is on display at the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum (813-974-4324) from November 10 to December 20, 1997. Finally, the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg (813-823-3767) is featuring an exhibition (until January 1), entitled "The Aura of the Cause: A Photo Album for North American Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War."

This issue also includes an article by James M. Denham, entitled "Bringing Justice to the Frontier: Crime and Punishment in Antebellum Hillsborough County." The article forms part of a recent book that is featured in the book review section.

The year 1998 will mark the anniversary of the Spanish-American War, another international event that had significant local repercussions in the Tampa Bay area. To commemorate the centennial the next issue of *Tampa Bay History* will be devoted entirely to articles, photographs, memoirs, and newspaper reports that tell the story of the impact of the Spanish-American War on the Tampa Bay area.