

Guide to

MS 412

José Antonio Burciaga  
collection

Span Dates, 1972-1996  
Bulk Dates, 1980-1982

1 linear foot, 3 inches and 1  
oversized folder

Preliminary inventory prepared by  
Laura Hollingsed, June 2009

Processed by Desiree Campos  
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José Antonio Burciaga, artist & author of "Undocumented Love," a bilingual collection of Chicano poetry stands by the painting of the same name. Photo by Caroleen Tomaya. '92.

Donated by Maria C. Burciaga, Cynthia Farah, and Margarita Kanavy.

Citation: José Antonio Burciaga collection, 1972-1996, MS 412, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department  
University of Texas at El Paso

## Biographical Sketch

José Antonio “Tony” Burciaga was an artist, writer, and activist born in El Paso, Texas on August 23, 1940. His father, José Cruz Zapata Burciaga was a caretaker for the B’nai Zion Synagogue and his mother, Maria Guadalupe Fernandez, was a former Mexican school teacher.

Tony Burciaga attended St. Patrick Elementary and Cathedral High School in El Paso. He graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso and attended the Corcoran School of Art and the San Francisco Art Institute. He joined the United States Air Force and traveled all around the world. He married Cecilia Preciado in 1972. They had two children, José Antonio Jr. and Rebeca. Cecilia and Tony were resident fellows at the Casa Zapata residence at Stanford University from 1983 to 1994.

Burciaga’s work was influenced by Chicano culture and issues that directly affected the group such as immigration, discrimination, and education. His writings and art often involved humor, a love of language (both Spanish and English), and family. He was a founding member of the comedy troupe, Culture Clash.

He died on October 7, 1996 from cancer.

### References:

Montoya, R., Siguenza, H., and Salinas, R. (1996, October 17). *Adios to ‘a Willy Rogers for Chicanos’*. [partial clipping of this article in collection]

## Series Description

The José Antonio Burciaga Collection is arranged in three series:

### **Series I: Creative Works and Publications, 1972- 1988**

Arranged by format, this series includes articles (photocopies and clippings), drawings, prints, designs, and literary magazines or published works that contain art or articles.

### **Series II: Photographs**

Arranged chronologically, this series contains photographs of Burciaga and his friends

and family at various events. Photos of a Burciaga benefit are also in the series.

### **Series III: Other Materials**

Arranged chronologically, this series includes a letter from the Palabra Nueva Committee, the Burciagas' wedding invitation, an address label, a business card, a list of recent acquisitions, and a course bulletin from Stanford University.

## **Scope and Content Notes**

The José Antonio Burciaga collection spans the years of 1972-1996. The bulk of the collection being from 1980-1982. Types of records found in the collection are newspaper clippings, photocopies of clippings, articles by or about Burciaga, sketches, literary journals, flyers for Culture Clash, mural flyers, and posters. These records document his work as a journalist, artist, muralist and his time as a resident fellow at Stanford University. Most of the articles are in English but the collection includes Spanish versions of the articles. The articles cover issues of immigration, discrimination, Mexican food, history, art, and various aspects of Chicano culture through humor and a critical eye.

The collection is arranged by three series: Creative works, Photographs, and Other materials. The **Creative works and Publications** series contains articles, poems, prints and sketches done by Burciaga. The articles are arranged by format. Drafts and articles about Burciaga are also included in this section. The **Photographs** series includes various photographs of Burciaga, his family, and friends at events. The **Other Materials** series contains flyers, a shipping label, a business card, an invitation to Tony and Cecilia's wedding and a list of recent acquisitions from Stanford University.

## **Provenance Statement**

The collection was donated by Maria C. Burciaga, Cynthia Farah, and Margarita Kanavy.

## **Restrictions**

Art and articles are subject to copyright law.

## **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish material from the José Antonio Burciaga collection must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, José Antonio Burciaga collection, MS 412, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

## Notes to the Researcher

Framed print, "Violinistas," by Burciaga was added to art inventory.

See also:

Burciaga, J. A. (1993). *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo*. Santa Barbara: Joshua Odell Editions, Capra Press, 1993.

Burciaga, J. A., Christensen, C., & Christensen, T. (1997). *In few words: a compendium of Latino folk wit and wisdom: a bilingual collection = En pocas palabras*. San Francisco: Mercury House.

Burciaga, J. A., Gladstein, M. R., & Chacón, D. (2008). *The last supper of Chicano heroes: selected works of José Antonio Burciaga*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Burciaga, J. A. (1976). *Restless serpents: poetry & drawings*. Menlo Park, Ca.: Diseños Literarios.

Burciaga, J. A. (1995). *Spilling the beans*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Joshua Odell Editions.

Burciaga, J. A. (1992). *Undocumented love: a personal anthology of poetry = Amor indocumentado*. San Jose, CA: Chusma House Publications.

Burciaga, J. A. (1988). *Weedee peepo: a collection of essays = Una colección de ensayos*. Edinburg, Tex.: Pan American University Press.

*Photo in finding aid from:*

El Paso Herald-Post Records, MS348, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, University of Texas at El Paso Library

*Father- José Cruz Burciaga*

Interview with José Cruz Burciaga by Oscar J. Martinez, 1974, "Interview no. 143,"  
Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.

<http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/interviews/143/>

José Cruz Burciaga - Casasola Studio

PH041-03-00032-<http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/casasola/2120/preview.jpg>

PH041-03-00058- <http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/casasola/1146/>

## Container List

### Series I: Creative Works and Publications

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Articles (photocopies and clippings)	April 1980- July 1981
1	2	Articles (photocopies and clippings)	August 1981- March 1983
1	3	Articles (photocopies and clippings)	May 1983-1986
1	4	Articles/ Clipping about or owned by Burciaga (photocopies and clippings)	February 1978- November 1987
1	5	<i>Caracol Magazine and Gaceta</i>	June 1976- October 1987
1	6	Drafts (typed and photocopies)	November 1974- Spring 1984
1	7	Drawings	Circa 1970- 1983
1	8	<i>Hispania Journal</i> Vol. 68, No. 4; interview with Burciaga p. 821	December 1985
1	9	Bound photocopies of Burciaga's artwork	Circa 1970s- 1980s
2	1	<i>Fomento Literario</i> Vol.1 No. 3	Invierno (Winter) 1973
2	2	<i>Chicano Perspectives in Literature: A Critical and Annotated Bibliography</i> by Francisco A. Lomeli and Donaldo W. Urioste	1976
2	3	Nahualliandoing poetry in Español/ Nahuatl / English by Caracol	1977
2	4	<i>Vórtice: Literatura, Arte Y Critica</i> , Vol. 2, No. 1	Primavera (Spring)1978
2	5	<i>Revista Chicano-Riquena: Mi Barrio</i> , Año 6, No. 3	1978
2	6	<i>Chismearte: A Publication of the Concilio de Arte Popular</i> Summer Issue Vol. 2, No. 1	1978
2	7	<i>¡Pos Aquí Estamos!</i> by Francisco Santana	1979
2	8	<i>Mango</i> , Vol. 2, Fall/Winter	1979/1980
2	9	<i>Changes &amp; Challenges: City Schools in America</i> , edited by Susan C. Farkas	1983

2	10	<i>Changes &amp; Challenges: City Schools in America</i> , edited by Susan C. Farkas (Duplicate)	1983
2	11	<i>Lowrider Magazine</i>	September 1984
2	12	<i>Huehuetitlan</i> , Números 5& 6	Diciembre (December) 1985
2	13	<i>Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Annual Report 1986</i>	1986
2	14	<i>San Francisco Review of Books</i> , Vol. XII, No. 2	Winter 1987-88
2	15	<i>Artistas México Americanos de San Francisco, California</i>	1987
2	16	<i>Americas 2001</i> , Vol. 1, No. 5	March/April 1988
2	17	Nicaragua (photocopies)	1987-1988
2	18	Large-sized Articles (photocopies and clippings)	1978-1987
3	1	Designs (Felicidades catalog, Nina, Feliz Navidad, Bullcycle, Posada, Paz Raza, Geometric)	1973-1979
3	2	Designs (Los Tres Magos, Occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Viejo and untitled)	1972-1973
3	3	Designs (Despedida and Mujeres, Diseños Catalog, José Antonio Burciaga notecard)	1979
3	4	Designs (Untitled, Three Wise Men, Búho)	1979, undated
3	5	Designs (Cuertlaxochitl, Drink Cultura and Untitled)	1979, 1987
Map Case Drawer 12		Print of Burciaga's parents, newspaper articles from Stanford University publications, articles and "Monumental Bullring" Posters (clippings and photocopies)	1985-1996

### Series II: Photographs

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
3	6	Photographs of José Antonio Burciaga: family members, friends, and events	Circa 1940-1996

**Series III: Other Materials**

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
3	7	Chicano Fellows Program Course Bulletin	1977-1978
3	8	Flyers, mural layout, business card, wedding invitation, letters, address label from original shipping box	February 1978- January 1988
3	9	Lists of recent acquisitions-Mexican American Research Collections-Stanford University Libraries	1986-1988