



*Duplicate also
also in copy of book*

June 4th, 1928.

Sr. J. Meruendano,
Spanish Consul,
P. O. Box 5074,
Ybor City Station,
Tampa, Florida.

My dear Sr. Meruendano:

Replying to your nice letter of May 29th. The St. Augustine people are now suggesting this monument celebration be joined in with the Ponce de Leon celebration next spring. Nothing is settled. Inasmuch as the date in June this year proved to be too early for the completion of all the work the celebration was put off over the summer to avoid the heat period. We are now trying to carry on the necessary conferences east and west to find a date that will be suitable for the greatest number of people.

I sincerely hope this will be at a period that will accommodate your convenience.

May I ask that while you are in Spain and with your Government you do what you can to enlist every cooperation possible. Fundamentally, we recognize the achievements of that Spanish period in this part of America as a great period. The Spanish works and legends still among us are wonderfully interesting. The American people know very little about this history or of these old missions, aqueducts, colonizations and explorations. We would like at this celebration to see the American and the Spanish Governments join in emphasizing this old Spanish period and its relics. We are seeking a detail of Spanish and American naval boats; there will be no difficulty having the American Navy represented.

Letters and considerable information have been sent to your Premier de Rivera and also to the Marquis de los Arcos in Madrid and to the Marquis de Estella, President of the Spanish Government by Spanish gentlemen who took pride and interest in this work and called here and themselves asked if they might cooperate in this way.

It may interest you to know that Spanish art and architecture