

## **MEDEROS Y CABAÑAS DE GONZÁLEZ, ELENA INÉS (1900–1982)**

The legendary, Elena Inés Mederos y Cabañas was born in Cuba in 1900. Influenced by the Cuban Women's Movement, Mederos y Cabañas combined home, motherhood and feminism. She was treasurer of the Alianza Nacional Feminista (1928), demanded inclusion in Pan American Union, and the Cuban delegate to the Inter American Commission of Women of the Pan American Union, a position she held until 1953. From 1931-1961 she was founder and president of the Lyceum Lawn and Tennis Club, a group that encouraged diverse political views, sponsored a public library, provided scholarships for women, and exhibited international and national art. Mederos y Cabañas repudiated the Batista government, and initially supported the Castro Revolution. An exile by 1961, she worked for the United Nations, supported human rights, and the Organization of Cuban Americans on the issue of political prisoners, democracy and political freedom.