



Fall 2010

Araña

THE JOURNAL OF THE SPANISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Spanish
Andorra
FIRST ISSUE

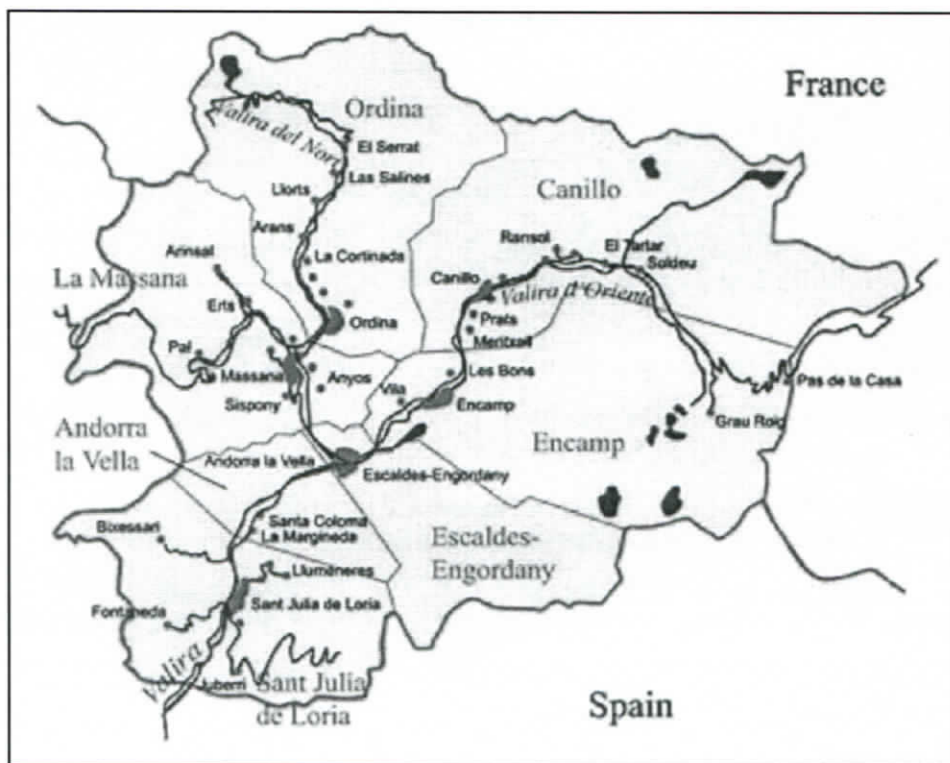
Andorran
"Essays"
St. Augustine
Florida
Joint Issue
Book Review

Spanish Andorra - The Provisional Issue of 1928

by W.A. Jacques

The provisional set of overprints went on sale on 28th March, 1928. However, it must be remembered that the Spanish Post Office in Andorra opened on 1st January 1928 with Andorra la Vella as the head office, and agencies at Encamp, Canillo, La Massana, Les Escaldes, Ordino and San Julian de Loria. Two more agencies, Santa Coloma and Soldeu, were opened later in the year. The stamps used in Andorra during the period 1st Jan - 28th March were the contemporary issues of Spain. These were as follows:-1922/32 side and full face portraits of Alfonso XIII, engraved by Enrique Vacquer; the imperforate 1c yellow green newspaper stamp of 1922, engraved by J. E. Gisbert; and the 1925 Express Letter stamps printed by litho and designed by B. Maura. Examples of stamps used in Andorra during this three month period are rare and the two values most likely to be encountered are the 15c and 25c -these being to prepay the post-card and letter rates to Spain. First day covers are known dated 1st January but backstamped at Seo de Urgel with an appropriate date. Although these covers appear to be genuine it is now accepted that most, if not all, covers were "arranged" some months later by a Spanish dealer with the help of some accommodating agency employee. The agency datestamps were obligingly "turned back" for a few minutes work - no doubt the staff were well compensated for their trouble!

On the surface it may seem strange that the Spanish Post Office could not manage to have Andorran stamps ready for use when the agencies opened on the 1st January. However the creation of the Spanish Post Office in Andorra was precipitated by various events both inside and outside Andorra. In 1878 at a Congress in Paris, the U.P.U. allocated Spain to provide the Postal Administration of Andorra. This was ratified at later conventions but the Spanish authorities did nothing. Many years later in Andorra, the General Council had been persuaded by a man called Weilenmann to try and obtain from the Co-Princes (the



Map of Andorra

Bishop of Seo de Urgel and the President of France) the right to manage Andorra's own postal affairs. Friedrich Weilenmann, a German-Swiss, first visited Andorra in 1925/6 and immediately became attached to the Principality. The General Council recognized him as a man of great ability and integrity and gave him their full backing for his efforts to obtain a postal monopoly for Andorra herself. In brief, Weilenmann had the idea to contract to the General Council as its technical adviser and he envisaged Post Offices, regular issues of stamps, which included charity surcharges. The funds raised from the charity issues were to help provide schools for the Andorrans and the whole scheme was initially to be supervised by Swiss advisers to train the Andorran staff. Weilenmann consulted the U.P.U. at Berne and also obtained Swiss diplomatic introductions for his intended meetings with French and Spanish officials. He then approached the Bishop of Seo de Urgel and the relevant French and Spanish Authorities

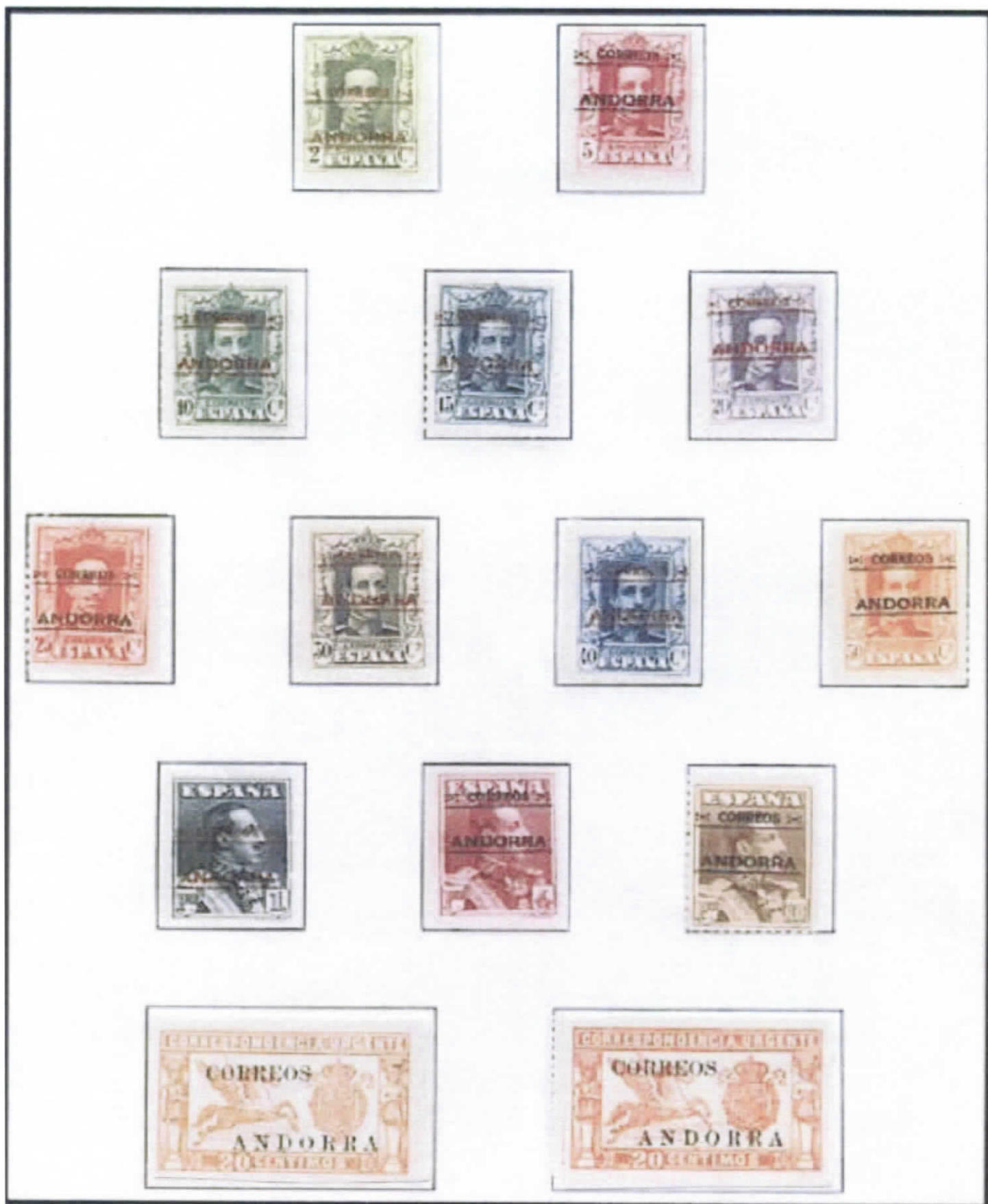
with regard to his proposals. His ideas caused much excitement and consternation in both countries, France realized that the U.P.U. had originally given Spain the postal administration of Andorra and talks with Weilenmann in the summer of 1927 were inconclusive - the French being careful not to get too involved - and more talks were proposed to take place later in the Autumn. As far as the Spanish Authorities were concerned these proposals were the deciding factor that finally pushed them into complying with the wishes of the U.P.U.

The Spanish Authorities feared continued and endless complications with France, and there is little doubt that they did not fancy Swiss advisers in Andorra either. As a result, by a Ministerial Decree (dated 31st October 1927) the Spanish Postal Administration of Andorra was created. Weilenmann and the General Council continued to press for their own proposals and to have the U.P.U. stipula-

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The modern central area of andorra la vella Circa 1950. The post office was nearby.



A mint set of the provisional issue of 1928. The set includes the two printings of the special Delivery stamp. While not perfect, this set sold at a recent U.S. Auction for a substantial premium.



Shades and perforation varieties of the 2 cts. And 10 cts. The two cent value has no control number on the reverse.



The 1928 provisionals are usually off-center. The unificado catalogue suggests well centered copies are worth double the listed value.

ANDORRA

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tions declared void, but to no avail.

Thus, it will be seen that the formation of the Spanish Post Office in Andorra was a hurried and unplanned operation. Coupled with the fact that the Fabric Nacional de Moneda Y Timbre, Madrid (F.N.M.T.) - printers to the Spanish Government - were not renowned for their speed or security, it is rather remarkable that the provisional overprints appeared as early as March 28th. The provisionals comprised thirteen stamps, one of which was an Express value. The twelve normal values were the contemporary Spanish Alfonso portraits overprinted "CORREOS ANDORRA" in two lines. The 2c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 30c, 40c and 1ptas values are overprinted in red and the 5c, 25c, 50c, 4pta. and 10ptas values in black. Some of the former can be found with different shades of the red overprint and it is believed that these are genuine shade differences of ink and are not shades that have been climatically produced, - i.e. exposure to strong light. The larger 20c Express stamp was similarly overprinted "CORREOS ANDORRA" in large black type. It must be noted here that this express stamp is in red and does not have control number on the reverse (except for specimens, which are numbered A000,000). This Express value had a printing of 10,000 stamps and these were soon sold out. It was replaced in the Autumn of 1928 by a similar design which was pale rose in color with control number on reverse,

The 2c value does not have controls on the reverse - this is in common with other Spanish and Andorran 2c stamps. Control numbers indicate the sheet from which the stamp originated and every stamp from the sheet should bear the same number. Control numbers had been applied in Spain since the turn of the century. There are two possible reasons for this, neither of which could really have justified the extra time and expense involved. The obvious reason was as a precaution against forgeries or as a deterrent to forgers. The other reason is that the controls served as a check for the Authorities when searching for stolen stocks sold or held by dishonest kiosk keepers - the security at the F.N.M.T. being very poor.

The stamps used for the overprints were apparently pulled from existing stocks and these had been printed by plates with 100 impressions (10x10) with the exception of the 25c value. This value was the new redrawn type and was printed in sheets of 200. The sheets had top marginal inscriptions followed by the plate number, the latter occurring above the last stamp in the top row. A typical inscription reads:-100 SELLOS DE 5 CENTIMOS * CORREOS * No. 12, and the sheet number is in black in the top right hand corner of the sheet. As the sheets were from stock and were not specially printed for the Andorra overprints it seems likely that sheets from a number of different plates may have been used. However, only the following plates have been recorded so far:- 2c, plates 13,14 and 17; 5c, plates 2, 5 and 12; 10c plates 5 and 11; 15c plates 3 and 11, 50c plate 4; 1pta. plates 1 and 6; 4ptas, plates 1 and 2; 10ptas plates 1 and 2.

These provisionals, and especially the two

Express stamps, are often found with heavy gum creasing. This creasing takes the form of large rectangles and is usually diagonal in relation to the printed stamp. Horizontal ribbing of the gum is also common.

Collectors of Spanish Andorra will already know how difficult it is to obtain well-centered stamps of this country. The 1928 series was atrociously perforated and a large proportion of the stamps are most unsightly. It was recorded not long after issue, that only 20% of the entire printing was "reasonably centered"; and from experience it is very evident that this description refers to any stamp design not cut by the perforations, as the number of well centered stamps available is minimal. In particular, the two top values are very difficult to find with design intact.

The stamps are to be found with three different perforation measurements, comb 12x11-1/2, comb 13x12- 1/2 and line 14. Contrary to what some catalogues infer, some values do not exist in each of the three perforations. Excluding specimen stamps (with control A000,000) the following values/perfs are NOT known:- 2c perf 12x11-1/2, 25c perf 13x12-1/2 and 14, 40c perf 13x12-1/2, 1ptas perf 12x11-1/2 and 10 ptas perf 13x12-1/2. Some values are rare in a particular perf., i.e. 5c perf 14 (only one sheet so far recorded), 30c and 50c perf 13x12-1/2, 1ptas perf 14 - only two sheets of each of these are known.

It is difficult to imagine just what method or procedure was used at the F.N.M.T. in connection with the perforating of this issue. In some instances where only one sheet, in say 50 or 100 sheets, is in a different perforation

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Group of the 15 cts. Value showing the wide range of shades.



The overprint is in red or black depending on the color of the stamp.

ANDORRA

Continued from page 7

to the remainder a possible explanation is that a sheet had been damaged in some way while being perforated and was therefore rejected. Another imperforate sheet would then have to be numbered (to correspond to the damaged sheet), gummed, and then perforated on any machine not in use at the time. The line 14 machine seems to have been used most on these occasions. However, there really is no way to explain why the 15c, 30c and 4ptas values each have all three perforations in a range as small as ten consecutively numbered sheets per value.

The line perf 14 is frequently very ragged due, not only to broken and very worn pins, but because of poor workmanship. Some of these perforations are best measured from the back of the stamp where the "beat" of the pins is sometimes more apparent.

Printings

It would seem the entire 1928 production, from conception to completion, was a real "rush job". This is not only borne out by the perforation peculiarities and vagaries, but by two additional facts. It is recorded that the overprinting involved two separate printings. The first printing produced the full print of all values above and including the 20c and also a small portion of the lower values, 2c to 15c. The second printing comprised a further large printing of these latter four values. When the

stamps were sent to Andorra for sale one hundred sheets of the 1ptas value were apparently not on hand. This became apparent because the sheets of stamps were sold in numerical order and complete sets were purchased all with control A000,000, with the exception of the 1ptas whose control was A000,101. It was not until some thirty or more sheets of this value had been sold (i.e. just over A000,130) that the La Vieja Post Office began to sell from A000,001.

First day covers exist, but similar to those already mentioned previously, these are suspect. These are believed to have been "serviced" in April of 1928, together with the 1st. Jan. 28 F.D.Cs. The editor of "ANDORRA PHILATELIST" - Senor Ernesto Fink of Mexico City - had an interview with the well known Spanish dealer, Carlos Lenze, in 1966. Lenze said that he had not arrived in Andorra until two weeks after the provisionals were issued and admitted making up numerous covers and having these appropriately dated and backstamped to his wishes.

Shades

There is a profusion of shades in this issue, partly due, no doubt, to being taken from stock. The 20cts value in particular has a vast range of shades, (at least six), closely followed by the 10cts (five) and 15cts (four). Care must be taken with the 20c values, however, as this color seems rather susceptible to bright sunlight and as a consequence very pale shades should be ignored. Also there is little doubt that the printers mixed their ink in rather small

quantities and little effort was made to match the colors of previous printings. The 5c value exists in an aniline state, the color showing through clearly to the back of the stamp. This variety is usually to be found in the batch of sheets numbered from A000,060 to A000,150, but some sheets do not show this state and others show it only to a slight degree. The aniline variety is generally confined to stamps perforated 13x12-1/2 but by a strange twist of fate the rare sheet perf 14 (A000,068) is also slightly aniline too. All sheets of the 25cts value have a tendency towards an aniline nature. There are many really fine shades in the provisionals, the best of which perhaps is the 10cts in a superb shade of bright deep green from sheet A000,635 perforated 13x12. This is not to be confused with the dark green shade perf 14 listed by many catalogues.

Overprint Varieties

With due regard to the haste in which this series was prepared it is quite remarkable how well the overprint setting stood up to its work. There are, however, some good varieties and most of these are due to wear of the printing type. On row 1 Nos. 6 and 7 the word "CORREOS" often appears to be in thicker letters, the whole word has a blurred appearance and the letters "RR" very noticeable in this respect. The majority of the letters of "ANDORRA" are broken to a smaller or greater extent on row 6 No. 3 and this flaw also extends to the adjoining stamp, row 6 No. 4, on which the letters "AND" are damaged at the top. These varieties have been seen on all



In 1953 Spanish Andorra commemorated the 25th anniversary of the "first stamps" with a special cancel and cachets.

values up to and including the 20c. On row 10, No. 5 the first "R" of "ANDORRA" became broken at some stage of the printing and "ANDOFRA" resulted. Constant varieties affecting the "dots" in the "dots-dash" motif to the left of "CORREOS" have also been noted, again on all values to the 20c. On row 3 No. 6 and Row 4, No. 6 the top left (north west) dot is missing. A similar variety occurs on row 5 No. 3 and row 6 No. 1 but in these two positions it is the bottom left (south west) dot that is missing. The rule below "ANDORRA" is broken in several positions. The most extensive of these breaks is to be found on row 5, No. 3, below the first "R" of "ANDORRA". Other breaks on the same rule are to be found as follows:- row 2, No. 7 (broken below "O"), row 5, No. 1 (broken below "N" and row 5 No. 2 (broken below first "A"). All of these are to be found on the majority of sheets of values 2c to 20c inclusive (perf 13x12-1/2). The Express stamps have a number of varieties affecting the basic stamp as these were printed by litho. These varieties are mainly broken frame-lines but there are other good examples too. In particular, the first "C" of "CORRESPONDENCIA" is partially blocked out by color and looks like an "L". There is also a white line through Pegasus (stated to occur on row 3 No. 1) and a white line through "20" has been recorded also. Broken letters also occur in the overprints on

the Express values but, at the moment, these would not appear to be of a constant nature.

Control Number Varieties

The control numbers on the reverse of the stamps have a variety section too. These take the form of double controls. The stamps were numbered by machine in vertical rows often held in a slotted frame, and sometimes, because of a fault by the operator or the machines a column would be numbered twice. Because the sheets were numbered vertically it is possible to have a vertical pair of stamps with both having the double controls or a horizontal pair with one double control and one normal. The following double controls have been recorded:- 10c A000,121 (perf 14); 15c A000,151 and A000,232 (perf 13X12-1/2) and 4ptas A000,001 (perf 14). It is also possible for a row of controls to appear in the sheet margin and also for a vertical row of stamps to be completely without controls at all. However, the only record of any 1928 issue of genuine status without control is of a used copy of the 5c value. This does not include the 2c and the original 20c Express of course!

Specimen Stamps

Specimen stamps have previously been mentioned and these were stamps used for

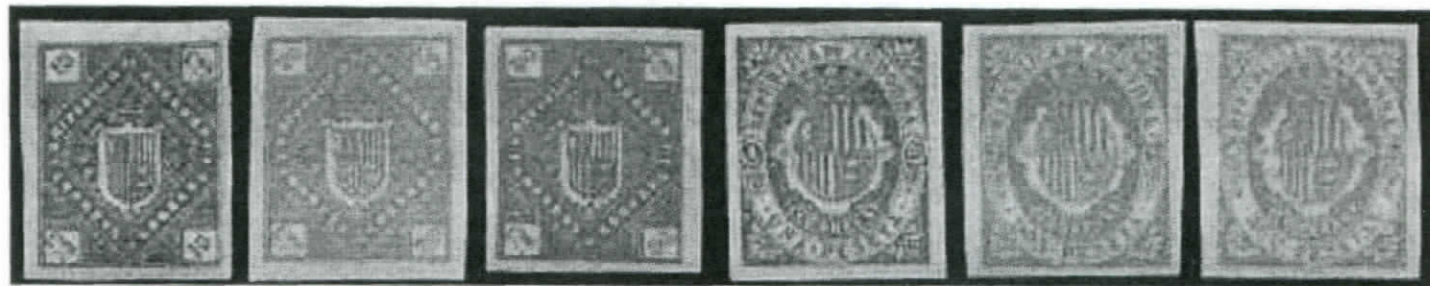
deposit at the U.P.U. in Berne and for circulation among delegates at the various conferences held by the U.P.U. The specimens always have the control A000,000 (except 2c values which are not numbered) and in this issue are usually in a slightly different shade to any of the issued values. Both dies of the 25c exist with specimen control and, similar to the normal issue, many values have specimens in different perforations. The 5c and 10ptas are known only perf 14, the 30c, 40c and 1ptas are known only perf 13x12-1/2, the 10c, 15c, 20c, 50c and 4ptas. are known both perf 13x12-1/2 and 14, while the 25c is known in all three perfs -with Die I being perf 13x12. Specimen stamps are sometimes found with the gum rather badly disturbed. These are from special presentation sheets circulated among delegates to the U.P.U. The sheets were divided into roughly printed squares, the black lines of which may also be found adhering to the stamps. The sheets had top marginal inscription of "TIMBRES DE COMMUNICATIONES" and at the bottom "CORREOS ANDORRA" was underlined with an irregular wavy line.

Original version appeared in:

Valira Torrent - bulletin of the Andorran Philatelic Study Circle. Issue 1, pp7-10 (Jan 1975).

Andorran "Essays"

By Roy Dehn



The torres essays – imperforate examples

It is remarkable how few Andorran "essays" there are. When Italy was unified in 1861 several printers both in and outside Italy hastened to submit suggestions. It is surprising therefore that the Co-Princes were not offered several speculative essays at the end of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth. While it is true that chances of any of the essays being accepted were remote, there might have been a good philatelic market for the rejected stock.

The best known essays probably fall into this category. They are described in W. A. Jacques *"Andorra -Andorre"* at p.22. Although there does not appear to be any evidence that the essays produced for Placido Ramon de Torres were officially submitted, Spanish catalogues give them a kind of status by listing them. There is no doubt that de Torres was dishonest and a distributor of forgeries, particularly of Spanish stamps produced for him by Miguel Rodriguez. He was arrested in Germany and in the United States on selling trips. He was concerned in the production of a series of phantoms associated with a Moroccan revolt in 1895 against the Spaniards at Melilla. Soldiers' letters were handled free, but de Torres managed with the help of associates to persuade some soldiers to use the de Torres "stickers" as well. This gave them a deceptive appearance of

authenticity. It seems to me that anyone willing to put himself to the trouble of persuading fighting soldiers to use his labels might very well, on an earlier or later occasion, have at least submitted his "essays" to one of the Co-Princes.

The most distinguished essays are those produced by H. Douchet, a Belgian designer. Since they are works of considerable craftsmanship and do not appear ever to have been offered generally on the philatelic market, we are entitled to consider them to have been serious speculative essays. They were illustrated in an attractive souvenir sheet prepared in November 1978 by the Vegueria Episcopal in Andorra la Vella. The souvenir sheet dates these essays in 1910. The Belgian writer A. de Haene (*Etude sur les Faux Timbres d'Europe* p.44) dates them from 1895, but since he does not describe the stamps it is uncertain which Douchet essays are meant.

I have the progressive proofs of the 30c and 40c values and it may interest members to have a description of these. As readers of *Andorra - Andorre* will be aware the design incorporates a coat of arms framed in a circle carrying the legend PRINCIPAT SOBERA DE ANDORRA. Below the circle are three panels with the value inscribed and in the corners above are the curved heads of the Episcopal staff. The progressive proofs of both values are simi-

lar, though with changes of color, so the description of the 30c can be applied also to the 40c. The printing method is letterpress.

Proof number, Description

- 1 Blue background to circle and to part of thin outside frame. Dotted background to area between arms and circle and to part of outside frame (a)
- 2 Purple dotted background to arms, panels with Episcopal staffs, and value panels (b)
- 3 a + b
- 4 Green dotted background to circle and green outline to all details in the design including lettering in the circle, but not including the arms (c)
- 5 a+b+c
- 6 Outline of arms in olive grey (d)
- 7 a+b+c+d
- 8 Value (CENTIMS 30 CENTIMS) in dark olive grey (e)
- 9 Final essay a + b + c + d + e

Another Douchet design shows a map of Andorra in a frame. I have black and white progressive proofs of this, but do not have a proof of the complete design. There are four separate proofs of the map. The last of these includes many place names and a small crest. The earlier ones show roads (?), roads plus some indication of peaks, roads plus some indication of gradient (?). There

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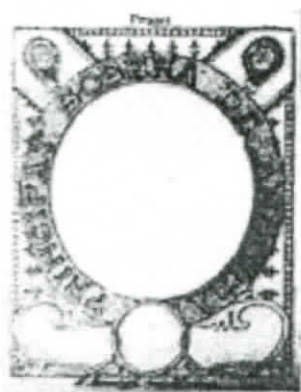
ANDORRA

1875



(Not Issued)

Complete group of the torres essays. Listed in the unificado catalogue under spanish andorra. Dated at 1875 and featuring the arms of andorra with 12 values, perf and imperf. The catalogue says this issue was officially approved and was not put into circulation because of a dispute with france.



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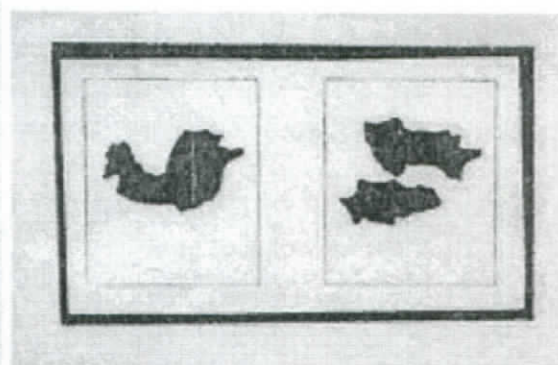
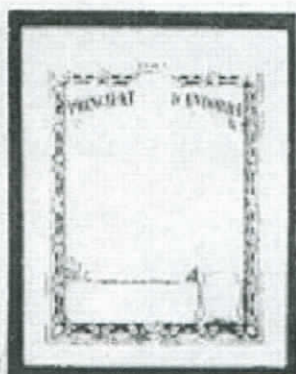
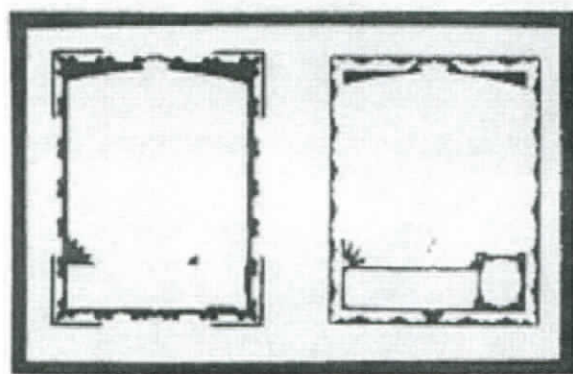


8



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Douchet essays circa 1910 with andorra coat of arms as central feature.



Map of andorra essay types.

ESSAYS

Continued from page 10

are thirteen value panels varying from 2c to 10p. which give the value in words and figures. Three proofs are provided of the outer frame. It would appear that as in the other essays the frame was to be built up in three stages - two separate colors partially superimposed followed by a final very detailed line block of the frame and legend. The outer frame measures 22mm x 27mm. Finally there are two proofs apparently to provide overall shading to the map.

Finally I have an attractive series of twenty, all of a single design but printed in varying colors on different colored paper. Some of the shades are very similar. The Vegueria Episcopal has selected eighteen of these for reproduction in a souvenir sheet.

It has been suggested that these are also by H. Douchet. They came into my possession on the same group of album pages, which contained what are certainly Douchet essays and which, have been described above. However the design is by no means

as detailed and these essays are basically an assembly of printers fleurons made interesting by variations in the color of the paper and the ink. They appear to be printed letterpress. The outside frame is a Greek fret. In the center is what might be a carpet composed of fleurons. In the band between the "carpet" and the outer frame appears at top and bottom the legend PRINCIPAT/ D'ANDORRA. At either side of the center appear the figures of value (5); there is no indication in what currency. The remaining space between the central carpet and the frame is taken up by what appear to be olive branches. The design measures 23.5mm by 27mm. I am not aware that these essays, color trials or whatever they may be, have ever been offered on the philatelic market. They may be serious speculative essays prepared by an author who hoped to interest one of the Co-Princes; they may simply be the work of a stamp-collecting printer's apprentice enjoying himself. Together they form a colorful assembly.



Essay of uncertain origin and vintage.

SPAIN



FROM CLASSICS TO MODERN SETS,
COVERS, POSTAL HISTORY
VARIETIES › CIVIL-WAR › SPANISH EX-COLONIES

THEY ALL CAN BE FOUND, IN THE
**MAIL AUCTIONS AND
MONTHLY PRICE LISTS**

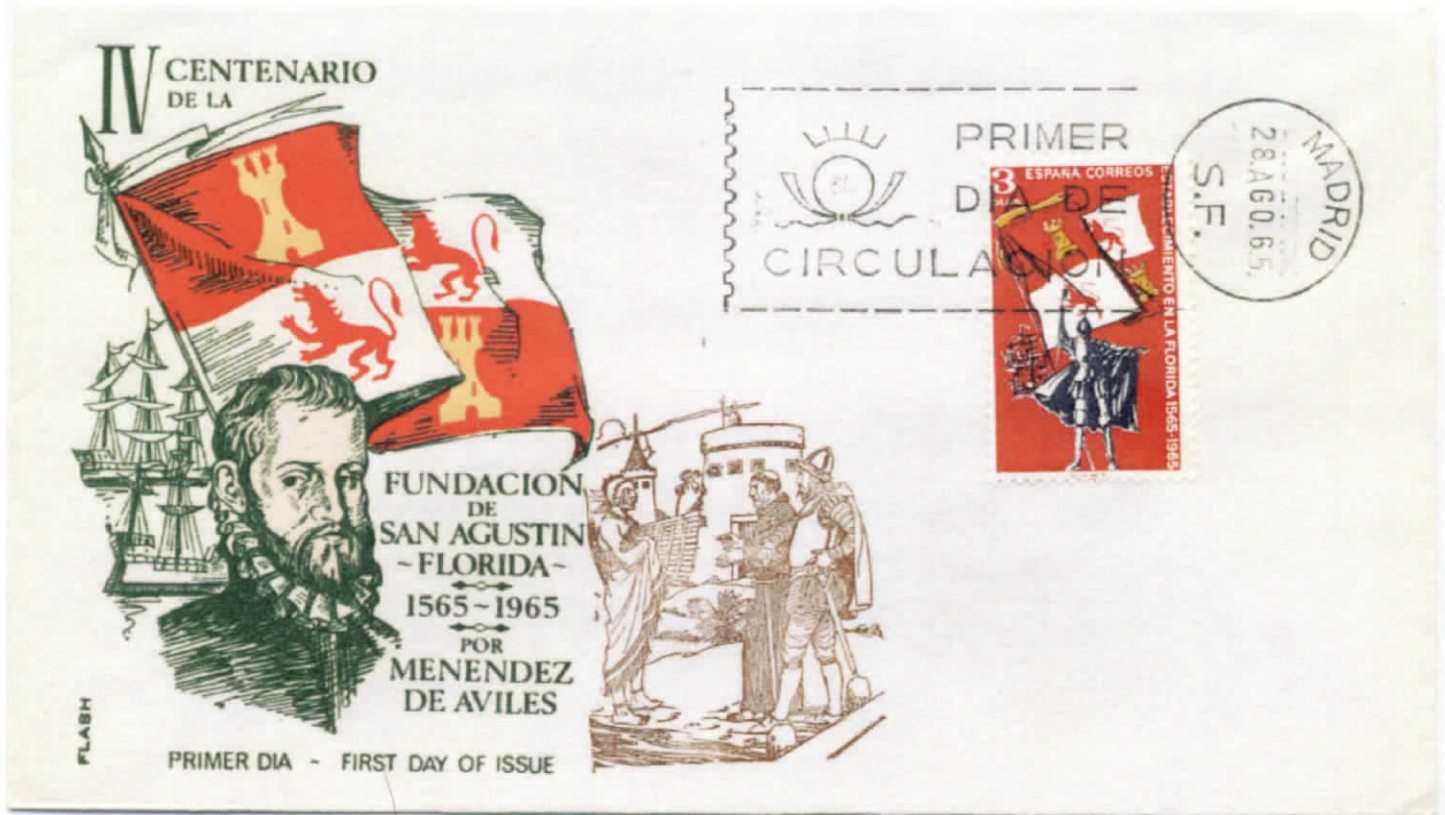
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St. Augustine, Florida (1565 – 1965)

Spain And The United States Produce a Joint Issue For St. Augustine's Quadricentennial

By Bob Penn



Spanish first day cover with special madrid first day cancel. The spanish version of the stamp is a 3 ptas value in the same design and colors. It was printed at f.N.M.T in sheets of 75.

In August 1965, postal history was made when Spain and the United States both issued stamps of almost identical design to commemorate St. Augustine, Florida's 400th anniversary. A true first joint issue for both countries, the postal services had First Day ceremonies in Madrid and St. Augustine on August 28th. This effort required cooperation and inspiration.

History

Perhaps the basic inspiration was St. Augustine's status as the oldest city in the United States.

Forty-two years before the English set foot

in Jamestown and 55 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, St. Augustine was the thriving capital city of La Florida, a territory spanning from Newfoundland to the Florida Keys. As the first permanent European settlement in the new World, St. Augustine bears an exceptional history as the oldest city in the continental United States. The Spanish referred to St. Augustine as la siempre fiel ciudad, "the ever-faithful city".

In 1565, King Phillip II of Spain appointed Don Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, the country's most experienced Admiral, Governor of La Florida. King Phillip II, instructed him to explore and colonize the territory and elimi-

nate any other European settlements, specifically the French settlement at Fort Caroline. Menéndez set sail in June 1565 intending to follow his king's orders and hoping to find his son, Juan, who disappeared at sea off la Florida's coast.

Along the voyage, Menéndez's fleet encountered storms that claimed several ships. Despite many tribulations, they first sighted land on August 28th, the feast day of Augustine of Hippo. In honor of this day, Menéndez arrived at Fort Caroline, where the French were anchored off the St. Johns bar. After a quick battle, the French retreated and Menéndez sailed south.

Plate block of four of the u.S. Version of the stamp. Printing was on the giori press in four panes of 50 stamps. Perforation 12 in red, yellow and black inks.. U.S. First day cover with standard u.S.P.S. First day cancel.



On September 8, 1565, Menendez anchored in St. Augustine with about 500 soldiers, 200 sailors and 100 passengers. The landing was a momentous occasion, with banners swaying in the coastal wind, trumpets sounding, the artillery booming and hopeful settlers cheering.

Menendez came ashore at the Timucuan village of Seloy, much to the surprise of its residents, who were filled with awe and curiosity at the enormous galleons and unfamiliar Spanish culture.

Relative peace was achieved with the natives. The new arrivals established a fort and began building a European style town. Soon, St. Augustine was a thriving community with a fort, church, hospital, merchant shops and many homes. It became the capital of La Florida.

Joint Issue Development

A Quadricentennial is no small event. If it's for the founding of a city, civic pride demands a special celebration. Every Fall, St. Augustine holds a festival to mark its founding. But 1965 was that magic "400" number. Some special things were proposed.

Forty-five years later it is difficult to find records of the people and organizations that

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FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

The cover is by artmaster and shows the historic city gate.

QUADRICENTENNIAL



FIRST PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

THE FIRST PERMANENT EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT IN THE NEW WORLD WAS ESTABLISHED AT ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, BY SPANISH COLONISTS IN SEPTEMBER, 1565. **AN EARLIER SETTLEMENT, AT PENSACOLA, WAS STARTED IN 1559 BUT WAS LATER ABANDONED** THE 1565 COLONY, OLDEST CONTINUOUS SETTLEMENT, MARKED THE BEGINNING OF EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION ON THIS CONTINENT.

C. STEPHEN ANDERSON



U.S. First day cachet designed by S. Anderson. According to the Scott catalogue listing the designer of the stamp was Brook Temple.



first day of issue

Pedro Menéndez De Avilés
SPANISH EXPLORER AND FOUNDER
OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
FIRST PERMANENT EUROPEAN
SETTLEMENT IN THE NEW WORLD

1565-1965
QUADRICENTENNIAL
of
ST. AUGUSTINE
FLORIDA



Block of four on first day cachet produced by art craft. The U.S. Stamp is a five cent value. Errors do exist with the yellow color missing.

ST. AUGUSTINE

Continued from page 15

pushed for a St. Augustine stamp. Even more demanding was the proposal for a joint issue. The U.S. postal authorities and the Spanish postal authorities had to be persuaded that this "dual" issue would be a good deal for everybody. The people that did the initial work deserve much credit. Somehow, everything came together on August 28, 1965. First Day

ceremonies were held in St. Augustine and in Madrid.

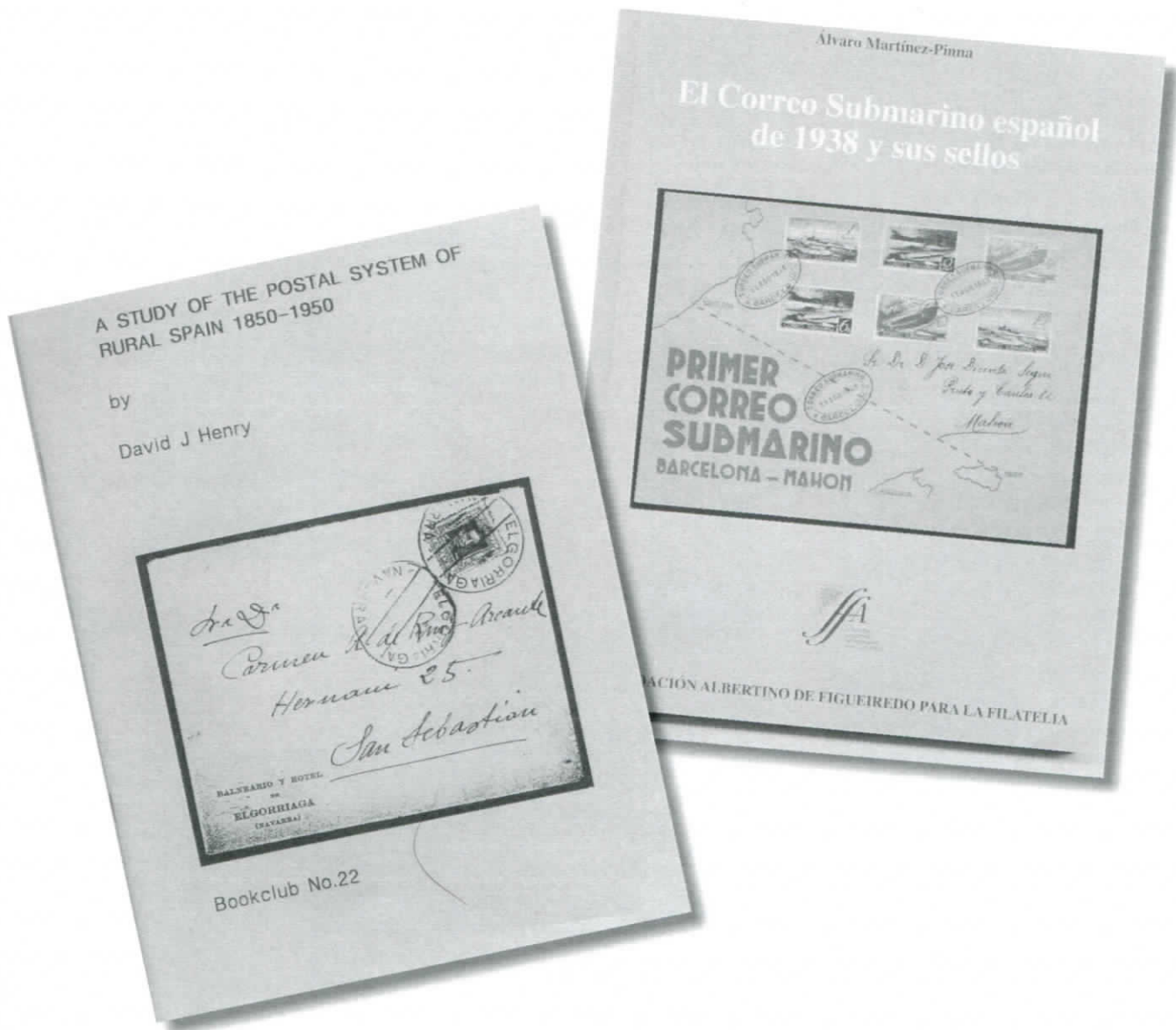
My search for a copy of the First Day ceremony brochure has so far been unsuccessful. The U.S. postal service has produced many attractive First Day event items. Usually, they include details on the stamp, its design and a list of distinguished guests and speakers. I have been told there was one for the St. Augustine ceremony. A copy remains elusive.

The stamps did inspire First day cachets. The three U.S. ones illustrated, have a simple

St. Augustine U.S.P.S. first Day cancel. The one Spanish First Day cover illustrated has the additional feature of a special Madrid First Day of Issue cancel. I have not seen a First Day cover with both stamps. Perhaps this was not possible or not permitted and perhaps, some bold collector found a way to get both stamps on a First Day cover.

We welcome any additional information of the St. Augustine issues.

New Books Available to SPS Members



• John Barone, our Spanish Philatelic librarian has notified us that he has added three new books to the organization's library since the last issue of ARANA. The books are purchased with the proceeds from dues. All books in the SPS library may be borrowed by members for the price of postage. John can also supply you with a list of other books available. Simply contact John Barone (stamptracks@netscape.net) Box 70, Holtsville, New York, 11742. His phone number is 631-289-6359.

• Martínez-Pinna, Alvaro, El correo submarine español de 1938 y sus sellos, (Madrid , 2004). 143 pp. Plates are in color. Lavishly illustrated and written in Spanish.

• Gálvez, Manuel ed., Catálogo especializado de sellos de recargo sobretasa beneficios de España: 1926-59. 120 pp.

• Henry, David J. A Study of the Postal System of Rural Spain 1850-1950, Bookclub No. 22 (East Sussex, England) 82 pp.

A new "Estudio de AFINET"

By Eduardo Martin, AFINET

A new book from the Estudio de AFINET is number 5 in a series. Titled, "El Baile de los Matasellos, 1850-1899" (The Dance of the Postmarks), it is written by Julio Penas Artero, member of AFINET and of the Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately.

A review of the Spanish postmarks from 1850 to 1899, with a new system of numeration called the "creation year" system. With about 150 pages, in DIN A4 format, full color, this Study continues the line of AFINET's editorial works which are very popular. This was confirmed by the previous Estudio Number 4, an interesting, visual, affordable and varied work for your library.

Our review of the text found it easy to read, full of valuable information and in an attractive format. Some of the content will generate discussion and further research study. Particularly, I want to mention that our friend, Julio has spent almost two years working intensely on the book. He accumulated much information including marks, postmarks and stamps with various cancellations. He completed one of the best projects to date for a general catalogue of early postmarks. It includes those of Isabel II issues and in the Provisional Government and First Republic. It ends with a tour of the postmarks of the Alfonso XII and Alfonso XIII reigns, up to the beginning of the 20th century.

From various sources, Julio has obtained significant information and unified it all in a single book on postal marks. Even marks without classification or denomination or unknown dates of use are listed. He describes the time periods of use, various types of marks used in each period and specific ink colors known.

Introducing a large number of postmarks



with the "creation year" system, he makes it easier to recognize what postmarks we are observing when we are giving an opinion, explanation or description.

Definitely an authentic work of investigation, compiled research and diversity of information, the book is a valuable aid to the collector. It demonstrates why AFINET's book series is more usable for the majority of collectors. This fifth book in the series is a great addition; an effective work with a lot of quality.

We recommend you order a copy—you will find it a great reference book. The author combines information with humor to tell the story of the official appearance, disappearance and use of the different 19th century postmarks.

Ordering A Copy

Non members: 15 Euros + P&H Members: 12 Euros

Orders to: afinet@afinet.org or by snail

mail: AFINET, Apartado 112, 20120 Hernani, Spain.

Previous Estudios de AFINET:

No.1 "El Correo Oficial y la tarifa especial para las corporaciones provinciales y municipales, 1854-1866" by Julio D. Penas Artero. (The Official Mail and the special rate for provincial and local authorities.)

No.2 "El error de color castaño amarillento del sello de 15cts. De la emission del Pelon de Alfonso XIII, 1889-1901", by Benito Abalos Villaro. (The brown yellow error of the 15cts. Pelon issue.)

No.3 "Las marcas de porteo de Asturias", by Orlando Perez Torres. (The Pre-adhesive mail rate postmarks in Asturias.)

No.4 "La Leyenda de la Maja Desnuda: Estudio de la emission Quinta de Goya de 1930", by Eugenio de Quesada. (The Legend of the Maja: A study of the Quinta de Goya issue.)

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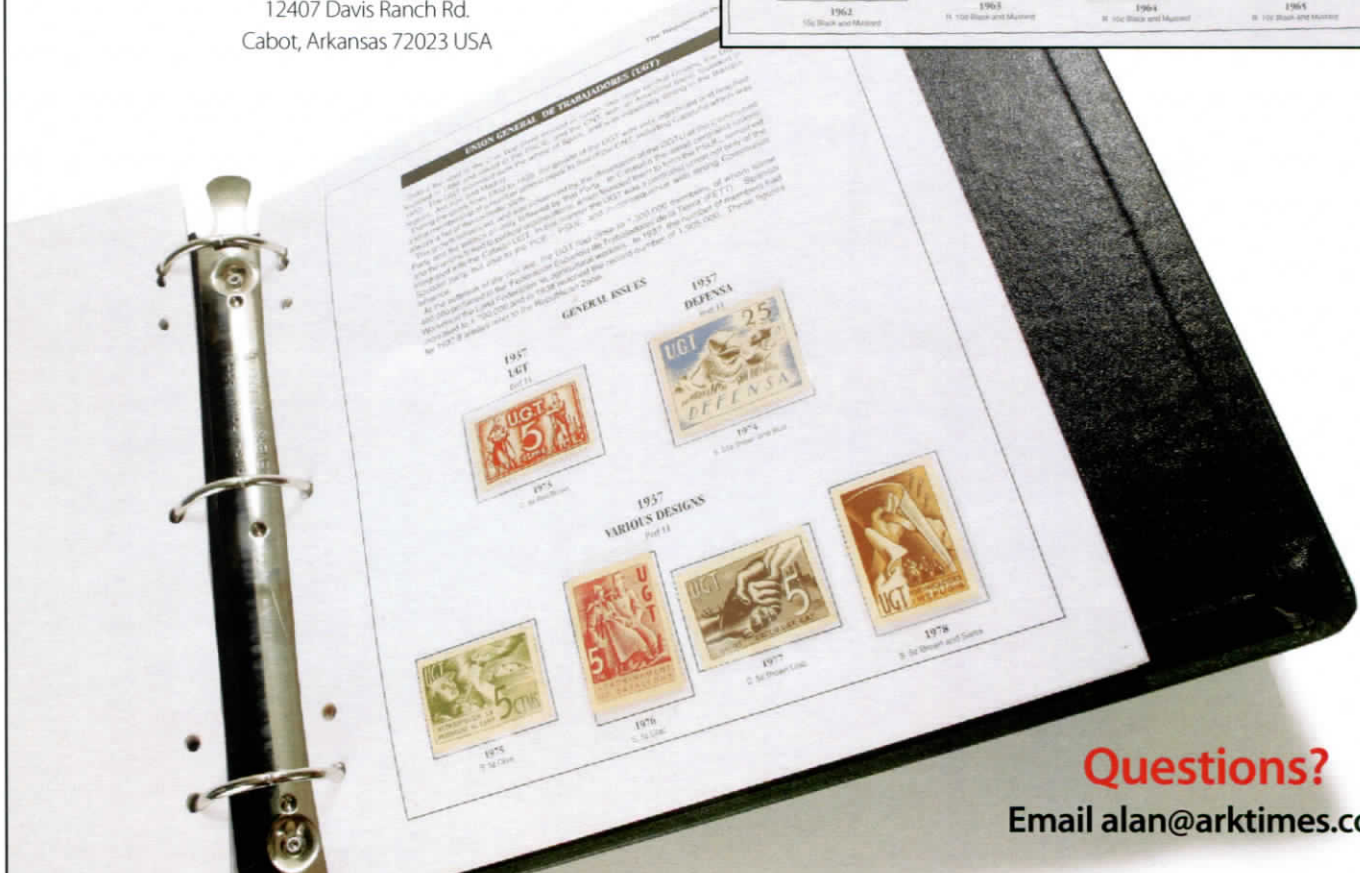
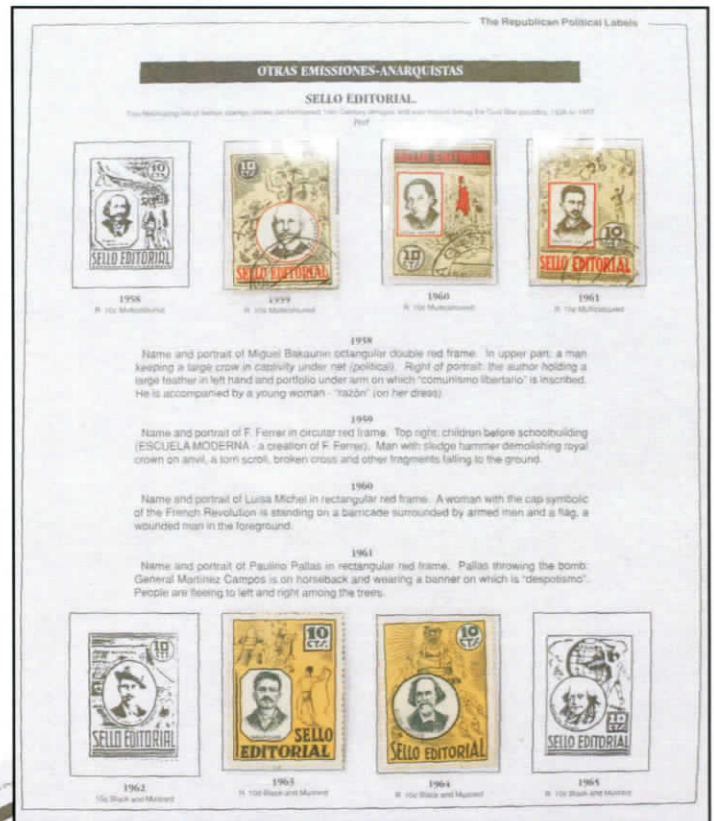
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