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THE DEFINITIVE ISSUES OF



ALFONSO XIII, 1901-1931

By B. Burch

As a collector of limited means, I have long been interested in these four definitive issues of Spain, all featuring Alfonso XIII and all bearing a control number on the reverse. Used copies of most values of most issues are plentiful and provide a fascinating field of study. In particular the control numbers themselves provide much useful information, which when related to colour, perforation and postmark help one to piece together the story.

As with most Spanish stamps the source of a good deal of information on the Alfonso definitive is the great Galvez catalogue, the last edition of which (1960) Mr. Shelley reprinted some years ago, thereby doing all Spanish collectors a great service. For two of the issues, the 'Cadet' issue of 1901 (so-called after the King's uniform) and the 'Medallion' issue 1909 (so-called after the design in the

form of a medallion), Mr. Van Dam has published a useful series of articles. In the notes which follow I have not attempted to repeat all the data from Galvez or Van Dam, or indeed from the Gibbons and Unificado catalogues; rather I have limited myself to notes of those points where I think these sources may be incorrect, or which have not been covered by them at all.



I intend to deal not only with the Cadet and Medallion issues, but also with the two issues engraved by Enrique Vaquer and issued 1922-30 and 1930-31. One interesting link between all four is that Vaquer was a pupil of Bartolomeo Maura, designer of the first two issues, and there are indeed common features to the design of all four. So that readers may judge the validity of my conclusions I have added in each case a note of the quantities of each stamp at present in my possession; in all





cases, compared with the quantity printed, my samples are tiny, but I hope they are sufficiently representative to give some credence to my conclusions. Almost all the copies I have are used, but the totals of course include such mint stamps as I have: copies on cover are separately listed.

THE CADET ISSUE 1901-1905 (UN.241-255)

Mr. Van Dam's articles on this issue, originally published in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, were reprinted in *Spain* volume 6 number 4 – volume 7 Number 2, October 1974 – February 1975. On the stamps themselves, Mr. Van Dam follows Galvez quite closely. He adds, of course, new and valuable information, particularly on the cancellations to be found on this issue, which is one of his specialties. From my own examination of this issue I believe there are a number of new points that can be made concerning the stamps; and on one or two matters I venture to suggest that even Galvez may be wrong.

It will be well known that the Cadet issue was the first to carry, on each stamp, control number which denoted the sheet, each stamp from a given sheet carrying the same number. (The 1875 issue had 'control numbers' of a rather different kind – in this case the numbers ranged from 1 to 100 and denoted the position of each stamp on the sheet, but every sheet had the same series of numbers). There is a long note on the possible reasons for the introduction of control numbers on to each stamp in Mr. Van Dam's articles, and I have no new observation to make on this question. Presumably they were seen as some kind of security device.

TABLE 1
Quantities examined of the Cadet issue

Value	Off Cover		On Cover
	Six-figure control	Control + letter	(both series)
2c	5	7	1
5c	12	20	4
10c	16	30	14
15c blue-blk	19	Does not exist	1
15c mauve	37	22	1
15c violet	Does not exist	92	1
20c	2	7	-
25c	18	61	5
30c	4	8	-
40c olive	6	Does not exist	-
40c pink	Does not exist	4	1
50c	9	20	1
1p	6	13	-
4p	1	Does not exist	-
10p	-	Does not exist	-

(a) Dates of the issue

The conventional dates given for this issue are 1901-1905, the earlier date being the date of issue of the first printings, with a six-figure control number. Now such a control series could clearly only accommodate a million sheets of each value numbered 000000 – 999999 (the 000000 sheet, in this and later issues, was used for presentation purposes). It seems that by 1902 the 15c, the heaviest used value, had already reached the end of the sequences; originally issued in blue-black, the colour was later changed to mauve, but the new colour followed on the control series where the blue-black stamps finished. This first control series has a blue control number, for the most part printed in short, squarish figures. In 1902 this first sequence was completed, and a second six-figure sequence was started, distinguished from the first only by green control figures, taller and slimmer than those found on the first three-quarters of the blue series. Galvez lists this second series although he says the control numbers run only from 400000 to 590000.

Postmark evidence proves that he is wrong in this, and I have no doubt that the green control series started at 000000; my earliest example is 017871. The series is also distinguished by the colour of the stamp, which, at least in the early printings, is a distinctive greyish shade. By late 1903 or early 1904 this green control series had reached about 600000 – my latest copies are 585702, postmarked January 1904, and 599053. The significance of this number is that it is more or less the point at which the original blue-black colour was changed to mauve – my latest blue-black stamp is 638190. Some-one must then have realized (or perhaps it had always been intended) that it would be risky to continue the green control series since to do so would create potential problems: there would be two sequences of mauve stamps with six-figure controls, distinguished only the relatively inconspicuous difference in the colour of the

control number. In any case the 15c stamp was again likely to reach 999999, if the sequence was allowed to continue, in the near future. The solution arrived at to this problem was the introduction of a new control series, using a letter and six figures. Such a combination gave a potential run of 26 million sheets, long enough even for the 15c stamp. (The Spanish alphabet actually has 28 letters, lacking a 'W' but including 'CH', 'LL' and 'N': however neither in this issue nor in any later one were the double letters CH and LL used).

It is usually stated that the date of issue of the letter + figures series was 1905. Study of the postmarks, however, has led me to conclude that the date of the change was not 1905. It is clear that at least some values began to appear with a letter + figures control number in 1904, and on four values in my own collection I have clear evidence of this, as shown below.

Value	Highest no with six-figure control	Lowest no. in new series (postmark date given where readable)	Other copies of series A with 1904 postmarks
5c	127202	A 025224	Pair. A 047997 10 Dec 1904
10c	190799 (10 Dec 1903)	A 002097 (2 Mar 1904)	A 037171 1 Oct 1904 A 048756 23 Oct 1904 A 062698 3 Dec 1904
15c mauve green control	599053	A 002743 (Mar 1904)	A 043518 9 Mar 1904 A 454202 Dec 1904
30c	021960	A 001135 (25 Aug 1904)	

TABLE 2
Change of control number on Cadets

It may be wondered why the change was made as early as 1904, especially in the case of values with no prospect of reaching 999999 in the near future. As I have suggested above, I think the change was made for the 15c at this point to avoid the mauve stamp using numbers in the green control series which had already been used for mauve stamps in the blue one; but the 5c, 10c, and 30c were a long way from completing even one full sequence in six figures. One can only speculate that once the decision to change the 15c had been taken, someone decided that for the sake of consistency, similar change should be made in other values. Although I have no other postmark evidence, it seems at least plausible to suggest that all the letter and figures controls were introduced in 1904, except of course for the 4p and 10p values, which were never changed.

One other point of interest, which may have contributed to the belief that the second series began in 1905, is the second colour change of the 15c. Originally issued in blue-black, and changed to mauve in 1902, the mauve colour was retained for the early printings of the 'A' series. The last mauve copy I have is A 736392, and the first violet copy is A 761920, postmarked June 1905. It seems likely therefore that the first violet printings appeared in May or June 1905, but the change of control to a letter + figures had already taken place some 12 months before.

NOTE: Part II of this Article will appear in the next Arana.

SPANISH STAMP MARKET: ECONOMICS

During the summer, Dennis Niemira was in the Sevilla area and visited with Antonio Rodriguez of Filatelia Hernando Colon and Hal Shelton was in correspondence with Ignacio Llach of Filatelia Llach in Barcelona. Both are SPS members. We asked many questions, observed what was for sale, how it was priced and came away with the following observations.

Q1. In the past year have prices for quality Spanish stamps increased, decreased, or stayed the same? What is a one-year price trend forecast?

A1. On the upside, classics are fetching good prices in auctions, Civil War issues continue in great demand, and colonies have improved. Issues of the 1900-1950 period are priced about the same. On the downside, high values like Defensa Madrid MS have decreased about 20% and modern issues have decreased some as well. Prices are expected to be flat during this year.

Q2. With Eurozone economic downturn and uncertainties are people holding their Spanish stamps waiting for higher prices or selling now because they need the cash? If selling, who are the buyers?

A2. From a dealer's and auctioneer's perspective nice collections are difficult to get, but once found are relatively easy to sell and fetch good prices. Common issues have saturated the market and are why prices for these items have decreased. Buyers in worldwide sales and auctions are from all over including Spanish customers. In Spain, a "blue-collar" type family which is having financial difficulty is bringing their stamp albums, loaded with current issues, to local dealers for sale; likewise these families are not buying the typical collecting supplies like albums, mounts, etc. The wealthier families are treating the current time as a buying opportunity.

Q3. Is the Spanish stamp market one market, or do you see strengths/weaknesses in the various sections like SCW locals, classics, stampless covers, SCW postal history, beneficiaries, regular issue, documentaries, etc.

A3. The market is divided in sections, and some are working better than others. Stampless covers and also postal history are not in their better moment. Colonies, back of the book, SCW, Beneficiaries, and Telegraphs are in a great moment with much worldwide interest.

Q4. Spain traditionally has had a larger percentage of stamp collectors than the US. Are new and younger stamp collectors joining the hobby, or is it an aging hobby?

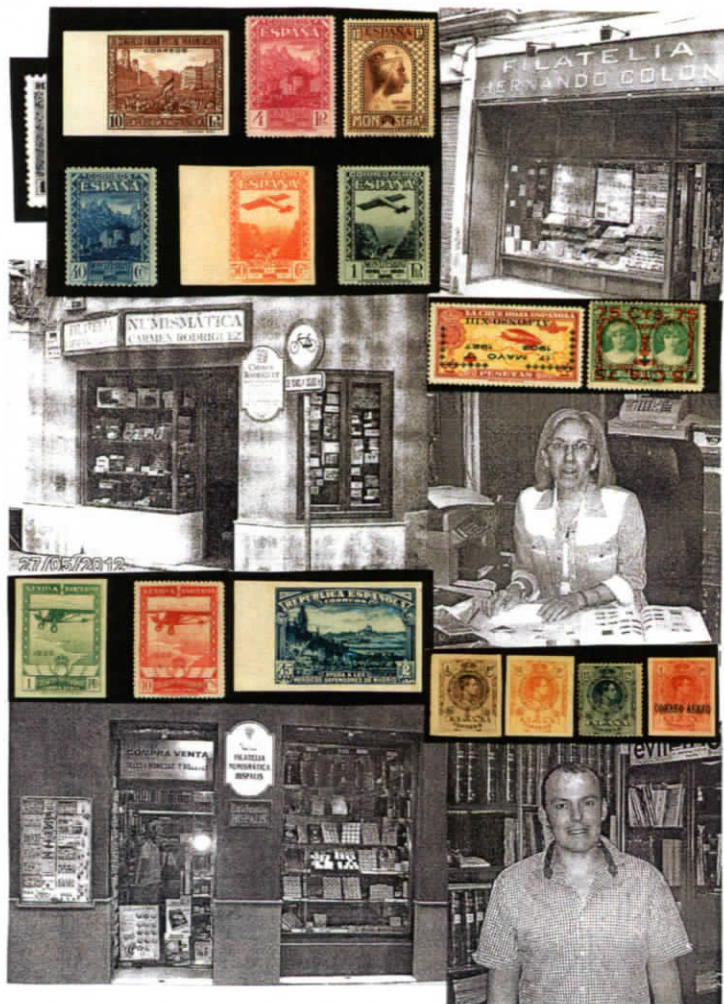
A4. Stamp collecting is an expensive hobby, so normally

collectors are between 45-70 years old. There are new collectors joining the hobby, but they are making very specialist collections, instead of following the album. Also, these newer philatelists are using the web as a source of information and supply, so dealers need to have web sites with web sales and auctions to be able to maintain a revenue source.

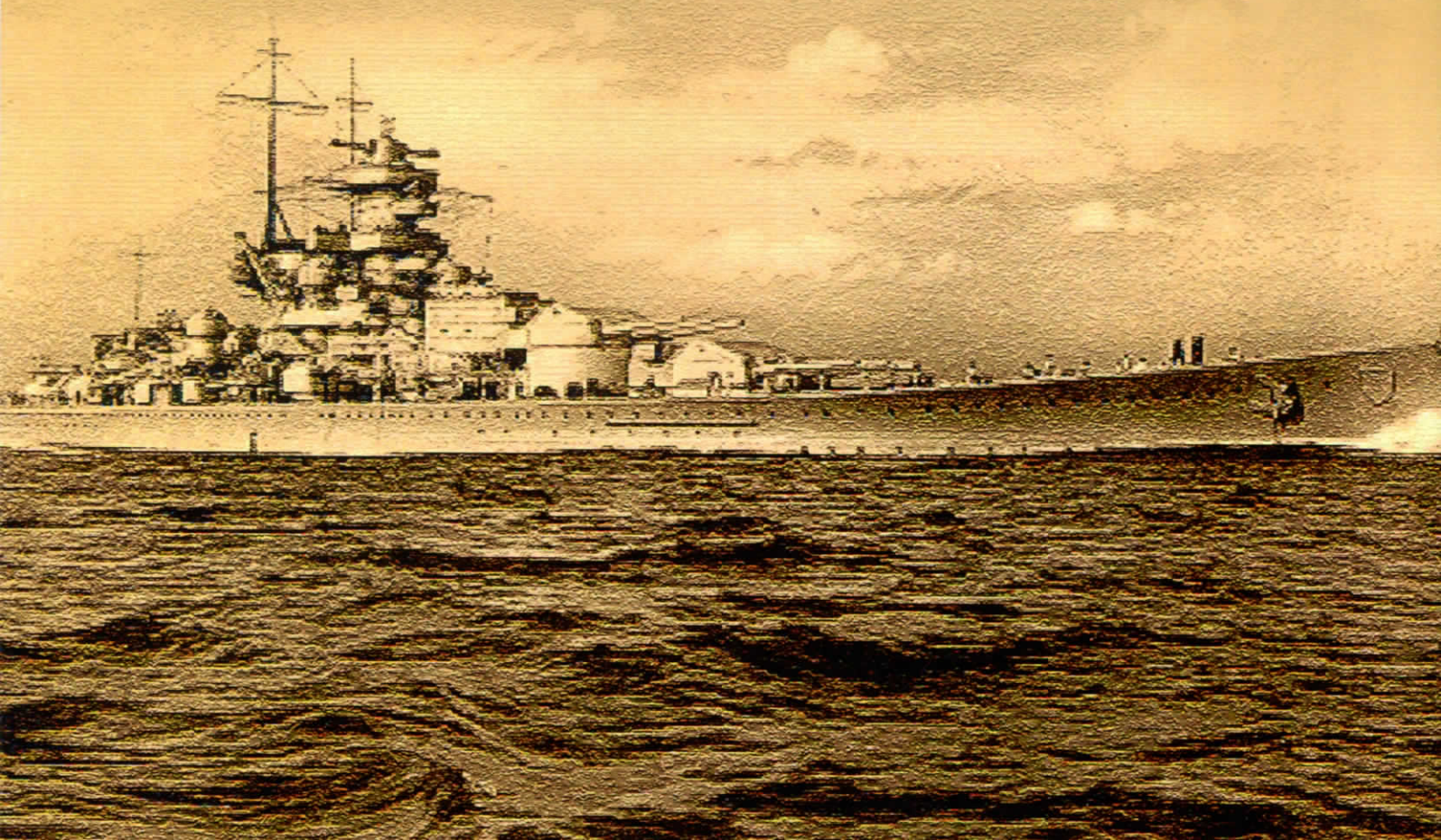
Q5. For SCW material what do you see as the supply/demand balance and price trends over next three years?

A5. Prices will be the same. There is heavy demand for rare pieces, but not for the common ones. Demand from Spanish customers is flat and the new participants in this market are foreigners.

NOTE: Thank you to Dennis Niemira and Hal Shelton for this information.



German





Warships

In The

Spanish Civil War

BY JERRY A. WELLS

By now, all of you readers are aware of the beginning of the Spanish Civil War on July 17, 1936. The incumbent legitimate elected government party, generically known as the Republicans, was composed of a myriad of supporters - communists, socialists, unionists, and pro-democracy organizations. However, as the government moved towards reform and the parceling out of lands and properties owned by the rich, the soup began to boil. The military became the focal point of the insurgency with Franco leading the invasion from Morocco. The best source material for understanding this conflict is "The Spanish Civil War" by Hugh Thomas -for anyone who is interested in the fascinating details.

However, this article focuses briefly on the narrow area of involvement of Hitler's warships - battleships, cruisers, destroyers, submarines, and torpedo boats. German ships were mostly dealing with theoretical problems in working out logistics for a broader theater to come later - concentrating on supplies, training and maneuvers. In addition, they gave support to the Condor Legion (German air force in Spain).

Both Italy and Germany* sent vessels to aid the Spanish Nationalists, establishing in November of 1936, a joint policy dividing responsibility in Spanish waters. North and east of Almeria was Italian; German west of that point.

According to Michel, the German vessels in Spain were organized into thirteen (13) operations - called

Spanienverband (SPVB) tracking each of the vessels. (See the chart below for an example of dated participation by the Admiral Scheer).

Authority of command was divided among four different admirals:

- B.d.A - Befehishaber der Auklungsschiffe (Admiral in charge of cruisers.) "Nurnberg" - Cover #1
- B.d.L - Befehishaber der Limienschiffe (Admiral in charge of Armoured ships)
- B.d.P - Befehishaber der Panzerschiffe (Admiral in charge of Battleships)- "Admiral Graf Spee" -Cover #2.
- B.d.Sp - Befehishaber der Spanien-Streitkräfte (Admiral in charge of German ships in Spanish waters)- "Admiral Scheer" - Cover #3

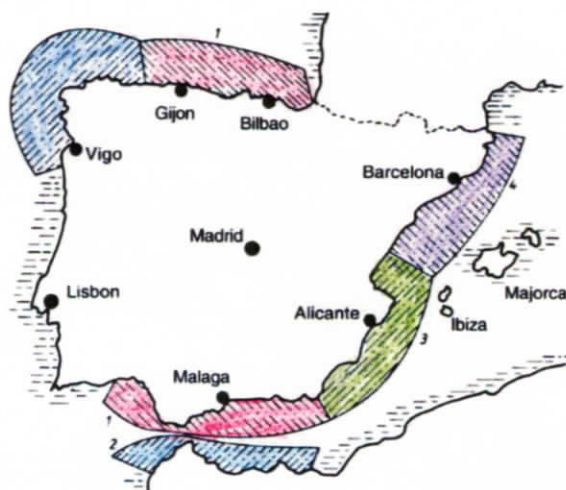


Cover #1
Light Cruiser "Nurnberg", December, 1936
with Admiral in charge of Cruisers on board.



Cruiser "Nurnberg"

Cover #2
Panzerschiffe "Graf Spee" (pocket battleship).
March 23, 1937, with Admiral in Charge of
Battleships on board.



Above: The control zones laid down by the Non-Intervention Committee in London for the naval supervision of Spanish coastal waters.

Key: (1) British. (2) French. (3) German. (4) Italian.



Cover #3
Panzerschiffe (pocket battleship) "Admiral Scheer",
May 20, 1938 with the Admiral in Charge of Spanish
Ships, on board.



Battleship "Graf Spee"



Cover #4
Panzerschiffe (pocket battleship) "Deutschland"
February 25, 1937



Battleship "Deutschland"



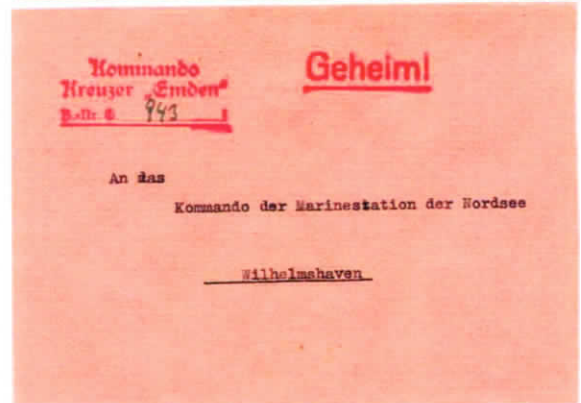
Cover #5
Torpedo Boat "Luchs", May 30, 1937
One day prior to its shelling of Almeria.



Torpedo Boat "Luchs"



Cover #6
Light Cruiser "Emden" October 18, 1937, registered and
Accompanied by enclosure containing secret correspondence.



Cover #6
Light Cruiser "Emden" October 18, 1937, registered and
Accompanied by enclosure containing secret correspondence.

One of the first incidents involving a German ship was the bombing by the Loyalist aircraft of the Panzercruiser (pocket battleship) "Deutschland" on 5th of May, 1937 (Cover #4). This led directly to a counterpunch by the May 31st shelling of the Spanish city of Almeria by other German ships - i.e. the "Admiral Scheer", together with the torpedo boats "Seeadler", "Albatross", "Luchs" (Cover #5 - dated the day before the shelling) and "Leopard".

In communicating with higher authority in Germany, sometimes the covers were sent registered ("Einschreiben") and secret ("Geheim") as shown on this October 18, 1937 cover from the Commander of the Light Cruiser "Emden" to the Commander of the Northsea Marine Station. (Cover #6) The "Geheim" enclosure was always glued inside the concealing outer "camouflage" cover.

Some fourteen German U-Boats, including the "U-30" (Cover #7) and "U-33" (Cover #8), took part in Operation Ursula - the German submarine operation in support of Franco's naval forces during the Spanish Civil War from November 1936. Submarines had no mailing facilities so mail was sent via the closest vessel.

In addition, twelve torpedo boats, including the "Luchs" (2nd torpedo flotilla), were assigned to their tasks as parts of the 1st to 4th flotilla. (Cover #5). Similar to submarine mail, torpedo boats had no mailing facilities so mail was sent via the closest vessel.

In summary, Germany provided a number of vessels not only to aid the Spanish Nationalists but to provide combat training for what turned out to be World War II.

CHART

Vessel Type	Name	Duty Dates	SVBD #	Cover #	Cover Date	Vessel Disposition
Panzerschiffe (pocket battle ship)	Admiral Scheer	07/24/36-08/29/36	1 st	3	08/04/36	1945 after several bomb hits Admiral <u>Scheer</u> capsized
		10/02/36-02/12/36	3 rd		10/27/36 11/18/36	
		03/15/37-04/08/37	6 th			
		05/10/37-07/02/37	8 th		06/21/37	
		07/30/37-10/11/37	10 th		08/25/37	
		12/02/38-03/14/38	B.d.P			
		03/18/38-06/29/38	12 th B.d.Sp		05/20/38 06/04/38 06/14/38	
			12 th B.d.Sp			



Cover #7
Submarine U-Boat "U-30", September 30, 1937



Cover #8
Submarine U-Boat "U-33", July 6, 1938



Battleship "Admiral Scheer"



Naval Memorial Service on the deck of "Deutschland"
for those killed by Republican Air Strike
May 5th, 1937.

* German vessels (those in my collection are underlined):

Battleships (Panzer cruisers): Admiral Graf Spee; Admiral Scheer; and Deutschland

Cruisers: Emden, Karlsruhe; Koln; Konigsberg; Leipzig; and Nurnberg

Destroyers: Paul Jakobi; Theodor Reidel; Schleswig-Holstein; and Hermann Schoemann

Torpedo Boats: Albatros, Falke; Grief; Kondor, Iltis; Jaguar; Leopard; Luch; Mowe, Steadler Tiger and Wolf

Submarines U: 14, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36

Bibliography:

Hitler & Spain, The Nazi Role in the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939; Robert H. Wheatley (1989)

A Guide to the Postal History of the Spanish Civil War 1936-39, Bookclub #16, Ronald E. Shelley

Censor Marks of the Colonies

(From an article in "Cruzada", Volume 14, #2, by Ronald Shelley –
Updated 8/20/12)



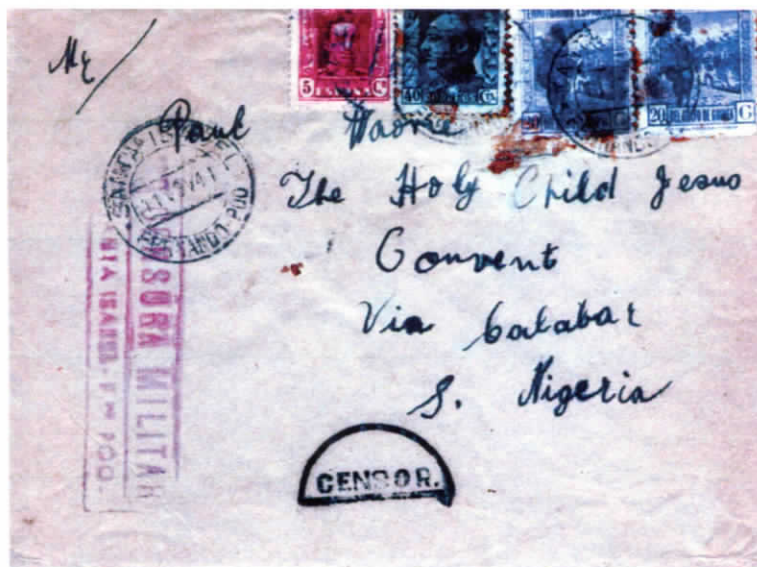
Cover #1 - Santa Isabel, Fernando Poo to Germany. Date stamped - Dec. 18, 1937. Postage paid with a combination of Nationalist and Republican stamps. The Republican stamps are from the set issued for Spanish Guinea. Censor mark on reverse. (inset)



Cover #2 – Santa Isabel, Fernando Poo to New York. Date stamped – Oct. 13, 1938. Large, boxed “Censura Militar, Santa Isabel” on front and back. Sent certified by a trading company in Fernando Poo.



Cover #3 – Santa Isabel, Fernando Poo to Lagos, Nigeria. Date stamped – July 15, 1939 – In addition to the two 20 cent Isabel stamps, the cover contains a 5 centavo charity stamp, overprinted “Guinea”. Large censor stamp.



Cover #4 – Santa Isabel, Fernando Poo to convent in southern Nigeria. Date stamped Nov. 8, 1941. Unusual franking combination of Alfonso definitive, Republican Spanish Guinea issue and New Franco issue for Guinea. Spanish and British censor markings.

The outbreak of the Civil War in Spain created numerous problems for the “Colonies”. With the exception of Spanish Morocco, the few remaining colonies and protectorates, found themselves cut off from government and commercial ties with Spain. But eventually, Spanish Guinea, Fernando Poo, Ifni and Villa Cisneros, fell into the nationalist camp.

Censorship of mail going out of these Colonies was soon enacted. Military censors continued their work right into the WWII period. The censorship markings are listed and illustrated below, along with some sample covers.

THE CENSOR MARKS

FERNANDO POO

Fig F.1 – a very clear mark. 58 x 22½mm. Found in violet from Santa Isabel to England 29th January 1938.

Fig F.2 – a large clear mark. 93 x 36mm. Found in violet on covers from Santa Isabel to Las Palmas. Three that I have seen have all had Spanish stamps on them – two have the date of 28th April, 1939 and the other 17th March 1939.

GUINEA

Fig G.1 – a variable mark – sometimes clear – sometimes otherwise. 66 x 14½mm. Found in blue-black from Bata early 1939 dates.

Fig G.2 – a very poor mark indeed – often indecipherable. Approx 48 x 10mm. Found in violet from Bata to England on covers of March and April, 1937.

IFNI

Not Illustrated. Two lines, with ‘IFNI’ at the top and disposed to the right, 71mm x 14mm. Found in violet 25th June, 5th November and 24th November 1942 (outside civil war).

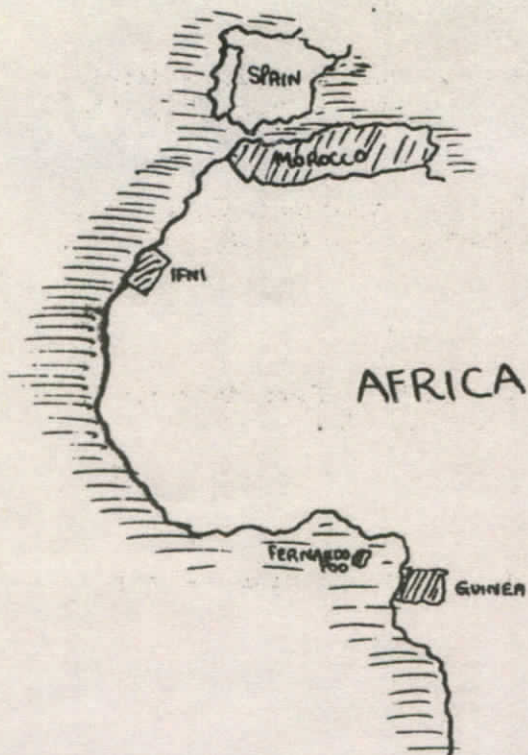
Not Illustrated. Two lines ‘IFNI’ centered at bottom. 72 x 13mm. Found in violet 15th July, 1937, 12th September 1941, 14th January and 19th February 1942.

LAAGUERA

Fig L.1 – Good strike. 74 x 13mm. Found on cover from La Aguera to the U.S.A. Is franked with ‘Republica Espanola’ overprints on Saharan stamps. From the ‘Admon de Correos/La Aguera’. A rare cover.

MOROCCO

From the start of the Civil War – Spanish Morocco was controlled by Nationalists. The initial uprising really took place in Melilla on the borders of Morocco.



CENSURA MILITAR
SANTA ISABEL
FERNANDO POO

Fig F1

CENSURA MILITAR BATA

Fig G1

CENSURA MILITAR
• GUINEA ESPAÑOLA •

Fig G2

CENSURA MILITAR
La Agüera

Fig L1

CENSURA MILITAR
SANTA ISABEL

Fig F2

CENSURA MILITAR
ALCAZARQUIVIR

Fig M1

CENSURADO

Fig M2

CENSURA MILITAR
LARACHE

Fig M3

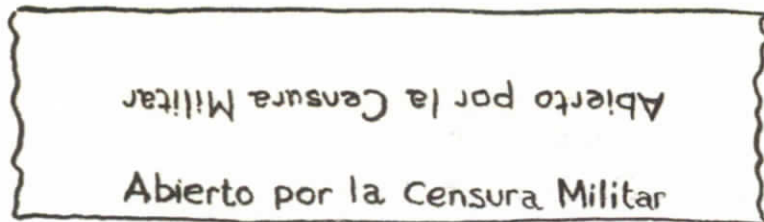


Fig M4

Censura Militar
Tetuan
Fig M7



Fig M5



Fig M6

CENSURA MILITAR
TETUAN

Fig M8

CENSURA MILITAR
TETUAN

Fig M9

CENSURA MILITAR
TETUAN

Fig M10

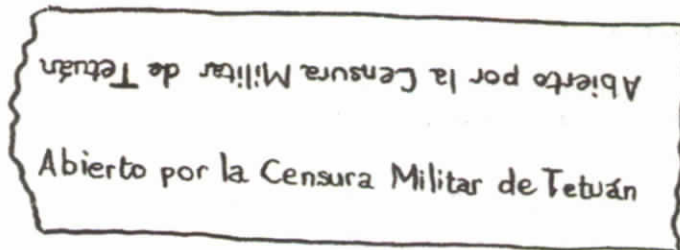


Fig M11

CENSURA MILITAR
VILLA NADOR

Fig M12

CENSURA MILITAR
XAUVEN

Fig M13

Larache

Fig M.6 – A large clear mark. 82 x 25½mm. Found in violet on a cover from Larache to Palma de Mallorca – 21st June 1938.

Tetuan

Fig M.8 – a very clear mark indeed. 65 x 13mm. Found in red from San Sebastian to Tangier – 20th July, 1938.

Fig M.9 – Sometimes a clear mark – sometimes very woolly. 57 x 10 mm. Found in black – Tetuan to London 10th June, 1938: Purple Tetuan to Aviles – 3rd October, 1938: Red Tetuan to Burgos 10th August 1937 and in red from Barrio Moro to San Fernando – 29th July, 1937.

Fig M.10 – a very clear mark. 54 x 11mm. Found in violet – 14th October 1937, blue-black 15th February 1938, Red – 25th November

1937, 26th February, 1938 and 30th April, 1938.

Fig M.11 – Adhesive strip. 36½mm wide. Lettering 94 x 19mm. Found in black on white on a cover from Caceres to Tangier 2nd December 1936.

Villa Nador

Fig M.12 – A very clear mark indeed. 62 x 12mm. Found in violet on a cover from Villa Nador to London – 14th December 1938.

Xauen

Fig M.13 – A very clear mark. 64 x 14½mm. Found in violet – on a cover Xauen to Zaragoza – 8th July, 1938.

Please send any other additions to this listing...



VIÑETAS POLITICAS REPUBLICANAS DE LA GUERRA CIVIL ESPAÑOLA

A New Catalog of the Political Labels of the Spanish Civil War

With 700 pages, *Viñetas políticas republicanas de la Guerra Civil Española* (hereafter: *Viñetas*) represents the next step in the study of the political labels of the Spanish Civil War. Until now, collectors of the political labels of the Spanish Civil War have had *The Republican Political Labels (1936-1939)* by Félix Gómez Guillamón as their guide, which also included significant supplemental material concerning the various political groups that issued labels.

In short, it appears that *Viñetas* picks up where *The Republican Political Labels (1936-1939)* left off at publication. Generally speaking, the labels are arranged by issuing entity, and many previously uncatalogued labels were added. In a quick calculation, this author estimates that the number of newly listed labels is somewhere between 400 and 500. Pictures of nearly every label accompany the listings, in color, and a number of previously unlisted varieties were also included as subtypes. There are labels from a total of 16 foreign countries at the end of the listings. In addition to the labels themselves, there are also many gorgeous color pictures of se-tenant blocks/strips, mini-sheets, booklets, covers and propaganda cards.

Within the listings is a tremendous number of short descriptive articles concerning the organizations themselves, individuals inside those organizations, and/or individuals that are the subjects of the labels. Sr. Domènech goes to great length in order to add as much context as possible to the labels. The catalog finishes with approximately 40 pages of reference material, including a short chronology of the Spanish Civil War.

On the downside, *Viñetas* is missing one element that many people look for when they purchase a catalog – prices, or at least a guide to scarcity – *Viñetas* has neither. This reviewer agrees that, generally speaking, price information should be a basic purpose of a catalog, but he would also like to point out that this is the first catalog for the political labels, known to him, in 23 years. Despite this apparent shortcoming, *Viñetas* represents a tremendous work and would be a welcome addition to the library of anyone who has an interest in these labels. Initial interest in his catalog has been very high; the initial printing of December 2011 sold out and a second printing has been scheduled for early 2012.

Title: *Viñetas políticas republicanas de la Guerra Civil Española*

Author: Jose V^e Domènech

Length: 700 pages

Publication Date: December 2011

Language: Spanish

Cost: €28 for AFINET members, €38 for non-members

Contact: Manuel Hoyos (manuelhoyos@euskalnet.net)