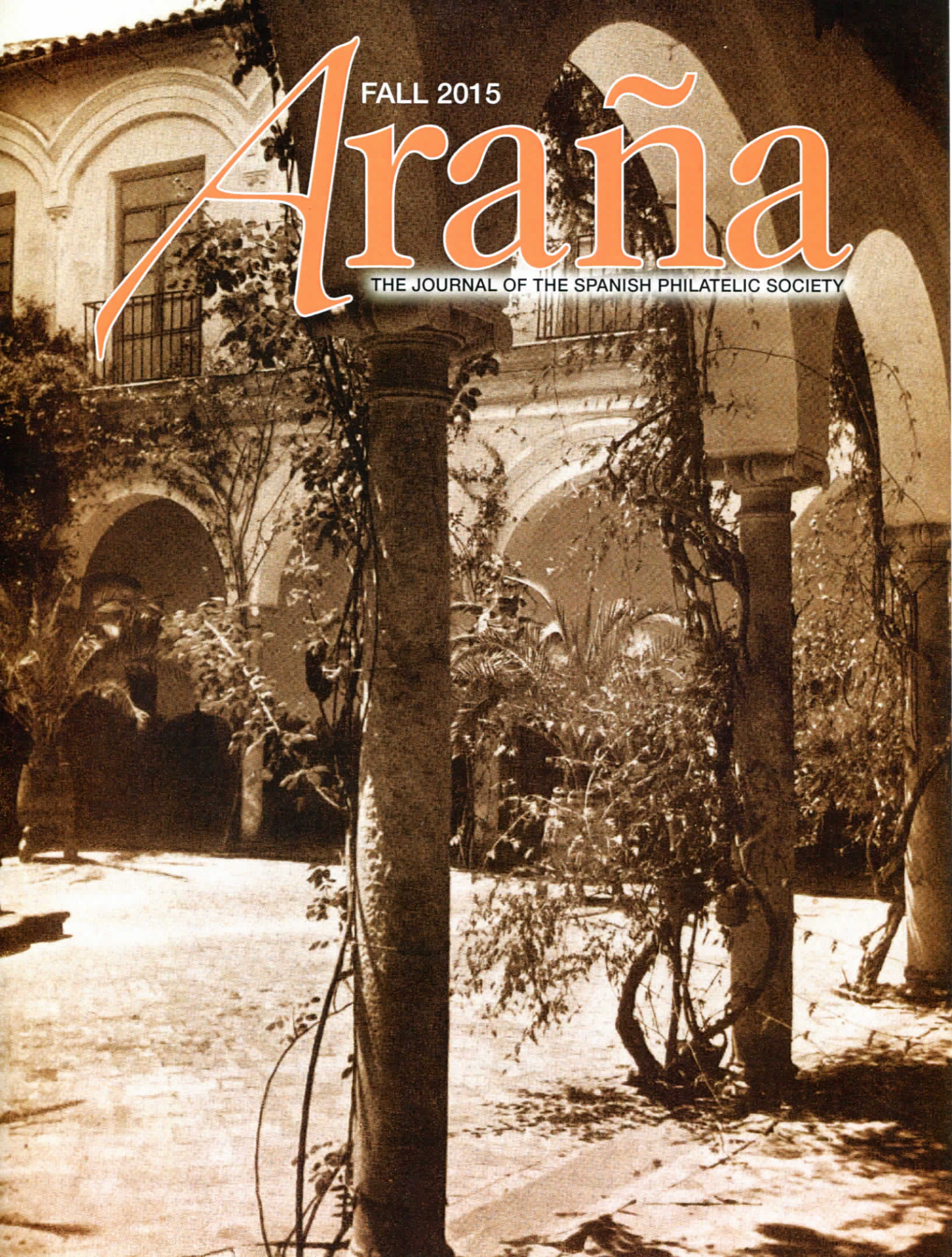


FALL 2015

Araña

THE JOURNAL OF THE SPANISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY





Madrid 1920

THE VII CONGRESS OF U.P.U.

By S. Nathan

To avoid the excessive summer heat of Madrid, it was the custom for the King of Spain to transfer himself and his household to the cooler climate of San Sebastian in the north. The year 1920 was no exception. When the time arrived for King Alfonso XIII to return to the Capital, the date chosen was the last day of September. The Royal train duly chugged its way into the Madrid Station at 10:30 am. Waiting for the king, this year was the Director General of Communications, the Count of Colomby, whose official duty it was to invite the King to inaugurate the VII Congress of the Universal Postal Union, which was beginning on October 1st.

Despite the constant labor unrest and a succession of strikes, not to mention the odd anarchist bomb, Spain was enjoying a relative proud period of calm. The stock exchange was strong, the US dollar commanded only 14.60 pesetas and the sun had completed its traditional stint.

In the evening before the official opening, King Alfonso, a very keen stamp collector, went for a private visit to the various sections of Congress Exhibition. It was on the next morning that the pomp and ceremony would begin.

On the stroke of 12, the King accompanied by his English born Queen Victoria Eugenia arrived at the Senate Palace for the opening ceremonies. They were masterfully performed in the presence of the Chief of the Government, Prime Minister Dato, surrounded by most of his Ministers among whom was prominent, the Director General of Communications, the President of the Senate, Sr Sanchez Toca and many others adding to the regalia. The congress delegates, many wearing their native dress added to the pageantry, ostentation among them being the delegates from Abyssinia, China and Japan. The Band of the Royal Signal Corps provided the right atmosphere with their military marches much to the delight of the official chronicler, Sr Ortega Munilla, hired by the 'Correos' for this special occasion.

Distinct from the crowd were four Marquises and diplomats from many of the countries represented. For example, the Japanese delegate and his wife.

At the reception, the politicians sat to the right of the King who was dressed in the uniform of a Captain General. To the left of the Queen, sat the postal bureaucrats; The Count of Columby; Msr. Decoppet, the Chief of the International Office of the UPU and the

Italian delegate Sr. Delmati, the senior delegate who had presided over the last, the VI Congress held in tragic circumstances in Rome in 1916.

At 4pm, the Royal couple left for an official visit to the Palace of Communications to view the new stamps and philatelic displays which covered the floor of the conference room.

It is worth recording that the King stopped at a case displaying some Spanish Colonial stamps which were fiscals overprinted to be used as postage stamps – ‘Habilitado para sellos.’ He said ‘Esa es una mancha negra en la historia de la Filatelia, que ni al cuerpo de correos, ni a mi como Espanol, nos conviene recorder.’

‘This is a black stain in the history of philately that neither the post office or I, as a Spaniard would want to remember.’

When one reads of the way the UPU delegates were wined and dined from the October to the 30th of November, (two full months of excursions, banquets and red carpet treatment) one wonders why there had not been more revolts and rebellions from the tax-payers.

No expense was spared. From the first day an airplane from the Postal Aerodrome at Alicante with a pilot (Sr Dembey) was put at the disposition of the delegates in case of a sudden change of plans. This was, remember, in 1920 and airplanes were “something.” This Latecoere plane of 300 HP with ‘limousine features’ must have been a talking point for many years after.

On Sunday, October 3rd, the delegates visited the Prado. On Monday, October 4th, it was the turn of the Theatre Apollo to receive the honored guests. Sunday the 10th saw them at the inevitable bullfight. Thursday the 14th an excursion to the Excorial and so on throughout their stay. The highlight being a whole 6 days from November 14th to Saturday November 20th touring Andalusia. Some work was done, if not by the delegates, then by their staffs. Three committees were set up with the usual sub-committees and these sat and discussed things until Tuesday November 30th, the last day of the Congress and to round things off, they attended a banquet and a fiesta held in their honor.



Illustration B

The UPU Stamp Issue

The special issue was released on October 16, 1920. The basic stamps were perf 13 ½ (Comb perf) 13 values. All except the 1c and 2c have control numbers on the back in blue. The issue was completed with three printings. The first printing, recognized by the low control numbers, is slightly darker in color than the two subsequent prints. Some of the values exist in line perf 14 and a few sets were imperforate. The stamps which have A.000.000 on the back (which include the imperfs) were either those sent to the

UPU or were for use by the delegates at the Congress.

The printing of the complete set, Perf 13 ½ was 20,000. Sheets consisted of 50 stamps, 10 horizontal x 5 stamps vertical. The control numbers are found on the topmost right hand corner.

Well-centered stamps are the exception. Covers cancelled at the convention on October 16th are the “first days.”

Printing Errors and Varieties

In the 20c Violet there is one variety with the effigy and palace of communications (black centre) printed double. This stamp is unnumbered.

In the 30c green of perf 14 there is a variety with the effigy and palace of communications double with one printing INVERTED.

The most common varieties are those of the control numbers. These are found inverted, double and sometimes the number appearing on both the front and the back of the stamp.

Constant Varieties

In position 50 of the sheet (last stamp) of the 25c value the ‘5’ is deformed:

In position 41 of the sheet of the 10p the ‘0’ is broken:



Illustration C



Illustration D



Illustration E

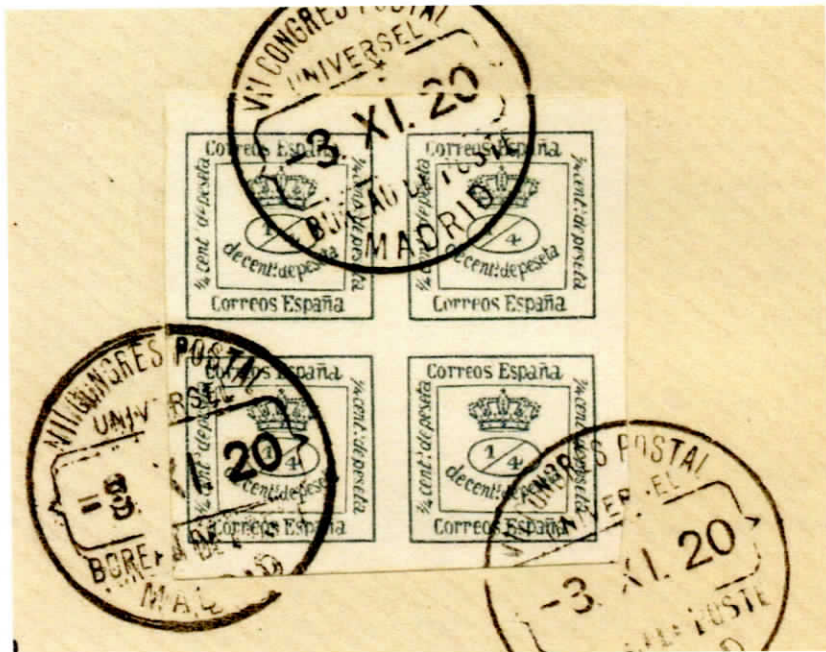
THE VII CONGRESS OF U.P.U. Continued

Special UPU Cancellations

Four special cancellations are known as listed below. The date shown is the last day of the Congress.



A



Declared value (Insured)

NOTE: The original 1978 version of this article by S. Nathan, appeared in "ESPANA". We thought it appropriate to revise and reprint on the 95th anniversary of the UPU Congress.

Dear SPS Members and Friends,

First of all I want to thank everyone who participated in our latest auction including all 14 buyers, sellers, members that have graciously donated material and Hal Shelton for seeing me through my first auction. Gross sales approached \$600.00 which is very good as we had a good amount of repeat material from the previous auction. Reference books were good sellers as well as Spanish Civil War material, no surprises there.

Our next auction is scheduled for Jan/Feb and is still early on to have a good picture of what the highlights will be. This is a good time for members that have material they would like to sell or donate to our club to start looking. I would like to have the material in hand by early December. Thank you in advance for your contributions. SCW locals, labels, Patriotic OP, general issues from 1852 to 1952, are running low as well as all Spanish Colonies. I have a very good supply of covers some of which I will be listing in our next auction. I am always eager to hear from our membership on what they want to see in our auctions so drop me an email if your area isn't getting enough lots, no promises but I will see what I can do.



I continuously follow stamp sales online, mostly ebay-USA & ebay-Spain, and have the following observations. I have recently seen some spirited bidding on nicer SCW lots. Most of the lots getting attention appear to be multiple sets/stamps per auction (resulting in a lower cost/stamp) where as sellers selling individual stamps and sets at full market price don't seem to be doing as well. Ebay buyers are looking for a good deal not necessarily willing to pay full retail even for harder to find material. As a seller on ebay myself, I have found this out first hand. It appears that Spain based ebay sellers are not dropping prices to try to fuel sales while US based ebay sellers are more willing to discount to try and get that first bid.

I attended the SEAPEX stamp show (Seattle) this past September and checked in with some dealers stocking some nice Spanish material. It appears as quality higher value catalog material was priced in the 50-60% of catalog range. I asked most dealers there about SCW issues and found none had brought any with them but one was able to send me some later on approval. It never hurts to ask.

Richard Ascaso

SPS Auction Chair



The marks of the REPUBLICAN LABOUR CAMPS *during the* SPANISH CIVIL WAR

by Carles Prats

One of the most unknown chapters of the Spanish Civil War postal history is the Republican labour camp marks on the inmates correspondence, for the scarce examples known. While the Franquist concentration camp marks are widely studied, those on the Republican side are much less known. It may even result surprising to know that the Republicans also had their own concentration camps network.

Smaller than the Franquist system of concentration and labour camps, the first camp of the Republican net to open was in Totana (Murcia), in mid 1937. On its main entrance there was a banner reading "Trabaja y no pierdas la esperanza" (Work and do not lose hope), dramatically similar to the infamous "Arbeit macht frei" to be read on Auschwitz's entrance only three years later.

Dependent on the Ministry of Justice of the Spanish Republic when they were organized, the camps were transferred to the Servicio de Investigación Militar (Military Investigation Service) after August 1937, and thus indirectly depending of the Ministry of Defence.

There is just one study giving notice of the correspondence of the inmates in those camps, a work by Francesc Badia, "Els camps de treball a Catalunya durant la guerra civil (1936-1939)", Publicacions

de l'Abadia de Montserrat, 2001. This is not a philatelic work at all, but it contains a chapter about the communications of the inmates (pages 138-150; a search in Google Books will produce a preview of this book) and gives a short reference of the very few post cards known to have survived with marks belonging to those labour camps. As the only examples known belong to Catalan camps, we are going to center our attention on the network of labour camps in Catalonia.

In Catalonia there were six camps, and three of them had subcamps, all established between April and July, 1938:

Labour Camp Nr. 1, in Barcelona

Labour Camp Nr. 2 in Hospitalet de l'Infant, with a subcamp in Tivissa (later moved to Montferrer the main camp and to La Seu d'Urgell the subcamp)

Labour Camp Nr. 3 in Omells de Na Gaia, later moved to Vila-sana and to La Vall de Cabó

Labour Camp Nr. 4 in Concabella, later moved to Barbens

Labour Camp Nr. 5 in Ogn, later moved to Anglesola

Labour Camp Nr. 6 in Falset, with subcamps in Cabassers, Gratallops, La Figuera and Porrera.

Later moved, main camp and all subcamps, to Arbeca and La Vall de Cabó.



Fig 1. Situation of the main labour camps in Catalonia (April-July 1938)

The camps were moved to the North after the Ebro battle, when the fascist advance pushed them up, and finally, the surviving inmates and their guards crossed the French border during late January and early February 1939. That was the end of the Republican labour camps in Catalonia, that lasted between 8 and 10 months.

In the first months of the existence of these camps the inmates' correspondence was not allowed, but between August and September 1938 it was tolerated, following these instructions, taken from the witness of the survivors of the camps, but never seen on any kind of official document:

- a) Only correspondence addressed to relatives was tolerated.
- b) Each inmate only was allowed to send two post cards per month.
- c) The text could not be longer than 30 words.
- d) The content could only be to greet the addressee and to state that the sender was in good health.

e) Only post cards were allowed, without cover.

f) The sender's address was not allowed and neither the name of the village in which the post card was written. The sender's information was only the number of the camp ("Campo de Trabajo n° X") and the address of the SIM offices in Barcelona, in Poble Espanyol or Carrer Muntaner n° 55, at indication of the director of the camp.

The prisoners' correspondence was treated as field post if it bore the mark of the camp, and there are no censor marks on the few examples known as the content of the text was completely directed by the responsables of the camps, and a second censor was unnecessary.

The referred work by Mr. Francesc Badia can only give reference of two marks of these camps, and adds two pictures of the post cards bearing them:

Camp nr. 3 (in Omells de Na Gaia): very faded circular mark near the top right corner, with legend "Ministerio de Defensa Nacional *SIM*" in concentric circles, and in the inner space, under the

coat of arms of the Republic, the legend "Campo de Trabajo Nº 3". The post card also has a field post postmark close to the bottom left corner:



Fig 2. Picture published on page 144 of Mr. Badia's work.

Camp nr. 6, Subcamp nr. 3 (in Cabassers): very simple rectangular mark, with legend "Campo de Trabajo Nº 6 / Destacamento Nº 3". No postmarks on the example:



Fig 3. Picture published on page 145 of Mr. Badia's work

I can also add another example of another of these marks, belonging to Camp nr. 6 (in Falset): clear circular mark with legend "Ministerio de Defensa Nacional *SIM*" in concentric circles, and in the inner space,

under the coat of arms of the Republic, the legend "Campo de Trabajo N° 6". The post card is franked with a 25c stamp and bears a civilian postmark from Falset, where the camp was, dated 20 August 1938:

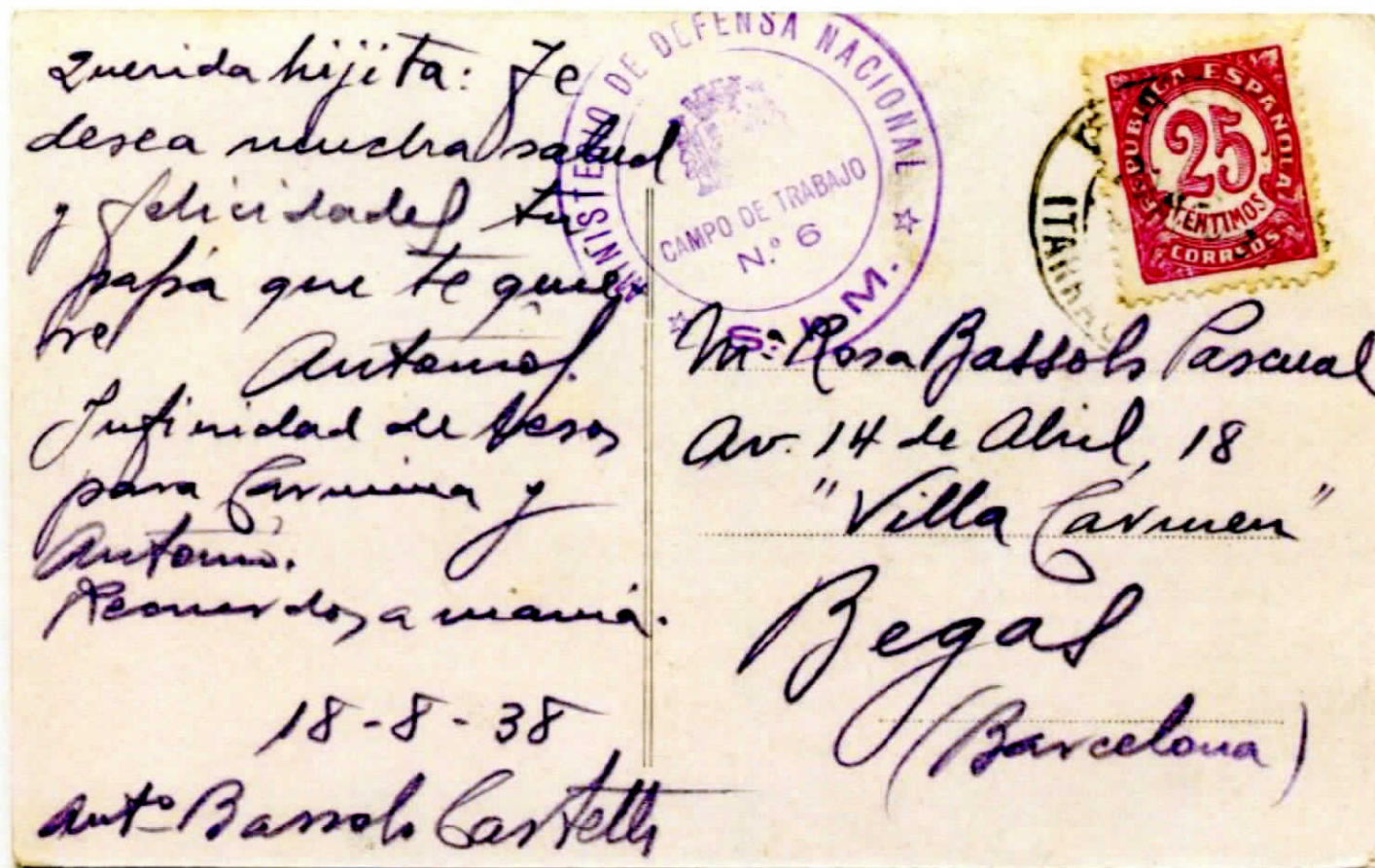


Fig 4. Picture from Colectalia.com, lot nr. 19659

The sender is the prisoner Antonio Bassols Castells, from Begues (Barcelona), stocks and exchange agent in Barcelona, born on October 11, 1896. He survived at his imprisonment in this labour camp and died in 1983. It's curious to see the post card franked and with a postmark that revealed where the camp was, violating the norm that did not allow the prisoners to express in which village they were. Obviously this was not the fault of the inmate.

In the words of Mr. Badia, "there are very scarce examples of this

correspondence - post cards - preserved from the inmates in the Catalan labour camps, and for this reason it is very appreciated by specialized collectors." (p. 145, op. cit.).

Despite the prisoners were allowed to receive correspondence, no example of their incoming mail is known to have survived, as the difficulty of live in the camps and the vicissitudes they suffered until the recovery of their liberty after crossing the French border in 1939 has made extremely difficult the conservation of such documents.



EARLY SPANISH MILITARY MAIL

In Morocco

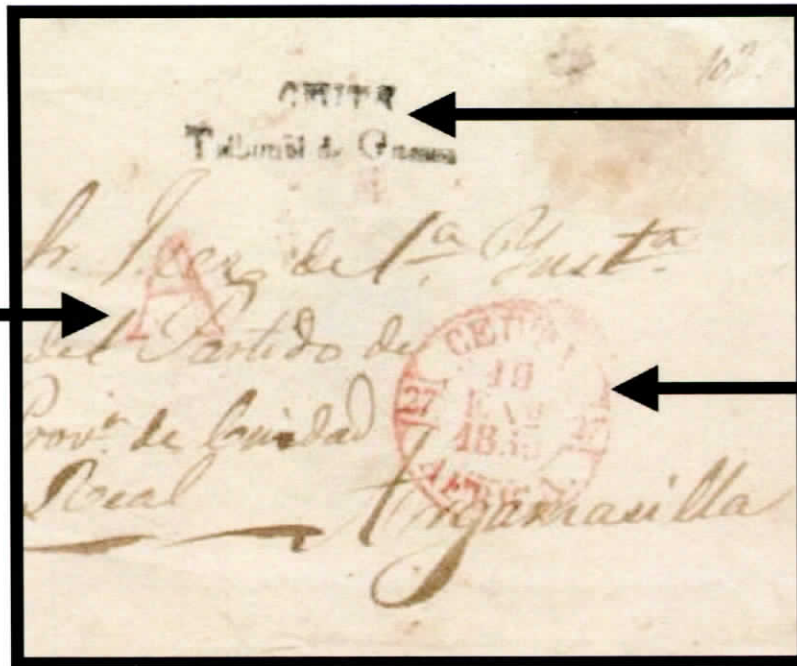
BY Larry Gardner

On 1 January 1668 by the Treaty of Lisbon, King Alfonso VI of Portugal recognized the formal allegiance of Ceuta to Spain and formally ceded Ceuta to King Carlos II of Spain. The city was besieged by Moroccan forces under Moulay Ismail from 1694 to 1727. From 1840 until 1850, both cities of Ceuta and Melilla in the north African country came under constant and tireless assaults from Moroccan tribes and troops. With England mediating, Spain and Morocco reached agreeable terms and covenants were signed in 1844 in (Tangier) and 1845 in (Larache). Despite these treaties, the tribesmen continued to attack the Spanish. Spain was unable to penetrate the Moroccan inland region and therefore decided to take over the uninhabited Chafarinas Islands 4km off the Coast of Morocco and 27 km east of Melilla. In 1848, Spanish troops left Melilla and Malaga disembarking and proceeded to occupy the Chafarinas. This introduces you to the time span leading up

to when some examples of military mail have been found and are presented in this short article to give you an insight into this time frame of Spanish Moroccan Postal History.

Official, Military and Judicial mail was generally sent free of postage. The cover shown below posted from Ceuta January 19, 1850, is one of the earliest military letters from Morocco. The "A" for Abono is a marking indicating payment or subscription. The black straight line CMITE Tribunal de Guerre indicates Military Judicial mail. This would translate to the supreme war tribunal called to deal with and I quote "all Military affairs and determine all matters standing on the application of the regulations known under the law." This being 1850, General Figueras Marquis of Constancia was then Secretary of War and in charge of this Tribunal. (Fig.1)

OFFICIAL FREE MAIL



(Fig.1)

"A"
For
Abono

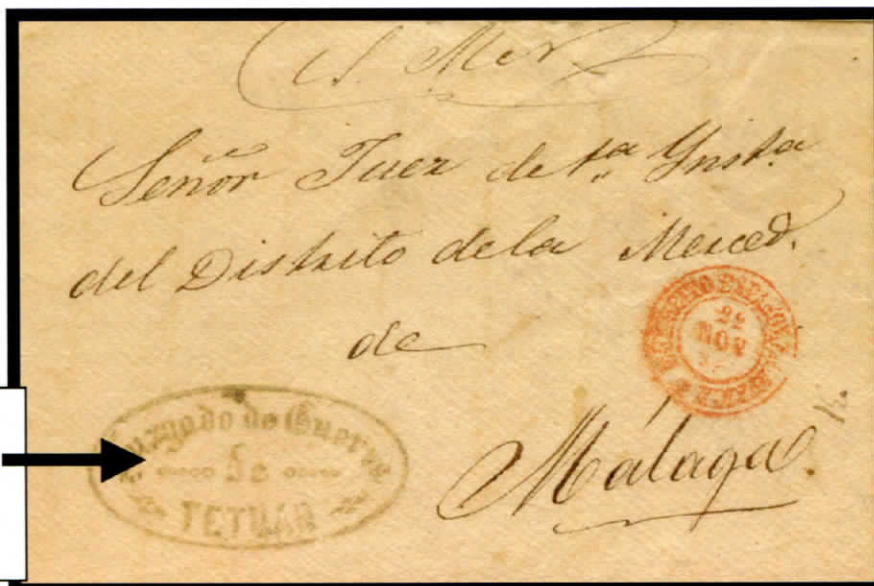
CMITE
Tribunal
de Guerre

Ceuta
January 19, 1850

With the occupation of the Chafarinas Islands under control, Spain decided to build several forts to defend Ceuta. In August 1859 hostilities erupted between Spain and local chieftains in Morocco resulting in the "Tangier and Tetuan" conflict. Spain captured both cities thus resulting in the Treaty of Tangiers in 1860. The Sultan of Morocco conceded Ceuta and Melilla to the Spanish. Spanish troops were allowed free franking

privileges per a November 1859 decree and letters up to ½ ounce to Spain passed free. A special 20mm cds in red was created for this period "Ejercito Espanol en Africa" translated as (Spanish Army in Africa). The cover, as shown below, is also Cacheted "Juzgado de Guerra de Tetuan" and is One of two known examples of Judicial mail of the Expeditionary Army. (Fig.2)

JUDICIAL MAIL EXPEDITIONARY CORPS



(Fig.2)

Juzgado de
Guerra
de Tetuan

Ejercito
Espanol
en Africa

TETUAN POST TREATY MILITARY MAIL



(Fig. 3)

Following the Spanish-Moroccan War 1859-60, normalized relations allowed the Spanish Post Office to become established in the vice consulates of six towns. Tetuan however still remained linked with the Spanish enclave in Ceuta. Peacetime usage of the Ejercito Espanol en Africa cancel was used for Official Military mail. Letters exceeding the ½ oz weight paid postage at 4 quartos domestic rates. (Fig.3)

A decree of 16th March 1854 created new adhesives for official mail.

The denomination was indicated by weights and applied to all official correspondence. An additional decree designated the stamps be sold by the Revenue Office not the Post Office and the cost forwarded to the sending Offices Governmental Dept. Frontal 11/10/55 Ceuta to Mahon redirected to Palma franked with a one ounce and ½ ounce adhesive. Frontals are common to Official mail in Spain as they were either a means of saving space in official files or, when the covers were removed from the archives, only the fronts were released and the rest of the folded letters were kept in the files. (Fig.4)

OFFICIAL MAIL FRANKED BY WEIGHT



(Fig.4)

A continuing examination of the Judicial mail cover points out that disinfection slits on front indicate a continuing incidence of cholera throughout the region. Cholera existed in the coastal towns of Morocco in 1855 thus resulting in the practice of disinfecting and or quarantining the mail.

Other requirements were Official Mail to be marked "S.N." Servicio Nacional or in some countries "R.S." Real Servicio (Royal Service.) Also, as required, Official Mail must bear the seal of the sending authority. In this case, "Fiscalia Del Juzgado De Guerra". One other requirement to note, was that Official Mail had to be directed from and addressed to an Authority and not to a person by

his name but by his official designation. (Fig.4)

The 15th Sept. 1870 Spain opened post offices in Tangier and nine other cities with daily service Tangier-Ceuta. Letters were to be franked with Spanish postage stamps and routes were established through maritime mail. Algeciras and Ceuta were dispatched to Tangier via Anghera. The following is an 1874 Rabat to Tangier cover paying the Inland rate 10 cent. de peseta per 15 grams. The additional 5 cent. de peseta War Tax stamp was applied and charged per the 3 Oct. 1873 War Tax decree. Although not Military Mail, the emphasis is to portray the results of the act of war and how to help defray the cost. (Fig.5)

WAR TAX STAMP SURCHARGE



(Fig. 5)

"A war tax stamp is a type of postage stamp. added to an envelope in addition to regular postage. It is similar to a postal tax stamp, but the revenue is used to defray the costs of a war; as with other postal taxes, its use is obligatory for some period of time." ¹

The first war tax stamps were produced in 1874 in Spain during the Third Carlist War. A decree of October 2, 1873 imposed a war tax on letters and stamped documents. The stamps were issued on January 1, 1874 in two denominations, 5 centimos and 10 centimos, and depicted the Spanish Coat of Arms, along with the inscription "Impuesto de Guerra" or "Impto de Guerra". The 5

centimos value was intended for use on letters, and the 10 centimos for use on stamped documents. Spain subsequently issued further stamps between 1897 and 1898 to help fund The Cuban War of Independence and the Spanish-American War.

Other conflicts continued in the future beginning with the First Melillan campaign of 1893-94 and other campaigns continued into the 1900's. This article was meant to only show some examples of the earliest postal history relating to "Early Spanish Military Mail in Morocco".

¹ Wikipedia definition



World Stamp Show

NY 2016

SHOW INFORMATION

Our Exhibition takes place from Saturday, May 28 through Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City. Our Convention Hotel is the Marriott Marquis, located at the crossroads of the world, Times Square, New York.

You are cordially invited to attend our Opening Ceremony, which will take place promptly at 9:30 AM on Saturday, May 28 at the lower level of the Javits Center.

EXHIBITION HOURS

Our Exhibition takes place on Level 3 (Street Level) of the Javits Center, and the hundreds of affiliates and society meeting will take place on Level I.

Saturday-Opening Day-10:30 AM-6:00 PM

Sunday thru Saturday- 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

REGISTRATION AND BADGES

Entry to the Exhibition requires your WSS-NY 2016 Badge to be shown and worn at all times. Free advance registration on the web will take place at www.ny2016.org

Your badges will be available for pick up on the third floor of the Javits Center outside the entrance to the Exhibition. Badge pick begins at 10:30 on Opening Day and at 9:30 all other days.

SPECIAL WSS-NY 2016 HOTEL RATES WILL BE AVAILABLE

We are pleased to have partnered with Experient, Inc. to create a block of over 16,000 rooms to meet the taste and budget range of our Show attendees coming from all 50 States and nearly 100 Nations from around the World. The convention Hotel the spectacular Marriott Marquis-Times Square is one the preeminent Marriott properties in the world, located at the "Crossroads of the World". Its address is 1535 Broadway, (between W. 45 and W. 46 Streets) New York, NY 10036

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SHOW

- First Day Ceremonies for new United States Stamp on several days of the show
- Huge United States Postal Service Retail Station, with special daily postmarks and cancellations; and full variety of postage stamps
- Many foreign government postal stands selling their country's stamps at face value, and featuring a "Walk Around the World" to these Post offices and a unique Passport to enhance your walk
- A number of countries will be holding special ceremonies for their first day of issues
 - Autograph sessions with a variety of dignitaries
 - 175+ stamp vendors from the USA and 15 foreign countries
 - 3,800 competitive exhibit frames (more than 60,000 pages!)
 - A unique Philatelic Literature Competition and Reading Room
- A special exhibition of the rarest stamps from collections around the world
 - A special exhibition of the US Postmaster General's unique Collection
 - A special exhibition presented by the Smithsonian National Postal Museum
- A large Beginner's Area - featuring complimentary stamps and learning about our great hobby for folks from 6 to 106!
 - A Stamp Buddy booth - designed to answer your stamp questions
- Meetings and Annual Conventions of more than 50 different Philatelic Societies.

CORPORATE STATUS

World Stamp Show-NY2016 (WSS-NY2016) is organized by New York Philatelic Exhibition, Inc, a 501(c)3 not for profit educational organization, under auspices of the American Philatelic Society (APS) with the support of the United States Postal Service (USPS) and the American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA). WSS-NY 2016 is held under the patronage of the Federation International de Philatelie (FIP) which represents more than 75 national stamp collecting organizations worldwide.

APPLICATIONS TO EXHIBIT

Exhibitors must submit their entry forms to their national commissioner. Commissioners and their contact information are located on pgs 8 to 18.

Government Postal Administrations and Stamp and related vendors may apply directly to WSS-NY2016 at tami.jackson@ny2016.org.

Philatelic Societies, Associations and Clubs wishing to participate in WSS-NY 2016 should inquire if there is space available from rodney.juell@ny2016.org.

LOCATION

The Javits Center is located at 655 West 34th Street (between 11th and 12th Avenues), New York NY 10001.

Entrance to WSS-NY2016 will be from the 11th Avenue doors.

The Javits Center is reached conveniently and quickly by public transportation. The NYC MTA Subway "#7 Train" stops at our door at the gleaming new Javits Center subway station. The brand new "SB" Special Crosstown Bus #M34-SB and the M-34 also stops at the JJC. Free transfer from most NYC subway lines is available to the "7" train; as are free transfers from many bus lines to the M34.