

SPRING 2017

Araña

THE JOURNAL OF THE SPANISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY





A SPANISH POST OFFICE
BY JOHN BAGNOLD BURGESS

How did the Spanish philately start?

In May 27, 1962, the Spanish Postal Service issued a note ordering to open the registered mail covers if there was any suspicion that it could contain "different objects other than correspondence".

The same note says below that the postal service has detected registered covers "containing used postage stamps, and as this kind of shipping is extremely suspicious so it is suspected that the purpose could be any kind of fraud, who's origin and authors already are under investigation to be punished according to the law".

This was the beginning of the philately in Spain, something that was "extremely suspicious" for the Spanish Postal Service.

ENV

LICART ANTONIO

H

85

TRESSANT «HERAULT»



ENBURA
LENCIA

FRANCIA

Rte. Pedro Saló Licart: 209 Brigas
Sección de Recuperación Agrupación de
Divisiones Total
Bar 3^a Estafeta nº 12

UNION





THE LAST COVER FROM THE

REPUBLICAN ARMY

On December 7, 1938, the Spanish Republic fought the last battle of the Spanish civil war, the battle of Extremadura. The remainings of Divisions 28, 52 & 6 were deployed in Valsequillo and renamed "Agrupación Toral" (Torale Group), for the surname of Nilamón Toral, the lieutenant colonel responsible of this operation.

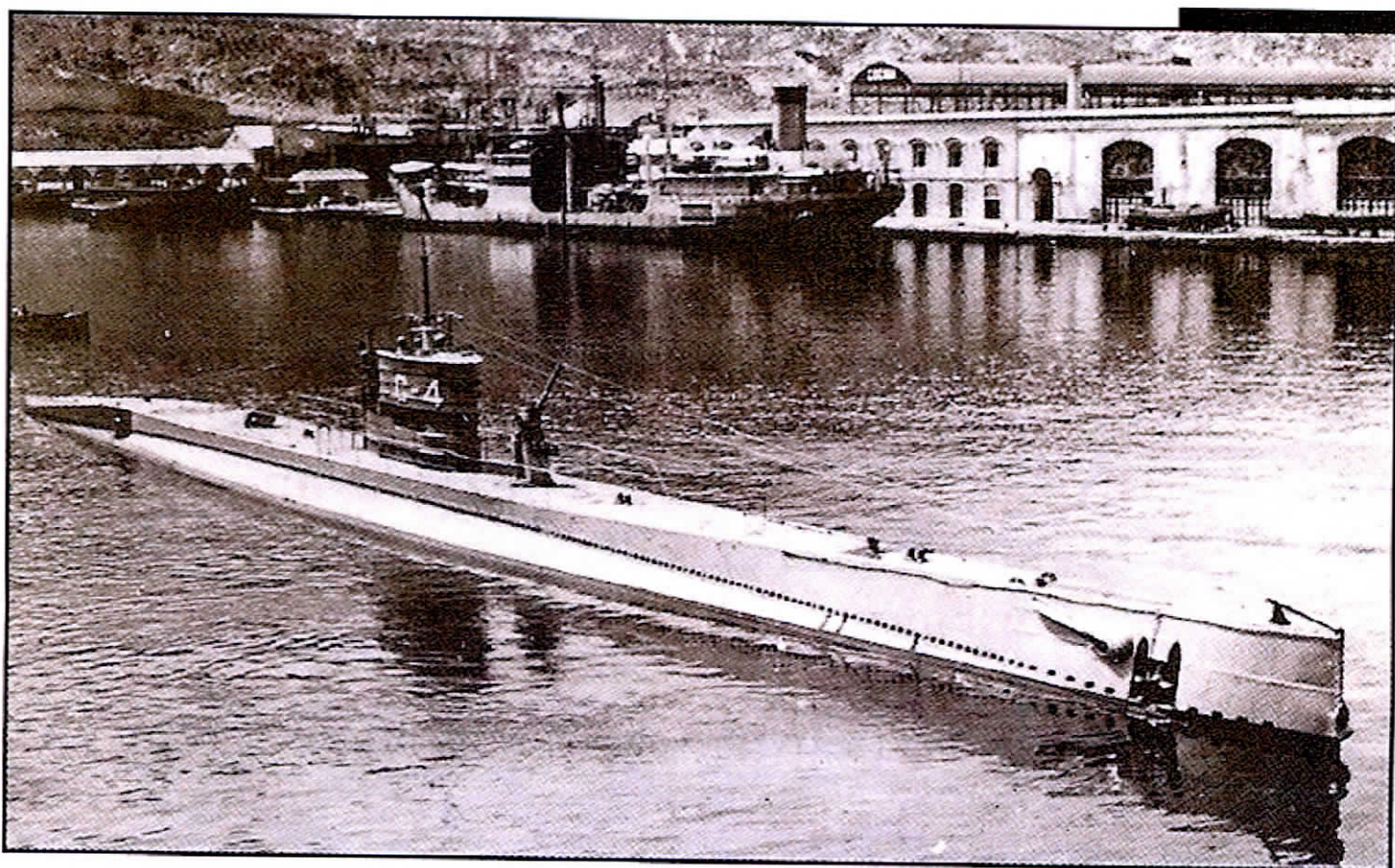
The cover illustrating this article was one of the last ones sent from the Republican Army: it is addressed to Tressant, France, from "Pedro Saló Sicart, 209 Brigada, Sección de Recuperación,

Agrupación de Divisiones Toral, Base 3ª, Estafeta nº 12". It is franked with three 45c stamps Edifil 752 and field post mark. Double censored it has a strike of Valencia civilian censor mark Heller RV2.4 on the front, and a military censor mark reading "CENSURA MILITAR" on the back. Also, arrival backstamp of Tressant dated on April 1, 1939, the very same day of the end of the war.

This is, no doubt, one of the last covers of the Spanish Republic in three ways: one of the last sent from the Republican Army, one of the last censored in Valencia, and one of the last circulated abroad.

THE SUBMARINE MAIL





The C4 submarine

On August 12, 1938, the Republican submarine C4 made a very special trip between Barcelona and Mahon, in Minorca island. It was carrying a bag with 4,500 covers, franked with special stamps

intended for submarine mail (Edifil 775-781). The rates for this service were as follow:

Letters, 1 Pts every 25 grs.

Registered mail, 15 Pts plus normal rating as per weight.

Printed Matter: 2 Pts for 140 grs.

Particular Printed Matter: 4 Pts.

It was the first (and last) Spanish submarine mail service, but the C4 submarine only carried philatelic covers, stamped with a special postmark made for this occasion and never used again. The ship was considered a mobile post office for this trip, and it carried a clerk, named Tomás Orós Gimeno. The clerk took some notes of the trip, writting that "the ship left the port at 8PM on August 12 without any inconvenience during the navigation, made without immersion. When we arrived to the island, the military chief of the site gave us the certificate of the travel". The lack of radars and sonars made it easy for the C4 submarine

to reach Minorca during nighttime, and it entered Mahon harbor at 8AM of the following day.

It also carried the North American journalist Werner Kell, from the Saturday Evening Post, as the Republican government was very interested in the spread of the news about this postal service operated by submarines. The fact is that the government needed foreign exchange, and the sale of these stamps was a way to obtain it. For this reason, the stamps of the submarine mail and the covers were mostly sold to foreign collectors, and the few sold in Spain had to be paid for with foreign currency.

This caused a scarcity of these stamps in Spain, and this is why souvenir sheets and covers with stamps of these series can reach high prices in auction houses.

The C4 submarine escaped to France at the end of the war, and it was returned to the francoist government by French officials on April 2, 1939. On April 27, 1946 it was accidentally sunk during naval drills, when it was hit by Lepanto destroyer. The submarine and the 44 men of the crew were never recovered.X

The secret marks of Isabella Stamps

(1850-1869) • First Part

The classic philately has the risk of fakes, specially for the expensive and scarce issues. The work of Jean de Sperati is only a known example of excellence in the production of fakes, but we also have some resources that can help us to identify fake from genuine stamps: the secret marks made by the engravers.

This was made to fight against postal fakes, but nowadays it is of great help to identify philatelic fakes too. In this article we are

going to study all the security marks made by the engravers for the stamps issued under Isabel II, from 1850 to 1869, using high quality illustrations of the general types of each issue. They are not conclusive, specially after Sperati, who reproduced all of them, but along with the study of paper and inks can be very helpful.

1850 ISSUES



6 cuartos black. All the stamps of this type, both for plates I and II, have a small stain in the inner right frame, at half way between the "F" on "FRANCO" and the top right corner rose. The bottom

left corner rose, moved to the right, is not a mark but a fault of the engraver, as this detail has been seen in many philatelic fakes.



12 cuartos lilac. The secret mark in the stamps of this value is the broken line of the top frame, on the "2" of "12 CUARTOS".



6 reales blue. The secret mark of this value is a blue line on the white bottom frame line, that unites the reticulated background of Isabella's effigy with the ornament to the right of the year. Sometimes this blue line only goes to the middle of the white frame line.



10 reales green. It has two easily visible secret marks: the first one is a broken line just on the top left corner of the exterior frame, and the second a line just between the bottom frame and the ornamental right rose next to the year.

1851 ISSUES

Generic type. A point, sometimes two or two thin lines on the nose, to the right of the line depicting the nasal orifice.

For the values in Cuartos it is a sign of authenticity the union in their bottom edge of the letters "AR" in "CUARTOS", and the same for the letters "RE" and "AL" in "REALES" for the values in this denomination, but some fakes have this detail (for example, Novellas).



Another help can be the top left corner ornament: the lines pointing down of the ornament are united, the interior to the longer of the exterior, but this is not conclusive, as some fakes have this detail too. For example, the Seguí fakes, with these lines united in the values of 12 cuartos and 5 reales, but not the 10 reales value.

1852 ISSUES

Generic type. The hair ribbon end, on the center of the neck, is round, surrounded by a white line highlighting it from the neck's shadow. This white line must be visible and there must not be any line of shadow in it. The first perpendicular line of the hair's shadow must start on the first or second horizontal line. Many fakes do not reproduce properly this other detail: the



fourth inferior horizontal line of shadow of the queen's diadem must go further the fourth line of the hair's loop, counted from left to right. There is another detail never seen on fakes: the corner's ornaments end with a small white leaf with a small line of colour inside. In the legitimate, the leaf on "RR" in "CORREOS" is completely white and there is not this line of colour inside.

1853 ISSUES

Generic type. The 6 cuartos value may have a broken frame just above the letters "CO" in "CORREOS". This is a mark difficult to see in many stamps, and only with a good magnifying glass some remains of this mark can be seen on some stamps. For the other values no secret marks are known, but these are some signs of legitimacy: three points on the face, one on the nose, another one to the left of the nose and a third one below the top lip.



This stamp was issued on January 1, 1853, for Madrid's interior mail only. The signs that allow to identify the legitimates are the following: the oval coat of arms has seven six-pointed stars, and one of their symmetry axes, in all of them, points to the center of the stamp, what makes them look asymmetrically placed. The bear's head has a three-pointed crown, and the first point from the right touches the tree. The letters "C" and the last "R" in "CORREO INTERIOR" end near the frame, but do not touch it. And the lines in the oval frame of the coat of arms are very thin, parallel, and do not cross over the stars; on the bottom right star, there is a line next to the top not touching the inner frame of the coat of arms.

1854 ISSUES

The secret marks are as follow: the top, left and right arms of the cross dividing the coat of arms do not touch its frame. The vertical lines in the background of the towers do not touch the frame on the top quarter, nor the curved line in the bottom quarter. The third ring on the right of the collar surrounding the coat of arms has a coloured point on its inner side, and the fourth ring has a similar point on its outer side. Some fakes have these two marks too, but any stamp that does not have them must be identified as a fake.



2 cuartos green. It has other marks than the three common for this issue: inner frame line broken where the picture shows. Broken round top edge of the ornament on top left corner. "S" in "Cs" broken.



4 cuartos red. Inner frame line broken in three points, as the picture shows. The broken line above the "A" in "FRANCO" is sometimes not visible due to excess of ink. And the three marks common to the issue commented before.



1 real blue. Inner frame line broken as per 2 cuartos green and, like that one, broken round top edge of the ornament on top left corner.

1855 ISSUES

The secret mark is the rose on the top right corner moved down, while the rose on the left is perfectly centered.



1856 ISSUES

The plates used to print this issue were the same than for the previous year issue, so the secret mark is exactly the same.



1859 ISSUES

Despite of being a design similar to the 1854 issues new plates were made to print them. 4 cuartos rose, type II, and 12 cuartos orange. The secret mark is the exterior frame broken on the left margin, in the middle of the stamp. And under the neck there is a line of points instead of the small shadow lines placed in the same place in the previous issue. 4 cuartos carmine, type III. The secret mark is again a broken frame, exactly in the bottom right angle of the squared rose ornament on the top right corner of the stamp.



To be continued.

NOTES FOR A CATALOGUE OF

REPUBLICAN FORCED LABOUR CAMPS AND PRISONS

POSTAL MARKS

BY CARLES PRATS

In previous issues of the *Araña* we have shown individual pieces of the postal history of the Republican forced labour camps. Now we are proud to offer you the full corpus of the marks we have indexed during the last few years.

Most of them are unpublished and cannot be found in any of the catalogues about the Republican censor marks written in recent years, as they limit their listings to the civilian censor marks, excluding military and penitentiary marks.

We are totally conscious that the list of marks must be more extensive, but the scarcity of the pieces makes difficult to record them. Needless to say, if any reader can supply other examples of marks not listed here, will be very welcomed.

The Republican prisons and labour camps are much less known than the Francoist prisons and concentration camps, because they lasted less time and they affected fewer people. But brutality levels were identical in penitentiary establishments in both sides.

Some of the Republican prisons are remembered only as Francoist establishments, but in many occasions they were previously used by the Republicans, and the Francoist only gave continuity to those facilities.

This is what happened with Almería's Provincial Prison, known as "El Ingenio", or the prison in Calle del General Porlier, in Madrid. Even the Albatera labour camp was reused by the Francoist as concentration camp, known as "Campo de los Almendros".

Brief historic overview of the Republican Labour Camps In December 1936 the Government of the Spanish Republic created its own system of Labour Camps for "sentenced in the rebel movement, to develop works of public interest to resolve problems in the concentration zones" (Gaceta de la República nr 362, Dec 27, 1936, pages 1118 & 1119).

These camps were intended to be an alternative to the prison, where prisoners should redeem themselves through their work. They housed a variety of political prisoners, deserters, undisciplined, right-wing people, religious, captured rebel military and even civilians from the zones recovered by the Republican Army.

The treaty they were given was very different depending on which camp did they land to. In those depending of the Dirección General de Cárceles of the Ministry of Justice the treaty was correct; those in camps under administration of the Servicio de Investigación Militar (S.I.M.) received an inhumane treatment, being in many occasions executed arbitrarily.

There are very few documental references for this kind of facilities, but the Republican forced labour camp list can be reconstructed through the analysis of several sources. In the following list, all the camps we have been able to record:

MURCIA:

Totana Labour Camp: It was established on December 28, 1936 (Gaceta de la República núm. 365, 30/12/1936, pág. 1156).

Casa de Reforma in Cehegín: established in the building of the

Maravillas convent «to host prisoners sentenced to prison terms in labour camps, or other, for crimes of disaffection or danger to the regime», it was created on February 1, 1938 (Gaceta de la República núm 49, 18/02/1938, pag. 910).

ALICANTE:

Albatera Labour Camp: It was established on September 6, 1937 (Gaceta de la República núm. 252, 09/09/1937, pag. 995). Later, the documents refer to the camp as «Segura Labour Camps, Albatera Section», Gaceta 147, of 27/05/1938, pag. 1056 and 150 of 05/06/1938, pag. 1202). San Juan Labour Camp: It was established on December 20, 1937 (Gaceta de la República núm. 855, 21/12/1937, pag. 1334).

Calpe Labour Camp: It was established on February 19, 1938 (Gaceta de la República núm. 53, de 22/02/1938, pags. 972 y 973).

Orihuela Labour Camp: We only have notice of this camp for the covers and post cards sent to or from it, with no other references.

As it was very close to Albatera camp, it could have been a section of the «Segura Labour Camps» referred before, with their base in Albatera. It was in San Miguel seminar.

MADRID:

Casa de Trabajo in Alcalá de Henares: It was established in 1934 to house those sentenced for offences to the Law of Lazies and Marauders promulgated a year before. At the beginning of the Civil War the Casa de Trabajo was emptied of common prisoners and it housed right-wing people and rebel military, becoming a labour camp.

CATALONIA:

In 1938 six labour camps were established to decongest prisons, «checas» and prison ships of the S.I.M. These camps were also under the S.I.M. administration, and they were numbered:

Labour Camp number 1: In Montjuïc's Pueblo Español, Barcelona. The S.I.M. offices where there and in Muntaner 55.

Labour Camp number 2: In Hospitalet de l'Infant, with an accessory camp in Tivissa. Later moved to Montferrer and to Seu d'Urgell.

Labour Camp number 3: In Omells de Na Gaia, later moved to Vilasana and Cabó.

Labour Camp number 4: In Concabella, later moved to Barbens.

Labour Camp number 5: In Ogn, territory of Bassella, and later moved to Anglesola.

Labour Camp number 6: In Falset, with an important detachment in Cabassers and smaller units in Gratallops, La Figuera and Porrera. Moved to Arboc and later annexed to camp number 3 in Cabó.

Apart of the structure ruled by the S.I.M. there was in Catalonia another labour camp in the Pelosa Beach (Roses) under administration of the General Direction for Prisons of the Ministry of Justice, and the so called Clariana camp, which was actually the emplacement of Disciplinary Battalion number 5 of the Republican Army (The Catalan labour camps are widely studied in Francesc

Badia, Els camps de treball a Catalunya durant la guerra Civil (1936-1939), Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat, 2001).

The main tasks of the inmates of the Catalan camps was the fortification of the zones close to their camps, and their communication regime with the exterior world was under very tight control.

Each prisoner was only allowed to send two post cards per month to his nearest relatives with a text no longer than 20 words, without cover to ease the censors work, and the subject of the communication was limited to greet the addressee and explain how healthy the sender was.

It was forbidden to write about anything else, neither to mention the place where the camp was located. There were no known restrictions for the incoming mail, except for the instructions to reply to the prisoners using post cards.

Albatera labour camp was an exception, as despite the instruction «reply in post card» printed in the camp's censor marks for the outgoing mail it was not rare to see covers with letters instead of post cards in the incoming mail for the prisoners, and from the texts in preserved letters it is understood a very high frequency of reception of incoming mail, and also the possibility to receive cases with clothes, food, postal stationery and postage stamps to reply to their mail.

Another particular thing of the correspondence received by the Albatera camp inmates is the lack of any kind of censor marks. But the outgoing mail from this camp bears censor mark, despite the only example we have seen is a cover and not a post card.

In Catalonia the captivity of the prisoners who survived to the labour camps ended when they crossed the French border on early February 1939. That was liberty for them and exile for their guards. In the Spanish Levant the camps ended their mission with the Francoist occupation, and in some occasions those camps were also used by the rebel army to host Republicans.

RARITY OF THE PIECES

The postal items circulated to or from the Republican labour camps are very rare, and only a few privileged collections have some example of this kind of postal history.

The most extreme rarities are the pieces circulated to and received by prisoners in the S.I.M. camps (those in Catalonia), and only five examples of this kind of correspondence are known: two covers and three postal stationery. Plus one cover addressed to a guard, not a prisoner.

La Pelosa camp, in Roses, is a separate case, as only one post card and a cover sent from that camp are known, but with no distinctive marks. We have never seen any piece from San Juan and Calpe camps, both in Alicante.

Documentary instruments for the identification of addressees and senders. Unfortunately there is not a complete list of the inmates in the camps neither of the guards and officials working in them.

But despite of this, we have partial lists, which are the only help we have when trying to identify the senders or addressees of the postal effects in this catalogue.

The best source to identify labour camp guards is an order of the Ministry of Gobernación of May 19, 1938, published in Gaceta de la República num. 154 of June 3, 1938 (pages 1177 to 1181). There is a list of appointment for 777 guards of labour camps. They are not listed in alphabetical order, but it seems the consecutive publication of three different lists.

There are other orders appointing or ceasing guards in the following Gacetas:

Num. 103, 13/04/1938, pag. 290

Num. 139, 19/05/1938, pags. 944/945

Num. 145, 25/05/1938, pag. 1034

Num. 249, 06/09/1938, pag. 1093

Num. 253, 10/09/1938, pag. 1177

Num. 265, 22/09/1938, pags. 1376/1377

Num. 269, 26/09/1938, pag. 1433

Num. 314, 10/11/1938, pags. 507/508

Num. 344, 10/12/1938, pags. 1033/1034

All these documents are accessible through the Internet, in the historical collection of La Gaceta, in the website of the Spanish Boletín Oficial del Estado: <https://www.boe.es/buscar/gazeta.php>

For a partial list of the inmates in the Catalan labour camps, you can see Francesc Badia: Els camps de treball a Catalunya durant la Guerra Civil (1936-1939), Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat, 2001, appendix 19, pags. 394/450.

For a partial list of those assassinated under the government of the Popular Front in Barcelona, Madrid and Valencia, you can see the works of César Alcalá Checas de Madrid & Checas de Valencia And César Vidal's Checas de Barcelona.

Sometimes it is possible to identify the addressees or senders of the pieces of postal history belonging to the Republican prisons and labour camps system through these lists of assassinated.

Bibliography:

Gaceta de la República Francesc Badia: Els camps de treball a Catalunya durant la Guerra Civil (1936-1939), Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat, 2001

Joan Samper: Los Campos de Trabajo republicanos en Catalunya durante la Guerra Civil, Monografías Filatélicas nº 20, 2016

César Alcalá: Checas de Barcelona, Ed. Belacqua, Barcelona 2005

César Alcalá: Checas de Valencia, Ed. Styria, Barcelona 2006

César Vidal, Checas de Madrid, Planeta DeAgostini, Barcelona 2007



1



2



3



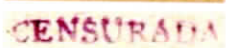
4



5



6



7



8



9



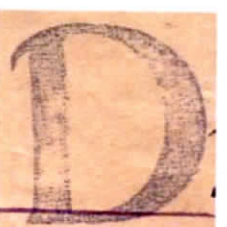
10



11



12



1A



2A

STUDY OF THE POSTAL AND CENSOR MARKS OF THE PIECES IN THIS CATALOGUE.

1.- Alaquàs Prisoners Camp, 4,8x0,5cm, violet. "CENSURADA"

2- Casa de Reforma de Cehegín, 5,8x2,5cm, red, (Heller RC16.1) blue, green.

"CASA DE REFORMA - CEHEGIN / *CENSURADA*/ CONTESTE EN TARJETA POSTAL"

3- Albatera Labour Camp, 4,7x2,5cm, blue. "CAMPO DE TRABAJO / ALBATERA / CENSURADA / CONTESTE EN TARJETA / POSTAL"

4- Orihuela Labour Camp, 4,5x4,5cm, violet (Heller RO7.2). "GOBIERNO / CIVIL / CENSURA / DE / PRENSA"

5- Orihuela Labour Camp, 3cm, violet. "SED BREVES"

6- Orihuela Labour Camp, 3,3x1cm, violet. "CENSURADA". This mark could belong to San Juan prison in Murcia (Heller RO7.1)

7 - Casa de Trabajo de Alcalá de Henares, 2,5cm, violet, carmine. "CENSURADA"

8- Casa de Trabajo de Alcalá de Henares, 8,7cm, violet, carmine. "LA CONTESTACION EN / TARJETA POSTAL"

9*- Labour Camp Number 2, diameter 3,8 cm, blue. "MINISTERIO DE TRABAJO NACIONAL * S.I.M.* / CAMPO DE TRABAJO / N.º 2"

10*- Labour Camp Number 4, diameter 3,8 cm, red. "MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA NACIONAL * S.I.M.* / CAMPO DE TRABAJO / N.º 4"

11- Labour Camp Number 6, diameter 3,8 cm, azul/blue. "MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA NACIONAL * S.I.M.* /CAMPO DE TRABAJO / N.º 6"

12*- Labour Camp Number 6, Detachment number 3 (Cabassers), unknown size and color "CAMPO DE TRABAJO N.º 6 / DESTACAMENTO N.º 3"

RETURN TO SENDER MARKS, PRESUMIBLY COMMON TO ALL THE CATALAN CAMPS, AS THEY WERE USED IN THE CENTRAL OFFICES IF THE S.I.M. IN MUNTANER 55, BARCELONA.

1A- "D", 1,9x1,6 cm, black.

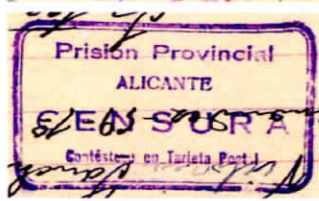
2A- Rectangle with text "SOLO SE ADMITEN /TARJETAS POSTALES CON / 20 PALABRAS DE TEXTO" (Only post cards admitted, with text of 20 words), 8x2,1cm, violet.



1B

MARKS OF PRISONS, PRISON SHIPS AND "CHECAS"

1B- Alicante Provincial Prison. Circular seal 3,5 cm diameter, violet. "Prisión Provincial de Alicante / DIRECCIÓN / CENSURA"



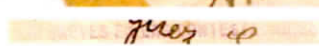
2B

2B- Alicante Provincial Prison. Rectangle 5,8x2,9cm, blue. "Prisión Provincial / ALICANTE / CENSURA / Conteste en tarjeta postal"



3B

3B- Madrid, Prison Calle General Porlier, 3,9cm, rose. "CENSURA"



4B

4B- Madrid, Prison Calle General Porlier, 6,4cm, blue. "SED BREVES EN LAS CONTESTACIONES"



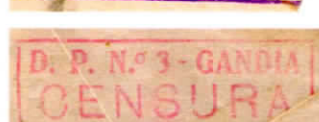
5B

5B- Madrid, Model Prison, 6,4cm blue. "SED BREVES EN LAS CONTESTACIONES"



6B

6B- Prison of San Miguel de los Reyes, Valencia. Rectangle 4,7x1,5cm violet. "D.P.Nº 1 - VALENCIA / CENSURA" (D.P. for Deposit of Prisoners)



7B

7B- Gandí prison, Colegio de los Escolapios. Rectangle 4,8x1,5cm, rose. "D.P.Nº 1 - GANDIA / CENSURA" (D.P. for Deposit of Prisoners)



8B

8B- El Grao, Valencia. Belonging to a Socialist checa. Oval seal 5,4x3,1m, rose. "AGRUPACION SOCIALISTA / COMITÉ / EL GRAO DE VALENCIA"



9B

9B- Almería, Ingenio Prison, Provincial Prison, "Censura de Correspondencia", 9,4 cm, red



10B

10B - Almería, Ingenio Prison, Provincial Prison "CENSURA DE CORRESPONDENCIA / SER BREVES" 10cm, red



11B

11B- Almería, Ingenio Prison, Provincial Prison, "COMISARIA DE INVESTIGACION Y VIGILANCIA / DIRECCION GENERAL DE SEGURIDAD / ALMERIA", 3,8cm diameter, violet



12B

12B- Prison ship Mahón, in the port of Tarragona "COMANDANTE BUQUE PRISION / MAHÓN / DE / MAHÓN", 4,9x3cm, rose



13B

13B - Prison ship Isla de Menorca, in the port of Tarragona "COMANDANTE BUQUE PRISION / ISLA DE MENORCA / TARRAGONA", 4,9x3cm, rose

Panillo Spanish civil war censor mark discovered



Panillo is a village in Huesca province, belonging to the town of Graus, nowadays with four inhabitants.

Recently, a metallic censor mark seal used during the Spanish Civil War has been discovered. It reads "COMITÉ DE ENLACE ANTIFASCISTA / PANILLO" and it is very similar to the censor used in the village of Serraduy, very close to Panillo, listed by Ernst L. Heller in his catalogue "Marcas utilizadas por la censura republicana durante la guerra civil española", page 112. The only difference is the name of the village in the central circumference.

No covers are yet known bearing this mark, but the mark itself has been found.