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Collecting the Spanish Cartwheel cancels

Deceiving Dealers
and the Vinebre
Civil War Locals
Spanish First
Day Covers
Nationalist Locals
and More!

Collecting the Spanish Cartwheel Cancels

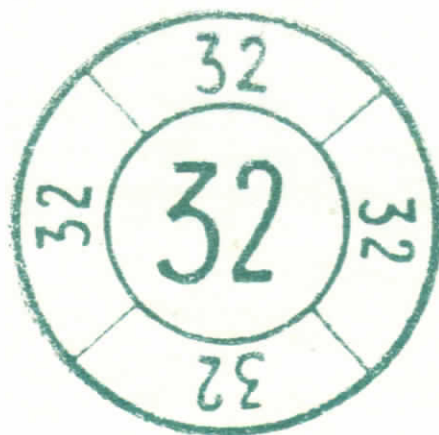
This is the perfect way to enter that philatelic twilight zone known as... the 19th century.

By **Jaume Balsells**



A partial run of the cartwheel cancels on Edifil 48.

If you are like most of us, you started your collection of Spanish stamps with the more modern material, by gathering whatever stamps were coming in the mail, trading with friends, or buying from dealers at philatelic events. At some point you started to go backwards in time, sweeping through the post-war period, the civil war era (possibly skipping some of the priciest stamps), and into the Alfonso XIII Kingdom. You might be sticking to the stamps-only approach or, perhaps, you are mixing it up a little with a few covers, trying to learn about the rates and the postal markings.



Cartwheel cancel from Lérida (32)

The next step, crossing into the classic period, is always a daunting one. Forget about trying to assemble a mint stamp collection on the budget of most collectors. Even the more affordable used stamps require a significant investment. Worst of all, at some point you'll learn that the classic period is plagued with fakes and forgeries, and has more flavors of tampered with stamps than an ice-cream store. Yet every time you come across an affordable copy of a classic stamp you fancy, you debate between buying it and continuing to ignore the classic period.

Some of us solve this dilemma by wandering into the classic period while most other col-

lectors decide to stay put and watch from a safe distance. Cartwheel cancels are the perfect way for these collectors to finally enter the philatelic twilight zone that is the XIXth century.

Cartwheel cancels were created to replace the older grills or parrillas that had been used between 1852 and 1858 to cancel stamps. They consisted of two concentric circles measuring 23 and 29 milimeters in diameter, broken into four segments by four radial lines, thus having the appearance of a wheel. The center of the wheel had a number that was associated with the originating Post Office. The same number was repeated four times in a smaller font in the outer section of the cancel.

Cartwheel cancels were distributed among

the cities and towns that were handling the largest volumes of mail. These included the provincial capitals, which were assigned numbers 1 to 49, the domestic mail exchange offices (10) and the foreign exchange offices (4), making a total of 63 different cartwheel cancels.

Madrid was the Central Mail administration and was assigned number one. Numbers two to eight were assigned alphabetically to the first class Main Administrations (Administraciones Principales de primera clase). Numbers nine to fifteen were given to the second class Main Administrations (Administraciones Principales de segunda clase). Numbers sixteen to forty nine went, also alphabetically, to the third class Main Administrations (Ad-

ministraciones Principales de tercera clase). Number fifty was assigned to Irun, the main Foreign Mail Exchange Office that handled the majority of the mail going abroad through France. Numbers fifty two to fifty nine were given to the first class Associated Administrations (Administraciones Subalternas de primera clase) which were domestic mail exchange offices. Numbers sixty one to sixty three were assigned to the second class Associated Administrations (Administraciones Subalternas de segunda clase), which were foreign mail exchange offices. The table below is a complete list of the cartwheel cancel numbers and their corresponding towns.

Continued on page 7

Number	City	Province	Number	City	Province
1	Madrid	Madrid	33	Logroño	Logroño
2	Barcelona	Barcelona	34	Lugo	Lugo
3	Cádiz	Cádiz	35	Orense	Orense
4	Coruña	Coruña	36	Palencia	Palencia
5	Granada	Granada	37	Palma de Mallorca	Islas Baleares
6	Málaga	Málaga	38	Pamplona	Pamplona
7	Sevilla	Sevilla	39	Pontevedra	Pontevedra
8	Valencia	Valencia	40	Salamanca	Salamanca
9	Alicante	Alicante	41	San Sebastián	Guipúzcoa
10	Córdoba	Córdoba	42	Sta Cruz de Tenerife	Islas Canarias
11	Murcia	Murcia	43	Santander	Cantabria
12	Oviedo	Oviedo	44	Segovia	Segovia
13	Toledo	Toledo	45	Soria	Soria
14	Valladolid	Valladolid	46	Tarragona	Tarragona
15	Zaragoza	Zaragoza	47	Teruel	Teruel
16	Albacete	Albacete	48	Vitoria	Álava
17	Almería	Almería	49	Zamora	Zamora
18	Ávila	Ávila	50	Irún	Guipúzcoa
19	Badajoz	Badajoz	51	Bailén	Jaén
20	Bilbao	Bilbao	52	Benavente	Zamora
21	Burgos	Burgos	53	Écija	Sevilla
22	Cáceres	Cáceres	54	Manzanares	Ciudad Real
23	Castellón de la Plana	Castellón	55	Medina del Campo	Valladolid
24	Ciudad Real	Ciudad Real	56	Santiago	Coruña
25	Cuenca	Cuenca	57	Talavera de la Reina	Toledo
26	Gerona	Gerona	58	Tarancón	Cuenca
27	Guadalajara	Guadalajara	59	Trujillo	Cáceres
28	Huelva	Huelva	60	Vigo	Pontevedra
29	Huesca	Huesca	61	La Junquera	Girona
30	Jaén	Jaén	62	Tuy	Pontevedra
31	León	León	63	San Roque	Cádiz
32	Lérida	Lérida			

Costanilla de Santiago

N.º 6 = Pral.

Gov. D.ª Jose Muir de Gub. de



Madrid



Triple letter from Ciudad Real (24) to Madrid

Cartafeta de Cadix

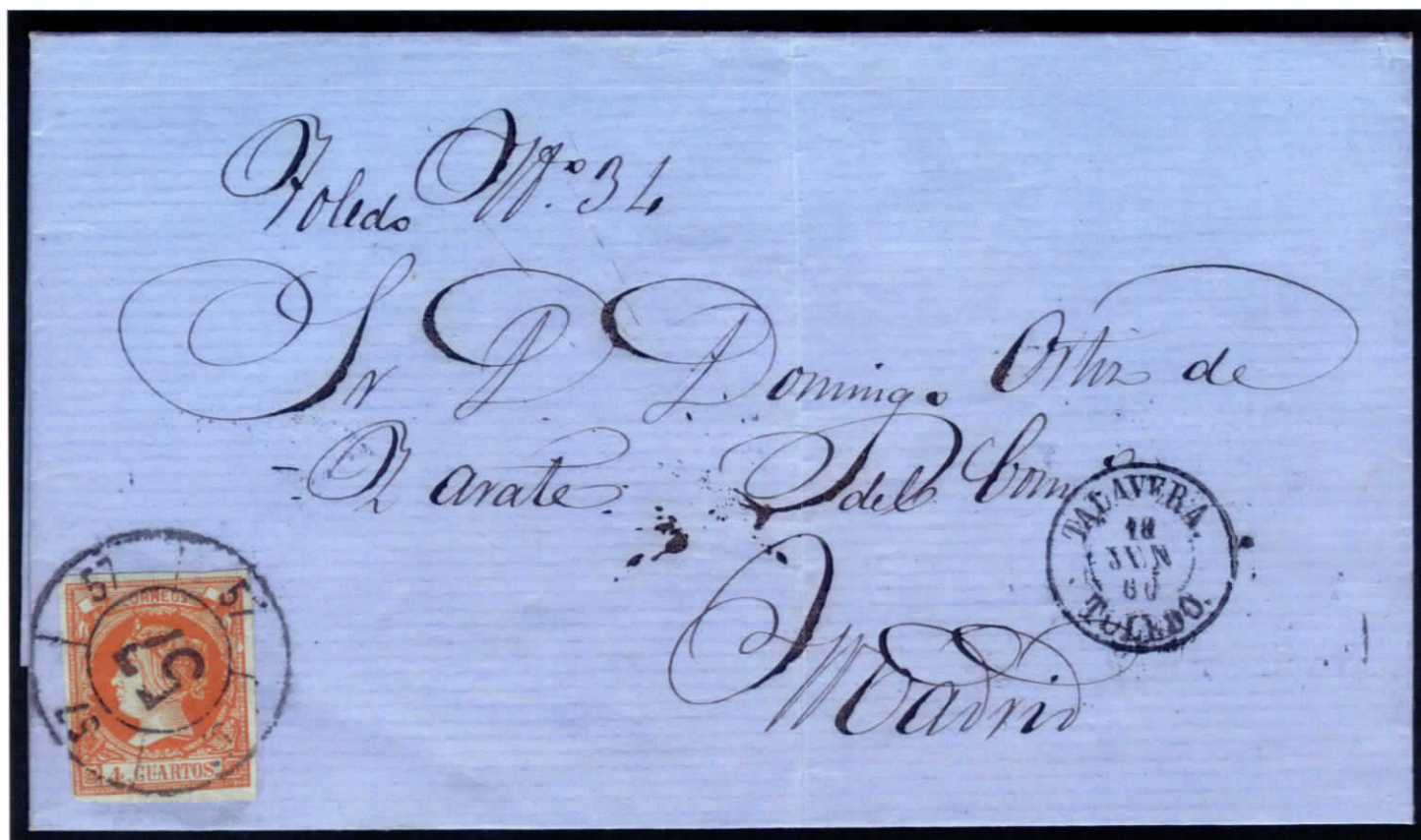


Sr. Sr. Patricio Garvey

Seruz de la Frontera



Letter from Gibraltar to Jerez posted at the foreign exchange office of San Roque (63).



Letter from Talavera de la Reina (57) to Madrid.

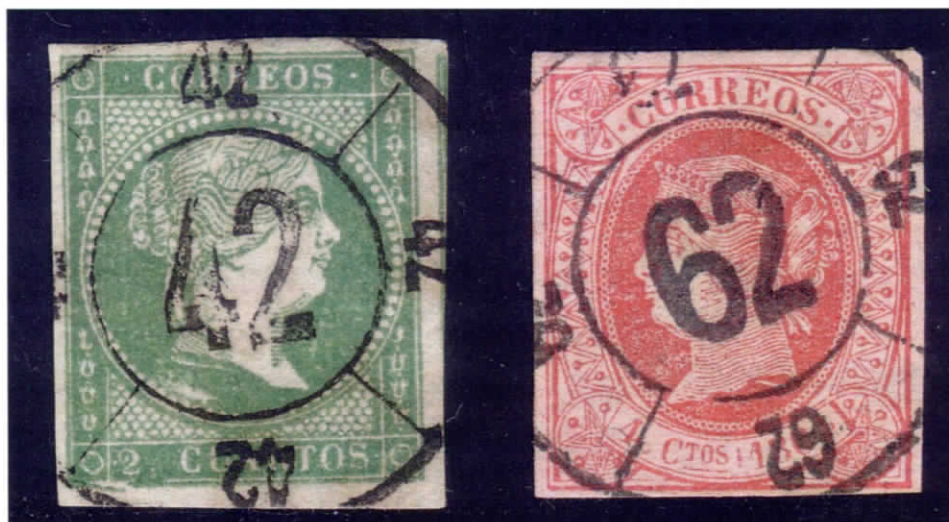
CARTWHEELS

Continued from page 5

An official order from October 7th, 1858 notified the Post Offices that they should begin using the new cancels on October 15th, 1858. The Central Administration of Madrid began using the cancel a few days earlier, most likely as a test. The earliest known cover with a cartwheel cancel from Madrid has a datestamp of October 1st, 1858.

The cancels were widely used in all the Post Offices until 1862. By that year, the cartwheel cancels from large cities, that handled higher volumes of mail, were already worn out. The Mail began replacing the cancels as wear required. Some cities such as Madrid or Barcelona transitioned to the numbered grills or parrillas numeradas. Other towns introduced changes to the cartwheel design with cancels that were likely created locally. These are called modified cartwheels or ruedas de carreta modificadas. Examples of the latter are Bilbao, Burgos, Leon, Malaga, Salamanca, Vitoria or Tarragona.

Other Post Offices continued using the cartwheel cancels for many years. Many examples can be found throughout the Isabel



Cancels from Santa Cruz de Tenerife (42) and Tuy (62).

II period, the first Republic and even into the Alfonso XII years.

Collecting the cartwheel cancels can start by assembling the sixty three numbers as cancels on a single stamp, usually the 4 cuartos stamp of 1856 (Edifil 48). Other collectors will prefer the yellow background of the 4 cuartos stamp of 1860 (Edifil 52). Eventually you will likely expand your collection to both stamps. These are two of the most common stamps of the Isabel period and the majority

of the cartwheel cancels are very common and extremely affordable. They are usually part of the small lots you see everyday on sites such as ebay, and they are often offered by Spanish dealers on ebay-Spain. It does not take a long time to assemble a representative collection at \$2-3 a piece. There are, of course, a handful of rare ones from the smaller towns that did not generate a lot of mail. These can be found from specialized dealers, direct sale

Continued on page 9



Letter from Trujillo (59) to Madrid with blue cartwheel cancel.



Letter from Irún (50) to Bayona paying the scarce border rate.



Letter from La Junquera (61) with blue cartwheel cancel.

CARTWHEELS

Continued from page 7

catalogues from Spanish dealers and auctioneers, and also from smaller auction firms.

By the time you have saved enough to buy a Tenerife (42) or Tarancon (58), you would have likely acquired a couple of covers and you will be convinced that seeing the complete cancel on cover is way better than the partial impression of the soaked stamp. Achieving the complete set of sixty three cancels on cover is definitely a bigger challenge, but you must realize that over fifty percent of those covers are priced under \$30. That's Edifil catalogue value.

The possibilities from here are endless. Some collectors will chase the same cancels on later stamps such as the 4 cuartos from 1862 to 1866. Other collectors will decide to investigate the different cancel types that were used in large cities by gathering multiple copies and studying the minor differences. Others will go after the blue ink varieties, the modified cartwheels and even into the numbered grills that replaced the cartwheel cancels.

Branching into different stamps is also a good idea. Even if you stick to a single issue, collecting the cartwheel cancels on different values such as the 12 cuartos, 1 real or 2 re-



Modified Cartwheel cancels from Tarragona (46) and Vitoria (48).

ales makes for a very colorful collection. If you decide to expand in this direction, you will be able to add covers to destinations such as France, England or the Americas, that will have plenty of colorful foreign postal markings. Many of these covers, especially those going to nearby countries such as France, can be bought with under \$50, usually much less on sites like ebay.

If you liked the covers going abroad, how about an incoming foreign cover with a cartwheel cancel? Mail coming into Spain by sea, mainly to Barcelona, had usually been posted

directly on the ship at Marseilles, and arrived to Barcelona uncanceled. Among several cancels used on this type of mail we can find the Barcelona cartwheel.

Blocks and multiples are yet another option that will let you show the complete cancels that are too large for single stamps. Blocks and multiples have a very wide price range that depends mostly on the value of the single stamp and the size of the block. The scarcity of the cancel is the third factor that will determine the price of the piece.

Continued on page 11



Letter from Salamanca (40) to Madrid with modified cartwheel cancel.



Letter from San Sebastián (41) to France.



Transatlantic letter from Tarragona (46) to New York by British Mails.

CARTWHEELS

Continued from page 9

Last but not least, we can not forget about Official Mail. The 1855 official stamps (Edifil 35 to 38) were used throughout 1866 and thus saw a lot of cartwheel activity. Don't even worry about soaked stamps for this part of the collection. Official mail back in those years represented about half of the total volume of circulating letters. Covers and fronts are extremely common and affordable. Official Mail covers usually have additional marks from the sending administration, typically courts, customs offices, town mayors, Governors, military or church officials and so forth. Adding Official Mail pieces to your collection will make it more diverse and colorful.

If you have read this far you must be already making space in your albums for your first cartwheel cancels. Focus on quality rather than quantity. Given enough time, you are guaranteed to complete the collection so don't rush into it with the first stamps that you come across. Look for crisp impressions with the central number clearly visible and dismiss partial or smudged cancels. Be patient and, whenever there is doubt about which number is printed on the cancel, wait for a better one to come along. Murphy's law is usually right.

Cartwheel cancels were created to replace the older grills or parrillas that had been used between 1852 and 1858 to cancel stamps.

Remember also that the majority of the cancels are quite common and inexpensive. It is worth paying a couple of dollars more for a perfect impression of a cheap cancel rather than settling for lower quality in order to save a few pennies. Settle on partial cancels only for the scarcer, higher priced cancels so you can get them at more affordable prices.

We have covered so far most of "the good" about cartwheel cancels and it would not be fair to finish this article without discussing also "the ugly". Over the recent years, an increasing number of collectors have turned their attention to this area of Spanish philately. This has meant more research, new publications on the subject, and a deeper understanding of this philatelic subject. However, the unfortunate consequence of the popularity of the cartwheel cancels is that forged material is starting to appear in the philatelic market.

Mint or unused 4 cuartos stamps from the cartwheel years are very abundant and inexpensive, even in large blocks, and adding a

forged cancel with a scarce number can make these creations look like very valuable pieces. Another well known trick is to partially paint a common genuine cancel to make it look like a rare one. The message here is to be cautious when buying one of the rare cancels. Getting the rare cancels from knowledgeable dealers rather than from unknown sellers will likely make your purchase safer and, whenever in doubt, send the stamp for a certificate.

I will finish by reminding readers that this article is by no means a comprehensive study but rather an introduction to this area of collecting. We know enough about cartwheel cancels to allow collectors to build beautiful and impressive collections but there are still many discoveries to be made. First and last days of use need to be narrowed down, different cancel types need to be determined and identifying characteristics for these types need to be described accurately. But the first thing we need to get all this research going are new collectors interested in the subject. Will you join us? ■

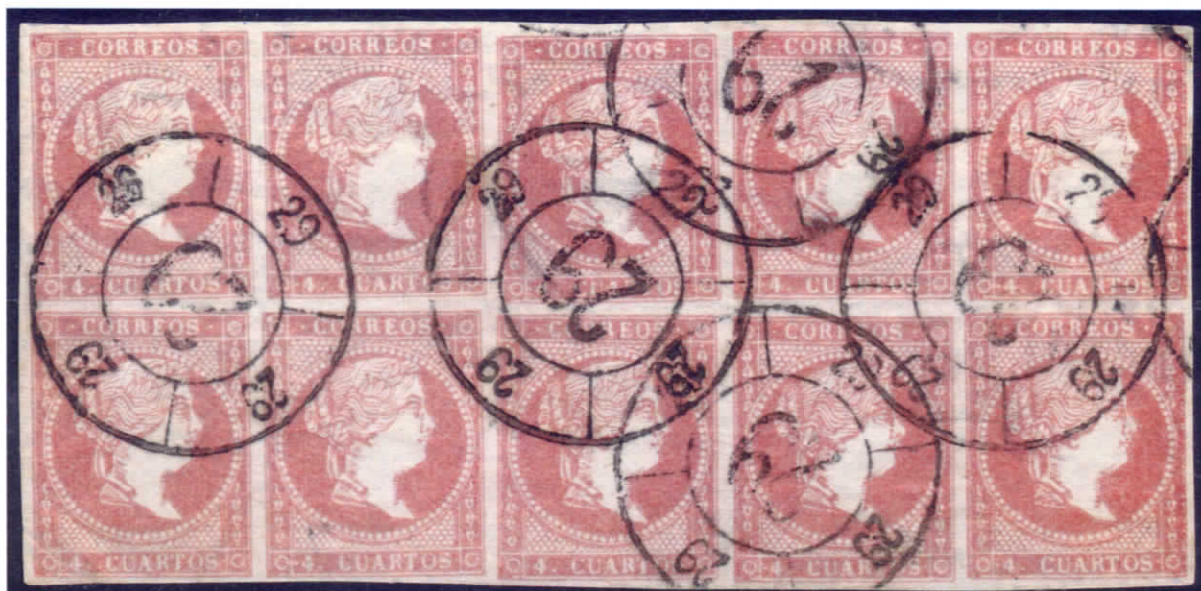


Official letter from Allariz to Coruña cancelled in transit at Orense (35).

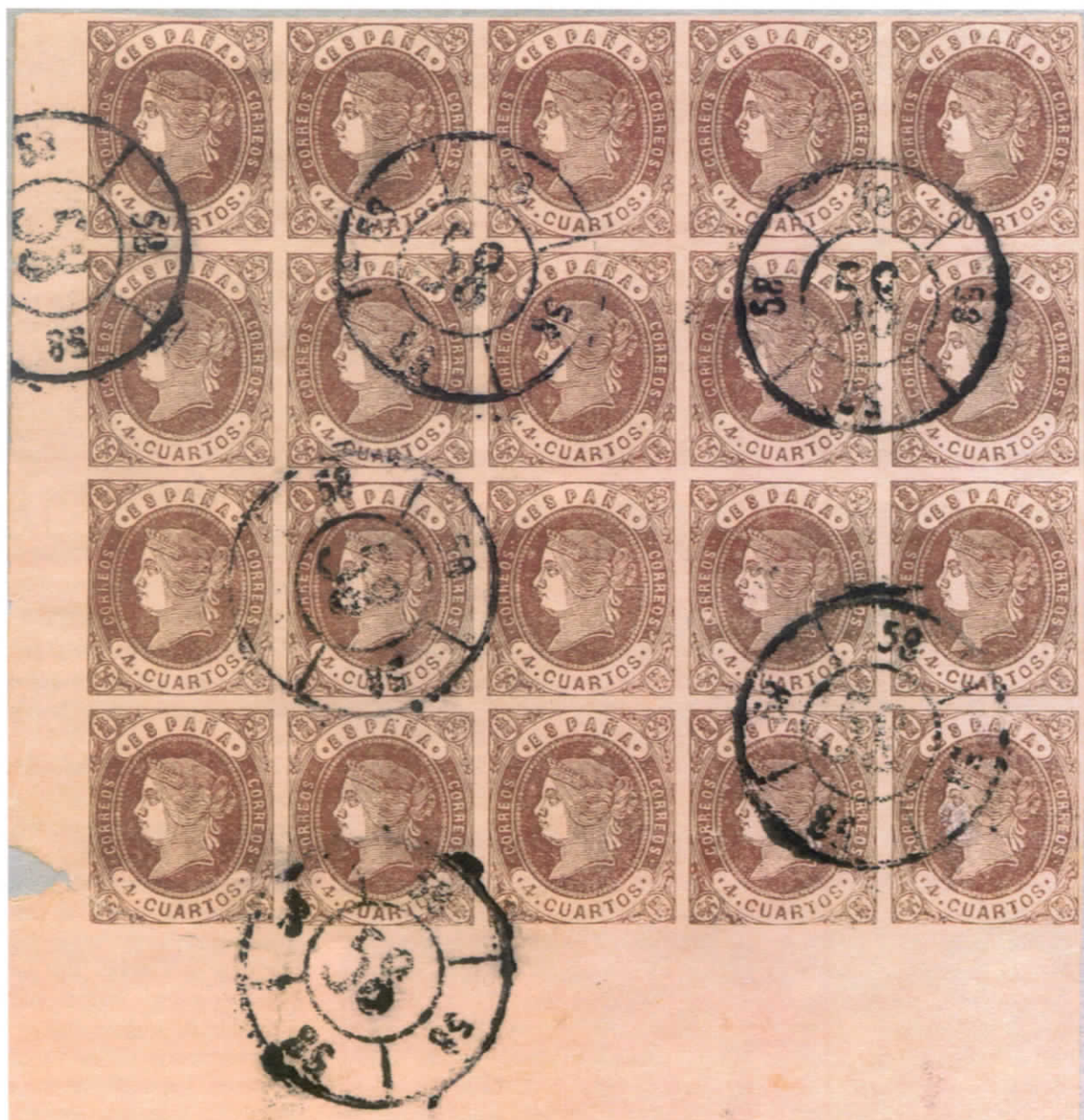


Missing outline

Edifil 55 block of four with Granada (5) cancel.



Edifil 48 block of ten with Huesca (29) cancel.



Edifil 58 corner block of 20 with fake Tarancon (58) cancel. From the collection of Alejandro Gracia Cenamor.

Pre-Philatelic Favorites

Featuring the Most Interesting Items from the Collections of SPS Members



George Read, US consul in Malaga, 1839-1850.

By Jaime Balsells

In 1785, the US Government decided to establish a system of consulates in foreign ports in order to control American commerce and to assist its citizens while abroad. In Spain, the US established consulates in Bilbao, Cádiz, Málaga, Alicante, Barcelona and Tenerife.

George Read was the fourth US consul in Malaga. He was appointed in January of 1839 and he served as consul until April of 1850. George Read was born around 1797 in Philadelphia, son of William Read and grandson of George Read, Delaware politician and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Read had been living in Malaga for many years when he was appointed consul and he used his title to expand his trade business with America. He was exporting

mostly agricultural products such as citrus, raisins and wine. The proceeds of his sales in America were spent on importing products such as wood, which he then sold in Spain. We know about Read's business because of his correspondence with Silas Peirce of Boston.

Most noticeable in this correspondence is the use of the mark "CONSULATE U.S. MALAGA", described by Manuel Tizón in his *Prephilatelia Española*, 3rd Edition. The known period of use of this mark spans from 1843 to 1850, coinciding with the time when Read was the US consul in Malaga. The mark is not known after 1850, the same year that Read was replaced as consul by John Summers Smith. A few years later, he commissioned a new mark to use in his mail, an oval

with his name "GEO. READ". The earliest example that I know of this mark is from 1853. The inks used for both marks are the same.

Read returned to Philadelphia around 1860 after spending over 20 years in Malaga. He must have been around 60 years of age when he returned to the US.

The cover shown from Read's correspondence was mailed on January of 1850 from Málaga to the forwarding agents Baring Bros in London. The agents paid 10 pence for a single letter from Spain and put it back in the mails unpaid to Boston. The letter was sent on Cunard America from Liverpool arriving in Boston on February 25th, 1850. The letter was charged 24 cents in Boston, paid by the addressee. ■

Spanish First Day Covers

By Robert H. Penn

Collecting first day covers has been popular for decades. Collectors who want more than just a copy of each new stamp or set as they are issued can greatly enhance a collection or exhibit by adding first day covers. These can be attractive commercial cachets, special cachets prepared by clubs or organizations or covers custom designed by the collector.

For added fun attending a first day ceremony is recommended. There you can have covers cancelled, get some autographs and obtain a ceremony brochure or booklet. Most of the world's postal services realize these are a great promotional opportunity.

First day covers and ceremonies have been an important part of the Spanish stamp collecting scene since the 1940's. Attractive cachets and first day cancels are abundant. First day events at stamp shows and international meetings cover a wide variety of topics. Most items are inexpensive. Listings for first day covers are found in the Spanish catalogues. As always, condition is very important.

Just to illustrate some of the types of Spanish first day covers that were produced in the "early" days, we have put together the sample group below.



(Top Right) Spanish Red Cross Issue – June 1, 1938. – An Arthur Barger cover cancelled in Barcelona. Both the semi-postal and airmail overprint stamps were issued on June 1st. Barger had a special contract with the Republican Postal Authorities to prepare and market covers.

(Bottom Right) Stamp Day Airmail Issue – October 12, 1944 – Stamp honors Mariano Pardo de Figueroa aka Dr. Thebussem. Several stamp dealers prepared cachets. El Dia Del Sello or Stamp Day issues became a popular annual event.





Stamp Day Airmail Issue – October 12, 1945 – this airmail has a Madrid cancel and honors the Conde De San Luis the government official who authorized the first stamps. This is a plain first day...just the stamp and special cancel.



Spanish Railroad Centennial Issue –October 9, 1948 – three stamps issued for this event including the 2pts airmail. The first day cancels include this fancy large oval in red. Several dealers prepared cachets; this cover was sent via airmail to Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Universal Postal Union 75th Anniversary – October 9, 1949 – Spain joined almost every country by issuing a U.P.U. set. This elaborate cover was prepared in Madrid and sent airmail to a collector in Philadelphia, PA. It picked up extra markings on its journey to the U.S.A.



Isabel La Católica Airmail Set of Five – October 12, 1951 – two sets were issued to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Isabel and Ferdinand. The cover arrived in Del Paso Heights, CA. On October 16th according to the U.S. Backstamps.



Pro Tuberculosos Issue of 1951 – October 1, 1951– first day covers and cancels were prepared for semi-postal stamps. This provided an additional way to promote the cause.

Illegitimate Errors and Deceiving Dealers

An Analysis of the Vinebre Local Civil War Tax Stamps

By Carles Prats

In the previous issue of *Araña* I was talking about the Vinebre covers, and I promised another article about the composition types of the Vinebre stamps that would definitively support the idea, exposed in the first article, that the whole issue of this township was speculative. In the following pages I will show the evidence, based upon complete sheets that will prove this idea.

Finding a complete, uncut sheet of certain types of stamps is not easy. And if the sheet was designed to create pairs with different stamps and other rarities, then the task becomes almost impossible. Thanks to the internet and EBay, I've been able to purchase complete sheets of practically all of

the stamps and sheets issued by the little village of Vinebre during the Spanish civil war. In 2003 I purchased my first complete sheet of Vinebre stamps and just a few weeks ago I purchased some of the very few that I still lack. In six years I've collected the 42 complete sheets that make up my Vinebre collection. Thanks to EBay, dealers and individuals have appeared who sell philatelic collections "as is". Traditional dealers used to cut the complete sheets to sell stamp by stamp, and this is what has caused the terrific scarcity of the untouched sheets.

First issue complete sheets

Gomez-Guillamon's catalogue *The Re-*

publican Local War Tax Stamps lists the following types for the first Vinebre issue:

Horizontal se-tenant pairs, where the left stamp has double line characters in the bottom legend "CORREUS" and "CENTIMS" (Type I legend) and the right one has the same legend in single line characters (Type II legend) (nrs. 1490/1493).

Horizontal tete-beche pairs (nrs. 1494/1497).

Both types are found in each of the four different colours of this issue, perforated and imperforated.

When we see a complete sheet, we easily

Continued on page 20



Fig. 1. Complete imperforated blue and black sheet, first issue.

This is a diagram of the composition used in the sheets:

1	2	3 Inverted	4	5 Type II
6	7	8 Inverted	9	10 Type II
11	12	13 Inverted	14	15 Type II
16	17	18 Inverted	19	20 Type II
21	22	23 Inverted	24	25 Type II

understand how these pairs are formed.

If we join positions 4-5, 9-10, 14-15 and 24-25 we get the se-tenant pairs. Joining positions 3, 8, 13, 18 or 23 with 2 or 4, 7 or 9, 12 or 14, 17 or 19 and 22 or 24, we have the tete-beche pairs. The 3, 8, 13, 18 and 23 positions must not be confused with the famous

inverted centers; those only have the central picture inverted, but not the legends. These ones are complete inverted stamps that if cut apart in single form cannot be distinguished from the other stamps in the sheet.

No more than 10 complete sheets for each colour perforated, and 10 more for each col-

our imperforated may survive. This is 80 sheets in total for the first issue. No inverted-center, complete sheet is known, and possibly it cannot exist, as it is suspected that only a sheet per colour perf. and imperf. was printed, and cut to use in circulated covers. Sheets are usually hand stamp numbered in the top right corner, but there are examples of un-numbered sheets too. Their rarity grade is RR (very rare), and correlative serial numbers or lack of them increases this rarity to extremely rare (RRR). An estimated 600 sheets per colour perforated and 600 more for imperforated was issued, with a total of 4,200 sheets for the whole first issue.

There are also several varieties due to real errors or to the printing needs. This table shows the position of these varieties:

Position 4: Imprint "M C .. BONET Imp BARNA" (two dots after the C).

Positions 8 and 13: Imprint "M C . BONET Imp BARNA" (dot after the C).

Position 11: Left sheet centermark.

Position 15: Right sheet centermark and imprint "M C BONET Imp BARNA." (with a dot after BARNA).

Position 18: Imprint "M C . BONET Imp BARNA." (with a dot after the C letter and BARNA).



Fig 2: Position 4 variety



Fig 3: Positions 8 & 13 variety

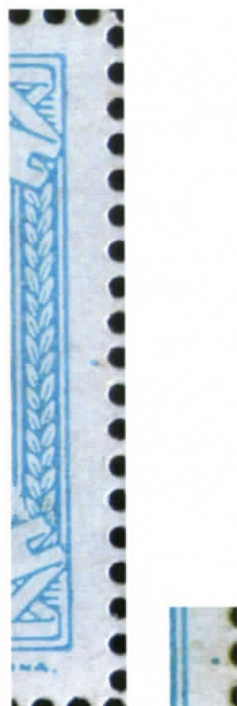


Fig. 5: Position 15 varieties



Fig. 4: Position 11 varieties



Fig. 6: Position 10 variety

Varieties on position 8 and 13 are scarce, with an estimated print run of 2,000 stamps. This is because the same variety is in two different positions. All the rest are rare, as no more than 1,000 stamps for each have the varieties listed below.

1	2	3	4 var	5
6	7	8 var	9	10
11 var	12	13 var	14	15 var
16	17	18 var	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

Second issue complete sheets

The stamps listed under Gomez-Guillamon with numbers 1498/1503 was printed in red and blue, perforated and imperforated, in 30 stamp sheets.

The first half of the sheet (positions 1-5, 11-15 and 21-25) were Gomez-Guillamon

type 501 ("A" for us, nrs 1498/1499), and the remaining half GG type 502 ("B" for us, nrs 1500/1501). As each half of the sheet has different compositions, the central positions can form se-tenant pairs: 5-6, 15-16 and 25-26 (GG1502 and 1503):

These sheets also have a hand stamped serial number on their top right corner, and no unnumbered examples exist. There are three surviving complete sheets per colour, perforated and imperforated, with a total number of known sheets of approximately 50, counting both colours, perforated or imperforated. Their rarity grade is RRR (extremely rare), and sheets with correlative serial numbers must be considered unique. The highest serial number I've seen on a sheet is 1293, so the original issue must have been, at least, up to this number of sheets per colour perforated and imperforated, with a total of 5,172 sheets.

They have a watermark only seen in stamps on positions 2-3 and 5-6-7. The watermark is not complete, as it appears it was cut vertically to prepare the paper where the stamps were printed on. It depicts part of a plant a letter "H."

Continued on page 22

1 A	2 A	3 A	4 A	5 A	6 B	7 B	8 B	9 B	10 B
11 A	12 A	13 A	14 A	15 A	16 B	17 B	18 B	19 B	20 B
21 A	22 A	23 A	24 A	25 A	26 B	27 B	28 B	29 B	30 B



Fig. 7. Complete imperforated red second issue sheet.

Second issue, souvenir sheets

They were printed in plates of four souvenir sheet each, with four imperforated stamps per sheet. They are divided in three types and three different compositions per type:

The composition is common to the three types:

First position: composition 1 (Galvez 757)

Second position: composition 1 (Galvez 757)

Third position: composition 2 (Galvez 758)

Fourth position: composition 1a (Galvez 758a), inverted stamp

The different types are distinguished by the following features:

Type I: vertical hand stamped serial number; the Republican and Catalan flags are not touch the margins of the sheets. Quantity of issued plates: 100. There are very few surviving complete plates, so their rarity grade is

RRR.

Type II: vertical hand stamped serial number; the Republican and Catalan flags are unbroken and touch the margins of the sheets. Quantity of issued plates: 500. It is not easy to find surviving plates, with a rarity of RR.

Type III: as type I, but with horizontal hand stamped serial number. Quantity of issued plates: 2,650. The most available to find in complete plates, with a rarity grade of R.

There are also examples of Type I & III unnumbered sheets. It is not possible to determine if these unnumbered plates belong to



Fig. 8. Type I complete sheet, with four souvenir sheets.

Type I or III as they only distinguish themselves by the position of the serial number. There is no information about how many examples exist with no serial number. Nevertheless, the rarity of this type is equal to Type I sheets: RRR.

It is impossible to find correlative serial numbers in a same plate, as the souvenir sheets were numbered with the same termination in each quadrant: position 1 was numbered from 00001 to 00100; position 2 from 00101 to 00200; position 3 from 00201 to 00300; and position 4 from 00301 to 00400. So when position 1 has the serial number 00001, position 2 has 00101, position 3 has 00201 and position 4 has 00301. And always the same progression. So the only way to form correlative plates is joining two parts of this progression. Any pair in this form increases its rarity one degree.

All these sheets have a watermark that can be normal or inverted, positive or negative, showing a plane and the initials STH in monogram.

Third issue complete sheets

This issue was printed in 36 stamp sheets in lilac and green (GG1506 & 1508), and mauve and yellow (GG1507 & 1509) rouletted or imperforated, with hand stamped serial number on their top right corner, with no watermarks. There are only two complete sheets known to have survived: an imperforated lilac and green GG1508, with serial number 0732, and a rouletted mauve and yellow GG1507, with serial number 0011. They must be considered unique meanwhile no other sheets of this issue are reported to exist.

Their composition is absolutely regular, with no evident differences between the stamps. The only thing that allows to determine each stamp's position in the sheet is the horizon point lines behind the sculpture, which is different in each stamp. See an example of this comparing only the first three stamps horizons:

Some colour and paper proofs exist, but none of them is known to have survived in complete sheet, as all those I've seen are in single stamps or at much in pairs.

Third issue, souvenir sheets

As the second issue souvenir sheets, these ones were also printed in large plates of four sheets each, rouletted or imperforated. These are Gomez-Guillamon numbers 1510 & 1512 for rouletted and imperforated violet and pale blue sheets, and 1511 & 1513 for the same in green and yellow.

These are the most common plates that can be found of the whole Vinebre issues,



Fig. 9. Rouletted third issue complete sheet, mauve and yellow. Unique.



Fig 10. Differences in the horizon point line.

with an estimated produced number of 6,064 plates per colour rouletted, and the same for imperforated, with an estimated total issue of 24,258 plates. They have a watermark showing a double circle with three castles in it and the initials STD under this group. The watermark can be normal or inverted. The plates have correlatively numbered sheets, and the rarity grade of all of them is scarce (S). As in the complete sheets of stamps referred before,

the position of each sheet in the plate can be determined by the horizon point line, which is different in each stamp.

Some proofs and colour errors also exist, but none of them is known to have survived in complete plate, even in souvenir sheet form, as all those I've seen are in single stamps or blocks of four coming from souvenir sheets.

Continued on page 24



Fig. 11. Third issue complete plate of four souvenir sheets, imperforated violet and pale blue.

Speculative issues

All the varieties we have seen in this article are the definitive proof that the Vinebre local stamps issues were designed to be attractive for the philatelic market and all the errors were absolutely forced. The promoters of all this knew exactly what were they doing, and they intended to persuade their contemporary philatelists that the errors were legitimate. Dr. Evans, in his 1938 article about the Vinebre souvenir sheets

published in the *Souvenir Issue* believes the second issue souvenir sheets with inverted bottom stamp is a genuine error. He said he was told by an informant the 'error' was legitimate and that the authorities went so far as to destroy the sheets with the mistake. This is absolutely false, as nowadays those sheets can easily be found, even on cover circulated through the mail as early as 1937. This is just another example of the efforts someone did to fool the 1930's philatelists

into believing that the Vinebre stamps intentional variations were legitimate errors.

As stated in my first article about this matter, everything points to the dealer Monge as the mastermind behind this money making stamp business.

To close these series of articles about the Vinebre local stamps we only need to review what the major catalogues list about them. This will be the subject of the third, and last, article about these stamps. ■

A fascinating hobby

Collecting Nationalist Locals From the Spanish Civil War

By Peter Litzinger

When I joined the German philatelic study group "FG Spanien" in 1974, I decided to focus on labels and locals from the Spanish Civil War. At that time I was able to purchase the Nationalist portion of the study collection of the late Frits Denters (member of the "Spanish Study Circle") and enlarged it by adding locals, charity stamps and covers from the Nationalist zone. As Felix Gomez Guillamon once told me at a meeting, this 'enlarging' will never be finished and that has certainly been my experience.

Based on the catalogs Sieger, Ofilma, Espana Filatelica, Galvez and the additions to the Galvez by Martin Guerra, I have put together my own catalogue of the Nationalist SCW labels issue from August 1936 through December 1938, about 1900 in all.

A small part of this work is the so-called "general issues" and part of that is the "modelo general F" issues listed in Galvez, that I am writing about here.

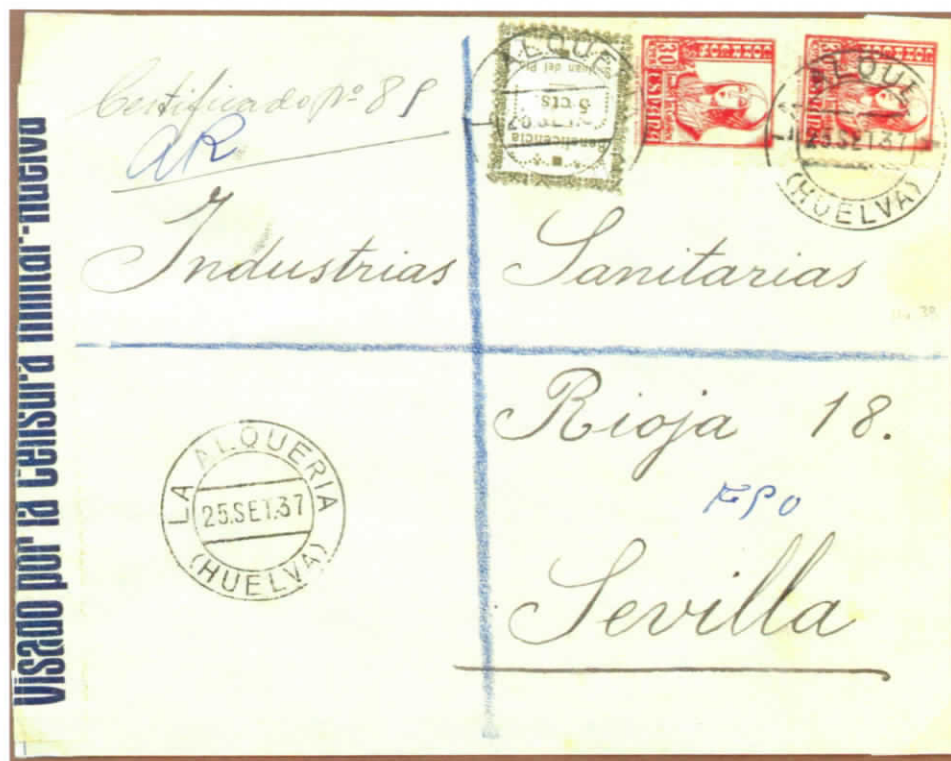
The small town San Juan del Puerto (3800 inhabitants) had been very creative at the issue of charity stamps: 1 issue type 4 b and 10 issues type 4 c! Or should we say, a friend of the mayor was interested in creating stamps? As Ron Shelley wrote, "they are part of the history and interesting to study—even when a straightforward collector is getting a stomach-ache."

The Model "F" Stamps of Galvez

Note: I call them in my own catalogue system as **type 4**. The item numbering here is also following my catalogue. They were printed 1937 / 1938 by printers Jimenez in Huelva.

Type 4 a

Canete (Malaga) and **Cumbres Mayores** (Huelva). Galvez lists 2 stamps for Encinasola, but without showing a picture. Sheets of 4 x 5 (Canete) or 5 x 4 (Cumbres M.)



Registered letter, dated 25. 9. 37, from La Alqueria, a very small town between San Juan del Puerto and Huelva, which had no charity stamp of its own but used this charity stamp from San Juan. Mail from La Alqueria had been sent to San Juan first, (on the back: transit mark of San Juan, 25. 9. 36), and then to Huelva for Censorship (censor mark H 13. 4a) and from Huelva it had been delivered to its destination.

Type 4 b

Canete (Malaga)
Cala, Encinasola,
Sanjuan del Puerto,
Trigueros (Huelva)
Sheet of 4 x 5 (??)



Type 4 d

Canete (Malaga), **Galaroza** (Huelva)
Same border lines as type 4 c
But inscription is „Pro

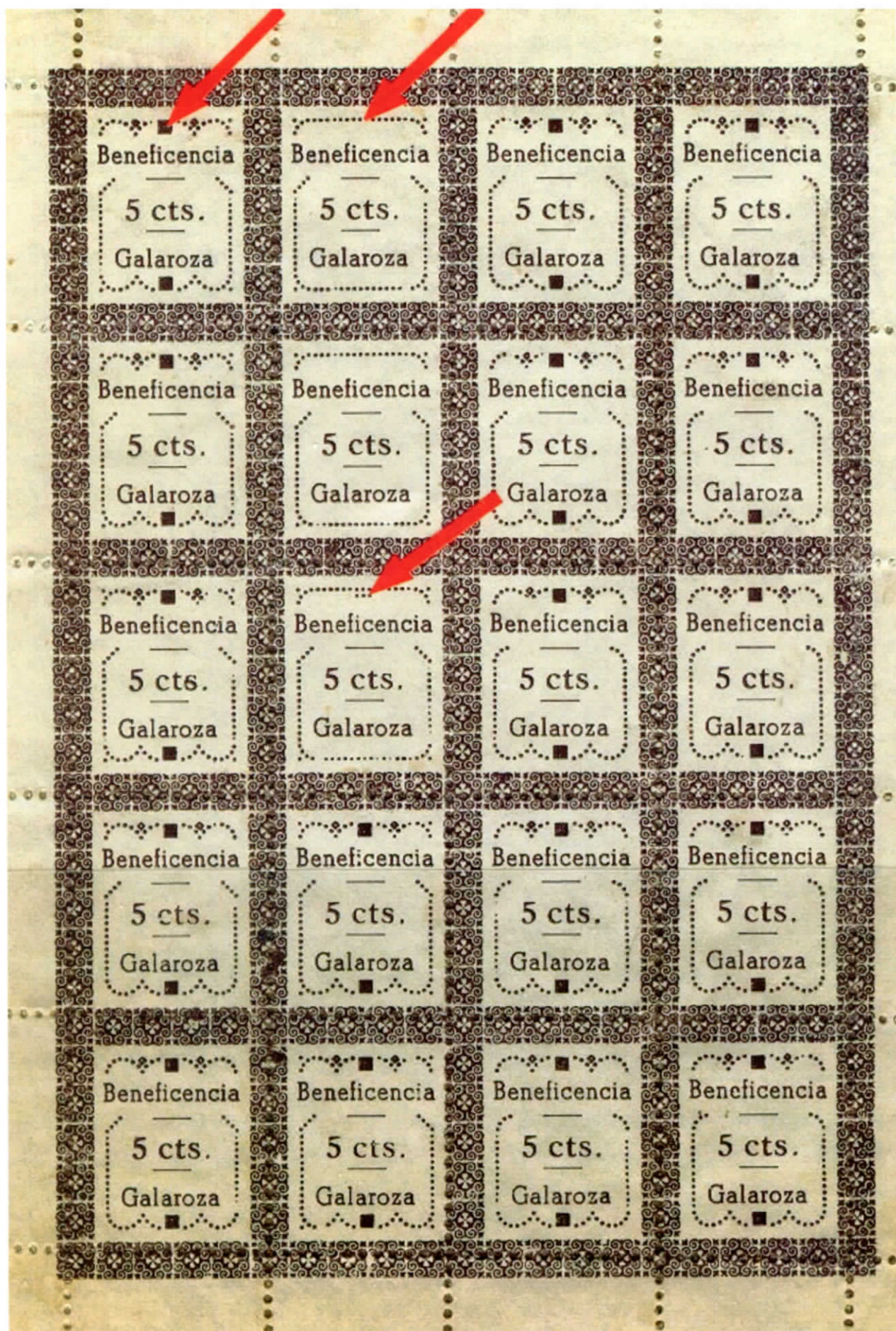


types similar to type 4 d of Canete - but there is illustration depicting their exact design.

3 top border lines can be found in the sheets.



Galvez lists this type with 5 stamps for Galaroza, but without showing a picture. S. Nathan describes them - without pictures also in a 1964 issue of „Cruzada“ with some sub-



Type 4 c: Canete (Malaga), Bonares, Encinasola, Galaroza, Jabugo, San Juan del Puerto (Huelva). Sheet of 4 x 5

Subtypes of the 3 top-border-line types



I aa	I ab	I ac	I ac / Typ 4 d	I ad	I b	I bb
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I a angled corner, **I b** rounded corner, **I aa** = 4 corner dots, **I ab** = 1 corner dot, **I ac** = no corner dots, **I ad** = 3 bottom corner dots.
type **I bb** = rounded corner, but 2 corner dots in the top appears only at Galaroza 702



type I ab
(1 corner dot, broken „c“ of „cts.“)
appears in **sheet-layout 1, 2** and
3 a at position 13 in **sheet-layout**
3 b at pos. 14



in **sheet-layout**
4 at pos. 16
as **type I cb**



I ca	I cb	I cc	II a	II ad	III
------	------	------	------	-------	-----

In **sheet-layout 4** type **I ab** is **left out**. In the sheets 636 / 637 (Encinasola) and 1382 / 1384 and 1383 / 1385 (San Juan) instead are found the types **I ca**, **I cb** and **I cc**, but at pos. 12, 16, 20.



type I ad (pos. 5, 9) and **type II ad** (pos. 6)
are only found in **sheet-layout 2**

type II a (pos. 2, 6) and **III** (pos. 10)
in **sheet-layout 1, 2** at the 2. vertical line
in **sheet-layout 3a** at the 4. vertical line
in **sheet-layout 3b** and **4** at the 1. vertical line



sheet-layout 3b / 4
Canete Nr. 355



sheet-layout 3a
Canete Nr. 356

Sheet-layout of the issues types 4 c / 4 d
green = divergence to sheet-layout 1

sheet-layout 1				sheet-layout 2			
I aa	II a	I ac	I b	I aa	II a	I ac	I b
I aa	II a	I ac	I b	I ad	II ad	I ac	I b
I aa	III	I b	I b	I ad	III	I b	I b
I ab	I aa	I b	I b	I ab	I aa	I b	I b
I ac	I aa	I b	I b	I ac	I ac	I b	I b

Canete Nr. 357 – 358
Encinasola Nr. 633 – 635
Galaroza Nr. 702 (?) – 703
San Juan Nr. 1381 , 1386 – 1388

Bonares Nr. 253 – 253A
Encinasola Nr. 638 , 638 A
Galaroza Nr. 703 A, 704 – 714
Jabugo Nr. 936 – 938
San Juan Nr. 1388 B

sheet-layout 3 a				sheet-layout 3 b			
I aa	I ac	I b	IIa	II a	I aa	I ac	I b
I aa	I ac	I b	IIa	II a	I aa	I ac	I b
I aa	I b	I b	III	III	I aa	I b	I b
I ab	I b	I b	I aa	I aa	I ab	I b	I b
I ac	I b	I b	I aa	I aa	I ac	I b	I b

Canete Nr. 356
2. vertical line of layout 1
setted as 4. vertical line

Canete Nr. 355
2. vertical line of layout 1
setted as 1. vertical line

sheet-layout 4				sheet-layout 5			
II a	?	?	?	A	A	A	A
II a	I b	I ac	I aa	A	A	A	A
III	I b	I b	I ca	B	C	C	B
I aa	I b	I b	I cb	D	D	D	D
I aa	I b	I b	I cc	C	E	E	F

Encinasola Nr. 636 – 637
San Juan Nr. 1382 – 1385
new subtypes I c

San Juan Nr. 1388 A
pictures of subtypes below

I have found out 42 issues of type 4 c and 2 issues of type 4 d. They have been printed with 29 different plates .

The differences result from

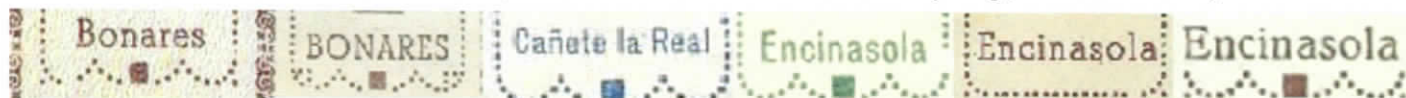
- changing of the headline (3 plates of Cañete and 3 plates of Galaroza)



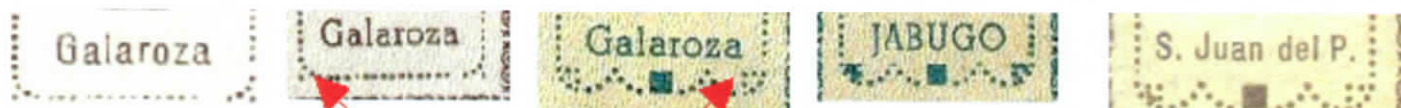
23 plates	3 plates – type 4 d	1 plate	1 plate	1 plate
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From the 23 plates with the headline „Beneficencia“ are 22 different resulting from

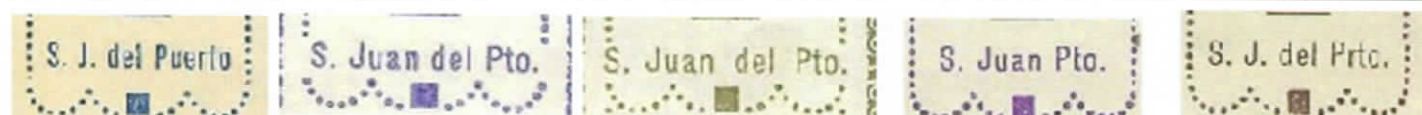
- different names of towns
- alteration of the characters (Bonares, Encinasola, Galaroza) or
- alteration of the value (5 c, 10 c, 25 c) or
- alteration of town name spelling (San Juan del Puerto)



1 plate	1 plate	1 plate	1 plate	1 plate	1 plate
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1 plate	1 ohne + 2 mit Untertyp d	3 plate	1 plate
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1 plate	2 (name 14 mm)	2 (name 15 mm)	2 plates	1 plate
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1 plate with alteration of all the internal borders (San Juan 1388 A)



A Pos 1 – 8	B Pos 9 , 12	C Pos 10 , 11 , 17	D Pos 13 – 16	E Pos 18 – 19	F Pos 20
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If you take into account, that each 4 x 5 plate of the **types 4 c / 4 d** has an average number of 6 or 8 different subtypes, there can be found a total of almost 300 different stamps. And there are probably more we don't know about!



sheet 1	canete 357	canete 358	encinasola 633	encinasola 634	encinasola 635
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galaroza 702	galaroza 703	sanjuan 1381	sanjuan 1386	sanjuan 1387	sanjuan 1388
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sheet 2	bonares 253	bonares 253 A	encinasola 638	encinasola 638 A	galaroza 703A
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galaroza 704	galaroza 705	galaroza 706	galaroza 707	galaroza 708	galaroza 709
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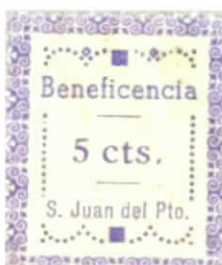
galaroza 710	galaroza 710A	galaroza 711	galaroza 712	galaroza 713	galaroza 713
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jabugo 936	jabugo 937	jabugo 938	san juan 1388B		
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sheet 3a	canete 356	sheet 3b	canete 355	sheet ??	canete 356A
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encinasola 636	encinasola 637	sanjuan 1382	sanjuan 1384	sanjuan 1383	sanjuan 1385
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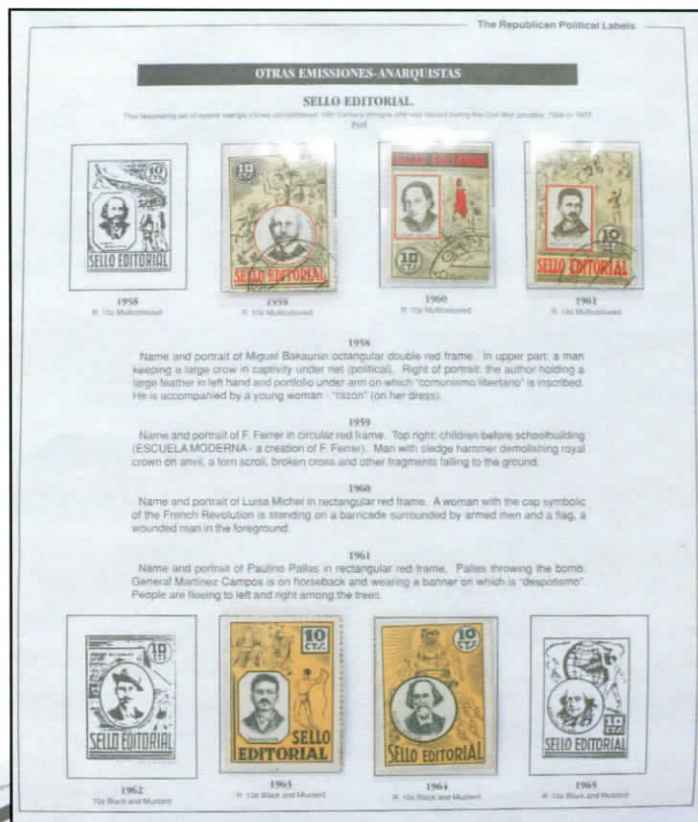
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