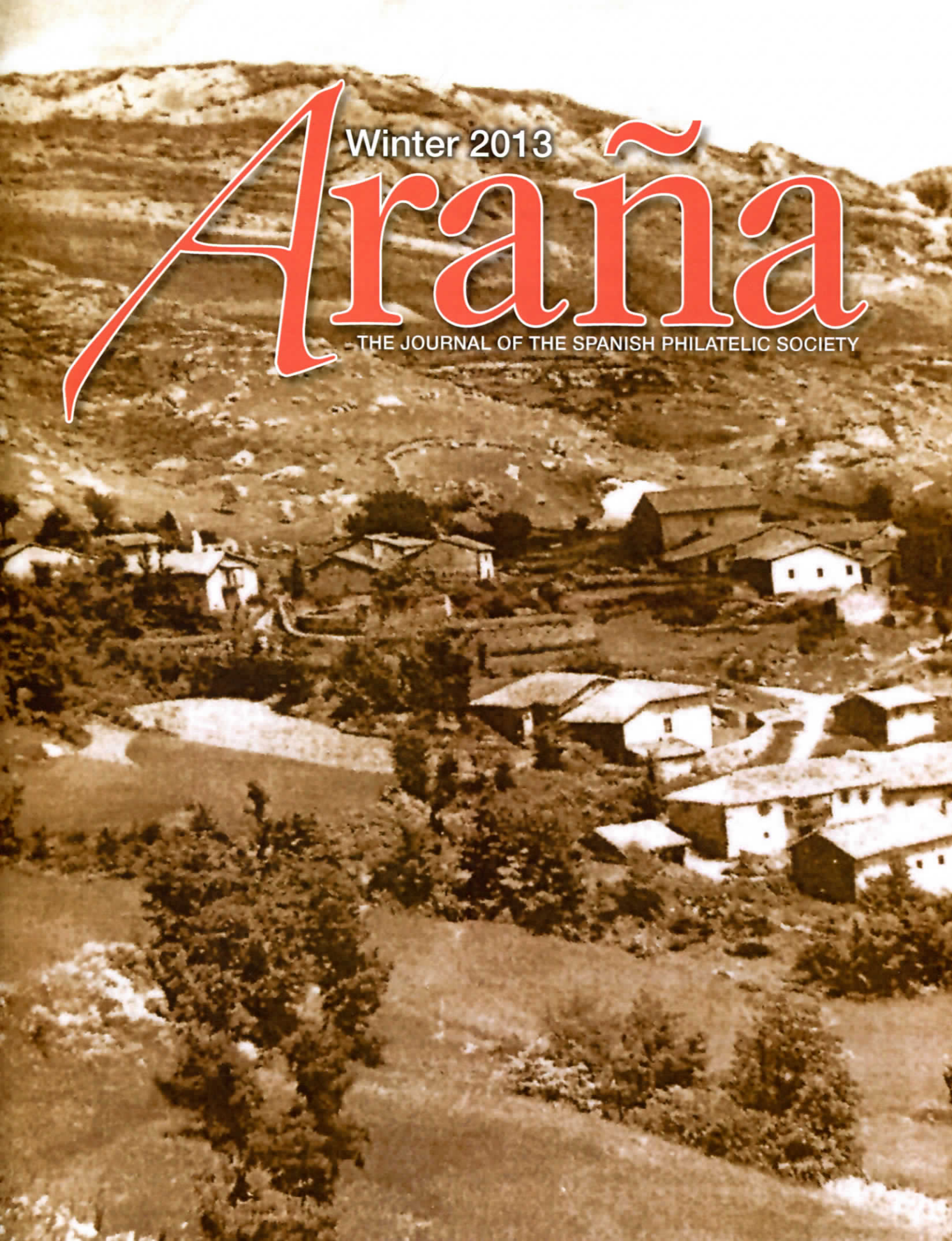


Winter 2013

Araña

THE JOURNAL OF THE SPANISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY



THE DEFINITIVE ISSUES OF ALFONSO XIII

1901-1931 Part Two – Medallion Issue

By Brian Burch

Control Numbers – (b)

The Medallion stamps continue with the letter + figure type of control number established for the later Cadets. However it seems not previously to have been noted that on all values but one the control series continues in the same sequence as the Cadets, beginning where the earlier issue finished. The table below shows this in detail, using the relevant examples in

my own collection. As the table shows, the one exception seems to be the 50c, where I have three Medallion with control numbers earlier than the latest Cadet, these being A 026621, A 47944 and A 055908, whereas my last Cadet is A 067157. I have no explanation as to why this value should be the odd one out; it is obviously possible that by pure chance I have no other values with control numbers earlier in the series than my latest Cadet of the

same denomination, but I find this difficult to believe, especially of the 15c, where the whole of the series A, B and C have to be accounted for, and of the 5, 10 and 25c, where I have samples of reasonable size. Here again it would be interesting to learn of other people's evidence. (I take it that even if A 000000 versions exist, these do not affect the argument, since they were special printings for presentation purposes).

Before leaving the question of control



Table 6**Last Cadet control compared to first Medallion**

Value	Last Cadet	First Medallion	Postmark if readable
2c	A 175742	A 187727	-
5c	A 382441	A 417496	-
10c	A 525207	A 551115	(Before June 1910)
15c	D 480212	D 573900	28 th February 1910
20c	A 018699	A 026199	January 1911
25c	A 411857	A 420131	-
30c	A 052259	A 075435	10 th August 1911
40c	A 030322	A 041058	(Before December 1911)
50c	A 067157	A 026621	-
1p	A 075114	A 075530	-
4p	(do not exist in the letter + figure series)	A 001324	-
10p		A 000070	-

numbers, a word should be said about the lithographed stamps. The 2c has no control number and in this respect is similar to the 2c recess, which dropped control numbers after the early printings. (Why incidentally? The low value(s) in all later control series, issued for printed matter use, similarly lack a control number. Most of the reasons so far suggested for having control numbers on the stamp seem to apply to all stamps regardless of their main use). The 20c lithographed does have a control number. The latest control number I have on the 20c green, recess, is A 177624; my earliest recess-printed 20c violet is B 686027. My

lithographed stamps run from A 269169 – A 920294. My assumption, and it is supported by the dates of issue of all three stamps, is therefore that the three stamps, green recess, violet lithographed, violet recess, were numbered in a continuous control series with the lithographed stamps sandwiched between the recess-printed versions.

(c) Quantities printed

Neither Galvez nor Mr. Van Dam are very clear on the size of the Medallion sheets, though both mention sheets of 100 in specific contexts. On the assumptions

that all sheets were of 100 stamps, that all control numbers in the sequence were used, and that my earliest control number marks the beginning of the printing and my latest the end, I have calculated the totals shown below. Clearly it is unlikely that I actually have examples of the first and last printings, so my totals must be a little low. The 2c can only be counted from the control numbers for about one third of its existence, since neither the lithographed nor the later recess versions have a number, and my figure is certainly very much under the actual total reached for all three printings.

Table 7**Quantities printed for the Medallion issue**

Value	Earliest control	Latest control	Latest – earliest x 100
2c	A 187727	A 447486	25.985.900
5c	A 417496	E 196119	377.861.900
10c	A 551115	D 942229	339.111.100
15c (both)	D 573900	U 179055	1.760.513.700
20c (all)	A 026199	E 199745	417.354.200
25c	A 420131	D 963851	354.371.700
30c	A 075435	A 440468	36.503.300
40c	A 041058	A 302755	26.169.700
50c	A 026621	A 279993	25.337.200
1p	A 075530	A 345075	26.954.500
4p	A 000001*	A 002694	269.400
10p	A 000001*	A 000070	7.000

* Assumed to exist: I do not have examples.



(Left) Shades and printing varieties of the 20 centavo violet stamp. The block of four is the lithograph printing and the two stamps below are engraved. (Above) Shades of the 1 pta. lake on the top. Bottom, orange and yellow copies of the 15 centavo stamp. The original set of "medallions" had the 15 centavo value in violet.

These figures, if they are anywhere near the truth, demonstrate the enormous quantities of Medallion stamps issued – almost 3,500,000,000 in all, of which over half were 15c stamps. Just how scarce the 4p and 10p values are, is strikingly demonstrated.

(d) The 15c yellow with blue control

The 15c violet always has a blue control number, and the control series reached the letter N. Near the end of the N series (my latest violet stamp is N 78678? (the control is misplaced with the last figure missing), the colour of the stamp was changed to yellow. The blue control number sequence continued, but only, it seems, to the end of the letter N; with the letter O the colour changed to red. This makes the blue control number on a yellow stamp very elusive (Very rare – Editor). My three copies have control numbers N 956417, N 963652 and N 993480. My earliest O series stamp is O 003260, in red. If one assumes the yellow stamp to start at around N 850000 and the blue control finished with the N series, only some 15 million such stamps were issued, or about 0.85% of the 15c stamp. The current Unificado value of 18pts for the used stamp seems generous, as anyone who has tried to find the stamp will surely testify. The mint price at less than 2 ½ times the red control stamp and only 25pts more than the violet stamp seems to be extraordinary.

(e) Shades

As with the Cadets, most of my copies of the Medallion issue are used and have been soaked off, so it would be foolish to venture any categorical comments on the shades to be found. Most values do exhibit a range of shades and those listed in the catalogues are discernible. Many apparently tinted papers also exist, but these are more likely to be the result of fugitive inks than the use of actual coloured papers. I have yet to find a 40c that can be described as salmon, and although all the catalogues list this shade I suspect it was a temporary and extreme variation from the rose and rose-red shades normally employed.

(f) Airmail overprints and postmarks

On 4th April 1920 some values of the Medallion series were issued overprinted 'CORREO AEREO' and are notable as Spain's first airmail stamps. As Mr. Van Dam explains, special printings were used for this issue, with very low control numbers in the A 000's. It seems in fact highly doubtful whether more than a handful of the overprinted stamps were genuinely used, and the only 'used' copies I possess are in fact faked overprints on ordinary used copies of the unover-printed issue. (Editor's note: this is a very wide statement. Many of the air stamps were genuinely used – I can show many covers – I, for one, have seen very few forged overprints). This can, of course, be

easily checked from the control numbers; my copies are 5c D 660150 (issued probably late 1922); 10c D 240753 (August 1921); and 25c C 873891 (1922). In no one case is the postmark the correct one, which suggests the faker took used copies and simply faked the overprint. One would therefore expect a random distribution of control numbers on faked 'used' copies.

A more interesting aspect of the airmail question is the appearance of the familiar hexagonal airmail postmark, introduced in 1920, on the regular Medallion issues. In all my copies I only have one with this mark, a 20c violet, control D 110229, postmarked October 1922. I have no airmail covers. I have no doubt that airmail specialists could do much better, but in my experience airmail marks on this and indeed on the next two definitive issues, are very scarce. Certainly the 20c Medallion is the only one I possess, on or off cover.

(g) Machine marks

Conventional machine marks (as opposed to the so-called 'forerunner' mark used briefly on the Cadets) began to appear in Spain in 1912. The earliest machine-cancelled cover I possess is from Madrid, postmarked 18th December 1912; other early examples on cover are Seville, 26th April 1913, and San Sebastian, 16 July 1913. The earliest machine mark with slogan I have on

cover if from Madrid, 13th May 1921, with a slogan canvassing for the Postal Orphans' College. I have among my loose stamps a 10c, control A 979462, with wavy lines from a machine mark, that must date from about April 1912, and another B 065592, also with wavy lines and dated from about June 1912. In neither case has the stamp any part of the date or office name. On the 15c violet I have two stamps with parts of machine marks and controls H 243427 and H 247716; the second of these comes from Madrid, August 1912. Thereafter machine cancellations, while never common, turn up fairly frequently, especially on the 10c, the 15c and to a lesser extent the 25c. I have only one loose stamp showing any evidence of a slogan postmark, and this is the last 15c orange I possess, U 179055, dating from early 1924 (the 15c yellow in fact changed to an orange shade in the later printings). Perhaps other collectors can put more precise dates on the introduction of machine cancellations and the addition of slogans.

(h) Morocco overprints

Since I have only a few copies of these I can add little to what Mr Van Dam says about the overprinted issues, except to point out that, as with the Cadets, it is clear that the Morocco stamps were special printings with their own control series, starting with

the 1909 – 1910 issued (Unificado 14 – 22) which exhibits very low controls in the A 00's. This is proved conclusively by the 1916 – 1920 issue (Unificado 51-57), where the 15c yellow has controls in blue, in the range A 005687 – 040450 (from my own copies), control numbers that are impossible for this stamp in the unoverprinted version. The importance of this observation is that it enables one to establish that many copies of the catalogued 'errors' in the overprint are in fact faked. The 'MARRUECOS' overprint, for example (Unificado 23 – 26), is said to occur with five major errors and varieties including an inverted 'S'. I have the 10, 20, 25, 30, and 50c all with this variety, used, but the control numbers reveal that it has been faked on stamps from the unoverprinted series, the control numbers being D 167247 (10c), A 100455 (20c), D 06..... (25c), A 335196 (30c) and A 078808 (50c), all of which are outside the range of genuinely overprinted stamps.

(i) Perfins

I have noted below the perfins I possess in the Medallion issue; I am sure that this list can be added to and the initials explained by perfin specialists. My examples are 10c – 1 copy, CL, 15c violet – 1 copy, LO; 25c – 3 copies – CL: 40c – 1 copy, ? a coat of arms; 50c – 1 copy, S / JP. The 40c has the obscure

pattern of holes that I have found on later stamps up to the first Franco heads of 1939.

Finally, I can only conclude these notes on the Medallion issue by repeating what I said about my comments on the Cadets; my observations are based on my own collection, and although I have over 800 copies of the Medallion stamps, this number is a miniscule sample of the hundreds of millions issued. I very much hope that other collectors will correct and supplement what I have said, in particular, about the existence or not of two series with different perforations. There is also much else that I have not dealt with, for example printing flaws and varieties. Many of these stamps reveal coloured lines produced by cracks on the plates; if any of these are constant, interesting plate studies might be attempted. I have also said little enough about the lithographed stamps, mainly because I have so few, but I am sure that they provide another fascinating field of study. If I can provoke some readers to add or correct my notes I shall be very pleased.

Editor's Note

If any reader has additional information on the Medallion Issue, not covered in Mr. Burch's article, please forward it to me and we will include it in a future article.



(Top, left) Block of three, colors used for the various denominations were often very close and must have confused some postal clerks. Here are the 5 centavo, 30 centavo and 50 centavo in shades of blue-green. (Top, right) Medallion issued overprinted for use in Morocco. (Left) Use of the medallion issue for airmail service.

Spanish Civil War Godmothers

Madrinas De Guerra

By Hal Shelton



During Spanish Civil War, young ladies were encouraged to become “Godmothers” to soldiers in the field. This was advocated as a moral obligation for a successful war effort—to help soldiers forget about the misery of war, loneliness, poor rations and clothing; and to improve understandings between the front lines and rearguard. La Sección Femenina and the Auxilio Social coordinated this effort for the Nationalist side. While the godmothers were encouraged to provide food, books, tobacco, sweets and other products to the soldiers, the relationship was primarily through letter writing as shown in the five examples in this article.

To start the process, soldiers requested godmothers through a newspaper ad, during a casual encounter on a train trip, during a hospital stay, etc. As can be imagined some woman gave their true names and others gave an alias and it was often difficult to obtain a godmother’s photo or personal information, as they protected their identity. Soldiers who

did not know how to write had the incentive to learn and what we would now call templates were provided, where the soldier just had to fill in his name. Correspondence usually started out very formal, and gradually became more intimate as godmother and godson became more familiar with one another, and letters even included declarations of love and some led to marriage.

The topics of the soldiers’ letters included details of his everyday life during the war and what he enjoyed doing, but nothing that would not pass censor review, what he missed and his dreams for the future. His feelings and fears often led him to express emotions that he normally would not write about, which helped both of them get to know each other better. Some godmothers wrote to more than one soldier, trying to give moral support when needed.

While this process was evident on both sides, it was more prevalent on the Nationalist side. The practice was

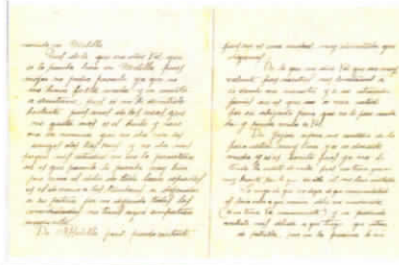
somewhat discouraged on the Republican side since it created more work for the mail censors. After the war, many Republican godmothers burned their letters to destroy associations with soldiers and thus these letters are difficult to find today.

Those interested in learning more about this subject can read articles at these links (in Spanish):

http://www2.uah.es/siece/red/pdfs/Veronica01_LaGuerraEnElTintero.pdf
<http://www.ciere.org/CUADERNOS/Art%2056/Las%20madrinas%20de%20guerra....htm>

Here are five letters from three nationalist soldiers to the same godmother located in Gijón. The soldiers appear to be stationed in Asturias Province but move around through several post office locations.

Note: My sister in law, Barcelona resident, did the letter translations and conducted the information search for this article. These covers are now in the collection of Jerry Wells.

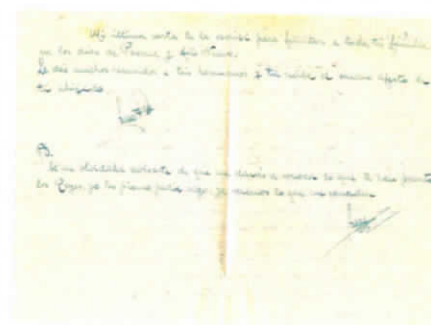
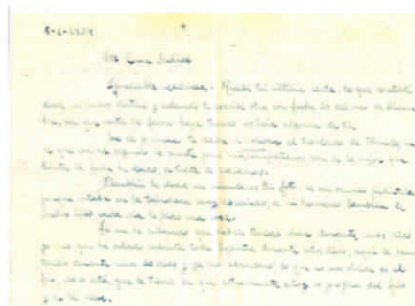


Dear Godmother,
I hope that when you receive this letter you are well. I am fine, thank God.

Summary: Soldier introduces self as being from Melilla, Morocco where he enjoyed dancing several times a week in the evenings. He says "obligation of every good Spaniard is to go to the trenches to defend his country and leave behind all comfort, I am here." He is appreciative that she has accepted him as her

godson and inquires where she is from (in her letter to which he is responding she must have said she is a foreigner) and what Gijón is like.

Your Godson who loves you,
Luis Garrido
Salute Franco. Long live Spain.
2nd Victorious Year



Jan 5, 1939 from soldier Isaac Fernandez

Dear Godmother,
I received your last letter which I answered from my new destination, and I also wrote another on Dec. 20 and as of today have not heard from you.

I also asked you to send me your picture. It occurred to me to ask for it because I was in the trenches and very bored. I also drive my brother crazy asking him for something every day.

I found out you had snow for a few days. I think all of Spain was

covered with snow these days. Here we had snow for about 20 days and then it stopped. What we don't forget is the cold. Of course, where I am now, it is usually cold and snowy.

I wrote my last letter to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Many greetings to your brothers and a fond greeting to you
Your Godson

PS. I forgot to tell you to let me know what the 3 Kings brought you. I am thinking of asking for something. We will see what they bring me.

Dec 8, 1938 from soldier Isaac Fernandez
(received in Jan 1939)

Dear Godmother,

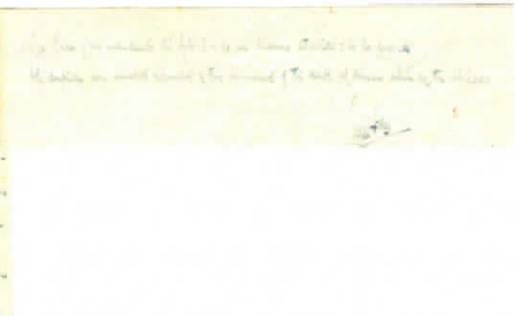
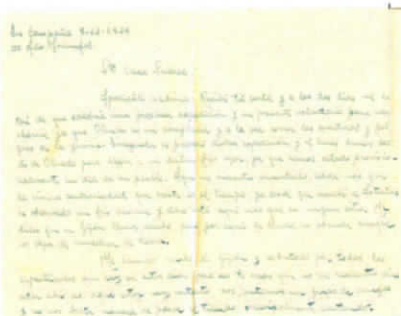
I received your letter and two days later I learned that I would leave on the next expedition and I presented myself as a volunteer as I did not like Oviedo nor the adventures and dangers of the war. The expedition was prepared right away and we left Oviedo on Monday in order to arrive at my permanent destination yesterday, having stayed temporarily in a town. I am well here; the only bad thing is the weather. Since I left Asturias I have been very cold and here more than any other place. You say it rains a lot in Gijón. However, here the rain is not abundant but the ground is always wet.

I think of Gijón a lot, especially about all the events going on these days, but I don't really miss them as I am happy here. A group of friends get together and we are never at a loss for things to do, mainly singing.

Cuca, could you send me your photo? Don't think I am being forward, it is the war.

I close with many greetings for your brothers and sincere wishes for you.

Your Godson



21 March 1939 from soldier Isaac Fernandez

Dear Godmother,

I was very happy to see from your letter that you have completely recovered. I have been well, thank God.

I thought that Lamentino could tell me exactly where you are, but I now see that you are wandering around. This is exactly what I like the most and not to be in the front and spend four continuous months like what I am doing. This is very boring, during this time I have not gone to any town, haven't seen anyone and since I like to walk around I get bored. Many days I read novels, which somehow seem to reach us. And for the rest of the day what do you think I do? Simply nothing. The lieutenant and I both train and always end up like 2 days ago, when I got all dirty from my hair to my chest and he very nicely offered to pour water so that I could wash. I accepted and instead of pouring water for my hands or head, he poured it in my lap, only to end up at my feet. Then he burns my clothes and ... then I happily play with him again. But what can you expect? He is only 20 years old and I am not surprised that he has a playful character. He is from Leon and he promised that when he gets his leave he will take me. However at the moment they have been cancelled and God only knows for how long. I really feel like going to Gijón and wouldn't hesitate to travel around in the middle of the summer and enjoy the beach.

Very soon I think they will start the next operations. I long to participate because I am of the conviction they will probably hardly get to shoot. The poor men who are at the front seem to be

raising their voices to talk, shouting more now. Of course, it is thanks to us who help to feed them with special dishes that they eat right up. Almost every day someone arrives, sometimes in a group, immediately asking for food. Some have amused me: "at this moment they are the ..." If we just had a radio here, then we really would have fun, we would even have dances, as well as listen to the interior life of the Rojos and other news.

Today we are extraordinarily lacking drinks because a sergeant was promoted and we celebrated.

Affectionate greetings to your family and to you from your Godson





Correspondencia de L. C. 27
 Gijón a 31 de julio de 1939
 Curo de la Victoria
 Sr. Cugui Lucre Ponce
 Gijón

Apreciada amistad: He tenido y tengo los dos tus cartas con mucha emoción y me resulta, que me veo obligado a corresponderte con una respuesta, pero puesto que la casualidad que me ha pasado me hace la vida y claro está y muy natural estaré expuesto de la satisfacción de ella, pero en fin, defiendo esto a mi modo, lo he escrito para que sepas que he sabido de ti y también para decirte que me faltaba para pensar en ti y también para decirte que me faltaba me mal concepto mío, pues tiene razón que al estado de el exterior de la correspondencia no es culpa mía.

En la próxima me dirás lo que haga de ti y me dirás lo que bien a lo que te ha parecido de mi fotografía y, aunque está mal, pero que se vea correspondiente como te has expresado; se nota mucho el uso de la pluma a una en mi última estancia en Gijón, pero iba en un momento de servicio y por espacio de tres días y como puedo acompañarte, no hay lugar para nada con tan poco tiempo.

Sé que que Gijón está muy animada este verano, pues los tiempos por que atraviesamos no es para menos, ya que después de tres años hay que adelantar algo de lo que deberé, pero aquí está pa- roce me afortunado de estar al calor abracador que hace, es casi insuperable.

Bueno Cugui me voy por hoy a despedirme, saludando a todos vuestros familiares y a los amigos de esta tierra.

Jesus Fernandez Garcia

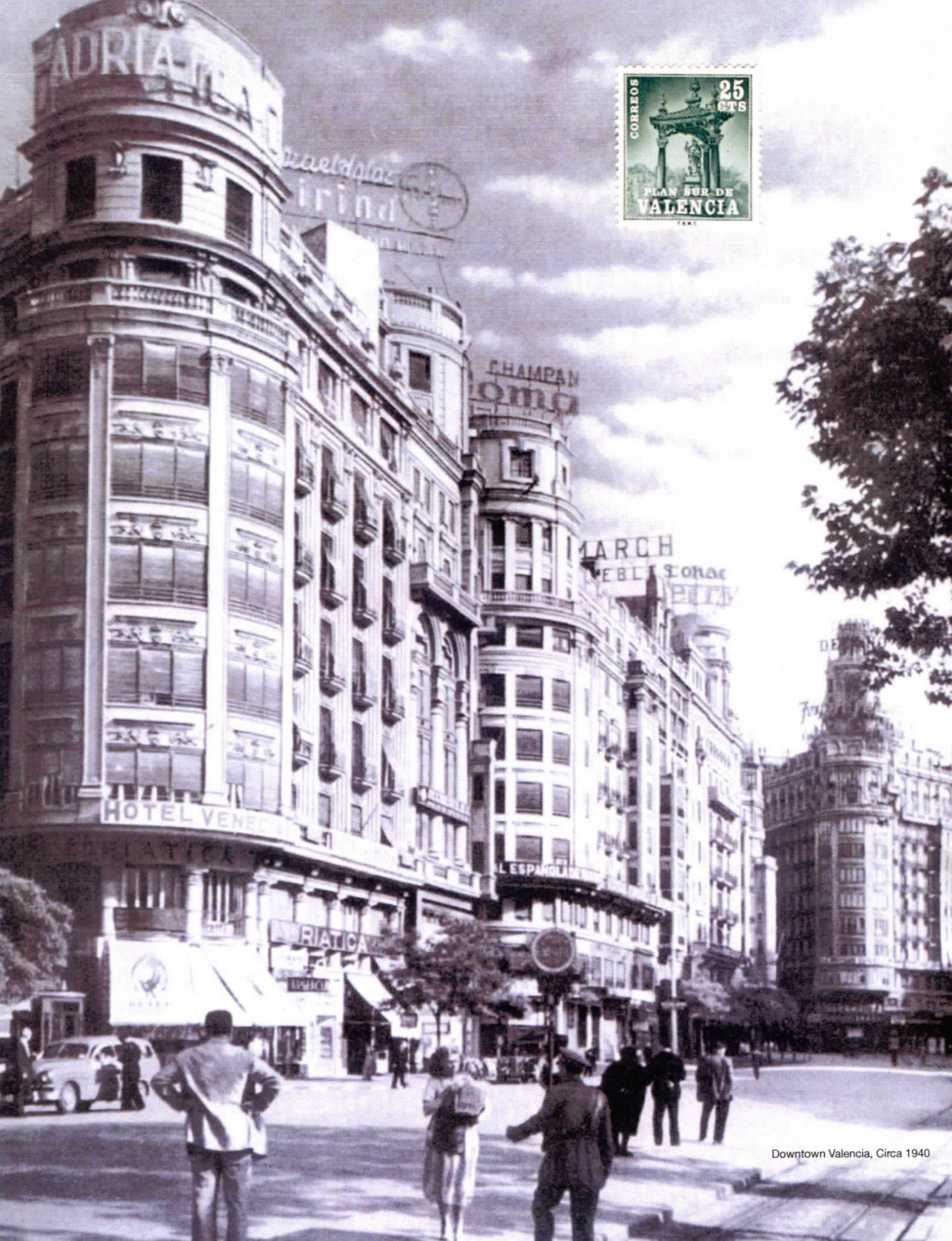
July 31, 1939 from soldier Jesus Fernandez Garcia Dear Friend,
 Days and days have passed without receiving an answer to my last letter that I feel obligated to write another as it is possible that you didn't receive it and are naturally waiting for me to answer. Anyway, besides this, I am writing you so that you can see that I still had moments to think of you and also to tell you not to think negative things about me as you now know the missing letter is not my fault.

In your next letter you can tell me what happened and also what you think of my photograph. Even though it is not very good, I think I was able to do as I said. I am sorry I was not able to

come during my last stay near Gijón. I was on duty for 3 days and as you can understand there isn't time to do anything in such short time.

I suppose Gijón is very lively this summer. In these times that we are living it is to be expected, as after 3 years you have to go beyond the things that are not fun. As for here, it is like hell with this intense heat, almost unsupportable.

Well, Cugui, that is all for today.
 Greetings to your family and to you
 Your friend, Jesus Fernandez Garcia



Downtown Valencia, Circa 1940

The Chinese Connection In the Spanish Civil War

By Jerry A. Wells

As you have been unmercifully subjected to in the past, you know that I have a lot of interesting Spanish Civil War covers, ranging from International Brigades, Republican Divisions, prisoner of war camps, Italian participation, German Condor Legion, Nationalist divisions, German ships, etc.

However, by diligence and chance, I recently purchased on Ebay this cover of some mystery. In my forty plus years of collecting, I have never run across a cover from China genuinely (or not) relating to the Spanish Civil War. I have heard from several of my friends both in the United States as well as across the pond, who also agree.

This one, as you can see, was sent registered mail, bearing two five cent and two twenty cent Chinese stamps, mailed June 12, 1938 from Wuchang through Canton (received December 6,

1938); apparently routed through Barcelona (the genuine green "Republican Espanol Censura" marking was utilized in Barcelona from April of 1937 through December of 1938), then from Barcelona forwarded on to Valencia bearing the blue number "257" of Valencia, as well as the violet marking of "LISTA Carteria, Valencia" No letter accompanied the envelope, and the back of the envelope, unfortunately, is virtually unreadable, although some wording appears to be "**** de espana."

More significantly, David James, editor of "Espana," the Spanish Study Circle journal (out of Bristol London), did some in depth research on this cover, which I was too lazy to do. He discovered that the cover was sent to the commissar department which produced the periodical or newsheet of the Frente Popular ("Popular Front" in English; "Popola Fronto" in Esperanto language) belong to the 118th Mixed Brigade, a unit of the





www.greatwallbanks.com

anarchist Republican 25th Division, fighting at Belchite.* The Republican 25th Division was part of the XIII Army Corps, Army of Levant, located at Base 6, Turia, Valencia Sector.

Fascinating I admit, but we are left with many unanswered questions to this conundrum. Who was writing and for reason? What was the message? Why from China to Spain specifically to the Republican Popola Fronto news in June of 1938 when the civil war was virtually lost by the Republican force.

An absolutely magnificent find, which may be unique in the world of Spanish Civil War covers. Unique perhaps, but unexplained. Can anyone contribute any answers or other relevant observations? I leave it with you.

Footnotes

* The Comintern (the Third Communist International) was established in Russia as a means to assimilate international support of the policies of communism. From the summer 1934

the Comintern's policy was to establish a "Popular Front" of all democratic parties, working class and bourgeois alike, to resist "fascism". *The Spanish Civil War*, by Hugh Thomas, pg 123.

"These included the enlightened middle class, and most of the labour force of the country maddened by years of insult, misery, and neglect, intoxicated by the knowledge of better conditions enjoyed by their class comrades in France and Britain and by the mastery which they supposed that the working class had gained in Russia." *The Spanish Civil War*, by Hugh Thomas, pg 192.

** *Espana, Official Journal of the Spanish Study Circle*, Volume LV, 2012 No. 1; Felix Gomez-Guillamon, pg 18.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our inquisitive Mr. Wells reached out to our friends in the Spanish Study Circle in the UK. He received a very informative reply from Mr. David James. Just published in the SSC Journal, a copy of that reply is supplied below. We thank Mr. James for his efforts.

Journal of the Spanish Study Circle 2013-1

A Chinese puzzle solved – or is it?

By David H James

When Jerry Wells of the USA Spanish Philatelic Society and recently joined member of the Study Circle, announced on the society's web site that he had acquired a cover from Wuchang, China addressed to the Popular Front, Valencia, with a Canton handling cachet on the reverse, I promptly asked him to email a scan to me. The fact is neither Jerry nor I had ever seen a cover from China to Spain in civil war date.

On studying the scan the first thing that intrigued me was the address – 'Redakcio, "Popola Fronto", Valencia.' First, the fact that "Popola Fronto" was an invented name suggested that it referred to a publication rather than the Republican political organization widely known as the Popular Front. Second, the actual language, which was clearly not Spanish, Italian, or Portuguese and on investigation, not Rumanian either. I finally tracked it down to Esperanto (!) in which language 'Redakcio' means editorial department.

Having established that there appeared to be no local newspaper or periodical named "Popular Front" extant in Valencia at the

cover date, I turned my attention to the Republican mixed brigades, most of which had their own dedicated newspapers or publications produced by the commissar's department in order to boost troop morale. After another few hours of sleuthing, I discovered that a publication named "Frente Popular" ("Popola Fronto" in Esperanto) had indeed belonged to the **118th Mixed Brigade** and that this brigade was deployed on the so-called XYZ defense line in the Valencia sector of the front from June '38 until the end of the war. The brigade commissar was Saturnino Carod Lerín of the CNT and I reasoned that it was presumably to his department that the cover was addressed.

So far so good but part of the puzzle still remains unsolved – why was it addressed in Esperanto? There is a 'Lisa Valencia' carteria mark on the front and the remains of a standard Barcelona 'REPÚBLICA ESPAÑOLA CENSURA CARTERIA' censor sealing strip (Heller RB3.12d) on the right hand side but unfortunately, the sender's name on the back is illegible so there are no clues there. Any ideas anybody and has any other member ever seen a Spanish Civil War period cover from China?

Analysis of a Declared Value Letter Spanish Protectorate Morocco

By Larry Gardner

The cover below is referred to as a declared value letter. To analyze this cover, I refer to the 5th annual UPU Congress held in Washington D.C. from the 5th of May to the 15th of June 1897. The work of the Congress consisted of the negotiation and conclusion of Conventions and Arrangements signed in Vienna July 4, 1891 and the adoption of Regulations in order for their execution. Specifically in this case is the arrangement for the exchange of articles bearing a declaration of their value. At this time, the arrangements were concluded between the primary countries of Germany and the German Protectorates and the list of consenting countries in agreement which included Spain.

Declared value included letters containing papers of declared value and boxes containing jewelry and precious articles with the value being declared with the capacity to be insured. The maximum weight per article was fixed at 1 kilogram and

each of the countries arranged their own agreements with participating countries. The maximum declared value was to be no less than 10,000 francs and subject to the amount agreed upon between the adhering countries.

The selective information below will be enumerated and matched by numbered arrows pointing out their location on the envelope.

1) The addressee must be written and cannot be initials or written in lead pencil.

2) The postage stamps used for prepayment had to be spaced so they couldn't hide breaks in the envelope nor could they be folded over two sides of the envelope covering the edge.

3) As written, the declared value must be expressed in francs and centimes or in the money of the country of origin and

must be entered by the sender on the address of the article, both in words and figures and without erasure or correction, even if these are ap-proved.

4) The exact weight in grams must be put in the upper left hand corner of the letter or boxed handstamp. The registration number, length, width and height are included in this handstamp.

5) The post office of origin impresses by the side of the address a stamp indicating the place and date of mailing and special stamp in use in the country of origin for letters and boxes. In this case "Valores Declarados Alcazarquivir Protectorate Espanol" and dated.

6) The post office of destination (Malaga) impresses on the back it's own date stamp of receipt.

7) The administrations of contracting countries agreed also to these four points includ-ing insurance amounts, routes to enter the participating countries, and reimbursement for conveyance through the country with the towns applying the transmittal markings which in this case are Larache , Tangier, and Algeciras.

8) Declared value envelopes could only be sent in envelopes sealed by seals in fine seal-ing wax spaced so as to produce a particular sign and applied in sufficient number to keep all folds of the envelope in position as you see placed on the reverse of this enve-lope. It was also prohibited to use envelopes with colored edges.



4 Registration No. 22892 Peso (wgt.) 30 grams Largo (length) 15 cm. Ancho (width) 12 cm. Grueso (height for boxes) left blank

In addition to the above points, forms were to be filled out by the dispatching country to the receiving country. They consisted of forms:

(A) A list of the letters and packages to the office of destination, the route, insurance, and a column for completion upon receipt headed observation, should something ap-pear to be amiss.

(B) Customs declaration for each of the items mailed .

(C) Bill of dispatch of letters and boxes of declared value summarizing all items in the shipment.

RATE FACTORS

• Postage had to be prepaid in relationship to the weight of the

letter and the country of destination. In this case the weight is 30 grams going to Spain thus paying 30 centimos.

• The fee applicable to a registered letter was 25 centimos with both the postage and registration going to the country of dispatch. The sender was given a no charge receipt for the letter at this time

• And last the Insurance fee of 10 centimos per 250 pesetas of declared value totaling 50 centimos.

RATE ANALYSIS

The franking is 20 centimos short using this calculation.

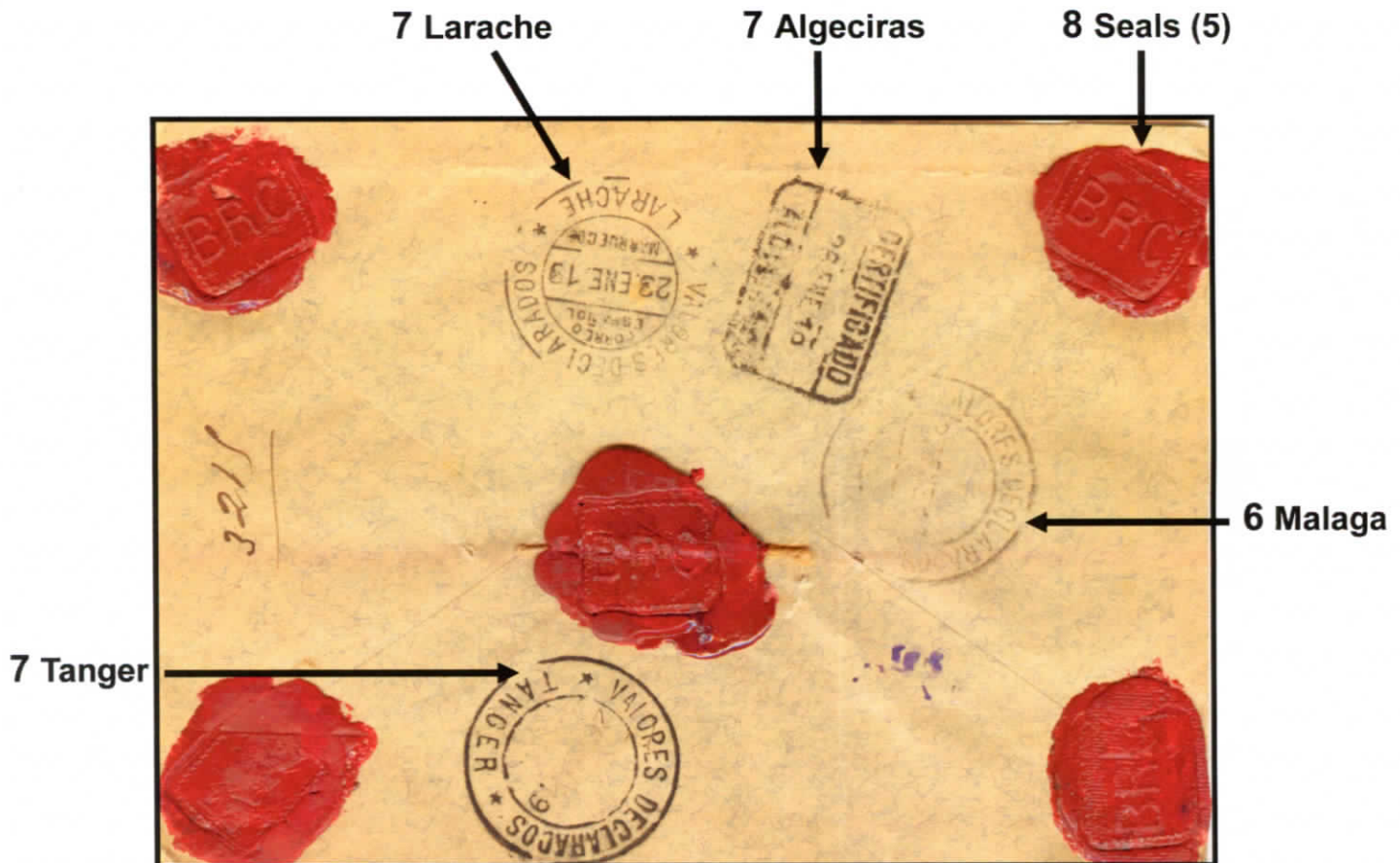
There is no tax charge or marking, thus it must be assumed the postal clerk erred and was not detected allowing it to

be delivered because according to Article 5 section 3:"
It is especially agreed that, in the case of reforwarding contemplated in Section 2 of Article 10 following, no postage charge, other than that for delivery at the residence, can be levied upon the addressees of letters and boxes containing

declared values. I would interpret this to mean the dispatching country would have to absorb any miscalculation by the postal clerk.

Below are the front and back of the declared value letter

REVERSE SIDE



ROUTING ANALYSIS

To summarize the above letters routing, Alcazarquivir overland to Larache then to Tan-ger. From Tanger by Ship to Algeciras and onward to Malaga. This routing is supported by the chronological interpretation of the following postmarks:

Alcazarquivir

• Valores Declarados 22.ENE.19

(Post Office of origin on front)

Larache

• Valores Declarados 23.ENE.19

(First transit marking reverse side)

Tanger

• Valores Declarados 26.ENE.19

(Second transit marking reverse side)

Algeciras

• Certificado 26.ENE.19

18 Araña | Winter 2013

(Third transit marking reverse side)

Málaga

• Valores Declarados 27.ENE.19

(Receiving mark reverse side)

While complex to interpret, the Declared Value Letter provided secure transport of valued contents at a cost of only .04% to insure the contents at 10 cent. per 250 peso. The post office provided a cost effective option for personal and business needs where few other alternatives may have existed. There were many other postal functions regarding declared value discussed at the conference but have no bearing on this letters interpretation. A full reading of the UPU articles agreed on may be found in "Annual Report of the Postmaster General, Issue 4. Author, United States. Post Office Dept. Publisher, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1897. "

PHILATELIC TERMS