

CATALOG OF CENSOR MARKS USED IN THE REPUBLICAN PRISONS AND LABOR
CAMPS DURING THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR



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INTRODUCTION

The republican penitentiary system was based, from the beginning of the civil war, on four types of detention centers:

1- Chekas.

Of Soviet inspiration, they were improvised jails, managed by political parties and trade union organizations, totally irregular, without any judicial control and in which the most basic rights of the detainees were not respected, since torture was practiced in them and there were carried out extrajudiciary executions. Because of its clandestine nature, very few marks are known used on correspondence coming from this type of detention facilities (see number 40 in this catalog for the only example we have seen).

2- Prisons of the regular penitentiary system.

The prisons and jails already available to the Directorate General of Prisons of the Ministry of Justice were used to house prisoners accused of political crimes, either preventively or to comply with the sentence. In some cases, common criminals were released to house people accused of cooperating or sympathizing with the military uprising. Censorship marks were used.

3- Prison ships.

Before the saturation of the regular penitentiary establishments, anchored ships in the ports of the Mediterranean and the Bay of Biscay were enabled to house the prisoners that no longer fit in the regular prisons. They also depended on the General Directorate of Prisons of the Ministry of Justice, since they were nothing more than temporary accommodation to support the prisons. Own marks of these steamships were used to mark the correspondence directed to or sent from these vessels.

4- Labor Camps.

Created in December 1936 for the execution of sentences of convicted criminals supporting the military uprising. There were two types of camps:

A) Those dependant on the Ministry of Justice.

B) Those dependant on the Ministry of War, Military Information Service (SIM) .

The second type of camps (B) were all located in Catalonia and were undoubtedly those with toughest living conditions. Both types of camps used their own censor marks, being the SIM marks of generic design for each labor camp, only varying the number of the establishment.

As the republican penal system was only operative for just over two and a half years and in most cases the volume of correspondence that inmates could send was limited monthly, few postal history pieces of this type have survived. Undoubtedly, the most rare are those belonging to the labor camps of the SIM, with less than 60 examples known to exist, as they only were operative from mid 1938 to early 1939. And the most commonly found are the marks belonging to the prisons

of Madrid and Valencia, which, due to having a greater number of inmates, also generated a greater volume of correspondence, but this doesn't mean that these marks can be considered common.

The rarity ranking of the catalogued marks is as follows:

E- Scarce

R- Rare

RR - Very Rare

RRR - Very rare

RRRR - Extremely rare, possibly unique.

The marks belonging to SIM's forced labor camps are marked with * in the catalog.

If in the future we have knowledge of other marks belonging to prisons or republican labor camps, we will expand this catalog.

You will find many of these marks for sale here:

<https://www.colectalia.com/en/republican-labor-camps-prisons>

Carles Prats

August 22, 2018

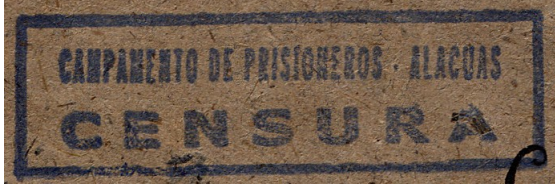
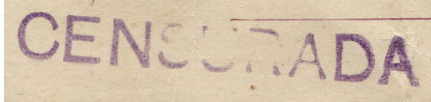
Revised on January 25, 2019, two additions.

Revised on April 16, 2019, one addition.

Revised on April 27, 2019, four additions.


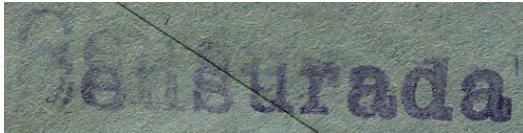
ALACUÁS / ALAQUÀS

Alacuás Prisoners Camp

	1- Alacuás Prisoners Camp, 5.5x1.5cm, blue "CAMPAMENTO DE PRISIONEROS · ALACUAS / CENSURA" RRR
	2.- Alacuás Prisoners Camp, 4.8x0.5cm, violet. "CENSURADA" RR


ALBATERA

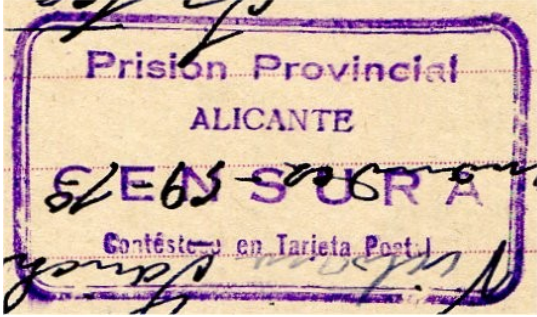
Albatera Labor Camp

	3- Albatera Labor Camp, 4.7x2.5cm, blue. "CAMPO DE TRABAJO / ALBATERA / CENSURADA / CONTESTE EN TARJETA / POSTAL" RRR
	4- Albatera Labor Camp, 4.5cm long, blue "Censurada" RRR

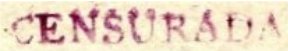
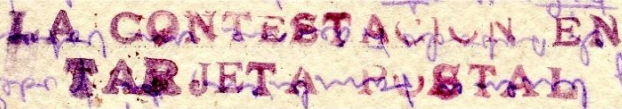


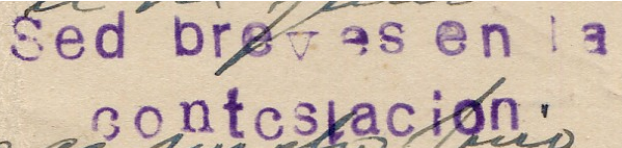
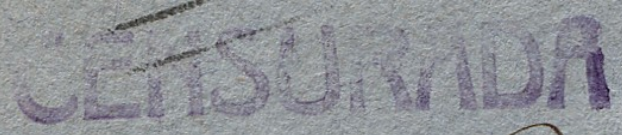
ALICANTE

Provincial Prison




	5- Alicante Provincial Prison. Circular seal Ø 3.5 cm, violet. "Prisión Provincial de Alicante / DIRECCIÓN / CENSURA" RR
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	<p>6- Alicante Provincial Prison. Rectangle 5.8x2.9cm, blue. "Prisión Provincial / ALICANTE / CENSURA / Conteste en tarjeta postal" RRR</p>
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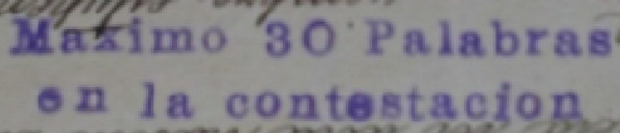
ALCALÁ DE HENARES
 Casa de Trabajo

	<p>7- Casa de Trabajo de Alcalá de Henares, 2.5cm, violet, camine & blue. On incoming and outgoing mail. "CENSURADA" RRR</p>
	<p>8- Casa de Trabajo de Alcalá de Henares, 8.7cm, violet & carmine. On outgoing mail. "LA CONTESTACION EN / TARJETA POSTAL" RRR</p>
	<p>9- Casa de Trabajo de Alcalá de Henares, 8.3cm, blue. On incoming mail. "BREVEDAD / EN LA CONTESTACIÓN" RRR</p>
	<p>10- Casa de Trabajo de Alcalá de Henares, 7.2cm, blue. On incoming mail. "LA CONTESTACIÓN / BREVE" RRR</p>
	<p>11- Casa de Trabajo de Alcalá de Henares, 1.9cm, blue. On incoming mail. "LA CONTESTACIÓN / BREVE" RRR</p>
	<p>12- Casa de Trabajo de Alcalá de Henares, 5,3x0,8 cm, blue. On incoming mail. "CENSURADA" RRR</p>


ALMERÍA
Prisión del Ingenio

	<p>13- Prisión del Ingenio (Provincial Prison), red, 9.4cm. "Censura de Correspondencia" RRR</p>
	<p>14- Prisión del Ingenio (Provincial Prison), red, 10 cm "CENSURA DE CORRESPONDENCIA / SER BREVES" RRR</p>
	<p>15- Prisión del Ingenio (Provincial Prison), violet, Ø 3.8 cm "COMISARIA DE INVESTIGACION Y VIGILANCIA / DIRECCION GENERAL DE SEGURIDAD / ALMERIA" RRR</p>

BARCELONA
Labor camp number 1 (Poble Espanyol)

	<p>*16- Labor Camp number 1 in Poble Espanyol, blue. "Maximo 30 Palabras / en la contestacion" RRR</p>
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BARCELONA
Montjuïc Castle

	<p>*17- Montjuïc Castle, Ø 4 cm. violet. "CASTILLO DE MONTJUICH *PRISIONES MILITARES*" RRR</p>
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BENISANÓ / BENISSANÓ

Benissanó Castle



18- Benissanó Castle, 2.9x1.5cm. violet.
"C T J S / CENSURA"
RRRR

CABASSERS

Detachment of SIM's Labor Camp Number 6



*19- Labor Camp Number 6, detachment number 3
(Cabassers), unknown sizes and colour.
"CAMPO DE TRABAJO N.º 6 / DESTACAMENTO N.º
3"
RRRR

CEHEGÍN

Casa de Reforma



20- Casa de Reforma, 5.8x2.5cm, red, blue, green (Heller
RC16.1).
"CASA DE REFORMA - CEHEGIN / *CENSURADA* /
CONTESTE EN TARJETA POSTAL"
RRR

GANDÍA

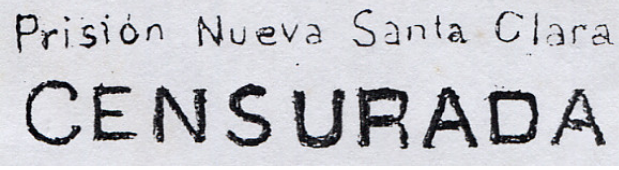
Escolapios Prison



21- Colegio de los Escolapios. Rectangle 4.8x1.5cm, rose.
"D.P.N.º 1 - GANDIA / CENSURA" (D.P. for Depósito de
Prisioneros)
RR
21a- Used by Francoist administration of the same prison
RRR


GANDÍA

Prisión Nueva de Santa Clara

	<p>22- Santa Clara, 5,9cm, red. "Prisión Nueva Santa Clara / CENSURADA" RRR</p>
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LABOR CAMP NUMBER 2, SIM

Several locations: L'Hospitalet de l'Infant, Montferrer & La Seu d'Urgell


	<p>*23- Labor Camp Number 2, Ø 3.8 cm, blue. "MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA NACIONAL * S.I.M.* / CAMPO DE TRABAJO / N° 2" RRR</p>
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LABOR CAMP NUMBER 3, SIM


Several locations: Omells de Na Gaia, Vilasana & Cabó

	<p>*24- Labor Camp Number 3, Ø 3.8 cm, blue. "MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA NACIONAL * S.I.M.* / CAMPO DE TRABAJO / N° 3" RRR</p>
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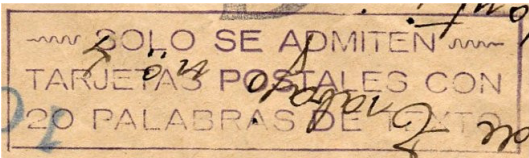
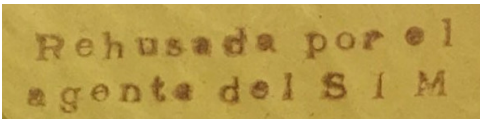
LABOR CAMP NUMBER 4, SIM
 Several locations: Concabella & Barbens

	<p>*25- Labor Camp Number 4, Ø 3.8 cm, red. "MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA NACIONAL * S.I.M.* / CAMPO DE TRABAJO / N° 4" RRR</p>
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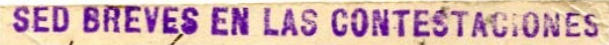
LABOR CAMP NUMBER 6, SIM
 Several locations: Falset (detachments in Cabassers, La Figuera, Gratallops & Porrera), Arbeca & Cabó

	<p>*26- Labor Camp Number 6, Ø 3.8 cm, blue. "MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA NACIONAL * S.I.M.* / CAMPO DE TRABAJO / N° 6" RRR</p>
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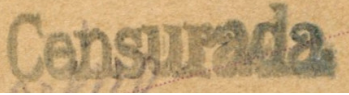

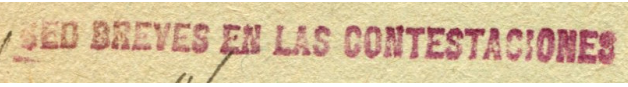
SIM LABOR CAMPS, DEVOLUTION MARKS

	<p>*27- "D", 1.9x1.6 cm, black. RRRR</p>
	<p>*28- Rectangle 8x2.1cm, violet. "SOLO SE ADMITEN / TARJETAS POSTALES CON / 20 PALABRAS DE TEXTO" RRRR</p>
	<p>*29- Violet. "Rehusada por el / agente del SIM" RRRR</p>

MADRID
Modelo Prison

	30- Modelo Prison, 6.4cm blue. "SED BREVES EN LAS CONTESTACIONES" E
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MADRID
Provisional Prison for Men Nr 3, known as General Porlier prison

	31- General Porlier prison, 3.3cm, black. "Censurada" E
	32- General Porlier prison, 3.9cm, rose. "CENSURA" R
	33- General Porlier prison, 6.4cm lilac. "SED BREVES EN LAS CONTESTACIONES" E

MÁLAGA
Prison ship Marqués de Chávarri, Málaga harbor

	34- Prison ship Marqués de Chávarri, 5.2cm, black. "MARQUÉS DE CHÁVARRI" RRR
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ORIHUELA
Orihuela Labor Camp

	<p>35- Orihuela Labor Camp, 4.5x4.5cm, violet (Heller RO7.2). "GOBIERNO / CIVIL / CENSURA / DE / PRENSA" RRR</p>
	<p>36- Orihuela Labor Camp, 3cm, violet. "SED BREVES" RRR</p>
	<p>37- Orihuela Labor Camp, 3.3x1cm, violet. "CENSURADA" RRR</p>

SEGORBE
Prison in Valencia street, number 5 (Seminar)

	<p>38- Segorbe prison, 5.4x1.1, blue. "CENSURADO / PRISIÓN GUBERNATIVA" RRR</p>
	<p>39- Segorbe prison, blue. "Censurado / Prision Gubernativa" RRR</p>
	<p>40- Segorbe prison, blue. "Maximo 30 Palabras / en la contestacion" RRR</p>

TARRAGONA

Prison ship Isla de Menorca, Tarragona harbor



41- Prison ship Isla de Menorca, 4,9x3cm, rose.
"COMANDANTE BUQUE PRISION / ISLA DE
MENORCA / TARRAGONA"
RRR

TARRAGONA

Prison ship Mahón, Tarragona harbor



42- Prison ship Mahón, 4,9x3cm, rose.
"COMANDANTE BUQUE PRISION / MAHÓN / DE /
MAHÓN"
RRR

VALENCIA

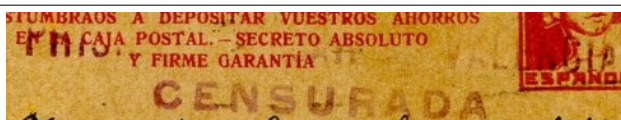
San Miguel de los Reyes Prison



43- San Miguel de los Reyes, rectangle 4.7x1.5cm violet.
"D.P.Nº 1 - VALENCIA / CENSURA" (D.P. for Depósito
de Prisioneros)
E
43a- Used by Francoist administration of the same prison
RRR

VALENCIA

Celular Prison



44- Celular Prison, 8,3cm, lilac.
"PRISION CELULAR DE VALENCIA / CENSURADA"
E

VALENCIA

Unidentified prishon ship in El Grao harbor



45- El Grao. Belonging to a Socialist cheka in a ship. Oval mark 5.4x3.1m, rose.

"AGRUPACION SOCIALISTA / COMITÉ / EL GRAO DE VALENCIA"

RRRR