

Doctor Thebussem
Fourth Set of Articles
[*Cuarta Ración de Artículos*]
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FOURTH SET OF ARTICLES

by

Doctor Thebussem
Knight of the Order of St. James

FOREWORD

I wish to express my gratitude to Messrs.* **José Fernández Bremón, Anselmo Fuentes, Manuel Chaves, Enrique Redel, Augusto Xerez Perchet, Francisco Fernández Miguel, F. Miguel y Badía, Ramiro Blanco y Pedro Roca**, for their kind reviews of the Third Set of Articles in the year 1895 in the periodicals:

La Ilustración Española y Americana (Madrid, 22nd & 30th March)

La Opinión (Badajoz, 21st March)

El Programa (Seville, 3rd April)

La Unión Mercantil (Malaga, 14th April)

Heraldo Postal (Madrid, 25th April)

Diario de Barcelona (Barcelona, 4th May)

El Mundo Naval Ilustrado (Madrid, 25th April)

Revista de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos (Madrid, May)

* Translator's note: With regard to names, I have deliberately omitted the suffixes D. (Don) and S. (Señor), with which this document is peppered.

I am also grateful for the following anonymous reviews in:

Diario de Cádiz (Cadiz, 15th March)
El Arcobricense (Arcos de la Frontera, 20th March)
La Lidia (Madrid, 21st March)
Sol y Sombra (Madrid, 24th March)
Revista Contemporánea (Madrid, 30th March)
El Mosaico (Murcia, 10th April)
L'Union Postale (Berne, 1st September)

If I have omitted anything, it is from ignorance and not deliberately.

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The Forewords to the First and Second Sets of Articles contained copies of various criticisms, skits, satires and sneers directed at my writings. Hence, I may perhaps be excused the boastfulness of reprinting, as an appendix to the present volume the letter, or rather paeon, with which I was favoured by the ‘friendship’ of the learned bibliophile **José Antonio de Balenchana** (R.I.P.). The chance reader who takes a fancy to read both sides may not think it quite suitable, but even when his sentence is adverse, it cannot cause grief or annoyance.

Doctor Thebussem

PHILATELY AND POSTCARD COLLECTING

To Don Enrique Laso

During the years 1859 to 1862, it was looked on as a crime in Spain to deal in, clean, resell or remit from one nation to another postage stamps that had been used.

At this period the word *philately* was not in use: it was launched on the world a short time later by **Mr. Herpin**, who formed it from two Greek words that meant “love of franking”.

The good sense of using it soon became apparent, and it was adopted by all the countries of the world. Spain used it for the first time in the year 1869. It was adopted for common usage, and soon gained academic approbation as well. From then on it made enormous strides.

In his official circular of 2nd September 1901, the worthy and illustrious Director General of Stamps **Federico Laviña**, used the expression *philatelist* as being perfectly suited to the idea he wished to express. In my opinion, this set a kind of official seal on the use of this word.

The order already quoted touched on another delicate point, that of whether or not employees of the Post Office could or could not form collections, and as a consequence exchange, buy and sell postage stamps. I shall not say a word about this. Nevertheless it is obvious that the exclusion of these functionaries meant that other people not so employed were perfectly free to collect, exchange, buy and sell postage stamps.

Double gratitude and double thanks are due from collectors to Mr. **Laviña** for his noteworthy circular which not only abrogated the tyrannical ruling that prevented stamp dealing, but also used, admitted and sanctioned the word *philately*. God should reward him and *philatelists* show him gratitude.

The same considerations that apply to stamp collecting also apply to the collection of the *Post Cards* issued by the governments of various countries, and the card album could attract as much curiosity or more than the stamp album. However, we must not go too far and give things a weight they cannot carry.

It is obvious that any piece of paper can become an object of value if it is designed by an artist of merit or carries the lines of a famous writer. Obviously the flood of private cards that has gone round the world does not meet these conditions as they do not carry beautiful fine, elegant, pictures showing the limitless number of things and symbols that the designer is capable of producing.

I do not know if these cards are arranged by countries, or are subdivided into what might be called families and types such as cities, buildings, gardens, houses, saints, bulls and portraits, or scenes from **Gil Blas** or **Quixote**.

If the collector is satisfied with unused cards, it will be easy for him to acquire them and lodge them in his album; however, if he wants to have writing on his cards and postmarks on his

stamps, he will have to get someone to send them to him, if he can find someone who has the same interests and will take the trouble, as is the case with **Juan Palomo** and myself.

Obviously, building up a collection of postcards is an enterprise similar to that of building up a collection of photographs such as the ones people take every day, or else it would be a tiresome labour verging on the impossible. There is a sort of struggle between publishers and collectors, with the first trying to publish (since the more types the more profit) and the second to acquire the various types: a continuous struggle without truce or interruption except in countries where postage and official stamps are kept on sale for long periods.

I do not mean to say that I am the opponent of those who collect picture postcards with all sorts of beautiful objects and inscriptions. Nothing could be further from my wishes or my intentions. I am a devotee of liberty and tolerance, and obviously each collector is entitled to find his pleasures where it suits him, so long as the result offends neither God nor his neighbour. There are much worse things than collecting picture postcards to pass the time. What I wish to stress in this note is that the fashion for collecting these things is likely to be ephemeral, and to die in infancy without reaching the year 1905.

This is what I think and what I say, in the hope of being proved a false prophet.

Dr. Thebussem

In the year 1901

PHILATELIC PERIODICALS OF SPAIN

To the Count of Cerrageria

I suspect there is no catalogue of the Spanish periodicals devoted exclusively to postage stamps. I have no intention of compiling one, but I do wish to save from oblivion the magazines that chance has enabled me to collect, so that those interested in this aspect of philately may find them worthy of obtaining and studying. Here then are the publications that have been brought to my notice, in chronological order:

El Indicador de los Sellos

(Vol. 1, Madrid, 15th July 1870, No. 1)

Fortnightly periodical. Correspondence and subscriptions to be sent to Eduardo Gilibert, editor and owner of the periodical. Payment is always in advance. Editorial office: 32 Calle de Lope de Vega, 4th Floor, left-hand side. Printed by C. Moliner and Company, Jesus 3.

In 4°, 4 pages without numbers. We believe this to be the first paper of the type published in Spain, but only the issue just mentioned ever saw the light, and is very rare. Its articles carried the titles:

To the Public
Basis of Publication
England
Spain

El Coleccionista de Sellos

(Vol. 1, Madrid, 15th February 1871, No. 1)

Fortnightly publication, appearing on the 15th and 30th of each month. Correspondence to the editor-owner, D. Balbino Cotter Cortes, 48 Leganitos, first floor.

In 4°, 4 pages. Four issues were published, the last being dated 31st March. The first has no indication of the printer, but the others carry the notation: *Madrid 1871. Printed by Manuel Minuesa, Juanelo 19*. The periodical **El Averiguador** (Madrid, 15th April 1871) printed a sharp attack on **El Coleccionista**, showing it to consist of poor translations from foreign journals. This brought about the demise of the magazine, which is very scarce today.

(It is a curious fact that during the nineteen years between 1872 and 1890, when philately was expanding in other countries, no journal relating exclusively to this topic was published in Spain so far as we know).

El Coleccionista

(Vol. 1, 16th December 1890, No. 4)

Monthly review begun in Spain for the hobby collector. All correspondence to the Editor, Juan A. Aguirre, 10 Gaona, Malaga. Printed by J. Valor, Convalecientes 1.

In folio, 4 pages. From the issue we possess we can deduce that publication started in September 1890. The generic word *Coleccionista* used on the titles does not show whether it deals with coins, weapons, books, or what, but the text makes it quite clear that it deals with postage stamps. The paper could have lost nothing by making this clear from the title.

Ilustración Filatélica Hispano-Colonial

(Vol. 4, nos. 35 and 36. August and September 1895)

Editor and owner, Ricardo S. Antonio, 6 Gignas, first floor. Printed by Balmás, Casamajó y Compañía, 5 Correo Viejo, Barcelona.

4°, 16 pages. Cover in colour, with four facsimiles of Spanish postage stamps. We do not know the first number of this periodical, which ought to belong to the year 1891. In no. 49, [Translator: 39?] for December 1895, the cover of which has only three facsimiles, we read as follows: *Ilustración Filatélica Hispano-Colonial. Specialist review for collectors of stamps, coins, photographs, chromos, insects and antiquities. Editor and owner, Ricardo San Antonio, Barcelona. It is the oldest philatelic periodical published in Spanish anywhere in the world and has the widest circulation. For this reason it will publish announcements in all languages. It is published every month and will appear twice [Translator: twice a month?] in 1896, if circumstances and the number of announcements permit.*

Number 50, for January, was adorned with two copies of Spanish stamps, and one Anglo-American showing Columbus in La Rábida [Translator: a prison]. It consists of 16 pages, smaller than the previous ones. The coloured cover bears a selection of the illustrations from the book *Crónica de la Guerra de Cuba* and two facsimiles of Spanish stamps. It appears to have been printed by J. Famades, 82 Lauria, Barcelona.

The issues for September and October 1896 (Vol. 6, Nos. 60 and 61) were also printed at this establishment and the size has increased to large 4°, with 16 pages. As a headpiece it has a mappamundi between the Columns of Hercules with *PLUS ULTRA*, and the words *Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Oceania. Ilustración Filatélica Hispano-Colonial. Ricardo S. Antonio, Barcelona. Revista especial de los coleccionistas de ambos mundos.* On the cover, which is of yellow paper, is the portrait of Sir Rowland Hill (copied from one used by *Le Timbrophile* of Paris), and 32 engravings of Spanish stamps in red.

We have seen another number of *Ilustración Filatélica, worldwide magazine. Published three times a month in all languages. The oldest of its type published in Spanish, and having the widest circulation in the world. Published 72 and 29, Calle Universidad.* Consists of 16 pages in 8°, on the cover the title is given in colour as *Ilustración Filatélica Hispano-America* with the date 1898, and its number of 107

corresponds to Vol. 10. (We may assume that Vol. 10 is a mistake). No location is given for the journal but we may deduce it to be Barcelona.

It would be interesting to see a complete run of this journal, not only for the variations in title, format, typography, etc., which have been indicated already, but also for its encyclopaedic character, which, according to page 11 of No. 107 just mentioned, will deal with cycling, hunting, bullfighting, pelota, fencing, philately, numismatics, books, plants, minerals and postcards. (Anything else would surely be going too far!)

La Alianza Filatélica

(Vol. 2, Barcelona, February 1892, No. 4)

Monthly international review. Editor, Juan de Solo. Administrator, José Prats. Editorial and administration, 346 Diputación, Barcelona. Printed by A. López Robert, 62 Asalto. Telephone Barcelona 460.

In large 4°, 8 pages. From the issue cited we may deduce that no. 1 appeared in November 1891.

El Anunciador Filatélico

(No. 1, Cadiz, 5th April 1892, Vol. 1)

Monthly review. Editor: 3 Manzana, first floor, Cadiz. Printed by Viuda de Niel, 2 San Francisco, Cadiz.

On folio, 4 pages without numbering. Print run stated to be 6,000, distributed free. No. 2 appeared on 20 May, had a coloured cover, consisted of 8 unnumbered pages, and had been reduced to 4°. In No. 5 of 20th August *El Anunciador* is stated to be a bi-monthly review of stamps, appearing on the 5th and 20th of each month under its editor, Francisco J. Carpintero. Subscription rates are quoted, which indicates that the free distribution had ceased.

La Unión Filatélica

(No. 1, Barcelona, January 1893, Vol. 1)

Monthly review. Editorial-Administration Office: 2 Hermenegildo Prats, 2 pasaje del Crédito, Barcelona. Printed by P. Ortega, 13 Aribau, Barcelona.

In large 4°, 8 pages. No. 20, which is dated October 1894, appeared in 8°, with 16 pages and is stated to be published from the *Tip. Lit. Bazar Enseñanza, pasaje del Crédito*. No place of printing is given but it is doubtless Barcelona.

Cádiz Filatélico

(Vol. 1, Cadiz, August 1893, No. 1)

Monthly review on postage stamps. Director, José María Adam. Editorial and Administration, 7 Cobos, Cadiz. Printed by Viuda de Niel, 2 San Francisco. In folio, 4 unnumbered pages.

El Heraldo Timbroológico Hispano-Americano

(Vol. 1, No. 2)

Special news advertiser organ for stamp collectors and dealers. (Title is repeated in French and English). Published monthly. 15th May 1895. Direction and administration, 27 Sierpes, Seville. Free. Printed by Valle, 31 Sierpes.

In large 4°, 12 pages, two colours, green and black, with a vignette of the Giralda (Editor's note: A former minaret, it is now the bell tower of the Cathedral of Seville.) and facsimiles of postage stamps. On page three is a picture fortunately lettered with the words View of Seville – the Cathedral, since without this explanation the famous memorial would be hard to recognise. The periodical claims to have a circulation of up to 10,000 copies, issued free.

Filatelia

(Vol. 1, Malaga, 31st January 1896, No. 1)

Owned by and organ of the Philatelic Society of Malaga. Correspondence to be sent to the President of the Philatelic Society of Malaga, Eloy de Montes Casarabilla, 25 Pozos Dulce, Malaga, Spain. Printed and lithographed by Herederos de Fausto Muñoz, Malaga.

In large 4°, 8 pages. Monthly. No. 6, for 30 June 1896, which consists of 12 pages, states that this publication is a recasting of *El Heraldo Timbroológico Hispano-Americano* (cited earlier) published in Seville by Angel Pulin. For this reason, No. 6 is decorated with a picture of a herald and the words *El Heraldo Timbroológico, organ of the Philatelic Society of Malaga*. Write to: *Eloy de Montes Casarabilla, 25 Pozos Dulce, Malaga, Spain*. Below this title, printed in black, the word *FILATELIA* is printed in a beautiful capital letters, diagonally in red, along with the number of the Malaga paper, which is repeated at the head.

Crónica Filatélica

(Vol. 2, Madrid, 1st February 1896, No. 3)

International organ for collectors and dealers in postage stamps. (Title repeated in French and English) Manuel Asenjo Pérez. Editorial Administration: 9 Gravina, Madrid 3. Is published on the first day of each month. Printed by Enrique Mototo, 34 Pelayo.

In large 4°, 8 pages. Elegant heading adorned with postage stamps, amongst which the title of the periodical is placed. Claims to have the highest circulation in its class.

La Filatelia Española

(Vol. 1. Villanueva y Geltrú, November 1896, No. 2)

Monthly review for stamp collectors. Villanueva y Geltrú. Printed by Milá, 41 Rambla Principal.

In large 4°, 12 pages. Its heading is an elegant group of stamps, printed without doubt from a separate plate. Issue stated to be 4,000 copies. the coloured cover states the owner-editor to be J. Foradada Canalda (Villanueva y Geltrú, Barcelona, Spain), and changes from referring to philatelic collectors to stamp collectors.

Madrid Filatélico

(Vol. 1, 1st January 1897, No. 1)

Monthly review for stamp dealers and collectors. Director: Miguel Aleñá Fernández. Owner: Miguel Gálvez Jiménez. Editorial: Cruz, No. 1, Madrid. Administrator: Rafael de Gorrity Gallardo. Printed by M. G. Hernandez Sons, 16 Libertad, Duplicated.

In folio, 16 pages. Cover in colour with a sketch by A. Matarredona, which represents a steamship, a railway engine and postal telegraphs. This important and well-reputed periodical was honoured by the award of a bronze medal at the international Philatelic Exhibition in Paris in the year 1900.

Boletín del Círculo Filatélico Matritense

(Vol. 1, July 1897, No. 1)

Monthly view. Is published on the 15th of each month. Director, Luis L. Zabala, 10 Calle de la Victoria, Madrid. Luis Parra, 11 Bola and 1 Torija, Madrid, 1897.

In large 4°, 16 pages. Printed in different colours on glossy paper with an elegant coloured cover.

La Timbrología Española

(Vol. 1, Val de Santo Domingo, December 1897, No. 1)

Universal philatelic review. Madrid, 1897. Baena Bros., Printers, 14 Colegiata.

In large 4°. Handsome edition on good paper. Published once a month, under the direction of José Alvarez Tanariz, a doctor in Val de Santo Domingo, Province of Toledo.

***La Propaganda Industrial**

Santiago (Corunna), 1897.

Mentioned as a stamp periodical in No. 4 of *Madrid Filatélico*. (Titles marked with an asterisk, like this one, are those of which we have not managed to see a copy, and know it only from advertisements or references.)

Boletín Filatélico

(Vol. 2, January, No. 13)

Monthly review for stamp collectors. Purchase, sale and exchange of stamps. Aureliano Ruiz Cabrera, printer, bookseller, subscriptions, photography and stationery. Manzanares.

In 4°, 8 pages without numbers. The number we have seen begins with the greeting *Salutation to our readers and Happy New Year 1899*, from which we deduce that publication began in January 1898. Lacks details of printer. the editor describes it as modest, though it is in a high rank for typography, paper and literature. (If only all editors would comply in this way with the octave commanded by the law of God!)

El Filatélico Valenciano

(Vol. 1, January 1898, No. 1)

Monthly review. M. Ferrero and Co., Printers, 3 Plaza Pertusa.

In 4°, 8 pages plus four unnumbered. No. 2 of this interesting publication consists of 16 pages, and mentions that it first saw the light in Valencia under its editor-owner José Sanchís, 1 University.

España Filatélica

(Vol. 1, 15th May 1899, No. 1)

International periodical dedicated to collectors of postage stamps. Comes out the 15th of each month. All correspondence should be sent to the editor-owner, Alexandre, Count of Asalto, No. 9 Barcelona, Spain. Tipolitografía Seix, 5 and 7 San Agustín, Barcelona (Gracia).

In 4°, 16 pages. The coloured cover bears the title as given plus an elegant allegory of Philately, signed by A. Serra Fiter.

La Propaganda Filatélica

(No. 1, August 1899)

Administration: 2 Columela, Madrid. Monthly review. Madrid 1899. Baena Hermanos, Printers, 14 Colegiata., Year 1.

In 4°, 8 pages. Editor-owner, D. Antonio Riesco.

El Coleccionista de Sellos

(Vol. 1, 31st January 1900, No. 1)

Bulletin of prices and philatelic news. Studies on antiques, numismatics, palaeography, etc. Subscription free. Reasonable advertising. José G. Ceballos, editor-owner, 31 Lagasca, Madrid. Printing and photogravure by E. Rojas, 15 Pizarro, Madrid.

In 4°, 10 pages and 6 unnumbered, this periodical publishes a curious *Collector's Almanac for 1901*, made up of 46 pages in 4° and 41 (without numbers) of adverts, printed in Madrid by A. Pérez and Compañía in 1901.

El Filatélico Onubense

(Vol. 1, Huelva, 15th January 1900, No. 1)

Philatelic review for stamp dealers and collectors. Huelva. Printed by Agustín Moreno.

In 4°, 8 unnumbered pages. Colour cover. It is a curious redundancy to call the periodical *filatélico* and then go on to describe it as a *philatelic review*. What is abundant does no harm.

Cádiz Postal

(Vol. 1, March 1900, No. 1)

Monthly review for stamp collectors. Editor-owner: José Juliá y Fernández.

On large 4°, 16 pages, the first issue does not name the printer. Nos. 2, 3 and 4 were done by Imp. de Rodríguez, 24 Verónica. From 5 to 12 it was Manuel Álvarez, 25 Sagasta y Murguía', and from 13 to 17 Tip. de Rodríguez Hermanos, with the aid of J. Rus, 16 Verónica. The first nine issues had coloured covers with a lithograph representing a railway engine and a postal worker. Nos. 10, 11 and 12 have a vignette. From 13 to 17 the size of the periodical was reduced to small 4°.

***La Circular Filatélica**

Monthly review for stamp collectors and dealers. It was announced in a circular dated from Huelva on 25th April 1900, by the firm of Robert W. Adam.

Boletín Filatélico Universal

(Vol. 1, Valencia, June 1900, No. 1)

Monthly review. Editor, Eduardo Reig. Owner, Ricardo Gregori, 4 Culla. Administrator, Carlos Portilla. Printed by Manuel Alufre, 6 Plaza de Pellicers.

In 4°, 16 pages. Cover in colour.

El Boletín Timbrológico

(Vol. 1, Huelva, 15th August 1900, No. 2)

Monthly review for stamp dealers and collectors. Owner, R. Albelda. Editor, Carlos Domínguez, Huelva, printed by F. Bueno Morales, Seville 11 (formerly Berdigon).

In 4°, 8 pages. Cover in colour.

El Eco de Madrid

(Vol. 1, October 1900, No. 1)

Philatelic bulletin and official organ of the Madrid Philatelic Circle. Editor-owner, Enrique Laso, 14 Gravina, Madrid. Administrator, Telmo Cana. Typographic establishment of G. Juste, 15 Pizarro, Madrid.

In large 4°, 20 pages. Cover in colour.

El Filatélico Español

(Vol. 1, Barcelona, October 1900, No. 1)

Monthly review.

On 4°, 16 pages. Cover in colour with two facsimiles of Spanish stamps. Editor, T. Remoli, 177 Diputación, Barcelona 1 (Spain). This issue does not name the printer but later ones give it as Pedro Toll, 232 Calle de Valencia, Barcelona.

La Unión Postal

(Vol. 1, December 1900, No. 1)

Monthly philatelic review dedicated to all stamp dealers and collectors. Editor, Leoncio Hernando, honorary member of the Sicilian Philatelic Union, No. 104, Calle Mayor, Barcelona (Gracia), Spain., Typography by José and Julián Doria, 20 Calle del Angel, Barcelona (Gracia). 1900. Cover in colour.

In 4°, 12 pages and coloured cover. From no. 3 of February 1901, was printed by Tip. de la Viuda de J. Miguel, 23 Mayor, Gracia.

*** El Coleccionista de Tarjetas Postales**

(Madrid, 1901)

Illustrated monthly review. Administration, Villanueva 12, V. de la Hidalga.

Boletín de la Tarjeta Postal Ilustrada

(Vol. 1, Barcelona, January 1901, No. 1)

Monthly review. printed by F. Giró, No. 311 Calle de Valencia, Barcelona.

In large 4°, 8 pages. With engravings of postcards. The editor-owner is Durán Bori, 33 Fernando VII, Barcelona.

La Tarjeta Postal

(Vol. 1, 30th (sic), February 1901, No. 2)

Only magazine of its kind published in Spain. Monthly review for collectors of postcards. Editorial and administration, Hermenegildo Prats, 8 Duque de la Victoria, Barcelona. Printed by P. Ortega, Aribau 13, Barcelona.

In 4°, 8 pages, with photogravures of postcards.

***España Cartófila**

We do not know the place or date of this publication

El Progresista Filatélico

(Vol. 1, September 1901, No. 2)

Monthly review for collectors of stamps and postcards. Editor-owner, J. Minondo and B. Fueros A. San Sebastian.

In folio, 16 pages. Elegant covered cover with drawing representing a man examining a stamp album. Clear, high-grade printing, without details of printer.

El Agente Administrativo, Filatélico y Anunciador

A circular issued in Malaga on 18th October 1901 and printed in that city by M. Jiménez, announced the publication of this weekly for the first day of November. The announcement stated that the publication would cover Europe, Asia, the Americas and Oceania, that the print run would be 6,000 copies and that the offices would be located at 2 Plaza de Uncibay.

On the basis of these dates, and ignoring **España Cartófila**, whose place and date we do not know, we arrive at the following statistics:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Periodicals</u>
1870	1
1871	1
1890	1
1891	1
1892	2
1893	2
1895	1
1896	3
1897	4
1898	2
1899	2
1900	9
1901	5
TOTAL	34

<u>Towns</u>	<u>Periodicals</u>
Madrid	9
Barcelona	8
Cadiz	3
Huelva	3
Malaga	3
Valencia	2
Manzanares	1
San Sebastian	1
Santiago	1
Seville	1
Val de Santo Domingo	1
Villanueva y Geltrú	1
TOTAL	34

These are the magazines relating to postage stamps and postcards that have come to my notice. Although it would be impossible or very difficult to list all the political or literary periodicals which have dealt incidentally on a greater or smaller scale with Philately, the following may be mentioned:

Revista de Correos

(Madrid, 1867-1891)

In its issue for December 1867 it published the first philatelic report to see the light in Spain, under the title *Stamps for franking correspondence*. Though it appeared anonymously, the author was the illustrious Francisco Lopez Fabra. In succeeding years from 1872 to 1881, the **Revista** continued to deal with philately and reported all the official decrees relating to this topic published in Spain from 1849 to 1880.

El País

(Political periodical: Madrid, 16th August and 23rd November 1870)

Criticized followers of philately and the defective orthography that led to *Congressso* (with a double s) being used on a stamp from the Spanish Parliament.

El Averiguador

Correspondence between collectors, literary men, antiquaries, etc. (Madrid, 1871 to 1879).

The philatelic contributions in this interesting publication are for the most part of great merit and importance.

Gaceta le los Caminos de Hierro

(Madrid, 21st December 1873)

Criticizes the postcard issued on 1st December 1873.

El Gobierno

(Political periodical, Madrid, 10th and 25th October, 7th November, 9th, 12th, 17th and 18th December 1873, and 17th March 1874)

Deals with postcards, principally those issued for private individuals in the year 1873. Pages 37 to 75 of the short book entitled *Something of Philately* (Madrid, Sucesores de Rivadeneyra, penultimate year of the 19th century) reprinted practically the whole of these articles.

El Cascabel

(Madrid, 1st February and 1st March, 1874)

Deals with postcards

El Ateneo

(Seville, 15th January 1875)

Shows how well postage stamps conform with artistic standards

Diario de Cádiz

(Cadiz, 28th April and 19th September 1875)

Praise of the stamp exhibition held in France, and criticism of the heraldic shield carried by Spanish Postcards of the issue of 3rd April 1873.

La Verdad

(Cadiz, 30th March 1875)

Suggests that the postmark on postcards should be a map of Spain.

El Solfeo

(Madrid, 25th April 1875)

Condemns the report *All correspondence should carry the sender's name on the reverse* as it is applied to postcards.

La Correspondencia de España

(Madrid, 19th and 26th August 1875)

Exonerates the government from the faults noted in the postcards of the issue of 3rd April.

La Prensa Gaditana

(Cadiz, 27th September 1875)

Complains about the defects in the monopoly postcards.

El Averiguador Universal ...

Editor –José María Sbarbi (Madrid, 1879 to 1882)

There are various articles on philately in the four volumes of this curious magazine.

Almanaque Bailly-Baillière

(Madrid, 1898)

The volumes since this year have dealt with postage stamps.

La Ilustración Española y Americana

(Madrid 1899)

Since May this noted weekly has devoted some part of its coloured cover to notices and facsimiles of the new stamps issued in various countries. The issue of 30th July contained an article with the titled *Philately in Spain*.

El Herald

(Murcia, 1900)

Since March this periodical has devoted a section to postage stamps.

These are the notices we have been able to obtain relating to the philatelic press in Spain. We do not claim it to be anywhere near complete, since bibliography needs good luck more than diligence. These notes have the defect of being dry and fleshless, but should be judged lightly since it is customary for each entry about a magazine to give details of the duration of the periodical, its existence or not at the moment of writing, the greater or lesser merit of its articles, engravings, typography and other features which would recommend it from the learned, commercial or literary point of view.

We mentioned above our suspicion that there is a gap of nineteen years (1872 to 1890) during which there were no magazines devoted to philately. We think this can be easily explained if we consider that traffic in and selling of stamps were crimes punishable by law and that moreover a country so fond of bullfighting and lotteries would not readily adapt to the gentle and peaceable task of collecting and arranging old postage stamps. The fashion did finally reach Spain, thanks to the glamour, prestige and credit it enjoyed abroad, and took vigorous root in Castilian soil. We may say with all possible vigour, since it must be a rare and extraordinary thing that a country so inferior in commerce, industry, riches and power in the eyes of the world should occupy a pre-eminent place in philately. The Spanish periodicals which represent it are large in number, worthy and estimable, as has been recognised by the judges at foreign competitions and exhibitions. However, we must admit since it would be foolish not to, that they do not reach the level of learning, artistry and typography reached by, for example, **Le Timbre-Poste** (Brussels 1863), **The Stamp Collector's Magazine** (London 1863), **Bulletin de la Société Française de Timbrologie** (Paris 1875), **The Philatelic Journal** (Birmingham 1872), **Guida Illustrata del Timbrofilo** (Bologna 1876), **Berliner Illustringte Briefmarken-Zeitung** (Berlin 1878), or others which reach the same level in their own class, such as **The Times** or the **Revue des Deux Mondes**, amongst the political and literary groups.

Though recognising and admitting our modest status, nobody can in fairness look down on us: Captains, priests and merchants may interchange with generals, bishops and bankers. If Spanish philately does not wear the coronet of a duke, it shows the deeds of a nobleman in the full and ample list of books, catalogues and periodicals it has produced, not forgetting the names of López Fabra, Isasy, Argiles, Vázquez, Burguera, Rua Figueroa, García Mauriño, Fernández Duro, Leopoldo López and others, who have helped it with their learned pens or their mercantile activity.

There is certainly no shortage of people competent to take on the work we have indicated. If the choice were left to me I would entrust the responsibility to Domingo Delgado de Mendoza, certain that with this clear understanding, his love of philately and his persistence and industry in the tasks he undertakes, he would shoulder the burden gracefully and turn out a useful, learned and attractive work. I hope my good friend will accept the invitation without saying, along with the priest of Fruime:

*If you invite me to a meal
And then ask me to pay,
It is, if I am not mistaken,
Asking the guest to be the host.*

I will finish by saying how much pleasure it would give me if philatelists would supply additions and corrections to the present outline which I will defend with the words of the scholar.

Up to a certain point and no farther

or with the vulgar saying that:

*The bread is hard, hard, hard
But better hard than none at all*

Doctor Thebussem

1901

END