1741-1922. The early times.

Spanish passports for civilians started a separated expedition system in 1741. Previously both military and civilians used the same model of passports. That model included (servants, baggage, rations,…) and therefore left the bearer free accommodation. According to the law only the military could use that privilege but a lot of civilians used and abused that possibility.
The total amount of payments represented a huge expense for local authorities and, finally, the government split the model: one for military and another for civilians. Both were granted by the same authority, but the civilian model didn't include servants, baggage, rations and so on, or the possibility of charging for them.
That was the first step. In 1808, Spanish passports for civilians started to be issued by civilian authorities, which is the common rule now: civil authorities issue passports for civilians.

Now, let me explain a piece of the common internal control in Spain between the 16th century and 1854.

In Spain the so called "Pasaporte para lo interior" was used in different periods between the 16th century and 1854. Citizens needed to provide them to travel out of their residence cities, and the passports were signed and stamped in all the villages and cities that the traveller passed or visited. The document itself was as an international passport, but only could be used inside the country.

The internal passport (domestic passport) had the same regulations as the external passport, was issued by the same authorities but it had some differences (period of validity, price, and so on).

In the 19th century Spanish passports for civilians had a wide range of varieties:
- Passports for internal travel.
- Passports for travel abroad;
- Passports for travel to America;
- Passports for travel from American colonies to the "Península";
- Passports for travel from American colonies to American countries.

- **Passports for travel abroad**. These passports were used to travel from Spanish cities to European countries and so on. Clearly they were a different model to the ones issued for travel to America. According to the law, these passports were issued in different periods of time during the 19th century but to tell you the truth, it's possible to find the same passports issued in different periods. Why? Since Spain suffered a lot of political change in the 19th century a common system of warning that communicated those minor changes to the provinces wasn't established before the end of the century.
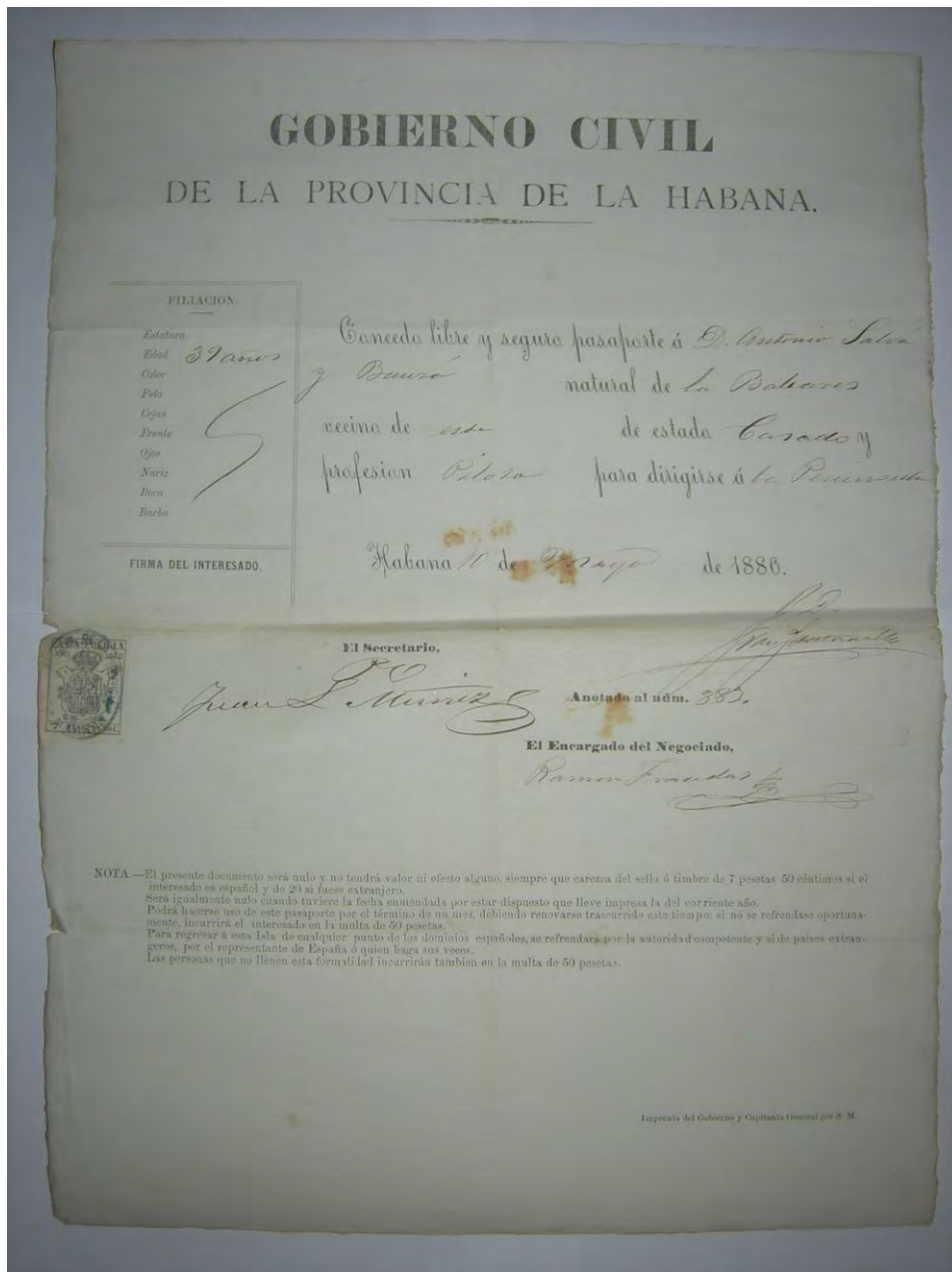
- **Passports for travel to America**. Also called "passports to overseas". Spanish governments had special consideration for people which desired to migrate to the "new continent". From the beginning that possibility was forbidden for poor people (vagrants, criminals, convicted, unaccompanied women, and so). However, from time to time regulations were changed, and authorities allowed so peasants, sellers and craftsmen to move.
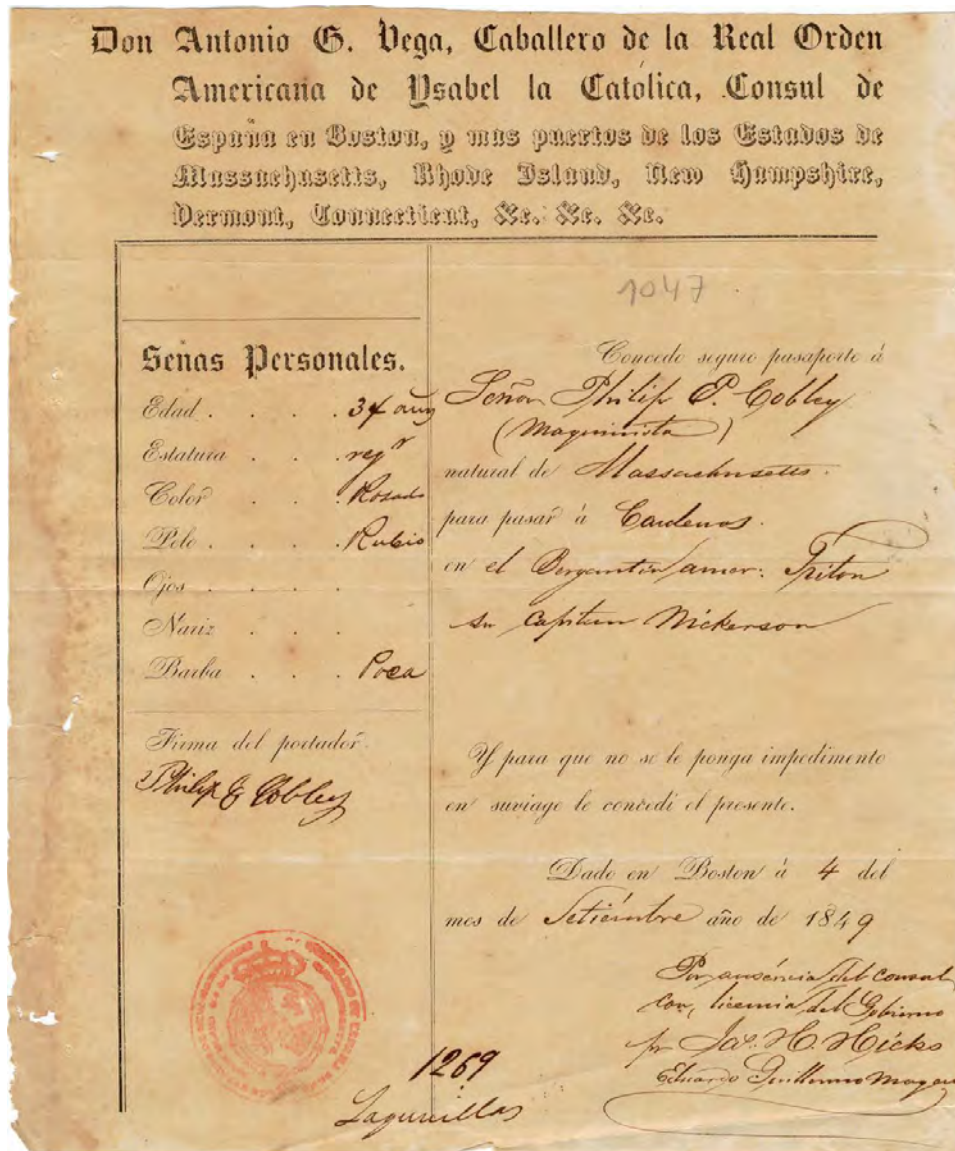
During the 18th and 19th centuries some American territories gained independence, e. g. Florida, Mexico, the USA, and so on. Finally, the Spanish colonial empire ended in 1898 after the Cuban war. Really it was not such a long time ago, a great grandfather of mine fought there. In 1862 passports were not necessary to travel outside the "Península", or "metropolis", and the so called "cédula de vecindad" (vicinity card) was sufficient to enter and exit till 1867. In 1872 passports to travel to "Ultramar" were suppressed. Notice was confirmed in 1878 (abroad) and 1883 (overseas). In 1814 some regulations included "passports to Indias" (Indias was another denomination for the Spanish territories in America). In 1820 a passport authorising disembarkment to America was necessary. Four years later passports to Ultramar were issued first for the "Juzgados de Arribada" (Courts of Arrival) and soon for political authorities. In 1835 passports for travel to America needed to be presented at the "Juez de Arribada" (Judge of Arrival), the authority responsible for authorising disembarkment. People from Canary Islands hadn't the possibility to move to America. It was forbidden in different periods because of the hazardous and risky conditions.
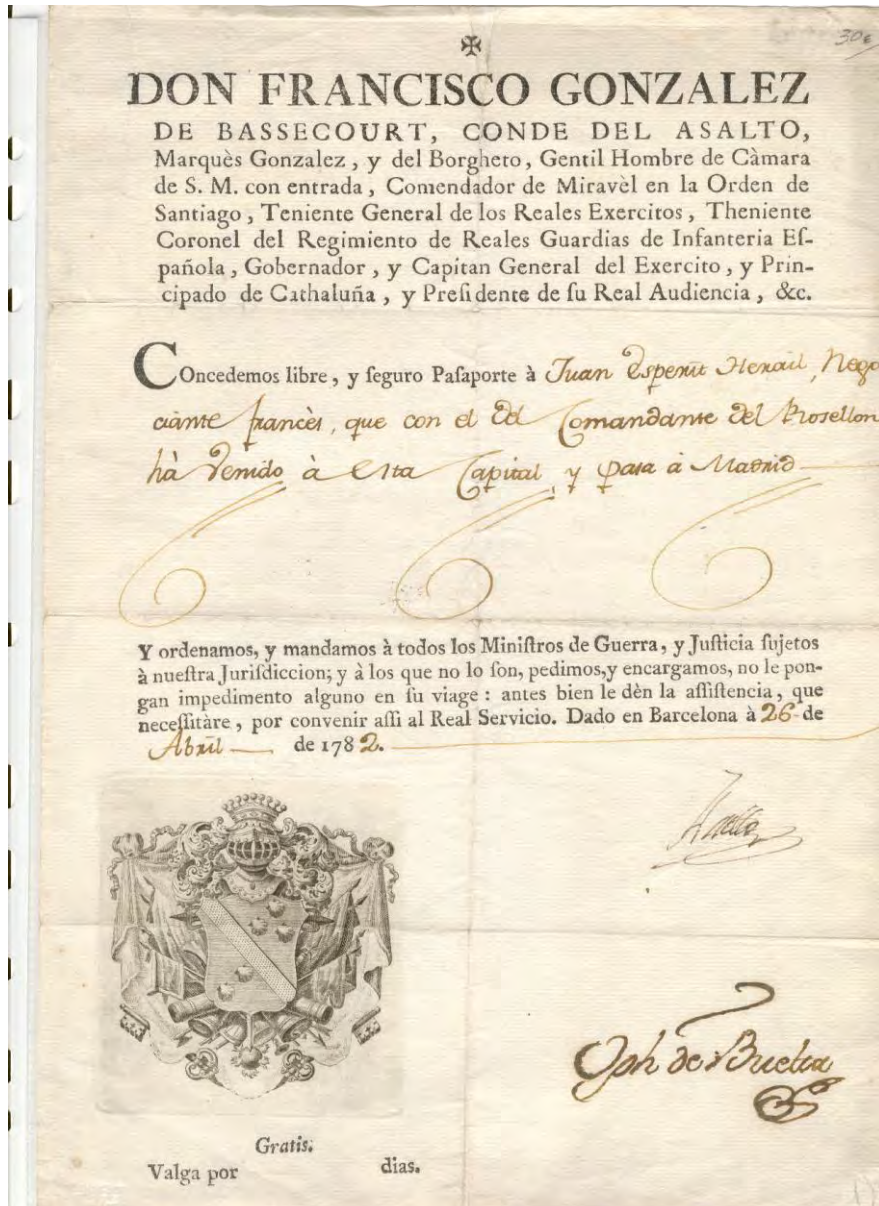

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- **Passports for travel from American colonies to the "Península".** Passports were issued as foreign passports or to foreign people. In reality Spanish authorities considered American colonies as a restricted territory for access, people actually needed passports to move from one part of Spain (theoretically) to another. To tell you the truth, Spanish authorities took in consideration colonial territories as an annex and not an integral part of the metropolis and nearer territories. You can actually read in many old passports "Spanish Peninsula and close islands" (Baleares and Canary islands). Spanish authorities in American territories extended passports to travel to Spain as if to a foreign country.

- **Passports for travel from American colonies to American countries**.
  Passports were issued as foreign passports or to foreign people. In the same way of passports for travel from American colonies to the "Península".

- **Foreign passports and passports for foreigners**. In the 18th and 19th centuries, e. g. from 1821 to 1853, foreigners who travelled to Spain had to present a national passport to Spanish authorities in the cities Head of province, then Spanish authorities provided them a Spanish passport to travel through Spain and depart. Yes! E. g. a French citizen came into Spain trough Irún check-point (North of Spain), the Spanish authorities retired his French passport and issued him a Spanish passport. He then travelled around Spain and went abroad from Cádiz (South of Spain, 1000 km from Irún) using a Spanish passport! Only if the French citizen returned to Irún, could he pick up his own French passport.

In short.

- Spanish passports for civilians started a separated expedition system in 1741. Previously both military and civilians used the same model of passports. That model included (servants, baggage, rations,...) and therefore left the bearer free accommodation.
- The internal passport had the same regulations as the external passport, was issued by the same authorities but it had some differences (period of validity, price, and so on).
- In the 19th century Spanish passports for civilians had a wide range of varieties:
    o Passports for internal travel
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