

The Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia (1419-2019). Six hundred years of history

Francesc Torres Faus*
Arxiu del Regne de València

Received 10 March 2020 · Accepted 20 December 2021

ABSTRACT

The Arxiu Reial de València (Royal Archive of Valencia) was created in 1419 and was housed in the Palau Reial (Royal Palace). At first it was managed by an archivist appointed by the monarch, but in 1579 the profession of archivist was added as an assistant of the Master Rational (*magister racionalis*), and it depended on this institution until 1707. During the era of foralism, it housed the collections of the Cancelleria Reial (Royal Chancery), the Reial Audiència (Royal Court), the Master Rational and the Corts Valencianes (the legislative body of Valencia). After 1707, when the local regime in Valencia was abolished, the monarchs ordered the documentation from the abolished institutions to be assembled together. This did not actually occur until the nineteenth century, when the Royal Palace was demolished in 1810 and the archive was moved to the Casa Professa of the Jesuits. The archives of the Generalitat, the Governate, the Justices of the city of Valencia and the Batlia (Bailiff) were transferred there. In the twentieth century, the documentation from the Bourbon era was moved there, and in 1965 the Arxiu del Regne de València (Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia) was moved to its current location.

KEYWORDS: Archives, history of archives, archivists, Kingdom of Valencia, Master Rational

The Royal Archive of Valencia was created in 1419 as part of the transformation of the archival system of the Crown of Aragon, which in the fifteenth century went from being a centralised system with a single archive for the entire Crown, the Arxiu Reial de Barcelona (Royal Archive of Barcelona), to a decentralised system with a royal archive in the capitals of each of the kingdoms within the monarchy. In the assembly of the Corts at the episcopal palace of Valencia between 28 August and 18 September 1419, Alphonse the Magnanimous and the branches of the Kingdom of Valencia agreed to create two new institutions: the Arxiu Reial (Royal Archive) and the Master Rational (*magister racionalis*) of the Kingdom of Valencia, in exchange for a large donation.

Both institutions have always been related, and the archival system of the Crown of Aragon cannot be understood without reaching back to the creation of the Master Rational in 1283 by Peter the Great of Aragon.¹ Still, the archival system did not begin to develop in conjunction with the evolution of the Master Rational until after 1318, during the reign of James II of Aragon, with the creation

of the Royal Archive of Barcelona. At first, the Master Rational was a one-person institution that served the entire Crown of Aragon. Because that person could not be everywhere at once, lieutenants ended up being appointed in each kingdom, and archival deposits began to be created in the different royal palaces. Later, in the fifteenth century, some of them became institutions with independent Masters Rational and royal archives.²

The origins of the development of the archival system date back to the fourteenth century, which was a crucially important time in the consolidation of the monarchy's power that came with the territorial consolidation of the different kingdoms that comprised the Crown of Aragon, which in turn gave rise to a confederal organisation of the monarchy and the decentralisation of the administration. This explains why the archives were also decentralised after the fifteenth century.

Therefore, the creation of the Royal Archive of Valencia should be framed within this historical context of the national and institutional affirmation of the Kingdom of Valencia in the early fifteenth century. At that time, the existing institutions were consolidated, such as the Governació General (General Governate), the Batlia General (General Bailiff) and the Corts, and new ones were created, like the Diputació del General (permanent commission of the

* **Contact address:** Francesc Torres Faus. Arxiu del Regne de València, Passeig de l'Albereda, 22, 46010 Valencia. Tel. +34 676221455. E-mail: torres_frafau@gva.es

three Estates of the Parliament) in 1418 and the Arxiu del Real and the Master Rational one year later. The last three are related to the Hisenda Reial (Royal Treasury): the Diputació del General was in charge of collecting donations to the king from the Corts (legislative assembly), while the Master Rational and the Arxiu del Real were related to the Reial Patrimoni (Royal Patrimony).³

In the case of the Kingdom of Valencia, this process of national affirmation was spearheaded by the local elites, especially the urban patriciate of the city of Valencia, which became the mouthpiece of the rights of the kingdom and proclaimed themselves the guardians of the 'lleis de la pàtria' (laws of the fatherland). These laws were the guarantee of their freedom, and the monarchs had to swear to uphold them and ensure they were upheld when they began their reign. In 1393, the provision in which King John I of Aragon ordered that the deposit of the archive of the Palau del Real of Valencia (as the palace and archive were known) be rebuilt very precisely justified the political decentralisation: '*Cum separatorum separata debeat esse conditio et singulorum nota et distincta negotia ut promixtiis actibus non turbetur*', and secondly, owing to merely political issues, because the Kingdom of Valencia did not depend on outside laws and was governed by its *furs* (special laws): '*per se stans, ullius alterius regni vel patrie legibus, foris aut consuetudinibus non subiectam, sed suos habens propios foros regios privilegiaque ac consuetudines quibus donatur et regitur cum Dei auxili atque nostro*'. Several years later, when Jaume Desplà oversaw construction of the archive at the Palau del Real in 1422, he justified them '*per obs de tenir los furs, pryvilegis e libertats del dit regne, e los actes pertanyents a aquell*' (in order to have the *furs*, privileges and freedoms of that kingdom, and the acts belonging to it).

Secondly, we should bear in mind that the monarchs' interest in archives, as Eugenio Casanova stated in 1928, was grounded upon the patrimonial nature of the monarchy, where power was conceived as the king's right and property.⁴ Archives were an instrument of power, and the documents they conserved legitimised the exercise of sovereignty, regardless of the institution charged with managing them, either an official one from the Chancery or the Master Rational.⁵ Furthermore, this patrimonial conception of kingdoms explains why the administration of the kingdom and of royal properties were often muddled. Therefore, the main purpose of archives was defensive, so the documentation of the monarchy's institutions had to be organised and conserved. From the very dawn of the Crown of Aragon, the Royal Patrimony was viewed as a very important part of the Royal Treasury, and its administration was assigned to the General Bailiffs, while taxation was the responsibility of the Master Rational. Their importance stems from the fact that the Crown of Aragon conserved the bulk of the Royal Patrimony, while in other monarchies, such as the Crown of Castile, ownership of it was transferred in exchange. And within the Crown of Aragon, the Kingdom of Valencia, the last to be con-

quered, was the one that conserved the highest volume of Royal Patrimony, as the monarchs kept it for themselves. All of this explains why from the Middle Ages until the nineteenth century, all the monarchs paid close attention to the conservation of the archives related to the Royal Patrimony, which were the archives of the Bailiff and the Master Rational. In the case of the Kingdom of Valencia, the enormous importance of the Royal Patrimony helps us understand the birth and development of the two institutions it created in 1419. The logical consequence of this patrimonial conception of the kingdoms and the importance of the Royal Patrimony was that archives were initially considered to be the king's, not the kingdom's, and were meant to defend the monarch's patrimonial interests, which explains the restrictions on the access to and use of the documentation therein.

This changed after the fifteenth century, as the process of administrative decentralisation came hand in hand with a change in the awareness of the value of archives. In the fifteenth century, we find that the archives cease to be exclusively the kings' and become the archives of the kingdoms, as they are also the guarantors of the rights of third persons. This can be seen in petition XLI of the Corts of 1417-1418, which for the first time calls for the creation of the profession or institution of the Master Rational for the Kingdom of Valencia. We can see how the royal and Church branches recall that the delegation of functions by Ferdinand I of Aragon to Berenguer Minguet confirmed that the accounts had to be safeguarded in Valencia '*per tal que pus propinquament e ab menys afanyans e despeses, de les dites coses es poguessen haver certificacions e altres avisos necessaris*' (so that certifications and other reports needed on these matters can be had with greater proximity and less effort and expense). In the same Corts, the petition to create a royal archive in Valencia was justified by the profit it would entail for the '*cosa pública del dit regne e dels habitants de aquell*' (public life and inhabitants of that kingdom), and it petitioned for the creation of the royal archive so that '*vós, senyor, com vostres oficials, com encara los habitants del dit regne, pus fàcilment pusquen haver ço que hauran mester de dites coses e actes*' (you, my lord, as well as your officers and the inhabitants of the kingdom, can more easily obtain whatever you need from these matters and deeds). These proposals were later compiled in the Cort's proceedings on the creation of the Arxiu del Real and the Master Rational of the Kingdom of Valencia in 1419.

As explained above, the development of the archival system of the Crown of Aragon began in 1318⁶ with the creation of the Royal Archive of Barcelona, which was definitively consolidated in 1346 when Peter IV the Ceremonious sent the scribe Pere Perseia to the Royal Archive; he exempted the scribe from the obligation to follow the court, charged him with safeguarding the documentation and authorised him to deliver copies of documents. Later, the first regulations of the archive were published in 1384.⁷ However, there was not an archive for every king-

dom instead of a single archive for the entire Crown of Aragon until the fifteenth century.

The first archive to be created was the Royal Archive of Valencia. The earliest reports on the existence of an archival deposit of the Master Rational in the Palau del Real date from 1337, when it mentions '*casa o archiu del offici del Racional, qui és en lo Real del senyor Rey*' (the house or archive of the profession of the Master Rational, which is in the King's royal palace), where the archive of the Bailiff was also housed. Two years later, in 1339, orders were issued to build a desk and benches for the archive.⁸ That is, we find the first evidence of the existence of an archival deposit in the city of Valencia two decades after the Royal Archive of Barcelona was created. The deposit was created during Peter IV the Ceremonious' stay in Valencia, and the first regulations of the Master Rational were also published in 1338. It should be borne in mind that at that time another Valencian, Domènec de Claramunt, was serving as the Master Rational. It was an administrative archive, and when the documentation no longer had any administrative value, it was sent to Barcelona.⁹ In 1363, the archive was evacuated to Barcelona due to the attack by the Castilian troops, but after 1369 the Master Rational was once again involved in the accounts in Valencia. Thirty years later, in 1393, John I of Aragon ordered the archival deposit rebuilt, as mentioned above.

Alphonse the Magnanimous was the monarch who took the step to transform the initial deposit at the Palau del Real into an archive overseen by an archivist. The first attempt took place in the Corts of 1417-1418 and was based on a petition from the military and royal branches, specifically petition XXXV. In it, they explained that the protonotary was taking the proceedings of the Corts and the Royal Court to the Royal Archive of Barcelona once they had been ruled upon and closed. The two branches petitioned for this documentation to be conserved in Valencia, in the Arxiu del Real, and that independent records be kept of the royal documentation on the Kingdom of Valencia. The king's response was partial and exclusively limited to the proceedings. The same Corts received another petition from the royal and military branches, specifically petition XLI, which asked the king to deposit all the documentation on the finances of the kingdom in the same archive and to create the profession of the Master Rational of the kingdom. The king's response was negative.

The Arxiu del Real was finally created in the Corts of 1419 by approval of an act dated 13 September. The monarch's goal was to request economic assistance to conduct an expedition to Sardinia to consolidate domination over the island. Alphonse the Magnanimous presented his proposition on 29 August, and after the branches' initial opposition to the expedition, the Corts ended up acquiescing and granting him a loan of 40,000 florins in exchange for a series of *furs* and privileges for the kingdom, including the creation of a Royal Archive and a Master Rational of the Kingdom of Valencia. The king first or-

dered the protonotaries, secretaries and scribes to deposit all the proceedings of the Corts and the Royal Court and the registries of the Chancery related to the Kingdom of Valencia in '*el archiu nostre, lo qual tenim dins lo Real de la ciutat*' (our archive in the city's Palau Reial) in perpetuity. Secondly, he ordered that separate books and records be made of the provisions, letters of justice and grace and any other documentation on the affairs of the kingdom or its inhabitants issued by the Royal Chancery, which were to be divided, in turn, by subject and entitled '*Registres del Regne de València*' (Records of the Kingdom of Valencia). Thirdly, he ordered that an additional copy be made of all the records, letters and other acts made in the past from both the Royal Archive of Barcelona and those that were held by the protonotaries or royal secretaries; that they be put in the entitled records as well as the records of the Kingdom of Valencia, at the cost of the Kingdom of Valencia; and that they should also be deposited at the Arxiu del Real. Fourthly and finally, in the act of the Cort dated 19 September creating the Master Rational of the Kingdom of Valencia, he ordered that its accounts also be conserved in the Arxiu del Real.

The second archive to be created outside Barcelona was the Arxiu Reial de Saragossa (Royal Archive of Zaragoza).¹⁰ There was an initial attempt to create it at the Corts of Zaragoza in 1348, with its headquarters in the Aljaferia royal palace of Zaragoza. The *fur* creating it said that the records from the Chancery of the Kingdom of Aragon should be deposited there, and it ordered that the Master Rational's accounts be returned to the same kingdom. Apparently this *fur* was never fulfilled. Later, in 1420, the Master Rational of the Kingdom of Aragon was created, and the monarch ordered that its archive be deposited in the same palace. In the Kingdom of Aragon, however, another step was taken and the Arxiu del Regne d'Aragó (Archive of the Kingdom of Aragon) was created in the Corts of Teruel of 1427 and renovated in the Corts of Montsó in 1436. This archive was housed in the Casas del Reino of Zaragoza, the headquarters of the Diputació General d'Aragó (the earliest version of the current Generalitat), and it brought together all the archives of the Aragonese institutions. When the Royal Archive of Zaragoza was once again created in 1461, it shared the same location as the other archives. We can see that for the first time, a 'national' or state archive was created one century before the other European monarchies started to create them.

After that came the creation of the Masters Rational of the island kingdoms. On 18 January 1451, Alphonse the Magnanimous created the Master Rational of the Kingdom of Mallorca and appointed Gaspar de Pachs to the post,¹¹ a privilege that was confirmed on 25 October of the same year. The privilege says that the operational model should be taken from the Master Rational of the Kingdom of Valencia, and in the subsequent confirmation the Almudaina royal castle in the city of Mallorca was assigned to be its headquarters, where the archive of the

institution was to be housed in a place *'aptum et sufficientem ad id specialiter deputatum habere atque tenere in quo loco sit archivus, ubi libri, quaterni, cautele, apoce et scripture quivisque in dicto officio fiunt seu dantur et restituntur comode'*. The Kingdom of Mallorca never had a royal archive. The Arxiu Gran i General Consell was created after 1585, but the Archive of the Kingdom of Mallorca was not created until 1851 based on the previous version, where the archives of the *foral* institutions from the deposit in the Almudaina were transferred.

We also have information on the Kingdom of Sardinia from early dates. For instance, we find that on 21 December 1332, Alphonse III the Benign created the deposit of the archive at Càller castle and ordered that the collection from the archive of the Master Rational and the Governate be deposited and conserved there, as well as all the documentation of interest for Sardinia. Oversight of the archive was assigned to the lieutenant of the Master Rational, Bernat Descoll, who wrote *Crònica de Pere el Cerimoniós* a few years later. On 13 May 1334, the king made the archive secret and ordered that nobody other than the Master Rational or his appointees could enter it. Therefore, a further step was taken in Sardinia, as it was not the deposit of a single institution, as the Royal Archive of Barcelona always was, but instead began to resemble a state or 'national' archive. By the fifteenth century, Ferdinand II of Aragon had created the Master Rational of the Kingdom of Sardinia with a structure similar to its counterpart in the Kingdom of Valencia. He appointed Berenguer Granell as the Master Rational, along with three coadjutors, two ordinary ones and one extraordinary, and he transformed the early deposit at Càller castle into the Arxiu Reial de Sardenya (Royal Archive of Sardinia).¹² The archive was to house the documentation from Sardinian institutions. Just as in the Kingdom of Aragon, this is an archive that assembled the documentation from different institutions, with the novel feature that it remained under the oversight of the Master Rational, who delegated its management to an assistant in charge of keeping watch over and organising the archive while respecting the provenance of the documentation. In 1579, a similar situation occurred in the Kingdom of Valencia, as Philip II of Spain added the post of archivist to a coadjutor of the Mestre Racional.

Therefore, in the fifteenth century there was a total shift in the archival system in the Crown of Aragon. We can see that in the early fourteenth century there was a single Master Rational and a single royal archive for the entire Crown of Aragon. However, over the course of the century, the Master Rational began to appoint delegates or *portantveus* in the main cities. Later, throughout the fifteenth century, these appointees ended up becoming Masters Rational themselves and the early deposits of archives from the institution became royal archives, as they did in the kingdoms of Valencia, Aragon and Sardinia. We could add the royal archives of the kingdoms of Sicily and Naples, created and regulated in the thirteenth cen-

tury, the former associated with the Royal Chancery and the latter with the Master Rational. Obviously, not everyone was happy that new archives were being created, specifically, one of the archivists of the Royal Archive of Barcelona, Pere Miquel Carbonell (the archivist between 1476 and 1517), who in one of his reports stated that he was in favour of maintaining the unity of the Royal Chancery's document collection and disapproved creating new archives, specifically the royal archives of Valencia and Zaragoza.¹³

Going back to the Kingdom of Valencia, as discussed above, in the early fifteenth century there was an archival deposit at the Palau del Real known as the Arxiu del Real or the Archive of the Master Rational,¹⁴ which was turned into a royal archive in 1419.¹⁵ The monarch appointed an archivist to oversee the Arxiu del Real that same September. The first was Jaume Desplà (1419-1423), *'scrivà e tenint les claus'* (scribe and keyholder), an important figure in the city of Valencia associated with the urban patriciate, who continued to combine his job as a notary officer and scribe. Jaume Desplà occupied several municipal positions, including chief scribe of the city, and he participated as a scribe of the branch of the Kingdom of Valencia in the Compromise of Caspe and as a scribe of the royal branch in the Corts of 1417-1418 and 1419. He later became the lord of Massalfassar in 1415.¹⁶ In 1422, he sold a house on Carrer dels Cavallers to the Generalitat so it could have its own headquarters, which was the seed of the current Palau de la Generalitat. Alphonse the Magnanimous chose him because he was seeking *'certam (...) personam fidelem, expertam atque industrem...'*. That is, he recognised Desplà's loyalty as a scribe and his work as a scribe on the Council, which had decided to build a new archive in 1412 in order to expand the old archive, which was in a room next to the scriptorium, *'la cambra de les escriptures'* (the script room) according to a testimony from 1368. Thus, on 18 April 1412, *'Lo present Consell provehí e ordenà e volch que l'archiu sia fet en la casa de la scrivania per tenir los tresors, ço és, los patrons de furs, privilegis e provisions reynals de la ciutat, e los libres dels consells e altres de la scrivania, per ço que no estiguen a públich perill, axí que y sia fet un sostre, gentilment obrat, de aquella granea e manera que y sia obs e lo fet requerrà'* (The current Council provided for and ordered and wishes that the archive be made in the house of the scriptorium in order to keep the treasures, that is, the masters of the city's royal *furs*, privileges and provisions, and the books of the councils and other books of the scriptorium, away from public danger, and this is why they shall be given a finely wrought ceiling with the grandeur and manner that is both needed and required). Obviously, as the head of the scriptorium, Jaume Desplà was one of the defenders of the reform, and he later applied his experience in the creation of the Royal Archive of Valencia.

The archivists in the fifteenth century and thereafter were always scribes or notaries, as they had to have the authority to authenticate copies of the documents. Jaume

Desplà was replaced by Joan de Montalbà (1423-1424), who was followed by the notary Martí Tolsà (1424-1442), who combined his job as the archivist with his post as a scribe with the General Bailiff. When he died, he was temporarily replaced for a few months by his son, Miquel Tolsà, and later Arnau Castelló (1443-1458) was given a lifetime appointment. He was followed by his son, also named Arnau Castelló (1459-1476). The patrimonialisation of the archive began with these two archivists. In the last quarter of the century, we first find Mateu d'Eivissa, who only occupied the position for two months. After that, Pau Rosell (1476-1486), notary and '*scriva de rahó de casa del secretari del senyor Rey, e archivari e tenint les claus de l'Archiu Reyall*' (*escrivà de ració* [a civil servant in charge of inventorying the goods and keeping the accounts of the expenses of the royal house] of the house of the secretary of our Lord King and archivist and holder of the keys to the Royal Archive), was appointed, while also serving as the procurator of the Royal Patrimony of the General Bailiff. One of his sons, also named Pau Rosell, was the lieutenant of the Master Rational. The last archivist in the fifteenth century was Joan Salat (1486-1518). We can see how in the first half of the fifteenth century, the archivists were associated with the Bailiff, while later in the century they were affiliated with the Master Rational.¹⁷

The first transfer of documentation to the Arxiu del Real was made in 1424, and it included '*totes les scriptures, cartes, títols e actes que eren en l'archiu del dit quondam egregi duch en la dita vila de Gandia*' (all the documents, charters, deeds and proceedings which were in the archive of the illustrious deceased duke in that city of Gandia), a title which had reverted back to the Crown after the death of the Duke of Gandia in August 1422. Today, this archive is a section of the collection of the Master Rational. Several years later, Alphonse the Magnanimous ordered a second transfer, with a letter dated May 1443, for records of the Kingdom of Valencia to be taken from the Royal Chancery in the power of the protonotary to the Royal Archive of Valencia. We can trace how the records were conserved in the house of Pere Ram and his son Ferrer Ram in Valencia, both of them protonotaries, where they remained until the death of the latter in 1449. The archivist, Arnau Castelló, requested them from his sister Beatriu Ram, the mother of Joan Ram Escrivà, who was appointed Master Rational in 1479, thus initiating a family tradition of holding that post that lasted two centuries. Thus, the notary Pau Rosell, who became the archivist in 1476, conducted an inventory of the documentation, and today we can see that they are the first records in the collection of the Royal Chancery. Finally, the documentation was transferred to the archive in May 1449.

In this century, two compilations of documentation were made by the General Bailiff to ascertain the deeds and divestitures of the Royal Patrimony. The first, which was ordered by Joan Mercader, the General Bailiff, in around 1420, is related to the commandment of the pro-

ceedings of the Cort of 1419, where it was agreed to make copies of the documents on the Kingdom of Valencia in the Royal Archive of Barcelona; it is comprised of four volumes plus another compiled by the archivist of the Bailiff in the eighteenth century. Subsequently, in 1494 Ferdinand II of Aragon ordered another compilation of the mortgaged or divested jurisdictions to be made in order to return them to the Royal Patrimony. These three volumes are entitled *Jurisdiccions de certs barons*.¹⁸

In the early sixteenth century, the Arxiu del Real was still small yet important. We can estimate its volume of documentation at 500 books and around 200 bundles. Early in the century, in 1506, a new institution was created, the Royal Court, whose documentation was also to be deposited in the Arxiu del Real, as provided for in the *fur* of 1419. Over time, it would become the Archive's main collection during the foral period.

During this century, the post of archivist was in the hands of two families, the Salats and the Maiques d'Ares. Joan Salat was the archivist early in the century and remained so until 1518, when he was replaced by his son, Joan Dionís Salat (1518-1533). After that year, we find another family, the Maiques d'Ares, chevaliers, who held the post for 76 years. The first was Pere Maiques d'Ares, a citizen and notary (1533-1543), who was also the bailiff of Vila-real and the treasurer of the Duke of Calabria, and who earned the privilege of knighthood in 1542. He was succeeded by his son, Francesc Joan Maiques d'Ares (1543-1604). While the latter was still a minor, he was replaced by the notary Galcerà Pérez (1543-1553). Afterwards, we find his grandson, Baltasar Maiques d'Ares (1604-1609). The latter two were included as *insaculats* (candidates) for the military estate in the corresponding election for the officers of the Diputació del General.

We find a constant concern among the archivists, the Corts and the monarchs to transfer all the documentation to the archive. Thus, the Valencian branches submitted different proposals in the Corts to conserve the documentation in the Arxiu del Real, which we believe the Maiques d'Ares promoted. The first was at the Corts of Montsó in 1537, where a *fur* was approved that ordered the accounts of the Master Rational that were already resolved to be transferred to the Arxiu del Real within six months, and the records of the Royal Court after two years. Later, at the Corts of Montsó in 1542, another *fur* was published that ordered that the records of rulings and other acts that were in the archives in Zaragoza and Barcelona be returned to the Arxiu del Real. Several years later, in a list sent to Philip II of Spain, Francesc Joan Maiques d'Ares told him that no documentation had been transferred to the archive for many years, thus failing to comply with the *furs* issued in the Corts of 1537 and 1542. This led the monarch to issue a Royal Provision on 30 November 1561 which he sent to the regent of the Royal Court ordering all the documentation from the Royal Court, the Master Rational and the scribes under the orders of the Chancery that had no administrative value to be transferred to the

Arxiu del Real, and that the regent regularly inspect the archive. He even reminded him of the timeframe for transferring the documentation in accordance with the 1537 *fur*, but ‘*tomando del ápochas y recaudos bastantes de como se le han entregado y están en el dicho Archivo, porque estén allí conservados y guardados a gran recaudo*’ (taking from it the *àpoques* [payment documents] and *re-captés* [collection documents] showing that they have been delivered to and are now in the archive so that they may be properly conserved and stored there). Finally, in the Corts of 1564, at the request of all three branches, a *fur* was approved to regulate the consultation of the documentation in the archives and avoid abuses, and that ‘*los dits libres y registres de dites Corts nos puguen veure, ni regonèixer, sino en presència y assistència del scrivà de la Cort respectivament o de altra persona diputadora per lo dit scrivà*’ (the aforementioned books and records of those Corts may not be seen nor perused except in the presence and attendance of the scribe of the Corts, respectively, or another person delegated by that scribe). Several years later, on 14 December 1570, Francesc Joan Maiques d’Ares once again got Philip II to sign a royal provision as a reminder of the obligation to fulfil the earlier *furs*. A few months later, in early 1571, he travelled to Zaragoza and Barcelona to collect the records of the Chancery referring to the Kingdom of Valencia which were in the royal archives of these two cities.

Another important matter worth highlighting from the sixteenth century is the residency visits and their repercussions on the organisation of the archives of Valencia.¹⁹ The purpose of these visits was to oversee the management and administration of the royal and municipal officers. The first was the licentiate Pedro de Lagasca’s visit to the General Governate, which resulted in the 1545 publication of ordinances on the functioning of this archive in order to improve the organisation and conservation of the documentation and to control the inflow and outflow of the proceedings and files in order to prevent any from getting lost. Several years later, Baltasar Martínez, the scribe of the Court of Criminal Justice in the city of Valencia, was prosecuted as a consequence of another residency visit conducted by Miquel Puig, Bishop of Elna, in 1549. The lawsuit reported on the poor state of conservation of the Criminal Justice archive and the fact that old documents had been sold as paper to grocers and fireworks-makers. The judge restored the documentation that was retrieved to the archive. The same judge also visited the General Bailiff, and in its session on 17 May 1550 the Royal Patrimony Board agreed to look for a site for the General Bailiff and its archive. Until then, it had been itinerant and was usually housed in the bailiff’s house. The agreement says that ‘*totes les altres corts e tribunals de la present ciutat... es té casa pròpia*’ (all other courts and tribunals in this city... have their own home), so it proposed buying the house ‘*la qual de present es té la cort i scrivania de la dita Batlia General, ús i exercici d’aquella, la qual és situada en la plaça vulgarment dita de la Seu y de*

les Corts de la present ciutat’ (where the court and scriptorium of the General Bailiff are presently located, and the use and exercise of it, which is located in the square in this city commonly known as ‘de la Seu y de les Corts’). It also recommended paying 15,000 *sous* for this house. From then until the end of the nineteenth century, it was housed in the current Palau de la Batlia in Plaça de Manises. Later, on 30 July 1556, the first archivist was appointed, Andreu Honorat Pineda, a notary and procurator of the Royal Patrimony of the Bailiff, and the appointment stipulated that in the future the post of Bailiff would be held by a *procurador patrimonial*, who was in charge of legally defending the Royal Patrimony.

In the second half of the sixteenth century, there was a heated conflict between the Master Rational and the archivist which ended with the profession of the archivist being added as a coadjutor of the Master Rational. It should be borne in mind that the archivist and the Master Rational shared an office during the fifteenth century. However, the root of the problem was the transfer of the headquarters of the institution of the Master Rational from the Palau del Real to the private home of Joan Ram Escrivà, authorised by Ferdinand II in 1479. The issue was the custody of the documentation and the inflows and outflows of the archive, which caused numerous misunderstandings between the two institutions. In 1564, Philip II appointed two visiting judges, the priest and doctor Pedro Clavero and Joan Antoni d’Ancora, to make a residency visit to the Royal Patrimony of Valencia. The judges suggested that a key to the archive and the cabinets be given to the Master Rational. However, the archivist continued to refuse to hand over documentation to the Master Rational, leading the latter to report him several times and even order him arrested. The archivist alleged that according to the *fur* issued by the Corts of 1537, the accounts had to be in the archive, so they could be consulted there, while the Master Rational wanted to consult them at home. Based on a report by the Master Rational in July 1570, we know that the matter had been taken to court. According to the Master Rational, his job was higher ranking than that of the archivist, and the archive was ‘*en el mismo lugar y aposento donde los años passados se exercía el officio de Maestre Racional, y donde mis predecesores y yo havemos tomado la possessión deste officio, y en armarios de los quales yo tengo llave*’ (in the same place and room where the Master Rational worked in previous years, and where my predecessors and I have taken possession of this post, and in cabinets whose key is in my possession). The problem was that the archivist was not always at his workplace, so it was very difficult to consult the accounts in the archive. In a subsequent report, he said that the archivist had legally appealed to get all the documentation he kept in his home to be returned to the archive, and he said that if he wanted to consult the documentation he had to go to the archive two days a week. According to the Master Rational, when his office was in the archive of the Palau del Reial there was no problem,

but when Ferdinand II authorised his great-grandfather '*para tener officio en su casa*' (to exercise his profession at home), the accounts that had to be consulted and other older ones that had background information had been removed from the archive. Finally, he reported that the archivist did allow third persons to consult the documentation without authorisation, as he earned personal profit from finding the information and handing out copies.

The conflict began to be resolved in June 1572, when Philip II ordered the Master Rational to return to the former headquarters in the Palau del Real while also raising the salary of the coadjutors to 150 pounds per year. The Master Rational did not want to share an office with the archivist and requested that a room next to the archive be set up so there could be two offices. Seven years later, another drastic decision was taken; a privilege dated 6 July 1579 ordered that a coadjutor of the Master Rational be added to the archivist's office, which meant that the latter was under the direct orders of the Master Rational, but his salary was increased from 87 to 150 pounds per year. The archivist did not agree, and several years later, in 1595, Francesc Joan Maiques d'Ares requested two privileges for two of his sons, one as coadjutor and the other as archivist, in order to separate the two professions. The Master Rational reminded him that in 1579 the king had joined the two professions and they could not be separated, which the monarch again confirmed.

In the sixteenth century, a new compilation of documentation on the Royal Patrimony was assembled, but this time in Barcelona. To do so, in 1580 Philip II sent Gaspar Gil Polo, the lieutenant of the Master Rational of Valencia, to participate in a commission to make a general inventory of the goods and rights of the Royal Patrimony of the Crown of Aragon, which took shape in the nine volumes of the *Liber patrimonii regii*, also known as *Mulasses*, which are conserved in the Archive of the Crown of Aragon, one of which is devoted to the Kingdom of Valencia.²⁰

The Diputació del General had its own archive. In 1481, the deputies decided to build a room for this purpose next to the scriptorium. Later, between 1579 and 1583, 52 cabinets were built in a new chamber above the Sala Nova, where the archive was permanently moved.²¹ The profession of archivist of the Diputació del General was created at the request of all three estates in the late sixteenth century, specifically in the Corts of 1585, so '*que los actes, scriptures, cartes reals e altres papers respectats als negocis de dits estaments estiguen ben custodits y guardats*' (that the proceedings, writings, royal letters and other papers with regard to the businesses of those estates are properly safeguarded and stored). The goal was to conserve and organise the documentation for '*el bé comú de tot lo dit regne*' (the common good of the entire kingdom) and to make it available to anyone interested in the affairs of the Generalitat. At first the profession was shared with that of the secretary of the estates, but after 1605 they were separated into two different professions.

In the seventeenth century, we find four families of archivists (Maiques d'Ares, Irlles, Ibàñez and Cabrera), in addition to other individuals who held that post. Thus, after the death of Francesc Joan Maiques d'Ares in 1604, he was succeeded by his son Baltasar Maiques d'Ares (1604-1609). When he died, Pere Sanç, Lord of Benimeixis, was appointed archivist, a post he kept until 1641. He was replaced by Vicent Irlles, chevalier, who had held the post just two years when he was replaced by his son, also named Vicent Irlles, who was six years old. While the latter was a minor, the job was temporarily held by different people, namely Antoni Garcia de Padilla (1644-1647), Rafael Darder (1647-1653) and Francesc Ladrón de Vilanova (1653-1655), until he took possession of it. After that, the post was vacant until 1660, when Vicent Irlles occupied it until 1668. Next we find Josep Lluís Ibàñez Bertran (1668-1677) and Jaume Vives de Banyatos (1677-1681), the latter on behalf of the former's daughter Vicenta Ibàñez Sarsuela.²² In July of the same year, Carles Gil de Cabrera (1681-1690) was appointed coadjutor and archivist, and he was later replaced by his son Josep Gil de Cabrera (1690-1693). In the last years of the seventeenth century, the profession of archivist was granted to no coadjutor, although his replacement, Josep Miquel Blasco (1693-1706), continued to exercise the profession. The last archivist in the foral period was Pere Vallterra Blanes, who was appointed Master Rational and archivist by Archduke Carlos on 10 January 1707, thus holding both posts. But in June of that same year, Philip V abolished the *furs* of the Kingdom of Valencia and then appointed a new archivist.

In that same century, the archivists continued to request that documentation be sent to the archive. Thus, on 31 January 1612, Diego Clavero, the vice-chancellor of the Supreme Council of Aragon, applying a pragmatic dated 4 June 1597, ordered the corresponding scribes to send '*los registros de partes y officio que estuvieren llenos y processos sentenciados y declarados de diez años atrás que no tienen supplicación, ni dependencia de otro, a los archivos de Aragón, Valencia y Cataluña respectivamente, según que a cada uno dellos tocaré*' (the records of reports and offices that were complete and proceedings ruled on and declared from ten years earlier that can no longer be appealed nor depend on others, to the archives of Aragon, Valencia and Catalonia, respectively, according to what befits each of them). In the proceedings related to the Kingdom of Valencia, he ordered that '*juntándolos con sus primitivos los pongan por inventario y entreguen a don Pedro Sans de Benimexis, archivero en él, y den assimismo otro traslado del dicho inventario a Domingo Ortiz, secretario de su magestad, para que le guarde y aya dellos la memoria y razón, quedándose con otro en su poder. Y apercióseles que no lo cumpliendo se mandará executar a costa del que fuere teniente*' (they be united with their earlier documents, to inventory them and deliver them to Pedro Sans de Benimexis, archivist [of the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia], who shall have this inventory trans-

ferred to Domingo Ortiz, secretary of His Majesty, to store and have a copy of them, while [another inventory] shall remain in his possession. And warning them that if this is not fulfilled it will be ordered done at the expense of the appropriate party.). That is, he ordered that not only that had received a ruling more than ten years earlier be transferred, but that the corresponding inventory which identified and described each of these cases be drawn up, and that two copies be made, one for Madrid in the headquarters of the Consell Suprem d'Aragó (Supreme Council of Aragon) and the other for Valencia.

Several years later, on 17 August 1628, according to the *furs* approved by the Corts, Pere Sanç once again asked for the proceedings more than ten years old which had rulings and which they conserved from all the scribes of the Royal Court or their successors. They had been requested by different regents of the Royal Court and the archivist Francesc Joan Maiques d'Ares, but they were never sent because '*la causa es que cada uno de los scrivanos tiene archivo en su casa de los processos que ha sido escrivano, él y sus preceçores a quien en suçeder, y sacan el provecho que pueden, y desto nace perderse muchos procesos*' (the case is that each of the scribes has the archive of the proceedings in which they were the scribes in their homes, those of himself and his predecessors whom he succeeded, and they profit from them when they can, thus leading to the loss of many proceedings).

In that century, the ordinances of the archive of the Royal Court were approved on 15 July 1637.²³ The problem was that, as stated in the preamble, '*de no archivar los procesos de la Real Audiencia del nuestro Reyno de Valencia, assí civiles como criminales, se siguen muchos inconvenientes y daños al bien público y a particulares de los mesmos interesados*' (because the proceedings of the Royal Court of our Kingdom of Valencia, both civil and criminal, are not archived, this causes many inconveniences and damages to the public and private good of the interested parties). To resolve this, numerous royal orders had been issued throughout the sixteenth and in the early seventeenth centuries, but until then none had managed to get the scribes to transfer the proceedings to the Arxiu del Real. The reason was that many magistrates did not want to work at the Palau del Real and had their court in their homes within the city walls. This meant that many proceedings were left outside the archive, and the archivist was continually requesting them. The ordinances stipulated first that all the civil proceedings that were definitively ruled on and enforced be transferred to the archive within one month after the pragmatic was published, and that the archivist had to make an alphabetical index book in order to more easily locate them. Proceedings that had been suspended for more than ten years also had to be transferred to the archive, where they had to be stored until one of the parties decided to reopen them. In this case, the archivist would have to return the proceedings to the corresponding scribe to continue them. In both cases, the archivists had to allow the interested parties access to

copies of the proceedings or documents contained within them. Every four years, between Easter and Pentecost, the scribes had to transfer the proceedings that had rulings or had been suspended to the royal archivist. Likewise, every four years, the viceroy would appoint one or more judges from the Royal Court to make an inspection visit of the scriptoria and check that the proceedings had been properly transferred. The ordinances also stipulated that criminal proceedings that had definitive rulings and had been enforced should be transferred within one year to the '*cabo de tabla de la Real Audiencia criminal*' (*cabo de tabla* [the person in charge of assigning the trials underway to the scribes] of the Royal Criminal Court), following the same criterion as in civil proceedings, and that they also had to provide an alphabetical index book.²⁴ This is the origin of the indexes of the Royal Court from the foral period found in the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia, and the index of the proceedings in Madrid, which are the rulings handed down by the Supreme Council of Aragon. These indexes are still used today; they are organised alphabetically by the name of the first litigant and chronologically sequenced within each letter. At the end of every record there is a brief description of the case: claim, judicial surety, sale, appeal, etc.

In 1646, the Palau del Real underwent a major overhaul that consisted in building a new staircase, which affected the two rooms of the archive. This forced a new site for the archive to be found, so on 21 June 1646 the Junta Patrimonial (Patrimony Board) ordered that a report be made '*de lo que costará el desfer y tornar a fer y acomodar los almaris y estans que y a en lo Archiu*' (on what it would cost to disassemble and reassemble and accommodate the cabinets and shelves in the Archive), to place them in the new archive. It mentioned four new cabinets, another old one '*que està encaxat en la paret del archiu*' (which is built into the wall of the archive) and '*la estantada del segon archiu*' (the shelves of the second archive). The corresponding inspection was made, attended by the archivist at the time, Antoni García de Padilla, and the report was submitted. Two days later, on 23 June, the Patrimonial Board agreed that '*Vista dita visura y relació y certificatòria al peu de Antoni de Padilla, altre dels coajutors del ofici de Mestre Racional, provehex y delleberà que, en primer lloch, se enblanquine tot lo argiu nou; y después de enblanquinat se passen tots los armaris y estants y se acomoden en los puestos més convinents, tornans-los en la forma que staven, tot alló que per raó de traure's serà forsós desfer*' (In view of the expert examination, list and certification at the base [of the document] by Antoni de Padilla, co-adjutor of the office of the Master Rational, it hereby stipulates and deliberates that first, the entire new archive be whitewashed; and after it is whitewashed, that all the cabinets and shelves be taken there and installed in the most appropriate places, arranging them the way they used to be except where this cannot be done because they have been removed). Along with the construction, we also find a succession of orders to organise the documen-

tation in the archive. In 1660, the monarch issued Royal Pragmatic dated 13 May aimed at improving the administration of the Royal Treasury and ordering that the documentation in the Royal Archive and the Bailiff's Archive be inventoried, and that a copy of the inventories be kept in the office of the Master Rational. Subsequently, in 1686, Carles Gil de Cabrera was again ordered to organise the archive.

The eighteenth century heralded the introduction of major changes in the archives of Valencia. First, with the publication of the Nueva Planta Decree on 25 June 1707, all the foral institutions of Valencia were eliminated and new Castilian ones were instituted. Obviously, this was reflected in the archives. From the beginning, the new monarch, Philip V, showed a keen interest in the Royal Archive and especially in the Bailiff's Archive, as it contained the documentation on the Royal Patrimony, a major source of income for the Crown. This interest explains why soon a new archivist was appointed, Francesc Vicente Royo, in December 1708, and his loyalty to the Bourbon cause was rewarded bearing in mind that '*que antecedentemente havías servido el empleo de Procurador Patrimonial en aquella ciudad y reyno, y cabo de tablas de los derechos reales de peage y quema*' (previously you had served the Patrimonial Procurator of that city and kingdom and as the *cabo de tablas* of royal rights of the tolls and *quema* [a commercial tax]), so he was quite familiar with the documentation related to the issue of the Royal Patrimony. The title of the post reveals the monarch's interests: '*archivero del Real Patrimonio de Valencia*' (archivist of the Royal Patrimony of Valencia). The following year, on 8 September 1712, the king appointed as the archivist his son, Lluís Vicente Royo, a lawyer on the royal councils who served as the archivist until 1752. He was replaced on an interim basis by Pere Lluís Sánchez, the municipal archivist of Valencia, until a new archivist was appointed in 1758, Francesc Navarro, also a lawyer, a councillor on the Valencia Town Hall and one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Reial Acadèmia de Belles Arts de Sant Carles.

A constant concern was the archives of the eliminated foral institutions, as they were scattered around different sites and were thus very difficult to manage and conserve. The first attempt to reunite the archives came in 1716, when the General Archive was created thanks to a report sent by Lluís Vicente Royo. Via a royal order dated 19 May 1716, Philip V ordered that '*en la ciudad de Valencia haya solo un Archivo General que comprehenda todos los papeles de mi Real Patrimonio, los de la Chanzillería y Superintendencia, en el qual no solo han de estar los papeles antiguos sino los modernos como se vayan creando*' (in the city of Valencia there shall be just one General Archive which encompasses all the papers of my Royal Patrimony, the Chancery and Superintendency, which must include not only old papers but new ones as they are created). Thus, the Royal Archive and the Bailiff's Archive were joined together for the first time. In fact, we know that

until 1758 the archival system of the city of Valencia had the same scheme that it had had during the foral period: the Royal Archive and the Archive of the Bailiff and the Royal Patrimony under the oversight of the General Archivist since 1716; the archive of the Governate and the archive of the justices of the city of Valencia, both also overseen by the same archivist; the archive of the Generalitat, with its own archivist; the archive of the city hall, also with an archivist of its own; and the archive of the chancellor or the *tribunal de contencions o competencies*, overseen by a scribe from the same institution.²⁵

Other information about the Valencian archives is the 1750 move of the Royal Court from the Palau del Real to the Generalitat, where its documentation from the eighteenth century was also transferred. The reason cited by the promoter of this move, the magistrate Vicent Borrull, was that the institution should be in the city centre along with the archives of the governing, civil and Church institutions; the administration of justice of the city and Kingdom of Valencia; and the archives of the prisons, which would facilitate his work.

One year earlier, in 1749, the Secretary of State created an archival commission to exert pressure on Rome over matters of prerogatives and to collect information on the Spanish archives. Its coordinator was the Jesuit Andrés Marcos Burriel, and at first he proposed the Mayans brothers as the commissioners in the Kingdom of Valencia, but Gregori Mayans declined the offer. He thus had to search for a new commissioner, the Aragonese Miguel Eugenio Muñoz, auditor of the Royal Court of Aragon. His reports suggested bringing the archives of the foral institutions together in the same building following the model of the Archive of the Kingdom of Aragon, and he advised that the headquarters be either the Palau de la Generalitat, as in Zaragoza, or the Llotja de Mercaders. Javier de Garma Durán, the archivist of the Royal Archive of Barcelona, proposed a similar idea, but to gather all the archives of the institutions of the former Crown of Aragon there, adding that his archive was the one with the largest collection of documents. This was obviously an important matter for the territories of the former Crown of Aragon, as their institutions had been eliminated and their archives had to be conserved. In the case of the Kingdom of Aragon, there was no problem because the archives had been brought together in the headquarters of the Diputació del General, but in Catalonia and the Kingdom of Valencia this had not happened, hence these proposals.

The repercussions of the archival commission's efforts were important. For example, in 1754, the archives ceased to depend on the Secretary of the Treasury and came to depend on the Secretary of State. On 7 February 1754, a new regulation was approved for the Archive of the Crown of Aragon, which was given this name. For the Kingdom of Valencia, King Ferdinand VI, taking advantage of the appointment of a new archivist Francesc Navarro, published the royal decree dated 20 July 1758, which stipulated that '*Por quanto los archivos del Real, de la Bay-*

lía General, de la Corte del Justicia Civil, de la Diputacion, de la Governacion y el de los Trescientos Sueldos en Valencia, han sido manejados y tratados con tan poco cuydado que han ocasionado la maior confución y desorden en su colocación, con imponderable perjuicio de quantos tienen necesidad de los documentos y escrituras que deven parar en dichos archivos... he considerado conveniente unirlos y colocarlos todos en un solo edificio, con todas las precauciones que aseguran su conservación y en el método y orden más claro, para que se encuentre con más promptitud el instrumento que se solicite' (Given that the royal archives, the archive of the General Bailiff, the Court of Civil Justice, the Diputació, the Governate and the Trescientos Sueldos [a civil court for minor matters worth less than 300 *sueldos* or *sous*] in Valencia have been handled and treated so carelessly that it has caused the utmost confusion and disorder to their arrangement, with imponderable harm to anyone who needs the documents and deeds that these archives should contain... I have deemed it fitting to join them together and place them all in a single building, with all the precautions that ensure their conservation with the clearest method and order, so that the instrument requested can be found as promptly as possible). Therefore, after 1758, the archives came to depend on a single archivist. All that was needed was a site for the General Archive. The efforts of the commissioner, Miguel Eugenio Muñoz, also had other major repercussions, such as the information he collected on the Valencia archives in general, in addition to recovering more than 20,000 proceedings and documents that had been stolen and returning them to the corresponding archives in the city of Valencia.

Francesc Navarro died in 1769, and the following year the third step was taken to create the Arxiu General de València (General Archive of Valencia), which was published in the royal order dated 20 February 1770. This order resolved different conflicts in the Valencian archives: Ignacio Latre was appointed the new archivist; a judge-conservator or superintendent of the archives was appointed following the example of the 1754 regulation of the Archive of the Crown of Aragon, who was supposed to be the regent or a minister from the Royal Court, as had occurred several times since the sixteenth century; a staff for the archive was created, which was comprised of an archivist and four officers; and the former Casa Professa of the Jesuits was assigned to house the General Archive, with the goal of bringing together the six archives in a single site. Regarding the building, the royal order stipulated that the archives be assembled in the former library, that the construction needed be undertaken and that '*armarios, estantes, mesas, cajones, y demás necesario*' (cabinets, shelves, tables, drawers and anything else needed) be made. It also sought financing for the building refurbishment and ordered that the surplus funds be earmarked to '*hacer copiar de buena letra los instrumentos más maltratados, y en formar índices de los existentes y de los que vayan entrando*' (having the most damaged instruments cop-

ied in fine handwriting, and indexes created of the existing documents and new ones as they enter).

Ignació Latre (1770-1783), a personal friend of Gregori Mayans, was replaced by Francesc Miquel de Val (1783-17) as the interim archivist; the latter was the secretary of the captain general. The last archivist of the eighteenth century was Josep San Román (1790-1798), a retired Valencian military officer. According to a royal order dated 4 June 1791, the staff of the archive was cut in half and was comprised of the archivist and two officers, Manuel and Joan Castany, as well as a junior officer. The issue of its permanent home took almost two more centuries to be resolved. The problem was that the Casa Professa was not in proper condition to house the archive; plus, other Church, state and municipal institutions also wanted to use the building. Just as in the foral period, the concern over the Royal Patrimony continued to be a priority issue, and this explains why several works compiling the laws on it were published in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.²⁶

The nineteenth century began with a new archivist, Pere Blasco Conca (1798-1827), a lawyer of the royal councils, the nephew of Vicent Blasco García, rector of the Universitat de València between 1784 and 1813, and brother-in-law of Joan Baptista Muñoz, the founder of the Archive of the Indies in Seville. He was followed by Jorge García Martín (1828-1854), the last archivist appointed during the Old Regime, who left an outstanding report from 1835 describing the General Archive. We then find Esteban del Rio y García de Soto (1854-1856), Víctor Planté Vial (1856-1861) and Miguel Velasco Santos (1861-1883), the first archivist of the Corps of Archivists of the General Archive of Valencia. A multifaceted personality, Velasco Santos participated in Valencia's *Renaixença*, published numerous studies, including *Reseña Histórica de la Universidad de Valencia* in 1868, and became the president of the *Ateneo Científico, Literario y Artístico de València*. In 1883, he was made director of the General Central Archive of Alcalá de Henares, a post he kept until he died in 1897. He was followed in it by Joaquim Casañ Alegre (1885-1896) and José Luís Albalade Ayora (1896-1899).

As always, the main concern was organising and conserving the archives, which were still scattered at that point. This is why in April 1805, Pere Blasco requested assistance to organise the Valencian archives. The previous year, on 11 October 1804, José Canga-Argüelles had been appointed comptroller of the army with the goal of restoring and reforming the Royal Patrimony of Valencia. The Secretary of State took advantage of this and appointed him commissioner to oversee the organisation. It should be borne in mind that since 1711, the comptroller of the army, under the orders of the quartermaster, had been in charge of the Royal Patrimony, as he had taken on the jobs of the former Bailiff and Master Rational. José Canga-Argüelles not only oversaw the work of the archivists but also consulted numerous documents that he later used in his works on the Spanish treasury.

Shortly thereafter came the start of the Peninsular War, which led to the demolition of the Palau del Real in 1810 and the transfer of the Arxiu del Real inside the walls of the city of Valencia, where it was deposited in the Casa Professa of the Jesuits, at that time Sant Tomás Seminary. The proposal came from the archivist, Pere Blasco, who on 30 December 1809 suggested it to the Junta Superior d'Observació i Defensa (Higher Observation and Defence Council) of Valencia as a way to prevent it from disappearing. The transfer was made between 11 and 14 March and required a total of 51 journeys; the expenses were paid with money from the '*generalitats*' which were still partly charged. The second phase of the transfer began on 2 August of the same year and consisted in the '*composició del Archivo de la Compañía y colocación de los estantes del Palacio del Real*' (composition of the Archive of the Company and its placement on the shelves in the Palau del Real), an effort that had been done by '*los maestros arquitecto, carpintero y cerrajero*' (the master architect, carpenter and locksmith). This work continued intermittently until 27 January 1811. Arranging the documentation was left for later.

Regarding the arrangement of the archive, we suspect that the archivist requested assistance from the Corts, as in November 1813 it sent a representative on archives. Around the same time, a commission met to study the possibility of creating an Archivo General de la Nación (General Archive of the Nation), where all the archives of the different kingdoms in the monarchy would be deposited, following the criteria of that period. Several years later, in 1821, Pròsper Bofarull, under the pseudonym of Fèlix Fluralbo, wrote a critical tract against this project.²⁷ Meantime, in July 1815, the government appointed a superintendent to oversee the organisation of the archive, the jurist Francesc Xavier Borrull Vilanova (1745-1838), a multifaceted figure who was a deputy in the Corts of Cádiz. A conservative-learning foralist, he steadfastly defended the personality and territorial unity of the Kingdom of Valencia. He had submitted a project to arrange the archive, and the work was assigned to the second officer, Domènec Casanys, and lasted until 1830. Borrull reported to the Secretary of State on a quarterly basis, and even paid numerous expenses from his own pocket. He had sent a total of 58 reports by 1830, and we can see that priority was given to judicial documentation, as the first documents organised were the rulings and proceedings of the foral Royal Court. In his report, Jorge Garcia tells us that after 1830 he decided to reorganise the archive of the Royal Court according to the seventeenth-century inventories, because '*era más breve, económico y útil el que los procesos que quedaron sin arreglar se colocasen bajo el mismo sistema que los expresaba el índice antiguo*' (it was more brief, economical and useful for the proceedings that were still unarranged to be placed under the same system as expressed in the old index). He also tells us that there was no index of the archives of the Governate, the Generalitat and the Civil Justice and the Tres-cents Sous.

After the war was over, major changes were made to the Royal Patrimony in 1814. A royal order dated 23 November 1814 separated all the branches of the Royal Patrimony from the Royal Treasury. In 1815, a general bailiff of Valencia was once again created to administer the Royal Patrimony, which depended on the Chief Mayordomo of the Royal House. This meant that several years later, via a royal order dated 12 January 1828, the archive of the bailiff was once again separated from the General Archive of Valencia, and in fact one of the archivists joined the bailiff's staff. The same occurred in Catalonia, but there the circumstances of the archives were different, and the Arxiu del Reial Patrimoni (Archive of the Royal Patrimony) was created, which brought together the former archives of the bailiff, the Master Rational and the Intendency from the eighteenth century.²⁸

Another important event happened in 1815, just after the archive had been transferred to the Casa Professa. On 22 May of that year, a royal decree was published that restored the Company of Jesus in Spain, which meant that the Jesuits were able to reclaim the building. This led to a serious problem in the search for a new site of the archive, which took a century and a half to be resolved. From that date on, there are many recurring requests from the Jesuits to reoccupy the Casa Professa.

In terms of the archive's staffing, we see that in 1835 it was still the same as in the late eighteenth century: one archivist, two officers and a doorman.²⁹ In the nineteenth century, the Casa Professa building was used for several different purposes simultaneously. After 1835, the Civil Government and Diputació were moved there, until it was moved to the Palau del Temple in 1864. The Regional Court of Valencia also used part of the building as an archive, and three courts were installed in the same building until they were moved to the bailiff's palace due to the edifice's ruinous state. Subsequently, on 21 September 1872, part of the building was lent on an interim basis to the Valencia Town Hall to be used as a shelter.

In these circumstances, in 1843 the political governor once again took up the issue of bringing together all the archives in the Casa Professa. The first to go there was the archive of the Generalitat in 1845. Later, given the ruinous state of the Casa de la Ciutat and the former Governate buildings, in 1859 and 1861 the archives of the justices of the city of Valencia and the Governate were moved under the oversight of Victor Planté. In 1868, Miguel Velasco Santos got the Junta Superior Revolucionària (Higher Revolutionary Council) to return the bailiff's archive to the General Archive thanks to the cooperation of the rector of the University of Valencia, Eduardo Pérez Pujol, who was a fellow Salamanca native. The bailiff protested and got the archivist to return the archive's keys to the economic head of the province in 1871. Finally, the archive of the bailiff was moved to the General Archive in 1883.

Another important collection that joined the archive the nineteenth century was the notary protocols. In ac-

cordance with the *furs* and different provisions of the juries of Valencia, the notaries were required to conserve protocols and transfer them to their successors. The Civil Justice of Valencia was charged with overseeing all of this with the assistance of the superintendents of the College of Notaries. In this way, the Civil Justice archive, which was where the new notaries of Valencia took possession of their post, was turned into the city's first archive of protocols, as the protocols of the deceased notaries with no successors were placed there. Nonetheless, conserving the protocols was always problematic. After the seventeenth century, we find proposals from different institutions on the need to create an archive of protocols, but it was not until the 1862 Organic Law on Notaries that the issue started to be resolved. Meantime, we have the personal initiative of Marià Tortosa Tudela, a member of the Col·legi del Corpus Christi of Valencia, who compiled around 28,000 protocols belonging to 1,885 notaries between 1803 and 1826. There was a small collection of protocols in the Arxiu del Real, which grew to 3,500 protocols because, as Jorge García stated in his 1835 report, he ordered that all the protocols of the different archives that depended on the General Archive be collected in the Casa Professa. Currently, the collection contains more than 17,409 protocols.

During those years, the job of the archivists was mainly to organise the documentation in the new archives that had been transferred there. The technical work was joined by the presence of researchers, as the archives were opened to citizen consultations in 1844. Another important aspect is the conservation of the holdings; to ensure this, numerous reforms were made to a building that was unsuited to housing archives. In 1862, Miguel Velasco Santos, a cultivated man educated at the Escola de Diplomàtica (Diplomacy School), managed to get the Ministry to grant him an extraordinary budget to reform the archive. While overseeing this, the document collections were reorganised and a good number of indexes or inventories were drawn up, and in 1881 he left a report containing a brief history of the archive, explaining the way the holdings were classified and describing the state of the technical work.³⁰ Around the same time, specifically in 1875, José Luís Albalade mentioned that first a classification was made to separate more than '*diez mil volúmenes del Maestre Racional, seiscientos de los Justicias Civil, Criminal y de Trescientos Sueldos, con trescientos cincuenta legajos de procesos*' (ten thousand volumes of the Master Rational, six hundred from the Civil and Criminal Justices and Trescientos Sueldos, with three hundred fifty folders of proceedings). After that, '*el arreglo y clasificación de los varios montones o grandes divisiones*' (several piles or major divisions were arranged and classified) in order to create the document series, where the documentation was chronologically ordered. Finally, they were organised in alphabetical order because '*Nada más natural que colocar estos en el índice por orden alfabético*' (nothing is more natural than placing them in the in-

dex by alphabetical order), and he justified this by saying that it made the documentation easier to locate. In fact, all the descriptive instruments drawn up during those years, which are still used, follow the same criteria and correspond to the holdings that joined the archive in the nineteenth century. One of the most prominent officers who worked on the archive was the Oriola native José Morón Liminiana (1827-1881), the author of *Metodología diplomática o Manual de arquivonomía*, published in 1879, who worked in the General Archive starting in 1867. Late in the century, in 1894, Joaquim Casañ, another erudite archivist associated with the Renaixença, published *Colección de documentos inéditos del Archivo General del Reino de Valencia*, following in the footsteps of Pròsper de Bofarull in Barcelona, although the project ended there.

The twentieth century began as a continuation of the nineteenth.³¹ The issue of the venue was even further complicated because of the law dated 19 June 1911 in which the state ceded the Casa Professa building to the Valencia Town Hall in exchange for certain provisions. Later, via a decree dated 19 July 1927, the state authorised the Valencia Town Hall to partly cede the building to the Company of Jesus to create a school, but it kept the space occupied by the archive. In 1932, the government of the Republic once again dissolved the Company of Jesus and confiscated all its goods, but the state refused to buy the building in the decree dated 19 August 1933.

When the Civil War began, all the civil servants but one fled or went into hiding. The archive was closed until Felip Mateu i Llopis arrived there from Madrid in March 1937 and served as the director until the end of the war. Some of the sites were torn down during that period, which affected the integrity of the building and the safety of the archive. Felip Mateu i Llopis managed not only to save the archive but also to considerably improve and modernise its facilities.³² Despite this, a decree issued by the national government in Burgos dated 3 May 1938 repealed the decrees issued by the Republic and returned things back to their previous state after the war was over.

Finally, in its session on 19 April 1941, the Valencia Town Hall decided to cede the entire building to the Company of Jesus. This time the issue of the venue was definitively solved by the Ministry of National Education with the cooperation of the Director General of Archives and Libraries, the Valencian Miquel Bordonau Mas, and a new plot of land was sought for the archive in conjunction with the Valencia Town Hall, led by Adolfo Rincón de Arellano. The arrangements got underway in 1956, the cession of the land was signed in April 1959 and construction on the new building got underway in 1962. Joan Segura de Lago was in charge of the design and oversight of the project. Once construction was finished and the documentation had been transferred, on 29 October 1965 the new building that houses the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia was officially opened, the first state archive to be newly built following modern criteria in a building that was considered ideal. Several months later, on 31 March

1966, the Casa Professa was ceded to the Company of Jesus. Later, the Ministry assigned Segura de Lago to design the new Archivo General de la Administración (General Archive of the Administration) in Alcalá de Henares, construction on which finished in 1973.

The document transfers continued in the twentieth century, now with the holdings from the Bourbon era and the convents that had been disentaileed in the nineteenth century. The first to arrive were those from the disentanglement as a result of the government's centralising archival policy in the late nineteenth century, which ordered two transfers of documentation from the Order of Montesa and the disentaileed Valencian convents to the National Historical Archive in 1896 and 1897. At that time, the Valencian Vicent Vignau Ballester (1896-1908) was in charge of the archive created in 1866, and he was the one who truly consolidated it. The second proposed transfer unleashed a heated political and press campaign with the participation of Lo Rat Penat to stop the documentation from being sent to Madrid. The campaign was successful, and seven years later, in 1904, the Minister of Public Instruction ordered the documentation still in the Treasury Delegation to be transferred to the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia, a move that was personally overseen by Vicent Vignau.³³ Even later, in 1921, the transfer of the documentation from the Bourbon Royal Court was proposed, which was carried out in two phases. In January 1926, the documentation from the Real Acuerdo was moved, and in 1936, the record books and civil and criminal proceedings were transferred.

The decree dated 12 November 1931 created the provincial historical archives in Spain, where the notary documents from more than 100 years were sent. In the province of Valencia, the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia oversaw the provincial archive. The decree dated 24 July 1947 added the transfer of the historical documentation from the courts and treasury delegations. A Ministry of Justice order dated 14 December 1957 included the documentation from the mortgage account records. Finally, Decree 914/1969, dated 8 May 1969, ordered that it store all the documentation more than 15 years old from the peripheral state administration.

Currently, the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia is a state archive managed by the Generalitat Valenciana. Royal Decree 3066/1983, dated 13 October 1983, transferred the state's cultural functions and services to the Generalitat Valenciana, with the exception of the state-owned buildings and properties deposited or kept in them. Therefore, the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia is still state-owned, but it is managed by the Generalitat Valenciana and governed by Spanish legislation. Since 2000, the building facilities have been renovated and new information and documentation technologies have begun to be used with the goal of improving document conservation and consultation and providing all citizens and researchers with access to the information and instruments describing the archive's document holdings.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- [1] Regarding the Master Rational, the prime study is still by TOMÀS DE MONTAGUT I ESTRAGUÉS. *El Mestre Racional a la Corona d'Aragó (1283-1419)*. Fundació Noguera, Barcelona 1987. The creation of the Master Rational entailed the launch of an inspection institution which intervened in the accounts of all the institutions of the monarchy. Just like the Royal Chancellery, its scope was global, but in this case its function was oversight. This is why it had to have access not only to the documentation of the different institutions of the monarchy but also to an archive where it could store the inspection documentation as the guarantee and proof of its oversight of these institutions.
- [2] The relationship between the archives in the Crown of Aragon and the Master Rational has been examined by RAFAEL CONDE Y DELGADO DE MOLINA in several studies: 'Los archivos reales o la memoria del poder'. In: *XV Congreso de Historia de la Corona de Aragón*, Zaragoza 1994-1996, vol. I, v. II, pp. 121-139; 'La creación del Archivo del Reino de Valencia'. *Estudis Castellonencs*, 6, (1994-95), pp. 371-381; 'Archivos y archiveros en la Edad Media Peninsular'. In: *Historia de los archivos y de la archivística en España*. Coordinated by Juan José Generele Lanaspá, Ángeles Moreno López and Ramón Alberch i Fugueras, 1998, pp. 13-28; 'Los archivos de la monarquía hispánica'. In: *Felipe II y el Mediterráneo*. Coordinated by Ernest Belenguier Cebrià, 1999, vol. 3, pp. 193-214; *Reyes y archivos en la Corona de Aragón. Siete siglos de reglamentación y praxis archivística (siglos XII-XIX)*, Institución Fernando el Católico, Zaragoza 2008, 676 pp.
- [3] The headquarters of both institutions was the Royal Palace, also known as the Palau del Real, a name that comes from its location in the area of the Pla del Real or Rahal, a toponym with Arabic roots that means 'garden'. Starting in the eighteenth century, after the *furs* were abolished in 1707, it came to be known as the Arxiu General de València (General Archive of Valencia). In the late nineteenth century, the name of Arxiu Regional de València (Regional Archive of Valencia) took root, and in the second half of the twentieth century, it was called the Arxiu del Regne de València (Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia).
- [4] EUGENIO CASANOVA. *Archivística*. Stabilimento Arti Grafiche Lazzeri, Siena 1928.
- [5] It should be borne in mind that its creation chronologically dovetailed with the revival of Roman law in Europe, which defined archives as the '*locus in quo acta publica asservantur ut fidem faciant*'. In the late Middle Ages, this definition found its definitive expression in the *ius archivi*, that is, the legal value attributed to documents conserved in archives: '*charta quae prophertetur ex archivo publico, testimonium publicum habet*'.
- [6] In July 1318, James II of Aragon created the Royal Archive of Barcelona. The monarch ordered a deposit be built in the Royal Palace where '*fossen possats e conservats*

los registres, els privilegis e altres scrits de la sua cancelleria e dels altres fets de la sua cort (the privileges and other texts from his chancellery and other deeds of his court be deposited and conserved). He also ordered that another deposit at the Royal Palace be set aside to conserve 'els comptes e altres scriptures del offici del Maestre Racional de la sua cort' (the accounts and other deeds from the office of the Master Rational of his court). The Valencian Pere de Boïl, Master Rational and Lord of Manises, investigated the expenses.

- [7] RAFAEL CONDE I DELGADO DE MOLINA. *Les primeres ordenacions de l'Arxiu Reial de Barcelona. Las primeras ordenanzas del Archivo Real de Barcelona, 1384*. Ministerio de Cultura, Madrid, 1993, 44 pp. Other studies worth consulting are CARLOS LÓPEZ RODRÍGUEZ: 'El Archivo de la Corona de Aragón en la baja edad media'. In: *Monarquía, crónicas, archivos y cancellerías en los reinos hispano-cristianos, siglos XIII-XV*. Institución Fernando el Católico, Zaragoza 2014, pp. 145-184; 'Orígenes del Archivo de la Corona de Aragón (en tiempos, Archivo Real de Barcelona)', *Hispania. Revista Española de Historia*, 226 (2007), pp. 413-454.
- [8] On 27 December 1337, after having investigated the accounting of Guillem Serra, steward of Alphonse the Liberal, Domènec de Claramunt, Master Rational, said that 'a cautela de la Cort, he conservat e estojat lo dit quaern en una caxa blanca qui és en la casa o archiu del offici del Racional, qui és en lo Real del Senyor Rey, la qual és en la ciutat de València, en lo qual són conservats e estojats los comptes de la amministració de la Batlia General del Regne de València' (under the protection of the Court, I have conserved and stored that account book in a white box which is in the house or archive of the office of the Master Rational, which is in the Royal Palace of the King, which is in the city of Valencia, where the accounts of the administration of the General Bailiff of the Kingdom of Valencia are conserved and kept). TOMÀS DE MONTAGUT I ESTRAGUÉS. *op. cit.* v. II, pp. 148 and 152.
- [9] Thus, we see that in June 1394, documentation continued being sent to Barcelona: 'Item, done a-n Andreu López, porter del senyor Rey, los quals havia bestrets e pagats axí en loguer de VI bèsties que havien portats los registres e diverses scriptures del offici del Racional, com per nòlit de moltes altres diverses scriptures del dit offici, de la dita ciutat de València a la ciutat de Barcelona' (Also, I give to Andreu López, messenger of the King, who has paid and defrayed the rent of 6 beasts that have carried the records and different deeds from the office of the Master Rational, and the noli [what is paid to ship goods] of many other different deeds from that office, from the city of Valencia to the city of Barcelona). This confirms that the deposit at the Palau del Real in Valencia was an administrative archive and that the room was simply the scriptorium of the lieutenant of the Master Rational.
- [10] Regarding the creation of the Royal Archive of Zaragoza and the Archive of the Kingdom of Aragon, see the studies by DIEGO NAVARRO BONILLA: 'El Archivo Real de Zaragoza. Instituciones y archivos del rey en el Archivo de Aragón (siglos XV-XVII)', *Estudios Històrics i documents dels arxius de protocols*, 20, (2002), pp. 177-204; *Escritura, poder y archivo: la organización documental de la Diputación del Reino de Aragón (siglos XV-XVIII)*, Prensas Universitarias, Zaragoza 2004, 316 pp.
- [11] SARA CUNCHILLOS PLANO. 'Nombramiento de Gaspar de Pachos como primer maestro racional del Reino de Mallorca (a. 1451)'. *Medievalia*, 8, (1989), pp. 163-175. For the Archive of the Kingdom of Mallorca, see the study by ANTONIO MUT CALAFELL. *Guía sumaria del Archivo del Reino de Mallorca*. Ministerio de Cultura, Madrid 1984, 78 pp.
- [12] 'Necnon ordinamus quo in regno predicto deduetur locus per dictum Magistrum Rationalem eligendus qui nuncupetur archivius regius ubi et condatur et ponantur omnia computa officialium dicti regni que ab inde recipientur et audientur in dicto regno, necnon alie scripture et registra Viceregum et Gubernatorum dicti regni, capribreviaque regia ut facilius et sine labore ac expensis possint haber per dictum Magistrum Rationalem ad informationem et per alias certificationes necessarias intra dictum regum, et eiusdem archivi claves teneat et tenere habeat dictus Magister Rationalis aut unus et dictis coadjutoribus quem ad hoc idem Magister Rationalis delegerat et obligatus sit debito ordine ac distincte situare et componere libros ac scripturas ibidem claudendas', in EVANDRO PTUZULU. 'L'uffizio di maestro rationale del Regno di Sardegna'. In: *Martínez Ferrando, archivero. Miscelánea de estudios dedicados a su memoria*, Barcelona, ANABA, 1968, pp. 409-430. For the Archive of the Kingdom of Sardinia, see GABRIELA OLLA REPETTO. 'La política archivística di Alfonso II d'Aragona'. In: *La società mediterranea all'epoca del Vespro, Atti dell'XI Congresso di Storia della Corona d'Aragona (Palermo-Trapani-Erice, 25-30 April 1982)*, Palermo, 1983-1984, vol. III, pp. 461-479; CARLA FER-RANTE. 'L'arxiu real di Cagliari e i documenti catalano-aragonesi'. In: *Sardegna catalana*, coordinated by Anna Maria Oliva and Olivetta Schena. Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Barcelona 2014, pp. 22-43.
- [13] 'Per quant sens bona causa, sinò ab passions e favors mundanes, han fets archius en preiudici de aquest real archiu situat per los serenissims reys d'Aragó en la present ciutat de Barcelona com a principal e més insigne ciutat de les altres, e hon los dits reys han cregut tenir e pus guardats los registres e scriptures reals faents per llurs grans senyories, pobles e terres, e per çó hi faeren fer armaris, uns per Aragó e València, altres per Catalunya, e altres per Mallorques, e altres per Sardenya e altres illes e terres, tots en gran ordre, yo Pere Michael Carbonell, archiver del rey nostre senyor e notari públich de Barcelona una et in solidum cum Francisco Carbonello, filio, connotario et coarchivario meo, ab bon perdó dels legidors, no delliber perdre molt temps en scriure e fer memorialis per dits regnes e terres dismembrades d'aquest reial archiu. E axí super eis, non servato ordine, brevi me expediam e maiorment que son mal pagat de la quitació que-m pertany (...)' (Because, without

good cause but with worldly passions and favours, archives have been made to the detriment of this royal archive located by their most serene highnesses the Kings of Aragon in the city of Barcelona, as the main and most emblematic city over the others, and where those kings have believed the royal registers and deeds of their seignuries, villages and lands should be held and safeguarded, and they thus had cabinets built, some for Aragon and Valencia, others for Catalonia and others for Mallorca, and others for Sardinia and other islands and lands, all in total order, I, Pere Miquel Carbonell, archivist of our lord king and notary public of Barcelona, alone and with Francesc Carbonell, my son, co-notary and co-archivist, and with readers' forgiveness, determine that I shall not squander more time writing and making reports for these dismembered kingdoms and lands of this royal archive), in RAFAEL CONDE I DELGADO DE MOLINA. 'Una discutible decisió arxivística del segle XV'. *Lligall*, 8 (1994), pp. 11-18.

- [14] The archive was a principal room where the Master Rational and his lieutenant worked, although it was also used for important gatherings. Thus, we see that on 19 October 1403, when the Diputació del General was an inorganic institution and had no permanent headquarters, it met '*En lo dit Reyal, en la casa de l'Arxiu, la qual és al cap del palau, on se acostuma tenir la dita cort, aplegats los sobredits e dessus nomenats deputats*' (In the Palau Reial, in the home of the Archive, which is the prime place in the Palace where the Cort is usually held, where the aforementioned cited and named deputies gather). One century later, on 28 February 1501, the following assembled at the same site: "*noble e magnífich tinentloch de Governador, e don Diego de Torres, batle e rebedor general del regne de València, personalment atrobats ensemps ab altres persones e los residents en lo offici de Mestre Racional en lo Arxiu del Real del senyor rey, hon lo dit offici és dedicat*' (noble and magnificent lieutenant of the Governor, and Mr Diego de Torres, bailiff and *rebedor general* [functionary in charge of receiving accounts, goods, incomes, etc., on behalf of and in representation of another person or group] of the Kingdom of Valencia, personally gathered at the same time with other people and residents in the office of the Master Rational in the Royal Archive of the King, to which that office is dedicated).
- [15] Regarding the history of the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia, see the compilation of literature in different studies, such as in the one by CARLOS LÓPEZ RODRÍGUEZ. 'El Archivo Real y General de Valencia'. *Cuadernos de Historia Moderna*, 17, (1996), pp. 175-192; FRANCESC TORRES FAUS. 'Alfons el Magnànim i l'Arxiu del Regne de València'. In: *Alfons el Magnànim de València i Nàpols*. Institució Alfons el Magnànim, Valencia 2009, pp. 163-181.
- [16] AGUSTÍ CAMPOS PERALES. 'Jaume Desplà (c. 1357-1423), primer arxiver de l'Arxiu Reial de València'. *Afers*, 92 (2019), pp. 149-167.
- [17] The list of archivists has been drawn from the books of the Master Rational for the foral period, from the books of the Real Acuerdo for the Bourbon period, and from the documentation of the Secretary of the Archive for the contemporary period. For the seventeenth century, we have also consulted the documentation of the Secretary of Valencia and the Archive of the Crown of Aragon.
- [18] RAMON BALDAQUÍ ESCANDELL. *El registre Reial Cancel·leria 495 de l'Arxiu General del Regne de Valencia. Estudi i edició: conclusions*. Universidad de Alicante, Alicante 1993. On microfiche.
- [19] VICENT GIMÉNZ CHORNET. 'Les visites o judicis de residència forals, un fons documental de l'Arxiu del Regne de València'. In: *Homenaje a Amparo Pérez y Pilar Faus*. Conselleria de Cultura, Educació i Ciència, Valencia 1995, pp. 473-479;
- [20] CARLOS LÓPEZ RODRÍGUEZ. *Liber Patrimoni Regii Valentiae*. Universitat de València, Valencia 2006, 638 pp.
- [21] The cabinets made by the carpenter Gaspar Gregori are some of the best examples of Valencian woodworking of all times, and the archive of the Generalitat was conserved there until 1845.
- [22] Josep Lluís Ibáñez Bertrán applied for the post, among other reasons because he was '*uno de los parientes más cercanos del glorioso San Luis Beltrán, sin que haya recibido las mercedes que vuestra Magestad acostumbra, quando se canonizan los naturales de alguno de sus reynos, a sus parientes* (one of the closest relatives of the glorious Saint Louis Bertrand, without having received the graces that your Majesty usually bestows to the relatives when the natives of one of your kingdoms is canonised). The king bore this fact in mind and appointed him the royal archivist in 1668. Later, in 1671, the monarch granted him the privilege of bestowing the post on one of his children, in life or upon his death. This explains why we find the first female archivist, Vicenta Ibáñez Sarsuela, his daughter, who on 28 July 1678 appeared to pay the half annates and take possession of the post, alleging that '*la suplicante es una pobre donzella huérfana de padre y madre, que a de tomar estado*' (the applicant is a poor orphaned maiden with no father or mother with whom to stay). The monarch attended to her request, but given that her gender prevented her from occupying the post of royal archivist, he appointed Jaume Vives de Banyatos as her substitute, with the noble category of *generós*, and '*habiendo precedido la aprobación le di el juramento y posesión acostumbrados al dicho Vives en lugar de doña Vicenta, su propietaria, la qual el día 5 de este (mes de mayo de 1681) murió*' (after the preceding approval I gave the usual oath and possession to said Vives instead of Miss Vicenta, its rightful holder, who died on the fifth of this month [May 1681]).
- [23] These ordinances were published in RAFAEL CONDE Y DELGADO DE MOLINA. *Reyes y archivos...*
- [24] Book 23 of the descriptive instruments is the first of the indexes of the Royal Court: '*Prosesos, registros y copias que se han portat en esta Sacra Real Audiència de la pre-*

sent ciutat de València, los quals estan archibats en lo present Arxíu' (Proceedings, records and copies which have been brought to this Holy Royal Court of the present city of Valencia, which are archived in this Archive).

- [25] FRANCESC TORRES FAUS, LAURA MÉNSUA MUÑOZ, SERGIO URZAINQUI SÁNCHEZ. 'Los archivos de la ciudad de valencia en 1751 según los informes secretos de Asensio Sales y Vicente Ximeno'. In: *La catedral ilustrada. Iglesia, sociedad y cultura en la valencia del siglo XVIII*, 3. Institució Alfons el Magnànim, Valencia 2015, pp. 211-249.
- [26] The first was the one by VICENT BRANCHAT (c.1735-1791), a jurist who worked as an advisor of the Royal Patrimony and who published the *Tratado de los derechos y regalías que corresponden al Real Patrimonio en el Reyno de Valencia y de la jurisdiccion del Intendente como subrogado en lugar del antiguo Bayle General* between 1784 and 1786. In his work, we find a brief history of the General Archive of Valencia for the first time. The following year, the jurist JOSEP VILLAROYA (1732-1804) published the *Real Maestrazgo de Montesa. Tratado de todos los derechos, bienes y pertenencias del patrimonio y maestrazgo de la Real y Militar Orden de Sta Maria de Montesa y S. Jorge de Alfama*, in which he compiled all the documentation referring to the Order of Montesa, which joined the Crown in 1592, so from then on their accounts were inspected by the Master Rational. The third was published by JOSÉ CANGA-ARGÜELLES in 1806, namely the *Colección de reales cédulas, órdenes y providencias dadas para gobierno del Real Patrimonio en el Reyno de Valencia. Formada por acuerdo de la Real Junta Patrimonial y aprobada por S.M.*, which was actually a continuation of Branchat's work.
- [27] FÉLIX FLURALBO. *Reflexiones sobre los perjuicios que ocasionaria a algunas provincias de España y en particular a la de Cataluna la traslacion de sus archivos a Madrid que propuso la Comision de Cortes en su dictamen y minuta de decreto presentado a las mismas en 19 de marzo de 1814*. José Torner, Barcelona 1821, 7 pp.
- [28] RAFAEL CONDE Y DELGADO DE MOLINA, 'L'Arxíu del Reial Patrimoni de Catalunya, fons de l'Arxíu de la Corona d'Aragó'. *Lligall*, 18 (2001), pp. 11-63.
- [29] Until 31 August 1817, the archivist's wages were paid with the income from the old 'generalitats', which were still partly charged all over the Crown of Aragon to pay the interests and amortise the loans of the now-abolished Diputacions del General and to fund certain public services. That year, however, '*cesaron los pagos en dicha tesorería pertenecientes a generalidades, y de que procede mi asignación*' (payments in that treasury belonging to the 'generalitats', from which my wages proceed, ceased), so thereafter the wages were paid by the corresponding ministry.
- [30] MIGUEL VELASCO Y SANTOS. 'Archivo General del Reino de Valencia'. *Anuario del Cuerpo Facultativo de Archiveros, Bibliotecarios y Museólogos, 1881*. Madrid, pp. 78-107.
- [31] The directors of the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia in the twentieth century were: Gabriel Ruiz-Diosayuda Montes (1901-1906); Joaquim Casañ Alegre (1906-1911), in a second tenure; Manuel Ferrandis Irlles (1911-1920); Ferran Ferraz Penelas (1920 and 1936 and 1939-1941); Felip Mateu i Llopis (1937-1939); Constanti Ballester Julve (1941-1950); Félix Ferraz Penelas (1950-1955), interim director; Rosa Rodríguez Troncoso (1955-1976); Desamparados Pérez Pérez (1976-1990); Carlos López Rodríguez (1990-1998); Maria Cruz Farfán Navarro (1998-2000), interim director; and Mercedes Escrig Giménez (2000-2007).
- [32] As a member of the Board to Recover Artistic Treasures, Felip Mateu i Llopis worked to save the archives of the cathedrals of Sagorob and Valencia, as well as other archives. After the war, he was sent to direct the Biblioteca Central de Barcelona (Central Library of Barcelona) and managed to save the Biblioteca de Catalunya (Library of Catalonia). In 1943, he became a full professor of Palaeography and Diplomacy at the Universitat de Barcelona until 1971, a job he combined with his archival work. A person of enormous erudition, he has an extensive list of publications.
- [33] FRANCESC TORRES FAUS. 'La documentació de l'Orde de Montesa en l'Arxíu del Regne de València i l'Arxíu Històric Nacional de Madrid'. In: *La Orden de Montesa y San Jorge de Alfama. Arquitectura, imágenes y textos (ss. XIV-XIX)*. Universitat de València, Valencia 2019, pp. 331-361.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Francesc Torres Faus holds a doctorate in geography and history from the Universitat de València, is an archive and library expert and has been the director of the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia since September 2007. As a researcher, he has published more than 60 studies in the form of books and articles which examine demographics, agrarian history, local history, toponyms, cartography, archives and libraries and the territorial divisions of Valencia.