

HOLLYWOOD STAMP CLUB

# HOLLYWOOD PHILATELIST



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HSC  
Editor**

## 1866 Letter from Argentina to France, By Editor

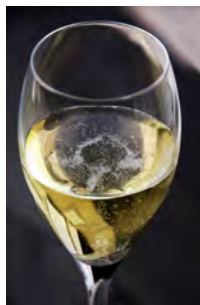
The shown folded letter was sent on April 25, 1866 to Bordeaux, France using the Great Britain Post Office in Buenos Ayres.



The sender was a company called Charavel. It includes transit markings from London, England, Calais and Paris plus arrival Bordeaux postmark.

The text in French seems to include references to some 100 cases of wine that had been purchased.

The letter says ( in French) that the shipment of 100 casses for Victorina is in the Buenos Aires customs warehouse, and that the sale would have been made if the



quality of the wine had been as usual, but a fraction has a very pronounced sulfur taste and another taste of wood, therefore the buyer rejects the operation. This was in 1866!!!



French wine is produced all throughout France, in quantities between 50 and 60 million hectoliters per year, or 7–8 billion bottles. France is one of the largest wine producers in the world, along with Italian, Spanish, and American wine-producing regions. French wine traces its history to the 6th century BC, with many of



**Old Buenos Aires Customs' Building**

France's regions dating their wine-making history to Roman times. The wines produced range from expensive wines sold internationally to modest wines usually only seen within France such as the Margnat wines were during the post war period. Vin de France, a table wine category basically replacing Vin de Table, but allowing grape variety and vintage to be indicated on the label.



## 100 YEAR OLD PCARD IN THE MAIL

(CNN)A Michigan woman got quite a surprise when she went to her mailbox this week -- amid her regular bills and junk mail was a postcard that had been mailed almost 100 years ago. Brittany Keech told CNN that she didn't give the card much thought at first because she was busy with her kids and her daily hustle and bustle.

"I thought it was very peculiar that I was receiving a postcard because nobody sends postcards anymore nowadays," Keech said. "I went 'OK, this is different.'" Later she noticed that the card was postmarked October 29, 1920. It had her Belding, Michigan, address but was written to someone named Roy McQueen in faded cursive writing.

The card reads: "Dear Cousins,

Hope this will find you all well. We are quite well but mother has awful lame knees. It is awful cold here. I just finished my history lesson and am going to bed pretty soon. My father is shaving and my mother is telling me your address. I will have to close for a night. Hope grandma and grandpa are well. Don't forget to write us - Roy get his pants fixed yet."

It was signed by Flossie Burgess.

The card has a Halloween theme that includes a black cat holding a broom, a bat, a goose and an owl, along with a woman with a cane and a jack-o'-lantern in a witch's hat.



There's a George Washington one cent stamp on the back and the smudged postmark says Jamestown, but the state appears to be covered by some kind of sticker.

Keech, 30, said she has no idea what delayed the card, which was mailed decades before she was born.

**A spokesperson for the Postal Service** told CNN affiliate WXMI that "in most cases these incidents do not involve mail that had been lost in our network and later found. What we typically find is that old letters and postcards -- sometimes purchased at flea markets, antique shops and even online --

are re-entered into our system. The end result is what we do best -- as long as there is a deliverable address and postage, the card or letter gets delivered."

Keech posted photos of the postcard on a Facebook group in hopes of finding McQueen's or Burgess' relatives, or someone who might have known the families.

"I have two wonderful ladies that are helping me look into their genealogy," she said.

Several people have posted old documents in the comments section that might help solve the mystery.

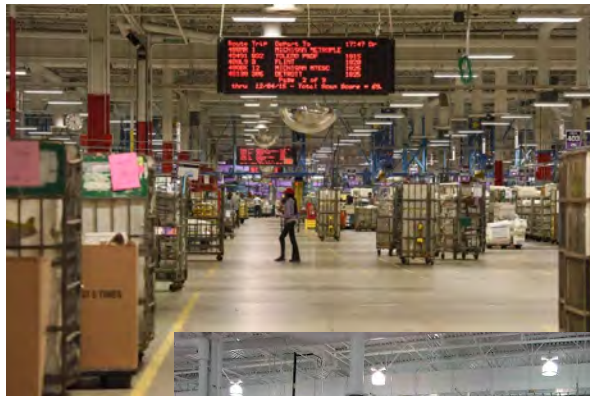


## 100 YEAR OLD PCARD, Cont.

The mechanical postmark reads METROPLEX MI.



The **Michigan Metroplex** processes all First-Class cards, letter and flat mail collected in the entire Southeast Michigan area. The 900,000 square-foot facility operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



These are current photos; in 1920 it must have been a much smaller facility.



Front of the 1920 Postcard



## Bison on stamps

Bison are large, even-toed ungulates in the genus *Bison* within the subfamily Bovinae.

Two extant and six extinct species are recognised. Of the six extinct species, five became extinct in the Quaternary extinction event. *Bison palaeosinensis* evolved in the Early Pleistocene in South Asia, and was the evolutionary ancestor of *B. priscus* (steppe bison), which was the ancestor of all other *Bison* species. From 2 million years ago to 6,000 BC, steppe bison ranged across the mammoth steppe, inhabiting Europe and northern Asia with *B. schoetensacki* (woodland bison), and North America with *B. antiquus*, *B. latifrons*, and *B. occidentalis*. The last species to go extinct, *B. occidentalis*, was succeeded at 3,000 BC by *B. bison*.



Of the two surviving species, the American bison, *B. bison*, found only in North America, is the more numerous. Although commonly known as a buffalo in the United States and Canada,[2] it is only distantly related to the true buffalo. The North American species is composed of two subspecies, the Plains bison, *B. b. bison*, and the wood bison, *B. b. athabasca*, which is the namesake of Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada.



## Bison (Cont.)

A third subspecies, the eastern bison (*B. b. pennsylvanicus*) is no longer considered a valid taxon, being a junior synonym of *B. b. bison*.<sup>[3]</sup> References to "woods bison" or "wood bison" from the eastern United



States confusingly refer to this subspecies, not *B. b. athabasca*,

which was not found in the region.

The European bison, *B. bonasus*, or wisent, is found in Europe and the Caucasus, reintroduced after being extinct in the wild.

While all bison species are classified in their own genus, they are sometimes bred with domestic cattle (genus *Bos*) and produce sometimes fertile offspring



called beefalo or zubron.



## Mexico Porte de Mar Stamps

México Correo Marítimo (Antonio Torres)  
Subasta 2009 Lots being offered:

1875 (22 Oct). Silao / Guanajuato - FRANCE - ARGENTINA . Env fkd 25c distr name / 52-75 + PORTE DE MAR, originally intended to pay French routing via New York against sender's instruction "paquete Frances" Porte de Mar postage would have been unnecessary, since American contract ships were not reimbursed. Addressee had



moved to Argentina , but the letter was not forwarded without prepayment of postage. The Porte de Mar stamp was partially torn off before the forwarding address was added. Exceptional postal history item. Ex - Schimmer (VI + VIII) illustrated MMM page 314. £200

1876. Porte de Mar. 1874 25c Puebla, 34-76 + 12c p de Mar, both tied "Correos Nopalucan". Lovely item. Ex - Schimmer Porte de Mar collection. £60

1877 (22 Feb). Zacatecas - France. Printed matter fkd single 5c brown, Zacatecas distr name, 51-76, red oval ds + Porte de Mar 2c, Zacatecas name, also tied red oval ds, display superb opened. According to regulations, this to pay Maritime transit. Via British steamer T + 15 decimes French due. The only recorded PRINTED MATTER PORTE DE MAR usage.

## Porte de mar (Cont. from P. 4)

The only recorded PRINTED MATTER PORTE DE MAR usage. Outstanding pre UPU Mexican party. Ex - Heiman (1961), Ameripex 86 (U\$ 2,000!). Illustrated MMM page 365 (IX). £1.400

1877 (18 May). Mexico City - USA / NY. MEXICO - FRANCE COMBINATION franking. Envelope fkd Mexico 25c blue, district name, 1-77, tied cds + Mexico Porte de Mar 25c on reverse for the maritime postage as per 1st rate regulation (traces of contemporary cancels, never supp to be cancelled) and France Sage 30c horiz pair not Mexican French consular cachet + "T" / due 10 cts at arrival in NY. On reverse ligne B / Paq fr n°4 of the French Caribbean connections. Exceptional combination usage. French stamps paid the Interamerican Caribbean part of voyage as Mexico was not yet part of The Berna Convention at this time as a third com. Mail carried by a member to another of the signed founders. Superb French and Mexico maritime item. Extensive studied by Karl Schimmer in his Porte de Mar original publication which formed part of his original collection (IX). £1.000

1877 (July). DF - Switzerland . Env fkd 25c blue, 1-77, dow name cds + Porte de Mar 10c. On reverse, full margins, tied by red London cds transit. Displays great open. The cover tax + 1,10 Swiss cents as maritime payment to third countries was

not accepted. Exceptional good condition. Illustrated MMM pg 364 (IX). £900



The purposes of the **Porte de Mar** system were: 1) to compensate packet ships for carrying mail to foreign ports, 2) to allow postal patrons to prepay maritime postage fees, and 3) to provide visible evidence that these fees had been paid. At the time of mailing, Porte de Mar stamps were placed (by the postal clerks) on the backs of envelopes in an amount equal to the required overseas postage and the mail was forwarded to Veracruz or Tampico. Mail packets were then placed on foreign ships to be transported to their ultimate destinations. The total value of the Porte de Mar stamps in each packet was calculated and that amount was paid to the ship's captain (or agent) for carrying the mail. Arrangements were made with both English and French ships, and the postal patron had to specify which service was to be used. The stamps primarily functioned as internal accounting devices (*contraseñas*). Because these stamps were not sold to the public and early stamp album makers provided spaces for these stamps the resultant philatelic demand resulted in many forgeries which are an integral part of this exhibit. These were contemporaneous and are often scarcer than the stamps themselves.

## MEXICAN MARITIME MAIL THE HEATH COLLECTION

As can be seen from the previous lots listing, Porte de Mar Stamps on cover command high prices at auctions.



## CHARLES J. STARNES COLLECTION

Charles J. Starnes (April 26, 1912 – November 25, 1993) was a postal historian and writer of philatelic articles.

Starnes created significant collections of postal history, with emphasis on covers as opposed to postage stamps. He was particularly interested in foreign mail usage. His impressive and important collection of postal history of United States Department stamps was stolen and never recovered. In 1982, Starnes published *United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations, 1847 to GPU-UPU*, which he later revised and updated in 1989. He was one of the editors of the *Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, and was responsible for the Foreign Mails Section. Charles Starnes was named to the American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame in 1995. He received the Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research in 1986.

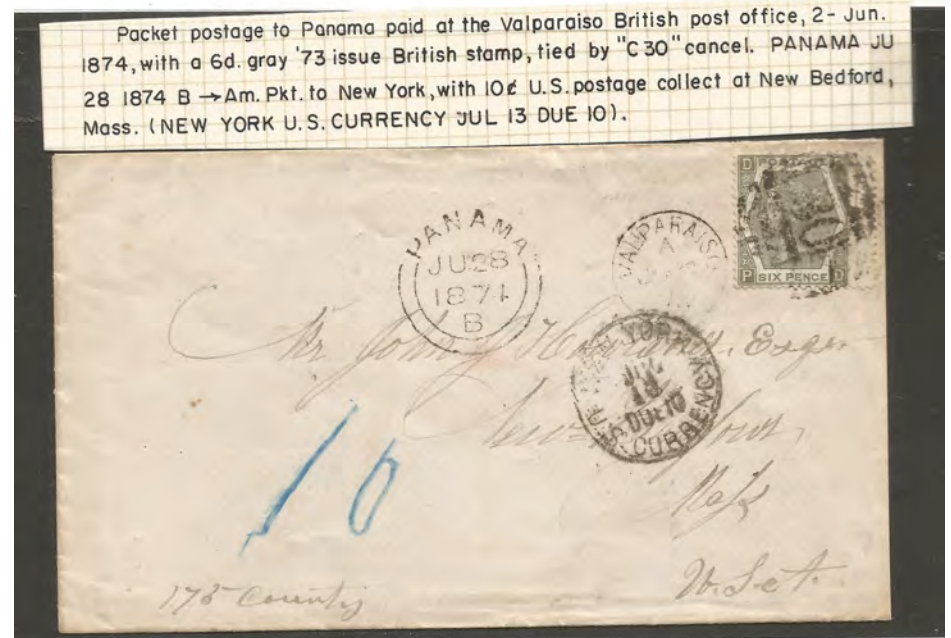
Siegel Galleries handled the sales of his collection in 2007.

**Loss and Recovery**—The Charles J. Starnes Collection “Nine high value official covers were lost when the Charles J. Starnes collection was stolen in 1983. Even though I have severe reservations as to whether they still exist, I have included them in this census because most have a famous provenance. Collectors who scour the auction catalogues of the great official cover collections of earlier generations are entitled to know what measure of hope to hold out that long-missing covers will resurface.” — ALAN C. CAMPBELL *Chronicle*, November 2000 THE THEFT OF THE STARNES COLLECTION IN 1983 LEFT A LARGE VOID IN THE collecting world, which is reflected in the words above, written by the well-respected and widely-published specialist in Officials, Alan C. Campbell. In virtually every reference to the stolen Starnes collection, writers showed little hope for recovery. Even as recently as the 2004 sale of the Robert L. Markovits Officials collection, important covers known to have existed as part of the Starnes collection were described in the sale catalogue as “presumed lost to philately.” Pessimism turned to astonishment in May 2005 when several stolen covers from the Starnes Foreign Destinations collection were spotted on eBay by a sharp-eyed collector in Florida. The FBI was called, and soon after the eBay seller produced a cache of Starnes material, including the complete Officials collection and a large portion (but not all) of the Foreign Destinations and Classic U.S. collections. After 22 years, philately reclaimed the stolen Starnes covers. John Starnes, a nephew of Charles and the appointed executor for the re-opened estate, describes the decision to auction the collection in this statement: “The Estate is proud to have chosen Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries to conduct a public auction of all covers and stamps recovered and returned by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Charles Starnes’ foreign destination covers and departmental covers and stamps were stolen in 1983. Although a private sale of the Starnes Collection was seriously considered, when the unique circumstances that surrounded the Charles J. Starnes Collection were factored, it

was decided that the philatelic community deserved to know what has been recovered and what is still missing. It is believed that a public auction will provide the broad philatelic community a record of what has been recovered and returned to the Estate, and what prized stolen covers are still missing.”

Many of today’s collectors know about Charles J. Starnes from the valuable contributions he made to published literature on postal history. The “Starnes Book”—shorthand for *United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations: 1847 to GPU-UPU*—is still the desktop reference for collectors and students of U.S. covers to foreign countries. Starnes’ achievements earned him several honors from the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society: the Ashbrook Cup in 1977 and 1982, the Brookman Cup in 1985, and induction into the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1990. The American Philatelic Society awarded him the Luff Award for distinguished research and added his name to the APS Hall of Fame in 1995. When Charles J. Starnes passed away in 1993, Richard F. Winter wrote a memorial tribute in the *Chronicle* (February 1994), accurately prophesizing, “Many future generations of collectors and students will benefit directly from the essential information that he compiled.”

One example of the Foreign Destination part of Starnes Collection is this cover.



Valparaíso, Chile to Mass. Cover bearing Great Britain, 1873, 6p Gray (60; SG 125), tied by “C30” oval, “Valparaíso JU 12, 1874” circular datestamp on cover to Mass., neat strike of Panama transit, also “New York Due 10 U.S, Currency Jul 13” circular datestamp, blue crayon “10” slightly reduced at right. Very fine.

# PENGINS ON STAMPS



The smallest penguin in the Antarctic is also one of only two penguin species (the other is the Emperor penguin) that spends its entire life in Antarctica. Huge colonies of Adélies were once spread throughout the Antarctic Peninsula and the coastline of the continent, but as climate change took



hold, populations declined in some areas. Fortunately, a robust colony of some 1.5 million Adélie penguins was recently found on the Antarctic Peninsula's Danger Islands. It's speculated that the penguins populated the islands because the sea ice here is still thick enough to support the colony. It's also relatively impassable to



boat traffic, so the birds remain undisturbed during their breeding cycle. Penguins are a group of aquatic flightless birds. They live almost exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere, with only one species, the Galápagos penguin, found north of the equator. Highly adapted for life in the water, penguins have counter shaded dark and white plumage and flippers for swimming. Most penguins feed on krill, fish, squid and other forms of sea life which they catch while swimming underwater. They spend roughly half of their lives on land and the other half in the sea.

Although almost all penguin species are native to the Southern Hemisphere, they are not found only in cold



climates, such as Antarctica. In fact, only a few species of penguin live so far south. Several species are found in the temperate zone, but one species, the Galápagos penguin, lives near the equator.



The largest living spe-

cies is the emperor penguin on average, adults are about 1.1 m (3 ft 7 in) tall and weigh 35 kg (77 lb). The smallest penguin species is the little blue penguin (*Eudyptula minor*), also known as the fairy penguin, which stands around 33 cm (13 in) tall and weighs 1 kg



(2.2 lb). Among extant penguins, larger penguins inhabit colder regions, while smaller penguins are generally found in temperate or

even tropical climates.

Some prehistoric species attained enormous sizes, be-

coming as tall or as heavy as an adult human.

These were not restricted to Antarctic regions; on the contrary, subantarctic regions harboured high diversity, and at least one giant penguin occurred in a region around 2,000 km south of the equator 35 mya, in a climate decidedly warmer than today.





## National Library of Russia: 1917 Cover to Paris, France

The Imperial Public Library was established in 1795 by Catherine the Great. It was based on the Załuski Library, the famous Polish national library built by Bishop Załuski in Warsaw, which had been seized by the Russians in 1794 after the Partitions of Poland.



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The idea of a public library in Russia emerged in the early 18th century but did not take shape until the arrival of the Russian Enlightenment. The plan of a Russian public library was submitted to Catherine in 1766 but the Empress did not approve the project for the imperial library until 27 May 1795, eighteen months before her death. A site for the building was found at the corner of Nevsky Avenue and Sadovaya Street, right in the center of the Russian Imperial capital. The construction work began immediately and lasted for almost fifteen years. The building was designed in a Neoclassical style by architect Yegor Sokolov (built between 1796–1801).

The Library continued to build a comprehensive collection of national publications. The growing collections were located in a new building (designed by E.S. Vorotilov, 1896–1901). By 1913, the Library held one million Russian books (total collections comprising three million titles), emerging as one of the world's great libraries and the richest manuscript collection in Russia.



In the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, the institution was placed under the management of Ernest Radlov and Nicholas Marr, although its national preeminence was relinquished to the Lenin State Library in Moscow. The library was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labour in 1939 and remained open during the gruesome Siege of Leningrad. In 1948, the Neo-classical campus of the Catherine Institute on the Fontanka Embankment (Giacomo Quarenghi, 1804–07) was assigned to the library. By 1970, the Library contained more than 17,000,000 items. The modern building for the book depository was erected on Moskovsky Prospekt in the 1980s and 1990s.

The National Library began a large-scale digitization project at the end of the 20th century. By 2012 the Library, along with its counterpart in Moscow, had around 80,000 titles available electronically.

The attached registered cover was sent from Saint Petersburg [formerly known as Petrograd (1914–1924)], on February 18, 1917 to a Paris library. Mailing postage was recognized by 1913 Catherine II 14k. Stamp, overprinted in 1916 with 20 k.



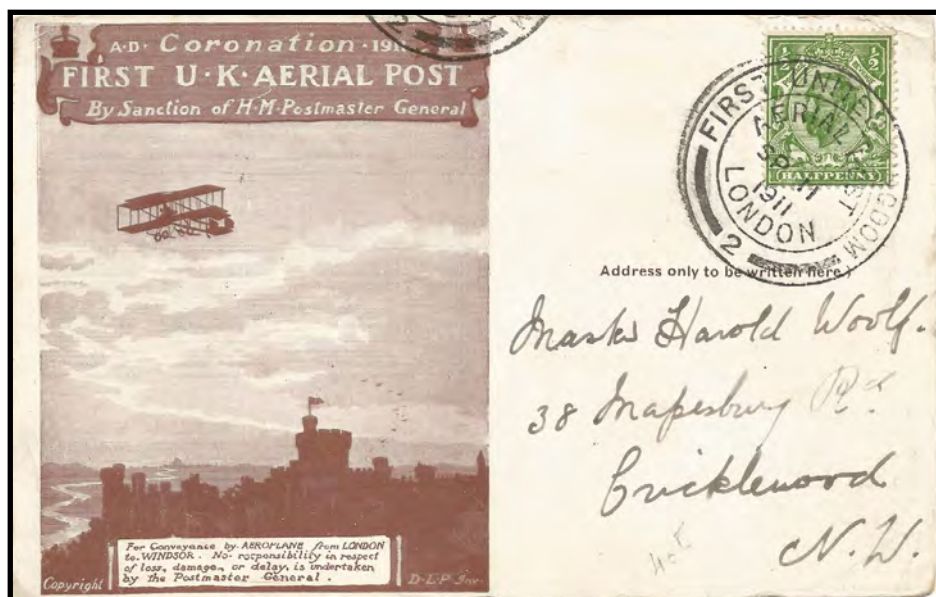
This letter was sent a few days before the The February Revolution (8 March 1917) known in Soviet historiography as the February Bourgeois Democratic Revolution and sometimes as the March Revolution, was the first of two revolutions which took place in Russia in 1917. The second revolution, known as the October Revolution, started on 7 November 1917.



## GREAT BRIAIN 1911 FIRST AERIAL POST

Postcard 1911 King George V 1/2 p. on gray green special card "FIRST U. K. AERIAL post"

### First flight



The historic first flight of the First UK Aerial Post, from London to Windsor, took place on Saturday 9 September 1911.

The Aero Field handbook recorded the event: 'On Saturday, 9 September, twenty-three sacks of aerial mails were delivered at Hendon. It was estimated that these contained about 75,000 postcards and letters, the total weight being over 600lbs.



'Although it had been hoped to carry all the mails collected on the first day, the sudden change in the weather from mild to boisterous, made any flying doubtful. It had been intended that Clement Greswell (the senior pilot) should carry the first bag, which contained the special privileged mail, (printed in violet) but the wind was rising and it was not considered safe for flying.'



'Intrepid pioneer aviator Gustav Hamel undertook to make the first flight to Windsor. Preparations were speedily made, and at 4.50 p.m. he was ready to mount a Blériot racing monoplane.

'The mailbag (Bag No 1) weighing 23½lb was attached to the machine by the attendants and a postman handed to Hamel his waybill and timesheets. Mr W G Kirkwood, of the Post Office secretarial staff, who represented the Postmaster-General, and representatives of the Comptroller's office of the London Postal Service witnessed these formalities.'

In 2011 the Royal Mail issued a **"Great Britain - 2011 100 years of airmail block MNH"**





## TORDESILLAS, SPAIN; what happened there?

Tordesillas is a town and municipality in the province of Valladolid, Castile and León, central Spain. It is located 25 kilometers (16 mi) southwest of the provincial capital, Valladolid at an elevation of 704 metres (2,310 ft). The population was c. 9,000 as of 2009.



The town is located on the Douro River although the river is not navigable up to Tordesillas. There are highway connections to Madrid, 182 kilometres (113 mi) to the southeast, and with Salamanca, 96 kilometres (60 mi) to the southwest. The provincial capital of Valladolid is also linked by four-lane highway.

The **Treaty of Tordesillas** was supposed to assign equal portions of the Americas to colonize. However what was left to the east what is now Brazil and what lies on the west of the line Spain would keep. Not exactly equal. Here are the details.

The Treaty of Tordesillas signed at Tordesillas in Spain on June 7, 1494, and authenticated at Setúbal, Portugal, divided the newly-discovered



lands outside Europe between the Portuguese Empire and the Spanish Empire (Crown of Castile), along a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands, off the west coast of Africa. That line of demarcation was about halfway between the Cape Verde islands (already Portuguese) and the islands entered by Christopher Columbus on his first voyage (claimed for Castile and León), named in the treaty as Cipangu and Antilia (Cuba and Hispaniola).

The lands to the east would belong to Portugal and the lands to



the west to Castile. The treaty was signed by Spain, 2 July 1494, and by Portugal, 5 September 1494. The other side of the world was divided a few decades later by the Treaty of Zaragoza, signed on 22 April 1529, which specified the antemeridian to the line of demarcation specified in the Treaty of Tordesillas. Originals of both treaties are kept at the General Archive of the Indies in Spain and at the Torre do Tombo National Archive in Portugal. ©





