FIVE 17TH & 18TH CENTURY SPANISH DOCUMENTS from the John Pierre & Myrtle Serres/Shirley Roberts Collection	
A Report from the Legacy Project of The Glen Ellen Historical Society	
THE GLEN ELLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PO Box 35, GLEN ELLEN CA 95442 www.glenellenhistoricalsociety.org prepared by Jim Shere November 2, 2011	

## FIVE 17TH & 18TH CENTURY SPANISH DOCUMENTS from the John Pierre & Myrtle Serres/Shirley Roberts Collection

The Legacy Project of the Glen Ellen Historic Society evaluates and preserves locally emerging historic artifacts and documents. These valuable and irreplaceable items are very important in building a reliable history of the area— and are otherwise extremely vulnerable to deterioration and loss. We consult with local families that have historically significant ephemera and memorabilia, helping them to identify and preserve their collections while making them available for research and public display, where it is appropriate, by means of digital recording.

The initial phase of The Legacy Project involves the John Pierre and Myrtle Serres/Shirley Roberts Collection. This major group of artifacts and primary documents has accumulated over the past 160 years on the Serres Ranch—ever since 1851, when Joseph Hooker built his cabin on what had been the Agua Caliente Land Grant. Reports such as this are made available to members of the Glen Ellen Historical Society to promote further research and discussion.

These documents were originally discovered September 15th, 2010, and inventoried as item #2010.09.12 in the Serres/Roberts Collection, a "report to [the] Spanish court regarding battles with natives of the Philippines." They were mistakenly considered at that time to be a single report, dated December 8th, 1726, by Don Francisco Cardenas Pacheco (who later became the governor of Guam) regarding an insurrection by the natives of the Philippine Islands. Subsequent study has shown that they are, according to linguist and historian Steven Dodd,

...official copies (or maybe even originals) of five royal charters dating from between 1659 and 1725. Several of them are signed "Yo, el Rey" ("I, the King") in a different hand from the main text, so may well actually have been signed by the monarch ruling in Spain at the time, especially as they have the "rúbrica" or flourish that more or less had to be added to signatures in Spain in the past as a security measure...

The first document is fourteen pages in all. It appears to be dated December 8th, 1726, and begins with a ten page narrative written in ochre ink followed by the signature of Philip V with his rúbrica. Two pages in a darker ink follow that, dated August 23rd, 1728, with several other signatures. Steven Dodd offers this commentary:

The first document is an account of how Francisco Cárdenas Pacheco (modern spelling) was sentenced for disregarding an order during a skirmish with natives in the Philippines, but on appeal this decision was overturned, and his services praised. His rank at the time was Sargento Mayor, which probably equates to a modern Major General (in the past Sergeant-Major General, and capable of leading a division, so a "two-star" general, between brigadier general and lieutenant general). The two pages in dark ink at the end are confirmations that this judicial decision has been duly noted and recorded in the appropriate ledger. One of the signatures appears twice: Lozada, which in modern Spain would probably be Losada, likely to be either the Governor or a high-ranking legal official.

The second document is six pages in all, and appears to be dated August 25th, 1659. It begins with a title page of four lines, followed by a half-page of text in ochre ink, with the signature and rúbrica of Philip IV. Three blank pages follow that, on one of which is written the single word "Blanca". Dodd offers this commentary:

The second is quite definitely a letter from Philip IV of Spain to the Governor of the Philippines, confirming that all medical practitioners must be formally qualified through an examination, but that in the light of the shortage of such personnel in the Islands, the Royal Council of the Indies has decided to allow the Governor's proposed temporary measures (not specified) while an order sent to Mexico for staff to be despatched takes effect. The spellings and terms are very typically seventeenth century, on the lines of what "doctors of physick, chirurgeons and apothecaries" would seem like in an English document. I cannot make out the Governor's forename in full, but the surname is Manrique de Lara, and he is a member of the Order of Calatrava. [Sabiniano Manrique de Lara was Spanish Governor-General of the Philippines Islands from 1653 to 1663.]

The third document is four pages in all, and appears to be dated in 1726. There is no title page; it includes two and a half pages of text in ochre ink, the first page is surmounted by a printed stamp in black ink. The signature and rúbrica of Philip V appear on the third page. This is followed by a page written in black ink in three different hands, with the signatures and rúbricas of various officials.

According to Dodd, the printed stamp and the ones appearing in the following document are revenue stamps, "showing that a document has paid a fixed legal charge because of its status."

Nowadays [Dodd continues], the paper on which certain items of this kind are written is pre-printed with them, but it looks as though in these early cases they were put on with a form of what would be nowadays a rubber stamp, in those days I imagine some sort of metal or wood printing device. Of the three on the various pages, one states clearly that it is worth 68 maravedís, while two merely indicate what class of stamp they relate to; 68 maravedís was the same as two reales, which will be more familiar to you as "two bits", one quarter of a "real de a ocho" (piece of eight) or "peso duro", the one-ounce-of-silver coin equivalent to an Austrian "Joachimsthaler" that was the original basis for the American dollar.

The fourth document is six pages in all. It appears to be dated in 1659, and begins with a title page of ten lines, followed by two and a half pages of text in ochre ink. The first page of text is surmounted by a printed stamp in black ink, and the signature and rúbrica of Philip IV appear on the third page. This is followed by a page with a printed

stamp in black ink and the date 1659, several (perhaps six) rúbricas, and eight lines of text written within a small square, completed with a rúbrica.

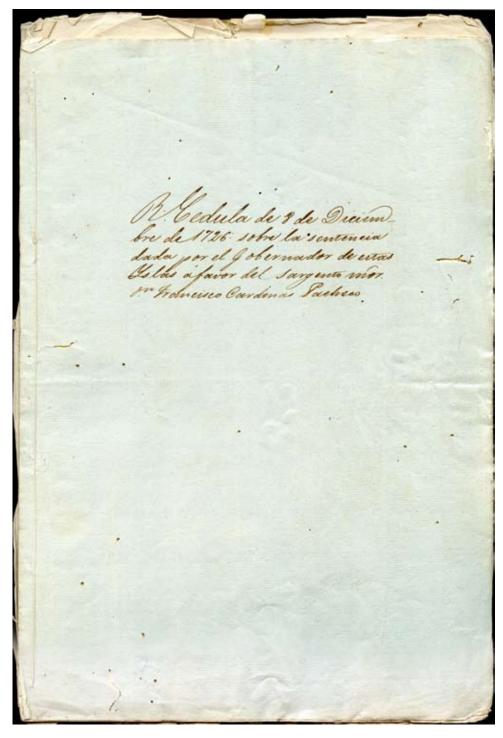
The fifth document is six pages in all. It also appears to be dated in 1659, and begins with a title page of four lines, followed a half page of text in ochre ink, and the signature and rúbrica of Philip IV. This is followed by two blank pages, one of which is titled "Blanca".

"All in all," Steven Dodd wrote, summarizing his thoughts in a recent post, the five documents

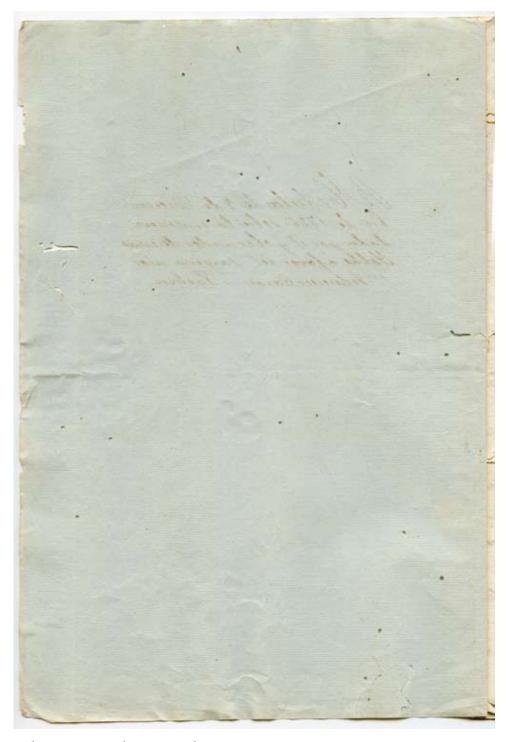
represent a mixed bag, almost certainly kept because of the royal signatures and those of other dignitaries, since the only common strand seems to be the Philippines, with dates for the documents spread out over something like seventy years, so no chronological, personal or theme link appearing.

How these documents found their way into the Serres/Roberts Collection is at this time a mystery. They most certainly had been in John Pierre Serres' possession, and may have been collected by either John Pierre Serres or Frank Watriss, who had a deep interest in historical documents and artifacts. It is hoped that subsequent research within the collection will discover documentation of their provenance.

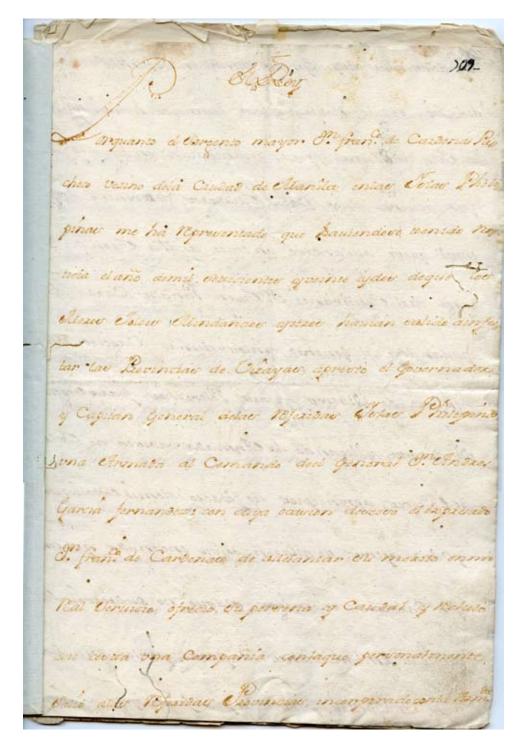
The documents are each reproduced on the following pages in their entirety, and in the sequence in which they were originally discovered, with captions to identify and describe each page. Queries and responses regarding these documents should be sent to the Glen Ellen Historical Society, PO Box 35, Glen Ellen CA 95442. Reports on other aspects of the John Pierre and Myrtle Serres/Shirley Roberts Collection will be made available to members of the organization as circumstances warrant.



The first page of the five documents, the only page written on light blue paper, was originally taken to be the cover of a single set of papers referred to as the Pacheco Document, with the date December 8, 1726 and the name Francisco Cardinas Pacheco as identifying features.



Page two is the inside of the cover sheet, and is blank.



Page three is the first page of a ten page narrative handwritten in ochre ink. This first document describes the sentencing of Pacheco for disregarding orders, as described in the introductory remarks, and the eventual overturning of his sentence.

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Page four is the second page of the narrative begun on page three.

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Page five is the third page of the narrative begun on page three.

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Page six is the fourth page of the narrative begun on page three.

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Page seven is the fifth page of the narrative begun on page three.

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Page eight is the sixth page of the narrative begun on page three.

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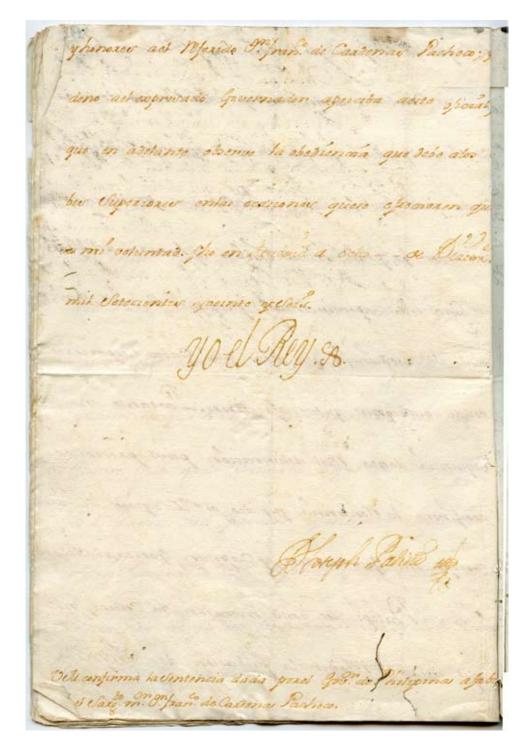
Page nine is the seventh page of the narrative begun on page three.

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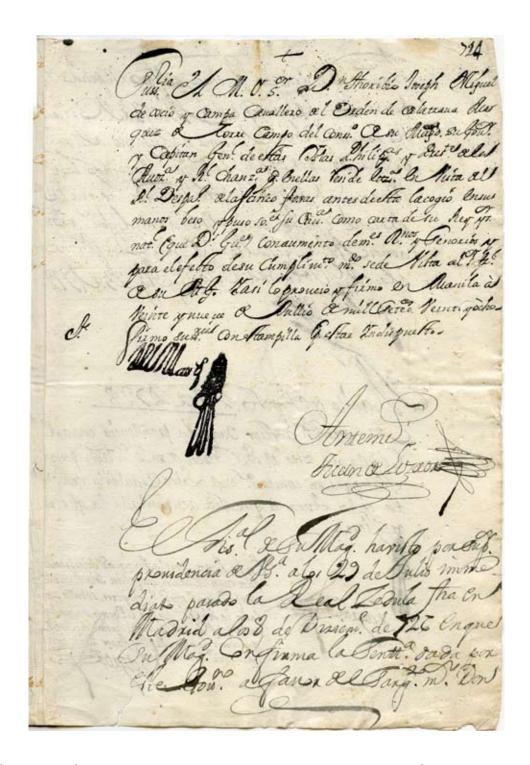
Page ten is the eighth page of the narrative begun on page three.

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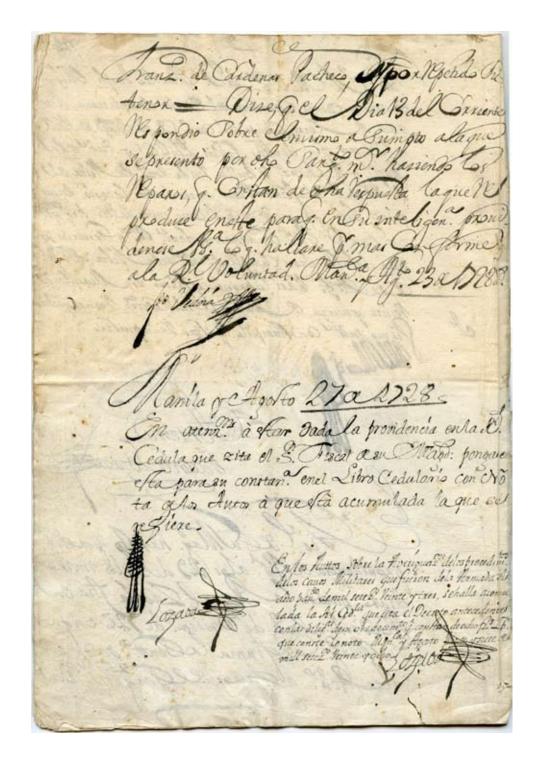
Page eleven is the ninth page of the narrative begun on page three.



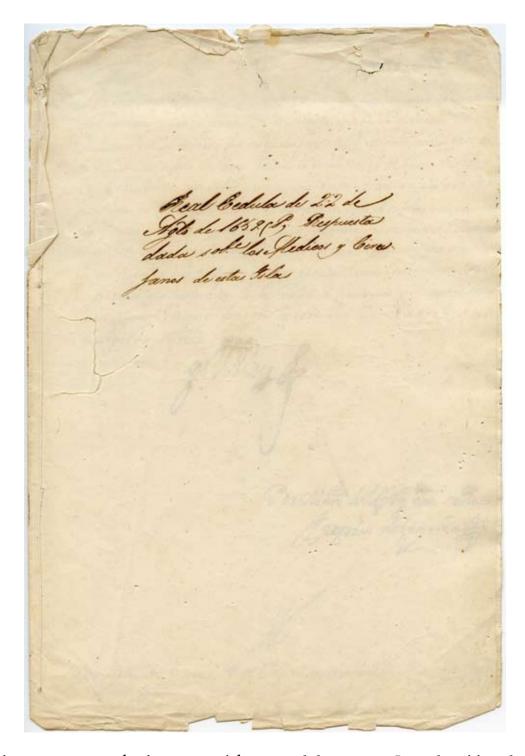
Page twelve is the tenth and final page of the narrative begun on page three. It contains the signature of the reigning King of Spain, Philip V— "yo el Rey", "I, the King"— together with his rúbrica. According to Dodd, the summary notation at the bottom of the page reads "Your Majesty confirms the sentence issued by the Governor of the Philippines in favour of Sergeant Major Don Francisco de Cárdenas Pacheco.



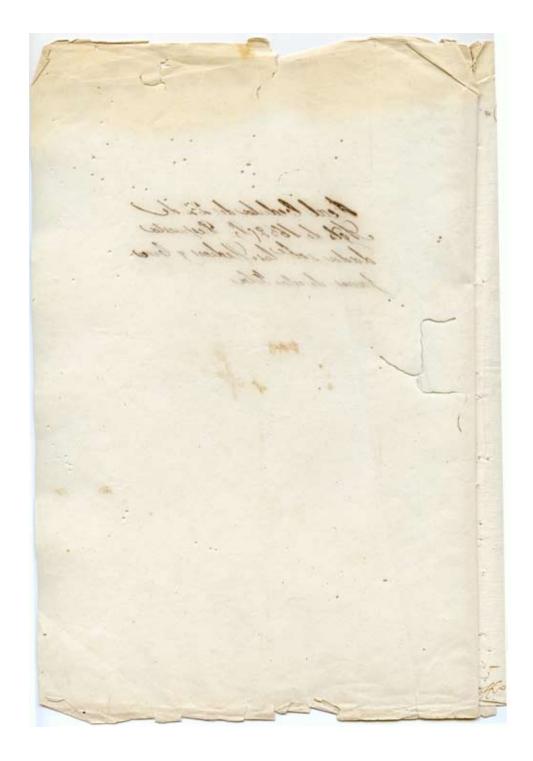
Page thirteen is the first of two pages written in a darker ink, and has several rúbricas. According to Dodd, it contains confirmations that the decision regarding Pacheco has been duly noted and recorded in the appropriate ledger.



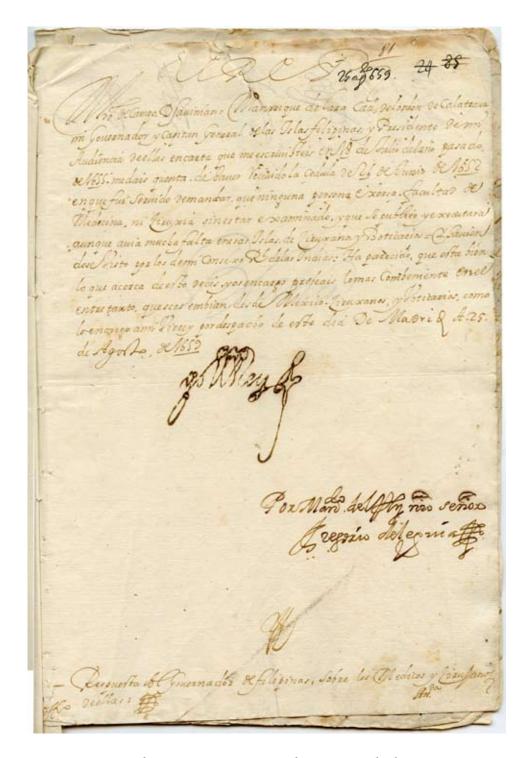
Page fourteen contains three different entries, with signatures and rúbricas. One of the signatures appears twice: Lozada, which in modern Spain would probably be Losada, likely to be either the Governor or a high-ranking legal official.



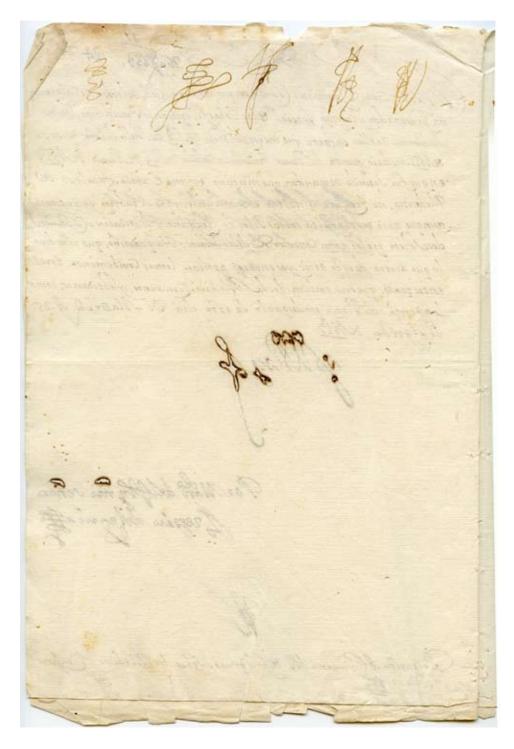
Page fifteen contains is the first page of the second document. It is a brief four-line entry and is probably a title page similar to page one.



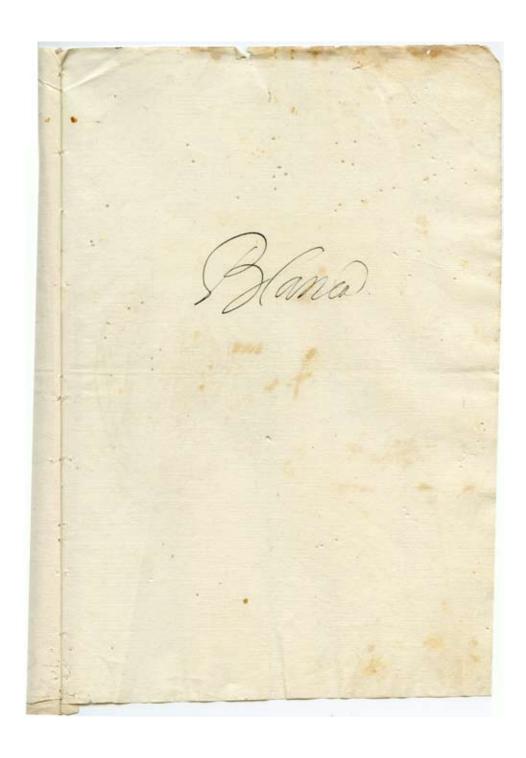
Page sixteen is blank, with the previous page visible through the paper.



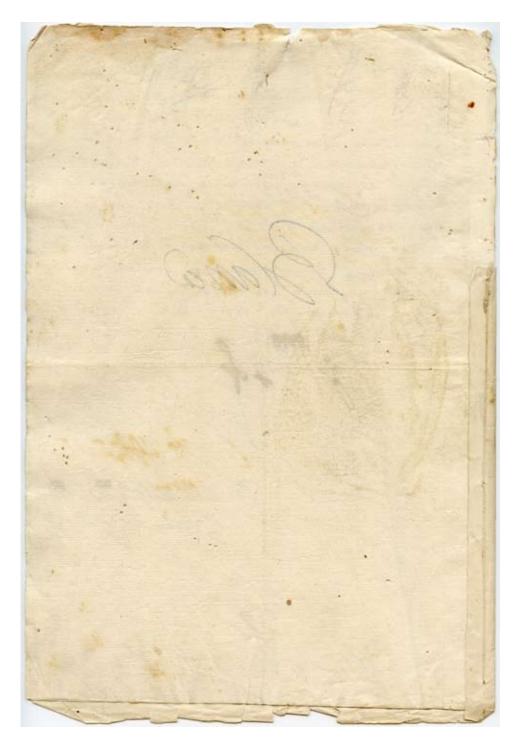
Page seventeen contains a half page of text in ochre ink, with the signature and rúbrica of Philip IV. This is the letter described in the introduction regarding temporary suspension of medical protocols in the Philippines. According to Dodd, the summary notation at the bottom of the page reads "Response to the Governor of the Philippines about the physicians and surgeons in those islands."



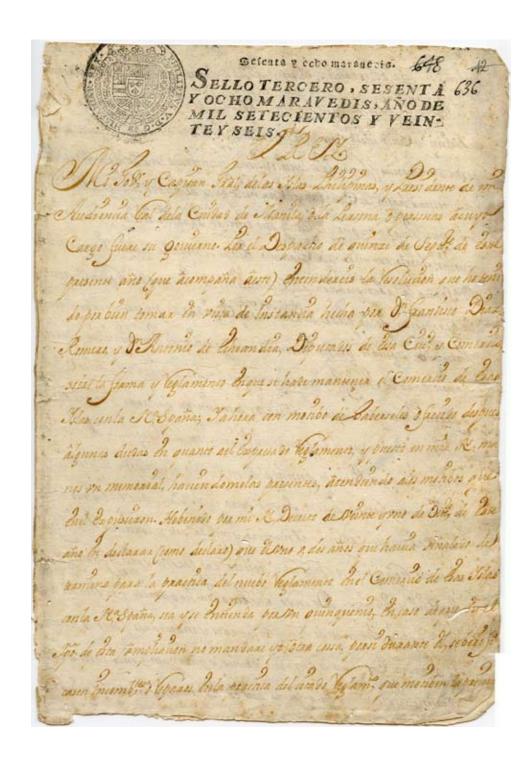
Page eighteen has a few marks, perhaps rúbricas, at the top.



Page nineteen has the single word "Blanca" written at the center.



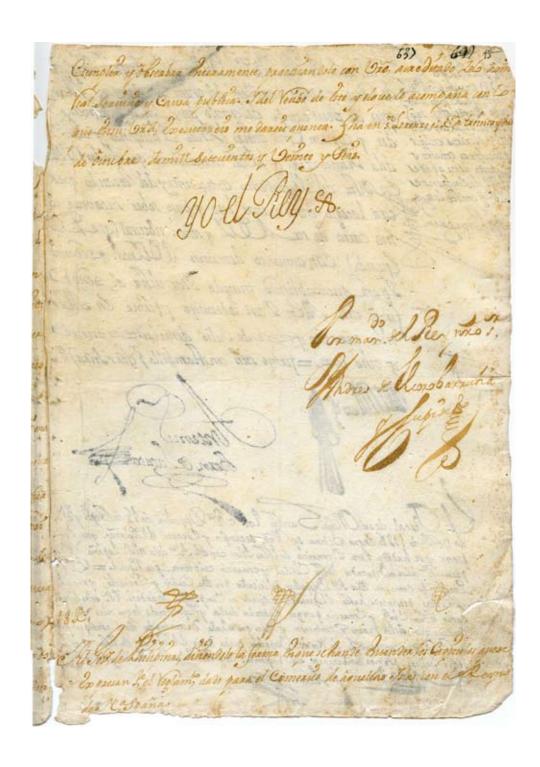
Page twenty is blank.



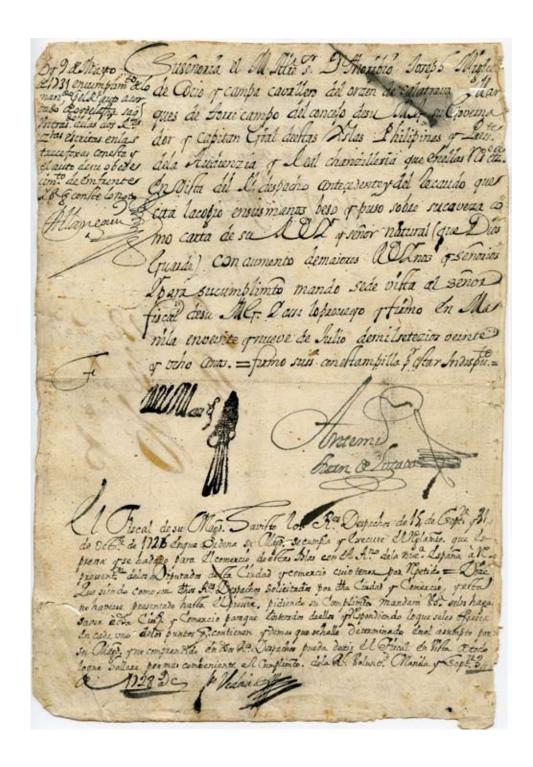
Page twenty-one is the first page of the third document. It is a full page of text in ochre ink, surmounted by a revenue stamp and inscription in black ink. According to Dodd, this document "is from the seventeen-twenties and has to do with regulations for trade between the Philippines and New Spain."

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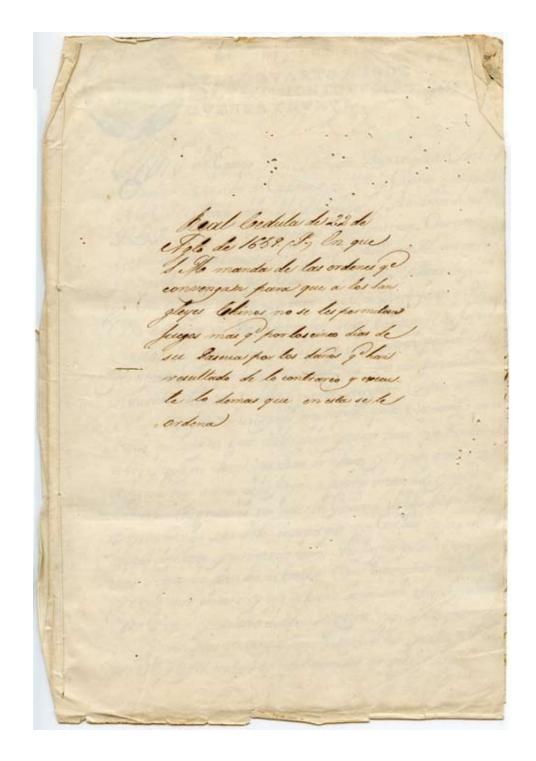
Page twenty-two is a full page of text in ochre ink.



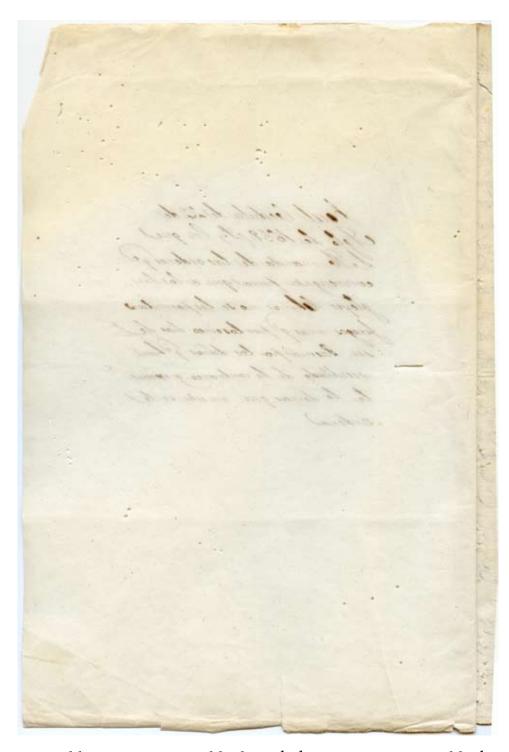
Page twenty-three is a partial page of text in ochre ink, with the signature and rúbrica of Philip V. According to Dodd, the summary notation at the bottom of the page reads "To the Governor of the Philippines, indicating to him the way in which the chapters laid down in the regulations issued for trade between those islands and the Kingdom of New Spain should be interpreted."



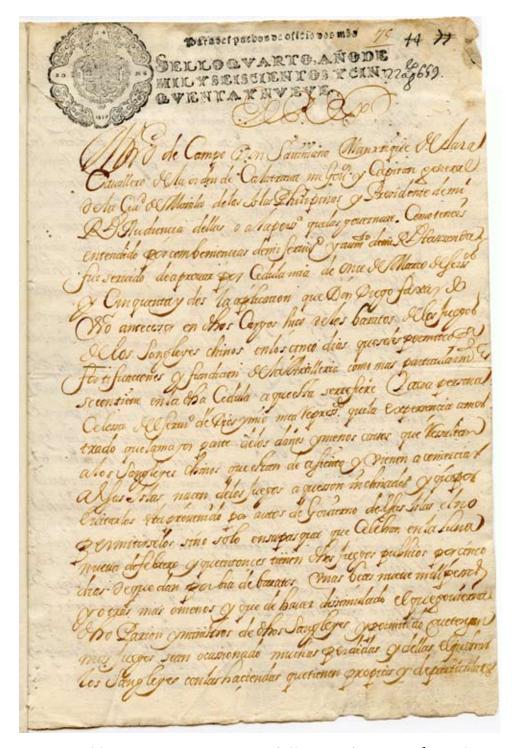
Page twenty-four is a full page of text in black ink, written by three different officials, with signatures and rúbricas.



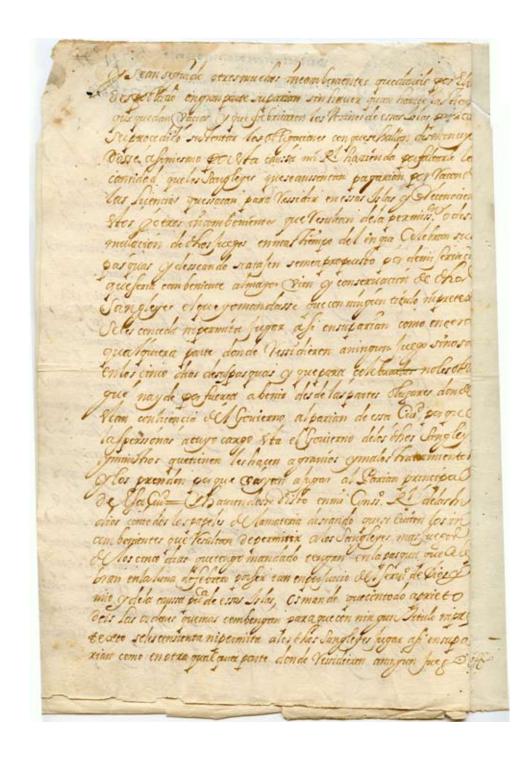
Page twenty-five is the first page of the fourth document. It contains a brief ten-line entry, and is probably a title page similar to page one. According to Dodd, this document is "about Chinese merchants in the Philippines and is from the sixteen-fifties."



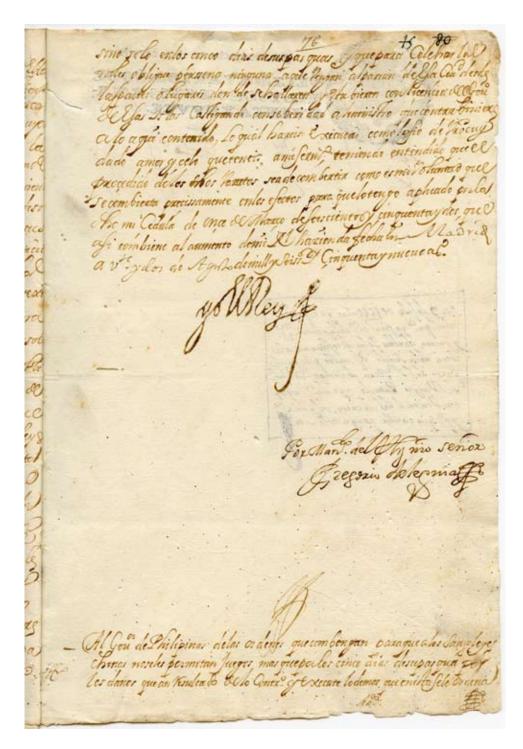
Page twenty-six, like page sixteen, is blank, with the previous page visible through the paper.



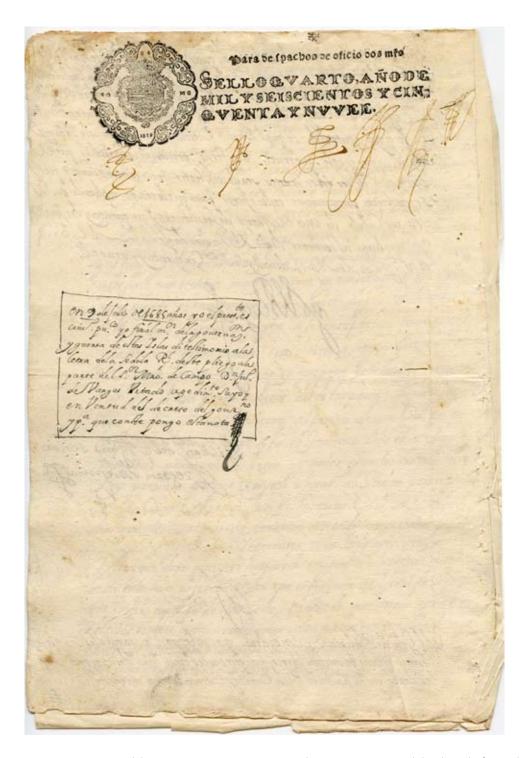
Page twenty-seven, like page twenty-one, is a full page of text in ochre ink, surmounted by a revenue stamp and inscription in black ink.



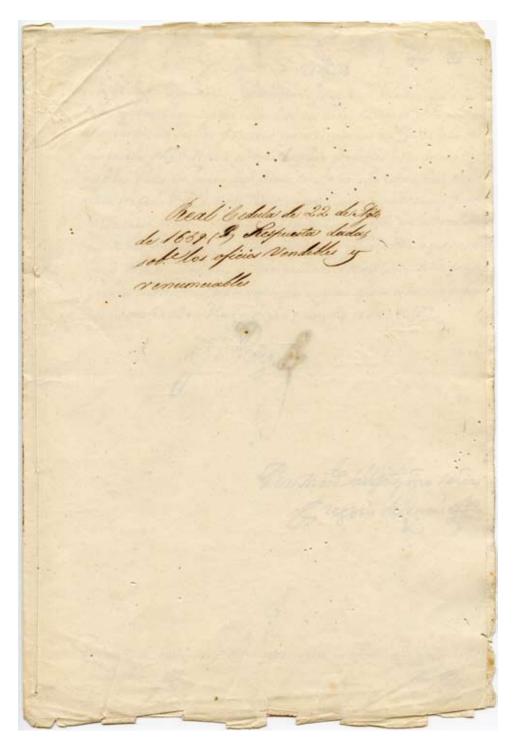
Page twenty-eight is a full page of text in ochre ink.



Page twenty-nine is similar to page seventeen, containing a half page of text in ochre ink with the signature and rúbrica of Philip IV. According to Dodd, the summary notation at the bottom of the page reads "To the Governor of the Philippines concerning the appropriate orders so that the Chinese merchants should not be permitted games other than during the five days of their Easter, in view of the damage that has resulted when this was not done and to instruct him to carry out the other matters about which he is given orders in this document."



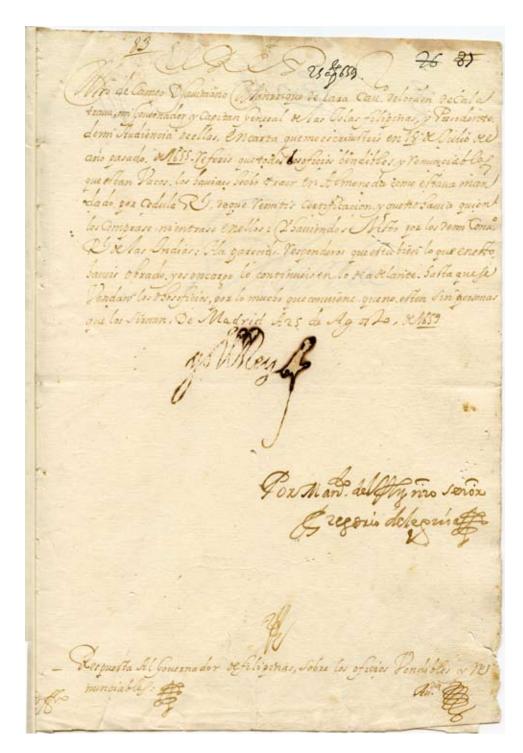
Page thirty is surmounted by a revenue stamp and inscription in black ink (similar those found on pages twenty-one and twenty-seven), a few rúbricas in ochre ink, and several lines in black ink contained within within a square.



Page thirty-one the first page of the fifth document. According to Dodd, it is "about positions that can be sold and transferred (or renounced). This would probably refer to posts like the commissions available for purchase in a number of European armies until the nineteenth century, or the "ferme" or post of head tax collector in pre-Revolutionary France, sold to the highest bidder."



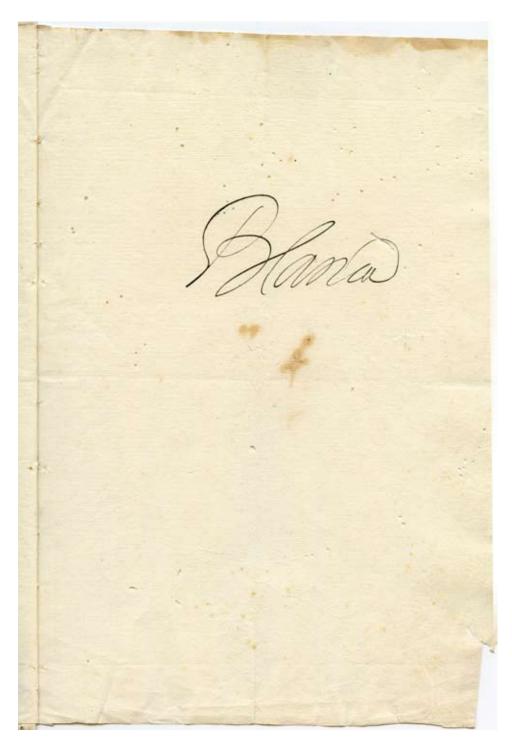
Page thirty-two is similar to page sixteen; it is blank, with the previous page visible through the paper.



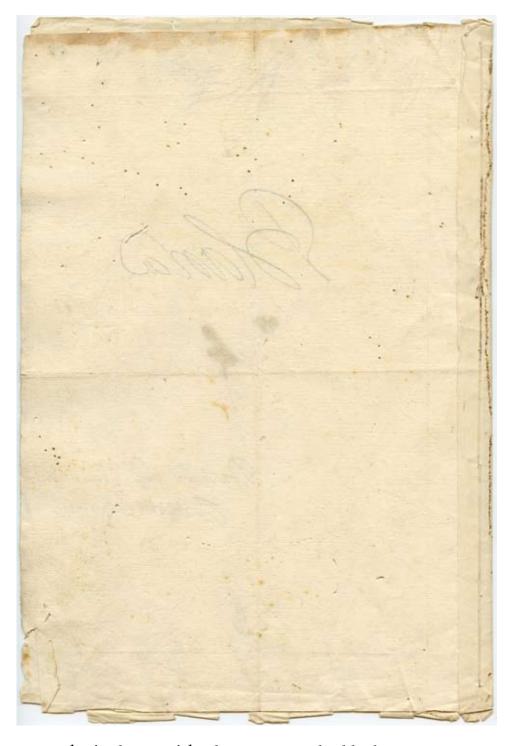
Page thirty-three is similar to pages seventeen and twenty-nine, containing a half page of text in ochre ink with the signature and rúbrica of Philip IV. According to Dodd, the summary notation at the bottom of the page reads "Reply to the Governor of the Philippines concerning saleable and renounceable employments."



Page thirty-four has four rúbricas in ochre ink at the top, and is otherwise blank.



Page thirty-five, like page nineteen, has the single word "Blanca" written at the center.



Page thirty-six is the final page of the documents, and is blank.