

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850

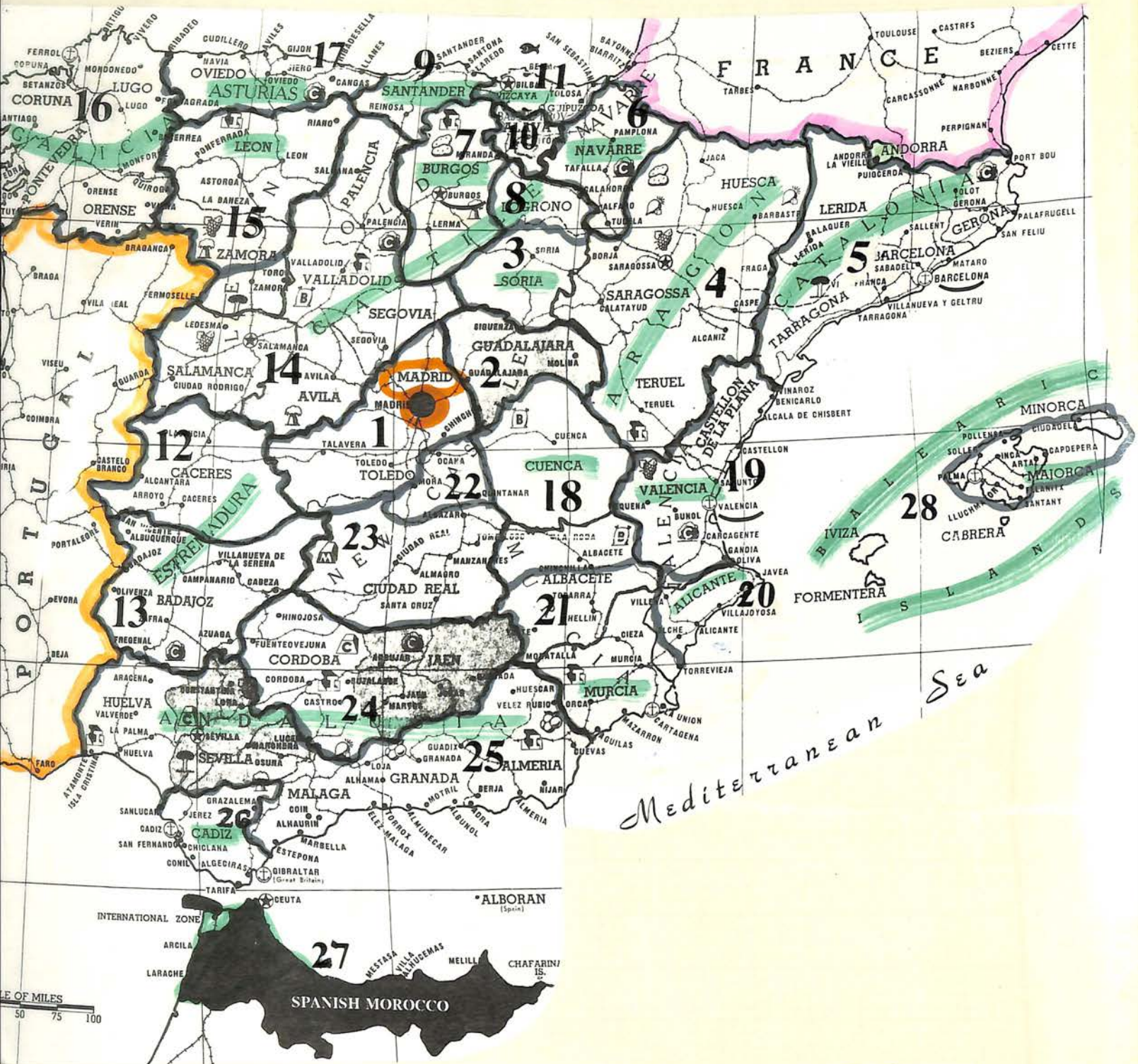
ESTABLISHMENT OF POSTAL DISTRICTS

Postal districts were created in August 1779 by a decree from Postmaster Julio Lopez de la Torre Y Ayllon. The 31 districts were generally based on old political divisions. This districting was in use until 1854. Each district was assigned a number as follows:

<u>No.</u>	<u>District</u>
1	- Castilla la Nueva (Cas. la N.)
2	- Alcarria
3	- Soria
4	- Aragon
5	- Cataluña
6	- Navarra
7	- Burgos
8	- Rioja
9	- Montanas de Santander (M.de Sant.)
10	- Victoria
11	- Vizcaya
12	- Extremadura Alta (Extrem.A.)
13	- Extremadura Baja (Extrem.B.)
14	- Castilla la Vieja (Cast. la V.)
15	- Leon
16	- Galicia
17	- Asturias
18	- Cuenca
19	- Valencia
20	- Alicante
21	- Murcia
22	- Mancha Alta (Mancha A.)
23	- Mancha Baja (Mancha B.)
24	- Andalucia Alta (Andal. A.)
25	- Andalucia Baja (Andal. B.)
26	- Cadiz
27	- Africa
28	- Islas Baleares (I.Baleares.)
29	- Canarias
30	- Pto. Rico, Cuba
31	- Islas Filipinas (I.Filips.)



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MAP A

The Postal Districts of Spain  
as per August 6, 1779 in effect until Feb. 1854.



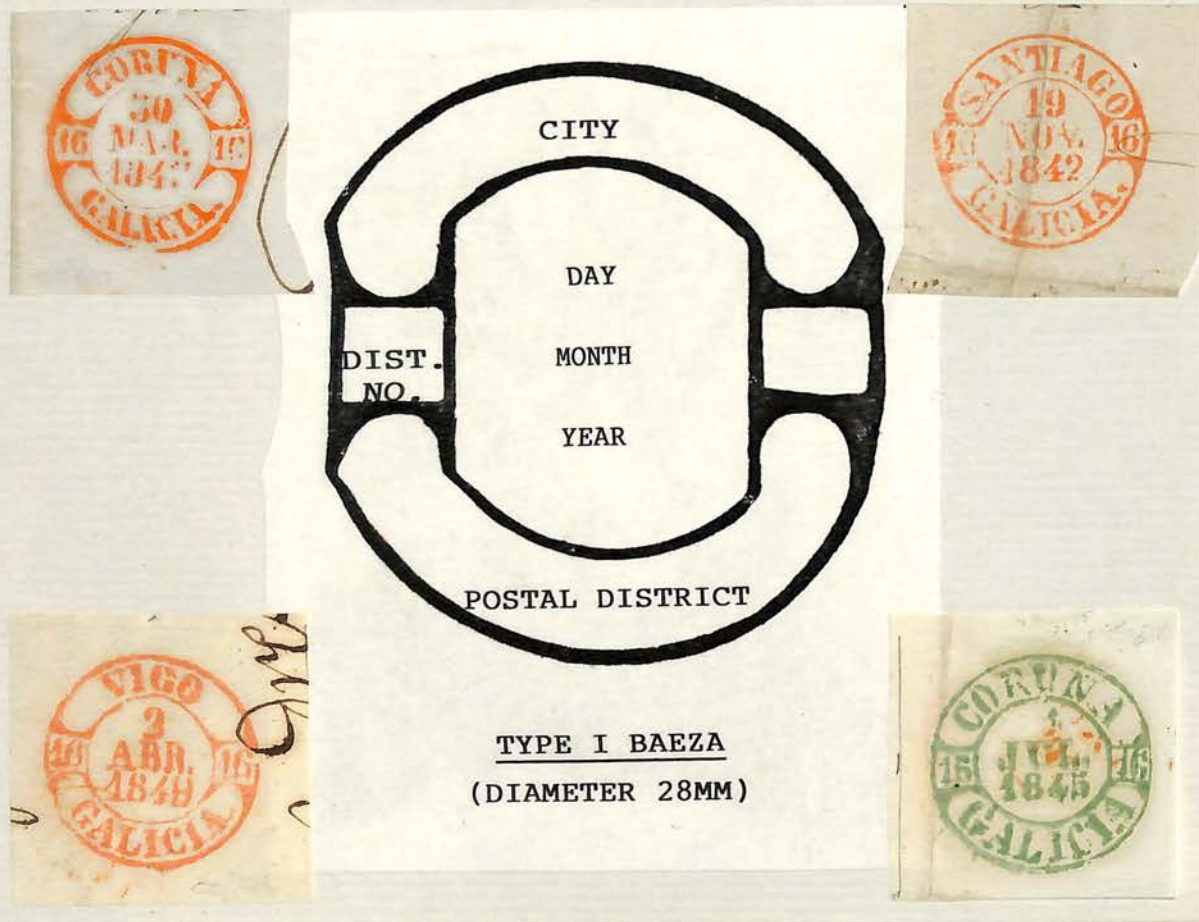
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ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD POSTAL MARKINGS

On December 15, 1841, Postmaster Baeza instituted another reform by the adoption of a standard postal marking. It was a double circle 28mm in diameter and was to be used in all post offices, including the colonies. Actual use of the postmark began on May 15th, 1842. Baeza is given the credit for this innovation and these markings are now called, "Baezas".

The Baeza postmark is found in two basic types. In Type I, the more common, the name of the city or town is in the top of the circle, the postal district number on each side, the name of the district in the lower circle (often abbreviated) and the day/month/year in the center. Below is an enlarged illustration and some actual samples of Type I.



TYPE I BAEZA  
(DIAMETER 28MM)



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JULY 15, 1842 - RED SANTANDER, MONTAÑAS DE SANTANDER BAEZA POSTMARK. LETTER TO LONDON WITH FRENCH TRANSIT MARKS, "2" RATE MARK AND BRITISH 3/2 RATE IN SCRIPT.



SEPTEMBER 12, 1844 - RED MADRID, CASTILLA LA NUEVA BAEZA POSTMARK. LETTER FROM MADRID TO MEDINA DEL CAMPO, A TOWN NORTH OF MADRID.



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1853 - 7th DECEMBER - TYPE I BAEZA OF LLANES,  
ASTURIAS PROVINCE. FLD. LETTER TO OVIEDO.



1853 - 17th MARCH - RED, TYPE I BAEZA OF RIVADESELLA.  
A SMALL TOWN IN ASTURIAS PROVINCE. FLD. LETTER TO  
LLANES.



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FEBRUARY 19, 1843 - RED SANTANDER, POSTAL DISTRICT #9 BAEZA. RED "6" RATE MARK. SAN SEBASTIAN, VIZCAYA BAEZA ON REVERSE AS RECEIVING MARK.



OCTOBER 25, 1842 - FADED RED BAEZA OF TORTOSA, CATALONIA. RED "8" RATE MARK. LETTER TO VALENCIA WITH VALENCIA BAEZA ON REVERSE.



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1843 - 4th MARCH - TYPE I BAEZA OF JATIVA, VALENCIA PROVINCE.



1848 - 24th MARCH - TYPE I BAEZA OF SAN SEBASTIAN, VIZCAYA PROVINCE - POSTAL DISTRICT #11. ON FLD. LETTER TO LONDON WITH FRENCH TRANSIT MARKS.



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1846 - 3rd MAY - RED, TYPE I BAEZA OF REINOSA,  
SANTANDER PROVINCE. FLD. LETTER TO MIENGO.

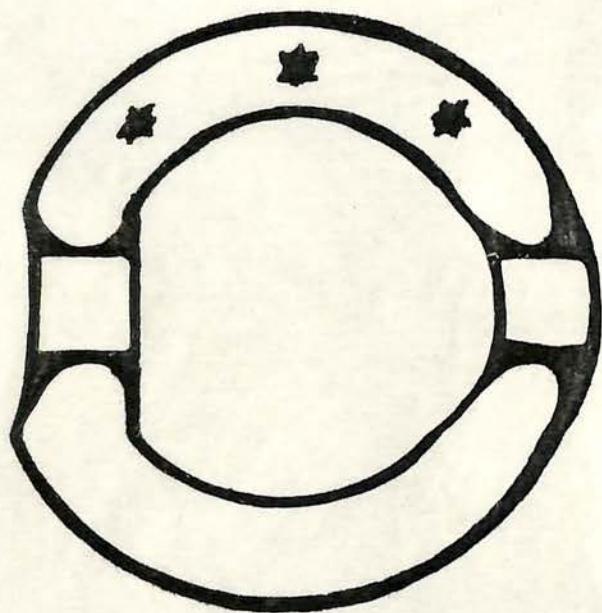


1852 - 24th OCTOBER - RED, TYPE I BAEZA OF COMILLAS,  
SANTANDER PROVINCE. FLD. LETTER TO LLANES.



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The second major type of Baeza is similar to Type I. The major difference is the substitution of the town or city name in the top of the circle with three stars. This was to avoid repetition when a town and postal district were the same (for example, Valencia). Below is an enlarged illustration of Type II.



ALICANTE  
TYPE II  
BAEZA





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APRIL 30, 1848 - RED VITORIA TYPE II BAEZA ON LETTER TO TOLOSA, VIZCAYA PROVINCE.



MAY 4, 1844 - RED CADIZ TYPE II BAEZA ON COVER TO SAN SEBASTIAN. RED "13" RATE MARK.



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JUNE 13, 1849 - RED BURGOS TYPE II BAEZA ON FOLDED LETTER TO VALLADOLID. BLUE "11" RATE MARK. BURGOS WAS POSTAL DISTRICT #7 AND THE CITY OF BURGOS WAS THE MAIN POST OFFICE.



AUGUST 10, 1849 - BRICK RED TYPE II BAEZA OF LEON, POSTAL DISTRICT #15. LETTER TO VALLADOLID ANOTHER MAJOR CITY SOUTHEAST OF LEON.



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In addition to the two basic types of Baeza postmarks, there are many sub-types. Madrid, the capital, was in postal district #1 Castilla La Nueva (New Castile). Several variations of the basic Baeza were used in Madrid including those found on covers well into the stamp period. Colors include blue, red, black and orange-red.



FEBRUARY 4, 1852 - ORANGE-RED MADRID MODIFIED BAEZA POSTMARK WITH YEAR DATE IN LOWER PART OF CIRCLE.  
LEFT: ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION OF MADRID BAEZA SUB-TYPE.



MARCH 2, 1853 - ORANGE-RED BAEZA OF MADRID WITH 1853 IN LOWER QUADRANT. "1" REALE RATE MARK IN BLUE.



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POSTAL ROUTES AND COLORED BAEZAS

In June of 1844, the main postal routes in Spain were given color designations. There were seven routes and the basic details for these were as follows:

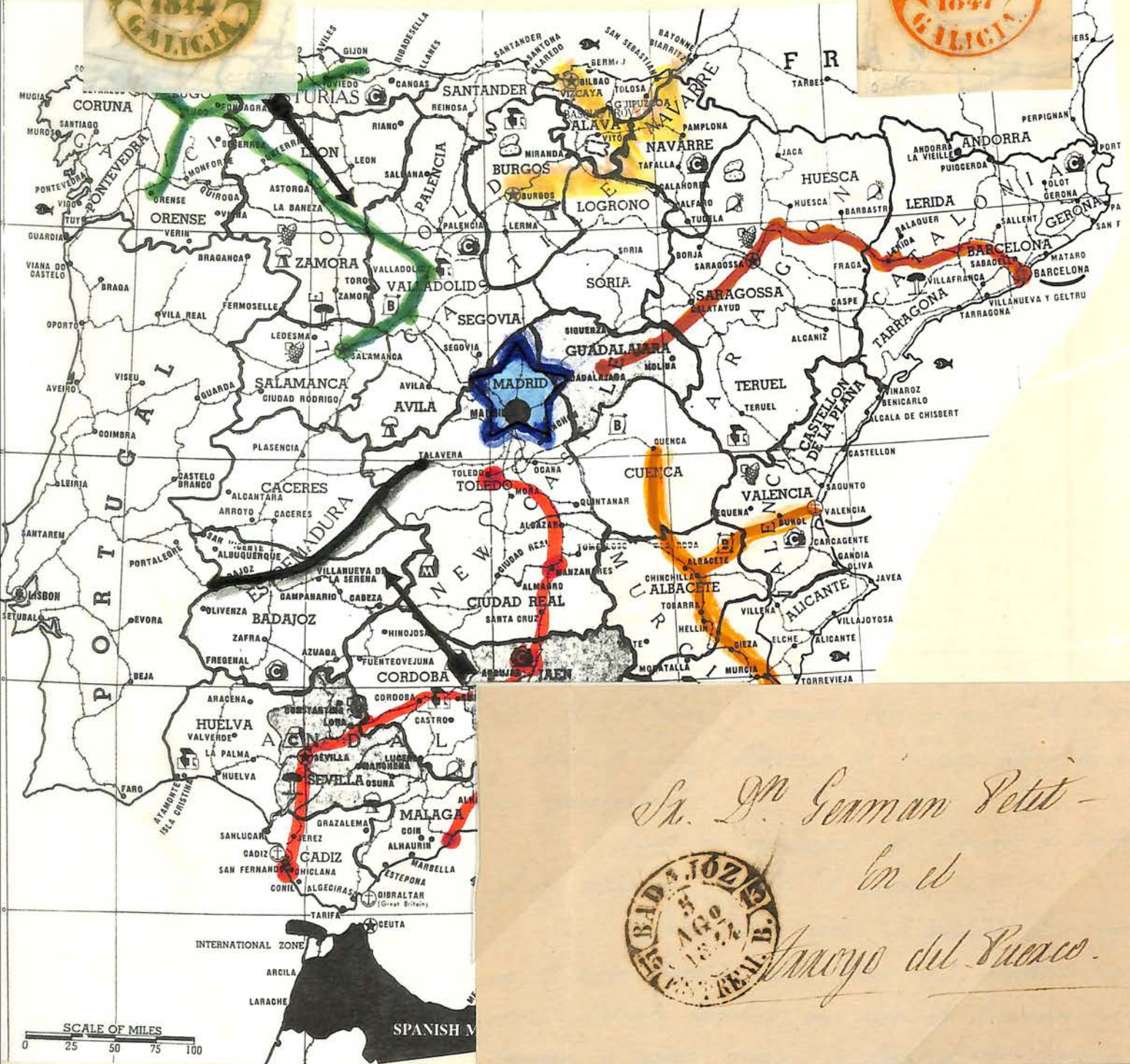
POSTAL ROUTES AS OF JUNE 2ND, 1844

- Blue : The Madrid line  
Red : The Andalusia line  
Toledo - Manzanares - Bailen - Granada  
Malaga - Cordoba - Ecija - Sevilla -  
Cadiz  
Yellow : The France line  
Burgos - Victoria - Bilbao - Pamplona -  
Logrono - Irun  
Green : Castilla and Galicia  
Medina del Campo - Salamanca -  
Valladolid - Benavente - Oviedo -  
Orense - Lugo - La Coruna  
Brick Red: Aragon and Catalonia  
Guadelajara - Zaragoza - Lerida -  
Barcelona  
Orange : Valencia  
Tarancon - Murcia - Alicante - Valencia  
Black : Extremadura  
Talvavera de la Reina - Trujillo -  
Badajoz





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Above is a map of Spain illustrating the color routes. Baeza postmarks often appear in the color of the line on which the mail was carried. This postmark/route color coordination was apparently not mandatory for too many exceptions are found on covers from 1844 to 1854. Yellow Baezas are the rarest, reds the most common.



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APRIL 21, 1845 - BLUE MADRID BAEZA ON COVER TO LONDON. FRENCH TRANSIT MARKS FRONT AND BACK: BRITISH RECEIVING MARK ON REVERSE, APRIL 29th.



NOVEMBER 17, 1842 - RED SEVILLA TYPE I BAEZA ON COVER TO LONDON. ARRIVED DECEMBER 6th.



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JUNE 10, 1845 - YELLOW PAMPLONA, NAVARRA TYPE I  
BAEZA ON COVER TO LONDON VIA FRANCE. ARRIVED JULY 7.



AUGUST 28, 1844 - YELLOW BURGOS TYPE II BAEZA ON  
COVER TO VALLADOLID. BLUE "6" RATE MARK STAMPED ON  
TOP OF BAEZA.