

The Etxalarlasa foundry in 1458

1. ACTIVITIES (1 TO 3 ACTIVITIES)

1. Before you start your commentary, do some internet research on the Etxalarlasa foundry (Echalarlassa or "lower foundry" of Etxalar), locate the foundry in the map and obtain information about the facilities (use Google to search for all the spellings of the site to make sure you find all the information possible).
2. Read document no. 4, analyse its contents, compare the information it contains with the rest of available materials and finally organise the information to write your text commentary. You may use the following materials: the original text -transcribed and adapted (4); a black and white picture of the original document (5); an introductory text for you to become familiar with the historical background (3); and a picture of the current state of the ruins of the Etxalarlassa foundry (6).
3. Assess the current state of the Etxalarlassa foundry and express your opinion on the issue of their conservation after your comment, in no less than eight lines.

2. TECHNICAL SHEET

1.1.	"Title" of the document	Court summons addressed to Miguel Saldíríz de Etxalar, a coal maker, to come before the Chamber of Accounts at the request of the workers (or ferrones) of the Etxalarlasa foundry.
1.2.	Document date	06/04/1458
1.3.	Documentary typology	Court summons
1.4.	Language	Navarrese Romance
1.5.	Hand style	Minuscule cursive
1.6.	Archive	Royal and General Archive of Navarre (AGN)
1.7.	Signature	COMPTOS_PAPELES SUELTOS, 2ªS, Leg. 26, N. 28.
1.8.	Number of folios	1
1.9.	Support material	Parchment

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The socio-economic context of the document is clear: the development of the steel industry in the North of Navarra and, in general, across the North of the Iberian Peninsula since the late 13th century. As foundries proliferate, forests are subject to intensive exploitation, business and work opportunities arise, and so do the first business and labour disputes. Entrepreneurs struggle to control natural resources (water, wood and iron ore, in rivers, forests and mines), and labour conflicts between employers and employees begin to occur. In view of this development, the action of the judiciary (that is, of the State), gains strength – as guarantor of the performance of signed contracts, and as protector of industrial and commercial activity (activities which yielded benefits to the Crown of Navarre through taxes). Thus, the Crown begins to guarantee the stability of these new undertakings through its judicial wing, which in the case of the Kingdom of Navarra reinforces its presence in the world of the iron industry by creating a new judicial instance, i.e. by granting the Cámara de Comptos (Chamber of Accounts) the power to rule on commercial matters regarding foundries.

4. SELECTED TEXT

“Por parte de Ochoa López, señor del palacio o solar de Zabaleta, Juan de Vergara, Juan Ibáñez, llamado Xalaynto y Estefanía de Lesaca, viuda y albaceas y ejecutores del último testamento de Juan Sanz de Lesaca, llamado Doachu, arrendador o [...] ferrón en la **ferrería** de Echallar Latsa, que fue, nos es dado a entender diciendo que el sobre dicho Juan Sanz, llamado Doachu, testador que fue, mientras vivía y estaba en la dicta ferrería y para fazer fierro en ella y para otros servicios que él habría menester y le eran necesarios, tuvo para ciertos tiempos algunos braceros, **ferrones** que se clamaban ferrones del gran mazo (y en vascuence **gabiarotz**), aprendices, fundidores de mineral y **majadores** de mineral, carboneros, mineros, **mulateros** et otros **soldaderos** del reino y de fuera por cosas sabidas. Y que para esto le convino dar a los tales adelantadamente dineros, provisiones de pan, vino, carne y otras cosas ante mano, y que algunos de los dichos braceros et soldaderos se les partieron y ausentaron sin pagar lo que le debían y antes de que hubiesen cumplido el tiempo y servicio que debían fazer. Y que después no pudo haber ni alcanzar derecho de ellos, por razón de que algunos de ellos eran pobres y non tenían bienes para reintegrarse de aquello prometido [...].

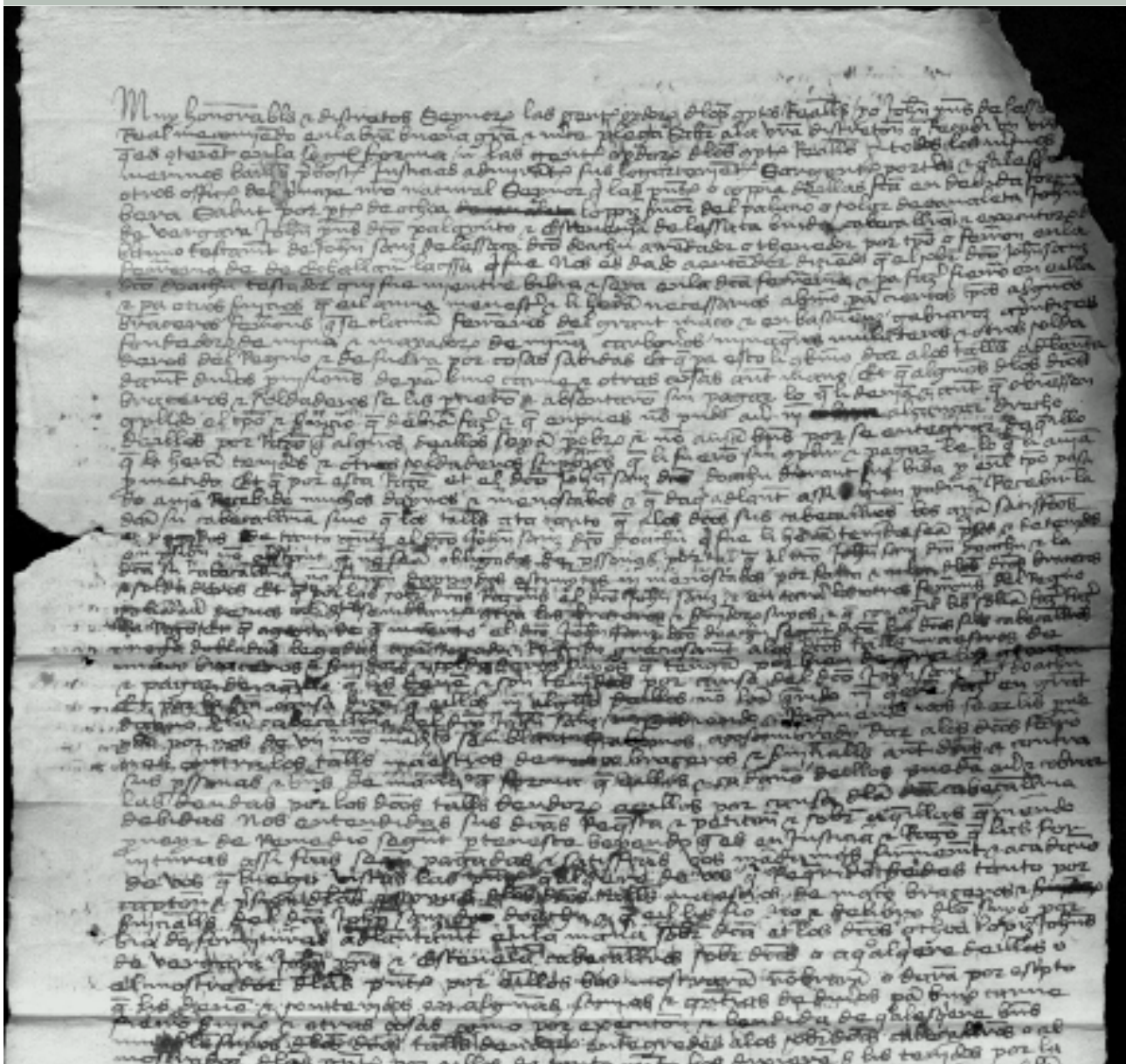
Por virtud del cual sobredicho mandamiento, yo, el sobredicho Juan Ibáñez de Lesaca, portero, queriendo ser obediente a aquel, según conviene y a mi oficio fazer pertenece, a instancia y requisición de los sobre dichos Ochoa López, señor del palacio de Zabaleta, Juan de Vergara, Juan Ibáñez, llamado Xalaynto y de Estefanía de Lesaca, viuda, como albaceas del último testamento del dicho Juan Sanz de Lesaca, dicto Doachu, arrendador [...] o ferrón en la ferrería de Echalar Latsa que fue, y por reintegrar et fazer para a ellos de la suma et cuantía de 35 **florines** y medio [...] y 5 **sueldos febles** que decían que Miguel Saldurriz de Echalar, carbonero, vecino y morador en la villa o lugar de Echalar, les debía, fui personalmente a la dicta villa de Echalar en el 22 día del mes de marzo, Anno Nativitate Domini M^oCCCCLVIII^o et embargué por y como bienes del dicho Miguel Saldurriz, carbonero, una casa donde él vive y mora, con su pedazo de huerto que es junto a la dicta casa.

A consecuencia de esto, vino el dicho Miguel Saldurriz, carbonero, teniéndose por agraviado por la dicha ejecución y venta de la dicha casa y huerto que yo quería fazer, [...], me puso **embargo y mala voz** [...], porque la dicha ejecución y venta de la dicha casa y huerto yo fazer no podía ni debía. Y los sobre dichos albaceas diciendo que sí podía et debía. Y yo, viendo el debate y contienda entre las dichas partes, les **asigné día** ante vosotros, dichos señores oidores de la Cámara de Comptos, para el próximo día 10, para alegar y mostrar cada uno su derecho”.

KEY WORDS

- **Ferrería:** foundry - workshop where iron ore is transformed into processed iron (bars or ingots, nails, horseshoes, etc.).
- **Ferrones:** Originally used to refer to the owner of the foundry, in this case it is used to refer to the workers of the foundry.
- **Gabiarotz:** In Basque, foundry worker in charge of the mallet (big hammer); i.e. the head operator of the power hammer or drop hammer in former foundries.
- **Majadores:** One of the jobs in the foundry was to reduce the mineral to smaller fragments – easier to smelt than larger chunks. This was done by the majadores (literally “crushers”) who crushed the mineral with a power hammer or by hand
- **Mulateros:** Muleteers who carried the mineral or coal to the foundry on muleback.
- **Soldaderos:** General term used to refer to workers of the foundry.
- **Florín:** Coin imitating the gold coin of Florence. Florins from other kingdoms (Aragon, France) were legal tender in Navarre. Their genuine quality and weight made them very reliable – especially those from Aragon, for reference purposes when conducting critical operations.
- **Sueldos febles:** Currency of that time in Navarre.
- **Embargo y mala voz:** Protest against the prohibition of the court usher.
- **Asigné día:** To appoint a date. In this case, the court usher appoints a date for the litigants to continue with their case at the Cámara de Comptos (Chamber of Accounts).

5. SELECTED TEXT (PICTURE)



COMPTOS_PAPELES SUELTOS, 2ªs, Leg. 26, N. 28, fol. 1r.

6. ATTACHED MATERIALS



Picture of the current state of the ruins of the Etxalarlasa foundry. Lower floor.