

# *The Industrial Policy of the Board of Trade in Spain*

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The main institution for the development of a mercantilist industrial policy in Spain was the General Board of Trade (*Junta general de comercio*), set up in 1679. After undergoing many changes, the Board attained stability around 1730. The institution has been the object of various general appraisals but no specific study on its activity exists<sup>1</sup>. This is partly due to the loss of the Board's own archive<sup>2</sup>. Of the documents belonging to the period before 1800 only a few registers have been preserved. These give us an idea of the Board's activity over a period of more than a hundred years. However, from a chronological point of view and as regards the kind of information they contain, the registers are not a complete series.

One of the few registers which does provide continuity is *libro* 242 which contains the lists of decrees regarding trade. By arranging and ordering the data set out in the register we can have a chronological, geographical and sectoral view of the Board's activity. The documentation is incomplete but used alongside information from other sources and from the bibliography, it is useful for providing us with a general idea.

<sup>1</sup> Pere Molas Ribalta, "La Junta general de comercio y moneda. La institución y los hombres", *Cuadernos de Historia. Anexos a la revista Hispania*, IX (Madrid, 1978), pp. 1 et seq. "De la Junta de comercio al Ministerio de Formento" *Actas del IV Simposio de Historia de la administración*, Alcalá de Henares, 1984, pp. 529-556.

<sup>2</sup> What remains of the archive is kept in the *Archivo general de Simancas* Sección 26. Consejos Supremo de Hacienda y Real de España e Indias. Inventario n° 23. Libros registro, 207-227. Inventario de la documentación de la Junta de Comercio y Moneda, libros 241-252.

## I. The Woollen Industry

Most of the measures taken by the Board of Trade concern the textile industry, in particular woollen manufactures. Within this sector we may distinguish between different qualities of manufacture. Clothmakers were referred to in various ways. Sometimes their articles were specified as "fine cloths" (*panos finos*). Usually the words "and other kinds of woollen articles" were added. Sometimes it was specified that the article was of an inferior quality.

However, the fact that production was not very concentrated<sup>3</sup> emerges from the reference to particular guilds and technical skills. The documents frequently refer to the workers in the sector as a whole: *maestros fabricantes y oficiales de las fabricas de lana* (master craftsmen and wool workers) (Antequera): *maestros y demás operarios del gremio de fabricantes de lana* (Master craftsmen and other workers of the wool makers' guild) (Ecija), etc.. Generally speaking the word *fabrica* was used in the traditional sense as product or production.

Elsewhere the specific categories of workers are referred to individually. In Torrecilla de Cameros there is mention of weavers, shearers, beaters, dyers, and wool combers, including card makers. In Catalonia in 1741 there is reference to "combers, weavers, shearers and other workers". The guild of the City of Valencia kept the traditional name "*pelaitre*". Usually there was no distinction drawn between wool manufacturers and weavers.

In quite a few cases there were no special exemptions but rather guild regulations which distinguished between different types of cloth, from fine cloth to cloth of poorer quality.

### 1) An Urban Industry

The woollen industry received quite a large number of privileges. Many towns had at least one woollen guild, even if it was only very small. In Seville in 1692 the manufacture of fine wool

<sup>3</sup> Augustin Gonzalez Enciso, "La industria dispesa castellana en el siglo XVIII", *Cuadernos de Investigacion Historica*, n° 2 (Madrid, 1978), pp. 269-289.

looms was set up with a royal subsidy. In 1703 tax exemptions were granted for the manufacture of bays and other woollen articles. In 1705 the company set up by Francisco Schalie obtained the same privileges, "to increase the manufacture of looms". The protection given to the manufacture of cloths in Seville continued with the granting of new patents in 1727, 1728 and 1743<sup>4</sup>.

We know a fair amount about the industrial policy pursued in Valladolid thanks to the excellent study by Augustin González Enciso<sup>5</sup>. Looms were introduced into the *Casa Hospicio* (which were inspected by an official appointed by the Chamber of Commerce in 1728 and 1730). Patents were also granted to individual manufacturers. In 1746 collective exemptions were granted to woollen manufacturers.

Despite its very old association with the woollen industry, Barcelona was not an active centre for wool production in the eighteenth century. The petitions of the woollen cloth-makers in the city date from around the 1760s without any continuity. The most important business was run by the merchants Bernardo and José Gloria, whose patents were renewed from 1749 to 1778<sup>6</sup>.

## 2) *Industrial Centres*

There is not very much legislation by the Board concerning industry in Segovia. There is mention of exemptions granted to Diego José Marquez de Prado (1719), regulations for wool combers and sorters (1736), authorisation to cloth-makers to press cloth and to increase or reduce carding mixtures (1740). Later exemptions were granted to individual manufacturers, in 1779 to Laureano Ortiz de Paz and in 1780 to Juan de Jaureguiberri<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Pere Molas Ribalta, "Iniciativas textiles en Andalucía, 1680-1700" in *Andalucía*, (Cordova, 1983), pp. 481-498.

<sup>5</sup> Augustin González Enciso, "La industrialización vallisoletana del Setecientos" in *Historia de Valladolid*, tomo V, Valladolid en el siglo XVIII, (Valladolid 1985), pp. 265-290.

<sup>6</sup> Jaime Carrera Pujal, *Historia política y económica de Cataluña, Siglos XVI-XVIII*, (Barcelona 1975), pp. 175-180.

<sup>7</sup> Ángel García Sanz, *Desarrollo y crisis del Antiguo Régimen en Castilla la Vieja. Economía y sociedad en tierras de Segovia, 1500-1814*, (Madrid 1977), pp. 227-229.

Palencia was one of the towns which benefited from the policy of protecting industry at the end of the eighteenth century. The production of woollen textiles called bunting, in the district of Puebla, received new exemptions in 1751, which were extended to grey cloths and coarse woollens<sup>8</sup>. Special attention was given to the manufacture of woollen textiles called *barraganes* in Cuenca. In 1718 exemptions and privileges ("*exenciones, franquicias y facultades*") were granted to Miguel de Revellart. In 1728 collective privileges were bestowed. These were renewed in 1730, with the inclusion of new manufacturers, and again renewed up till 1751. In 1774 exemptions were granted to several woollen cloth-makers and carpet-makers<sup>9</sup>.

Major centres of woollen production were not only to be found in provincial capitals but also in towns and villages. One of the main woollen-cloth centres in Andalucia was Antequera, whose manufacturers were granted patents in 1738, and 1747. Another important centre was Grazalema, in the province of Cadiz, which received exemptions from 1742 to 1777<sup>10</sup>.

The Board's legislation for the wool industry in Béjar is not extensive. In 1731 the senior magistrate was appointed inspector of cloth manufacture. In 1761 patents were granted for the manufacture of looms for sifting for a period of ten years. In 1782 the same patents were granted to a fine cloth-maker "to enable him to increase his production"<sup>11</sup>.

Greater attention was paid to the industry of Rioja in Torrecilla

<sup>8</sup> Pablo Garcia Colmenares, *Evolución y crisis de la industria textil castellana. Palencia, 1750-1990*, (ed. Mediterraneo 1992). Alberto Marcos, edition in the volume *Memorias políticas y económicas*, Eugenio de Larruga, (Palencia, 1987). Augustin Gonzalez Enciso, in *Actas del I Congreso Historia de Palencia*, III, pp. 341-371.

<sup>9</sup> Maria Dolores Borell Martin, "La Real Fabrica de panos de Cuenca. Una aproximación a su estudio", *I Congreso de Historia de Castilla - La Mancha*, vol. VIII, (Ciudad Real 1988), pp. 398-405.

<sup>10</sup> Pere Molas Ribalta, "Las Juntas de Comercio de Andalucía (siglo XVIII)" *Actas de I Congreso de Historia de Andalucía*, (Córdoba 1979), *Andalucía Contemporánea*, I, pp. 159-170. Antonio Parejo Barranco, *Industria dispersa e industrialización en Andalucía. El Textil antequerano, 1750-1900*, (Malaga, 1987).

<sup>11</sup> On this Castilian textile centre, Rosa Ros Massana, *La industria lanera de Béjar a mediados del siglo XVIII*, (Salamanca 1993).

de Cameros y Ezcaray<sup>12</sup>. At Ezcaray, Manuel Gonzalez Montenegro had a very large enterprise. In 1749 he obtained the concession to set up cloth manufacture which was renewed up until 1774. In 1774 he founded a "trading company to encourage cloth manufacture", bearing the name *San Carlos y Santa Barbara*. In 1785 the company was taken over by the *Cinco gremios mayores de Madrid*<sup>13</sup>.

### 3) Catalonia and Valenica

In Catalonia privileges were granted to individual manufacturers in two towns: Tarrasa and Igualada. The first concessions were granted to the Busquets family in Tarrasa<sup>14</sup> whose manufactures enjoyed exemptions from 1728 to 1775. In Igualada<sup>15</sup> concessions were granted to the manufacturers Borrull and Torellò (1745, 1752).

The woollen industry in Catalonia were given general rules which were drawn up by Catalonian trade boards. The first trade board, founded in 1735, drew up rules for the woollen guilds<sup>16</sup>. The later special trade board, set up in 1758, laid down regulations for cloths and *bays finas*.

The wool combers guild in Valencia was not very active. Nonetheless, in 1738 it obtained a ten-year patent. The main woollen centre in the Kingdom of Valencia was Alcoy<sup>17</sup>. In 1731 the first patents were granted to its *fabrica*, by which was meant all the production units in the town. Alcoy's patents were renewed until 1779.

<sup>12</sup> Augustin Gonzalez Enciso, "La industria lanera en la provincia de Doria en el siglo XVIII", *Cuadernos de Investigacion Historica*, n° 7 (Madrid, 1983), pp. 147-170.

<sup>13</sup> AGS. Consejo Supremo de Hacienda. Libro 245, fols. 195 et seq. Fabrica de panos de Ezcaray. British Library. Mss. Eg. 505, fols 124-135. Reglamento de la fabrica de panos de Ezcaray.

<sup>14</sup> Jaime Carrera Pujal, op. cit. IV, pp. 76-77. By the same author, *Historia de la economia española*, V, (Barcelona 1947), pp. 303 et seq.

<sup>15</sup> Juame Torras Elias, "Fabricantes sense fabrica. Estudi d'una empresa llanera d'Igualada (1729-1765)", *Recerques*, nà 19 (Barcelona, 1987), pp. 145-166. Carrera Pujal, *Historia...Cataluna*, IV, pp. 90 et seq.

<sup>16</sup> Carrera Pujal, *Historia...Cataluna*, IV, 79. *Historia de la economia española*, V, 307.

<sup>17</sup> Rafael Aracil and Mario Garcia Bonafé, *Industrializacio al Pais Valencia. El cas d'Alcoi*, nà. 5, (Valencia, 1976), pp. 47-58.

Not far from Alcoy, other cloth-making centres also obtained patents and exemptions. The wool-combers' guild in Enguera was granted exemptions for 10 years in 1739; these were renewed in 1749 and 1776. Bocairente obtained its well-known patents in 1742 which were renewed until 1777. The cloth manufacturers in a third Valenican town, Onteniente, also obtained exemptions which were granted six years later in 1773<sup>18</sup>.

#### 4) Scattered Industry

Several villages in New Castille had a high level of industrial activity. On the one hand there were individual enterprises such as the well-known industry set up in Valdemoro in 1712<sup>19</sup>. In 1715 exemptions were granted to the owner "and the workers employed in his factory". A nearby factory, property of Goyeneche family in Olmeda and Nuevo Baztan, which operated in the same period, received the Board's attention later, in 1749 and 1762.

Other Castillian villages in La Mancha had a more traditional industry<sup>20</sup>. In the town of Noves the "manufacturers of cloths, bays and other woollen articles" obtained exemptions in 1736 which were subsequently renewed. In Ajofrín master-craftsmen and workers obtained the same privilege in 1739 for ten years, which was renewed for another six years in 1748. Colmenar de Oreja obtained exemptions in 1731. In the following year, exemptions were granted to Colmenar Viejo for ten years.

Although it was not specialised, the woollen industry was to be found in many Andalusian towns. For example, the cloth-makers' guilds in Ecija and Carmona began to benefit from the Board's policies in 1730. Later, with less frequency, exemptions were granted to manufacturers in other towns. In Charles III's reign,

<sup>18</sup> José Luis Hernández Marco, "El Colbertismo de Felipe V y Valencia. La industria textil no sedera", *Estudios*, n.º 5, (Valencia, 1976), pp. 47-58.

<sup>19</sup> Henry Kamen, *La Guerra de Sucesión en España, 1700-1715*, (Barcelona 1974), pp. 136-137, based on Larruga's *Memorias*.

<sup>20</sup> Mariano García Ruipérez, "La industrialización textil en Castilla - La Mancha durante el siglo XVIII", *I Congreso de Historia*, cit. VIII, pp. 351-388.

schools for spinners were set up in the towns situated in the south of the Kingdom of Cordoba, such as Aguilar de la Frontera (1789), and Cabra.

In the mid-eighteenth century, the government aimed to replace the granting of special patents by more general laws. A royal decree of 18 November 1779 granted

“various exemptions and patents to all cloth and woollen textile manufacturers in the kingdom, abolishing those previously granted”<sup>21</sup>.

## **II. The Silk Guilds**

### *1) Toledo and Andalusia*

The silk industry was organised in a different way from the woollen industry. A very good example was the silk industry in the city of Toledo which had one main guild, the *Arte Mayor de la Seda* and several specialised guilds, such as the braiders and trimmers' guild and the dyers and twisters' guild<sup>22</sup>. The manufacturers in the main guild obtained patents repeatedly from the beginning of the century (from 1708 to 1747) and the braiders in 1749. Exemptions were also granted to individual producers, such as Vicente Diaz Benito in 1755 and 1758.

There are not many references to the large silk towns in Andalusia<sup>23</sup>, even though the first special trade boards were set up there in the 1680s. In the legislation concerning Granada there is only mention of exemptions granted to the *Arte Mayor de la Seda* in 1744. This shows the incompleteness of the source we are using, since some of the Board's *libros registro* which have been preserved contain abundant information about Granada.

The chronology of the granting of privileges is very similar in

<sup>21</sup> *Coleccion de Reales Cédulas del Archivo Histórico Nacional*, by Natividad Moreno Garbayo, (Madrid 1977), n° 2, 487. *Novísima Recopilacion de Leyes de España*, (Madrid 1805, facsimilie re-edition 1976), Libro VIII, Título XXV, Ley VIII.

<sup>22</sup> Eugenio de Larruga, *Memorias políticas y economicas...*VIII, Comercio-y fabrica de texidos de seda anchos de Toledo, VIII, Manufacturas de seda de Toledo y su provincia, (Madrid 1790).

<sup>23</sup> Manuel Garzon Pareja, *La industria sedera en Espana*, (Granada 1971).

each Andalusian capital. Exemptions were granted in 1744 to the *Arte Mayor de las Seda de Sevilla*, in 1745 to the silk guild of Malaga and in 1746 to the silk guild of Cordoba. Silk manufacturers in Ecija were first granted exemptions in 1731, those of Jaen ("Master-craftsmen, artisans and workers") in 1732. A similar trend can be observed for the silk manufacturers of Murcia, whose main guild received patents in 1731 (renewed until 1752), and charters in 1757 and 1770<sup>24</sup>.

## 2) Valencia, Silk Capital

The main silk centre in Spain in the eighteenth century was Valencia<sup>25</sup>. The main guilds in the city of Valencia received their charters (together with exemptions) in the 1730s: the *Arte mayor* and velvet workers' guild received them in 1736, the silk dyers guild in 1737, (renewed in 1763), the ribbon and braid workers who formed the *Arte menor de la seda* in 1738, the *Arte Mayor* and velvet workers of Jativa in 1739, and later, in 1757, the braiders and trimmers<sup>26</sup>.

The General Trade Board and the Trade Board of Valencia financed attempts to set up silk schools for teaching the Vaucanson method, by the Frenchman Reboul in 1769 and by the merchant José Lapyayese at the end of the 1770s in the village of Vinalesa, but such attempts were not very successful<sup>27</sup>.

Requena, a town near to Valencia but at that time belonging to the Kingdom of Castille, renewed the charters of its silk guilds in the 1730s, and those of the dyers in 1732, the twistors in 1734, and the silk textile traders and manufacturers in 1737<sup>28</sup>. Other

<sup>24</sup> Juan Garcia Abellan, *Organizacion de los gremios en la Murcia del siglo XVIII*, Murcia 1976.

<sup>25</sup> Vicente Martinez Santos, *Cara y cruz de la sederia valenciana*, siglos XVIII-XIX, Valencia 1981. Consejo Supremo de Hacienda, Libro 249, fols. 329 et seq. "Inventario de los expedientes de comercio sobre texidos de seda de Valencia".

<sup>26</sup> Pere Molas Ribalta, *Economía i sociedad...*, p. 198.

<sup>27</sup> Martinez Santos, pp. 188-189. Ricardo Franch, *Crecimiento comercial y enriquecimiento burgés en la Valencia del siglo XVIII*, Valencia 1986, pp. 219-222. Michel Zylberberg, *Une si douce domination. Les milieux d'affaires francais et l'Espagne vers 1780-1808*, Paris 1993, pp. 173-175.

<sup>28</sup> *Coleccion de Reales cédulas*, n° 1037.

textile sectors were also granted charters: the linen weavers in 1746 and the cloth-makers. In 1761 a charter was granted to the *Arte Mayor* in the nearby town of Utiel on the basis of the Requena charter.

The craft of making Messina-style plush was protected. In 1731 José Marineli was authorised to set up somewhere in Spain "the manufacture of plush of the same quality as Messina plush". In 1734 a patent with the same objective was granted to Antonio Arias in Valencia<sup>29</sup>.

### *3) Catalonia, Madrid and other Centres*

Catalonia was an important centre for silk manufacture in the eighteenth century. The *veleros*, or silk cloth manufacturers of Barcelona<sup>30</sup>, obtained their charter in 1736 while the braiders received theirs in 1764. The silk guilds of Manresa (*veleros*, braiders and trimmers) renewed their charter in 1749. Patents to individual manufacturers were granted in the last three decades of the century, such as those granted to *Pablo Sagristà y compañía* in Manresa. An artisan who received special favour was Català y Vives, master silk-maker in Barcelona<sup>31</sup>. He obtained patents in 1749 for his silk cloth "patented in the Chinese way". In 1774 exemptions were granted to the production of gold and silk thread belonging to the Pi brothers<sup>32</sup>.

The silk industry of Madrid received special attention. Exemptions were granted to a large number of individual manufacturers. One of the first to benefit from this situation<sup>33</sup> was Francisco García de Navas (1708) with his "Italian-style ribbon

<sup>29</sup> Santiago Rodríguez García, *El arte de las sedas valencianas en el siglo XVIII*, (Valencia 1959), pp. 59 et seq.

<sup>30</sup> P. Molas Ribalta, *Los gremios barcelonense*, cit. cap. XXV. AGS CHS Libro 248, fols 113-133. "Inventario de los expedientes sobre fabricas de tejidos de seda de Catalonia".

<sup>31</sup> Molas Ribalta, *Los gremios*, p. 463. Carrera Pujal, *Historia...Cataluna* pp. 111, 119, 128, 211, 213-214. *Historia economía*, V, p. 319.

<sup>32</sup> Carrera Pujal, *Historia... Cataluna*, IV, pp. 173-174, IV pp. 173-174.

<sup>33</sup> Larruga, *Memorias*, II, Memoria VIII, "Fabrica de tejidos de ancho de seda", pp. 22-23.

cloth", followed by Francisco Vázquez de Leon (1712). José de Rivera, "manufacturer of all kinds of silk", obtained patents in 1729 for his manufacture of blinds, *glasé*, taffetas and cloaks<sup>34</sup>.

In the reign of Charles III, technical education was encouraged, with the opening of a muslin embroidery school (1763, 1767), a lace embroidery school (1773) and an embroidery school in Getafe(1796).

An enterprise which operated for five years was the manufacture of Holland cloth, run by one of the *Cinco gremios mayores de Madrid*, the drapery, spice and hardware guild<sup>35</sup>. It was set up during the reign of Charles II. Exemptions were repeatedly renewed, and in 1789 they were renewed for a further ten years. Holland cloth manufacture was also encouraged in Galicia, especially in Mondonedo.

Exemptions were also granted to manufacturers in smaller silk centres. In 1757 in Valladolid the charter of the braiders' guild was approved and in 1762 that of the "silk, wool, linen and yarn combers". In 1775, the charter of the *Arte mayor de la seda de Zaragoza* was promulgated. In 1754, the combers' and hatters' guilds in Calatayud had their charter approved (1775).

The silk-cloth manufacture in Puerto de Santa Maria set up by the company of Uztariz y Vélez<sup>36</sup> (enobled as the Count of Guevara) was on a larger scale. The company obtained exemptions from 1765 to 1770. Its director was Miguel Jeronimo Suarez, later an indefatigable translator of technical texts and archivist of the Board of Trade.

#### 4) Technical Skills

A special product was the manufacture of silk stockings. In Madrid<sup>37</sup> numerous exemptions were granted to individual

<sup>34</sup> *Colección de Reales Cédulas*, nº 950.

<sup>35</sup> Larruga, *Memorias*, II, p. 362.

<sup>36</sup> Julian B. Riuz de Rivera, "La compañía de Uztariz, las reales fábricas de Talavera y el comercio de Indias", *Anuario de Estudios Americanos*, XXXVI, (Madrid 1979), pp. 209-250.

<sup>37</sup> Larruga, *Memorias*, II, Memoria X.

manufacturers. Exemptions were also granted to manufacturers in other towns. In 1770 and 1771 a charter was given to the hosiers' guild which had been set up in Valencia and Zaragoza (1771). Later, new exemptions were granted for the manufacture of stockings and other silks articles in Cadiz and Puerto de Santa Maria(1790). Naturally the manufacture of silk and woollen stockings became very important. In Madrid patents were granted to several manufacturers.

A special operation in silk manufacture was silk twisting. The Board granted rights to the silk-twisters' guilds of Valencia (in 1682 and 1732), Murcia - where they were called "master craftsmen of silk twisting" (1733, 1735), Granada (1733) and Cordoba (1748). In 1752, the twisters in the Valencian towns of Jativa, Alcludia and Carcagente agreed to form their own guild which was independent of the city of Valencia. In 1758 the twisters of Murcia were granted exemptions and in 1781 new regulations<sup>38</sup>.

The Board also sought to improve spinning wheels. In 1772 and 1777 the use of spinning and twisting machines was encouraged in Murcia with exemptions which were renewed in 1792. In 1746, an inspector of the *Arte Mayor de la Seda* in Granada, Jaén y Priego, was appointed to investigate silk spinning and twisting. In 1751 measures were drawn up to encourage the cultivation of mulberry trees. In 1758 a ten-year monopoly was granted to the engineer Carlos Le Maur for a "machine for weaving different kinds of silk at the same time". In 1774 a royal decree approved the setting up of a silk-spinning factory in Zaragoza by the merchant Juan Martin Goicoechea<sup>39</sup>.

### **III. Linen and Cotton Textiles**

#### *1) Canvas and sackcloth*

In the second half of the seventeenth century the Flemish Roo and Kiel promoted sackcloth and canvas manufacture<sup>40</sup>. In 1682 a

<sup>38</sup> *Coleccion de Reales Cédulas*, nos. 975 (Valencia 1732) and 2.598 (Murcia 1781).

<sup>39</sup> On this trader, J.I. Gomez Zorraquino, *Los Goicoechea y el interés por la tierra y el agua en el Aragón del siglo XVIII*, (Zaragoza 1989).

contract was signed with the Crown through the Board of Trade. In 1727 permission to carry on sackcloth manufacture was given to the founders' successors. In 1769 a new contract for twenty years was signed for the Royal table linen. In 1756 patents were granted for the manufacture of table linen and linen cloth in the Sarria Valley<sup>41</sup>.

In 1789 exemptions were granted for the cotton and silk ribbon factory set up in El Ferrol by J.J. Caamano, a gentleman interested in economic reform who also proposed to manufacture silk stockings<sup>42</sup>.

The "Royal Linen Factory" of Leon is not well known. In 1762 a new manager took over the company. In 1775 a royal decree granted the same exemptions enjoyed by the manufacturers in Guadalajara to the "Royal Linen Factory" in Léon.

We shall now consider canvas manufacture in other parts of Spain, especially in the Mediterranean area. Canvas weavers were granted rights in Requena (1746) and Valencia (1763, 1768, 1772)<sup>43</sup>. Patents were granted to individual manufacturers, for example in Gerona in 1751 and in the same year to Juan Highes in Castellon de la Plana. In this town a very active industrialist called Salvador Català, known as "the Merchant", received exemptions in 1775 and 1780 for the manufacture of hemp, cotton and sails for ships.

In 1778, a royal decree of 23 April granted exemptions which had been introduced in 1756 to all sackcloth, thin canvas manufactures and all linen and hemp textiles<sup>44</sup>.

Especially important were the enterprises set up by the Granada

<sup>40</sup> Antonio Meijide Pardo, "Aportacion a la Historia industrial corunesa. Las fabricas textiles de Sada", *Revista del Instituto José Cornide del Instituto de Estudios coruneses*, VI (1965), pp. 77-126.

<sup>41</sup> Luis Miguel Enciso Recio, *Los establecimientos industriales en la España del siglo XVIII. La Manteleria de la Coruna*, (Pamplona 1963).

<sup>42</sup> On this figure, Pere Molas Ribalta, "De la Junta de Comercio al Ministerio de Fomento", *op. cit.* p. 539.

<sup>43</sup> "Real cédula con las nuevas ordenanzas que ha de observar el gremio de togedores de lino, canamo y talegueria de la ciudad y reyno de Valencia, aprobadas por S.M. y senores de la Real Junta de Comercio", (Valencia 1763).

<sup>44</sup> *Novissima Recopilation*, (NN.RR) Libro VIII, Titulo XXV, ley IV.

industrialist Gomez Moreno who obtained broad patents to manufacture sackcloth and rope for the Navy, and the right to open a school for spinners and a pawnshop for the widows and children of his employees<sup>45</sup>.

## 2) *The Cotton Industry*

The first manufacturers of printed calicoes in Barcelona<sup>46</sup> obtained exemptions on a regular basis from 1741 onwards. From 1760 general rules were laid down on their behalf. In 1767 the Barcelona Board Trade drew up regulations for the whole sector. In 1772 a royal decree approved the founding of a cotton-spinning company. A related activity was that undertaken by Capelino and Tomàs, master-makers of silk who had "invented" a technique for dyeing canvas and cotton white, for which they obtained patents in 1771 and 1774<sup>47</sup>. Another factory associated with the Company of Spinners was that run by Francisco Ribas, who had obtained patents for ten years in 1769 to manufacture "Chinese-decorated" cloths and canvas. Outside Catalonia it was intended to develop an industry for painted canvas, especially in the towns around the Bay of Cadiz and in Madrid, using partly Catalonian artisans. In 1779 a royal decree bestowed upon the painted-linen clothmakers of Madrid "various patents and exemptions to encourage their manufactures". At Court there was a school for painting and embroidery.

Similar industries, set up independently, were: the enterprise in La Coruna belonging the French merchant Lagonere (1772)<sup>48</sup>, the manufacture of wallpaper in Zaragoza (1783), the manufacture of

<sup>45</sup> Parejo Barranco, pp. 101-105. On this figure, Pere Molas Ribalta, "Una nueva Junta de Comercio en Granada (1785)", *Baetica*, Malaga, n° 12, 1989, pp. 205-214.

<sup>46</sup> The patents granted by the *Junta* for the manufacture of printed calicoes in Catalonia are mentioned in AGS. CHS. Libro 248, fols 175 y ss. "Inventario de los expedientes sobre fabricas de texidos de... algodon de *Cotton in Barcelona, 1728-1832*, (Cambridge 1992). Catalan translation, Barcelona 1994.

<sup>47</sup> Carrera Pujal, *Historia... Cataluna*, IV, p. 214.

<sup>48</sup> Antonio Meijide Pardo, "Negociantes franceses de La Coruna precapitalista. M. de Lagonaere y Compania", *Revista del Instituto José Cornide de Estudios Corunenses*, XII, 1976, pp. 207-224.

printed calicoes and painted cloths in Tarazona de la Mancha (1790) and the manufacture of cotton yarns and textiles founded by the Duke del Infantado in the town of Torrelavega in Santander (1793). The Royal Cotton Manufacture in Avila, which had been set up by the Ministry for Industry<sup>49</sup>, was given up and replaced by a wool-spinning factory, considered as "more suited to the town".

#### IV The Policy of Dyeing

Mercantilist policies were particularly concerned with dyeing techniques. In 1738 the Royal Cloth Manufacture in Guadalajara was reorganized with the appointment of Claudio Fiscomen as Chief Master Craftsman and Director of Dyeing and Pablo Bermejo as Deputy Master Dyer. In 1743 woollen centres in the Kingdom of Valencia received charters for the "best way of dyeing cloth".

In 1734 the office of General Inspector of Dyeing had been created for the dyeing industry of Madrid and entrusted to Manuel de Robles. As a result of his labour several brief rules for the silk and wool dyers' guilds (*Ordenanzas de las artes de tintoreros de sedas y lanas*) were promulgated<sup>51</sup>. At his death (1764) Robles was succeeded by the Catalan manufacturer of printed calicoes Juan Pablo Canals, who also had the title of "Managing Director of the Madder Sector". *Granza* or madder, a dye of vegetable extract, had been protected by the Board of Trade in the Valladolid province since 1747. Canals completed an important process of diffusing *granza* dye technology and rules for its use and it is thanks to Canals that rules for using *granza* were drawn up in 1772. The exemptions granted to producers and manufacturers in 1763 were extended for five years in 1776. In 1778 a network of inspectors was formed, made up of major silk dyers and manufacturers. The inspectors were abolished in 1785 when ideas promoting economic liberalism gained currency. In the same year various concessions were granted, including the right to use the royal coat of arms in

<sup>49</sup> Gonzalo Martín García, *Nacimiento de una industria textil en Avila en el siglo XVIII. La Real Fabrica de algodón* (1787-1792), (Avila 1983).

<sup>51</sup> *Coleccion de Reales Cédulas*, n° 1463.

the workshop for grinding madder, set up by the hardware company (*compania particular del ramo de la drogueria*) and belonging to the *Cinco gremios mayores de Madrid*. Subsequently exemptions were granted to individual manufacturers such as those granted for the manufacture of silk stockings and multi-coloured dyes in La Coruna (1791) and a "laboratory for dyeing" owned by a merchant in the same town (1802).

## **V. Increasing Diversification**

### *1) Tanning*

Many patents were granted to tanneries for the manufacture of leather goods. Two towns in the Madrid province<sup>52</sup> were outstanding in the tanning industry: in 1732 exemptions were granted for ten years to the manufacturers of Pozuelo de Alarcon, explicitly for the manufacture of soles, *banquetas blancas*, calfskin, chamois and cordovan. In Pozuelo de Aravaca a company was formed in 1746 for trading in and manufacturing hides whose regulations were approved in 1748. In 1762 half of the exemptions were renewed for another five years and again in 1768 and 1779. In the Board's records it emerges that a large number of manufacturers in the leather industry received patents.

In the last exemptions granted to the company in Pozuelo de Aravaca it was stated that they would be valid until the Board of Trade introduced a general regulation for granting concessions and aid to leather manufacturers in the Kingdom.

This regulation arrived in 1781 with the granting of various general concessions<sup>53</sup>. Nonetheless, individual patents continued to be bestowed, such as the exemptions granted to the merchant of Valencia, Pedro Peirolon, for all kinds of leather goods (1787) and to Antonio de la Chica, a manufacturer of all classes of leather in Granada (1790, 1803).

<sup>52</sup> Larruga, *Memorias*, III, Memoria XIII.

<sup>53</sup> NN.RR. Libro VIII. Titulo XXV, notes 8 and 10.

## 2) Hat Manufacture

Hats were an important item of trade. Charters were given to the hat guilds of Barcelona (1740), Calatayud (1754) and Valencia (1757, 1760)<sup>54</sup>. The manufactures of the hat-maker Vicente González of Madrid and Valencia were especially well-known. In 1728 he obtained exemptions for ten years for his fine hat factory in Madrid<sup>55</sup>. The family also established itself in Valencia and its patents were extended until 1762. Several other hat makers received patents in Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante and other towns.

In 1780, as is noted, hat-makers received "general privileges" which replaced those previously awarded to individual manufacturers<sup>56</sup>.

## 3) The Paper Industry

The most important centre of paper manufacture was Segovia. Already in 1685 patents were granted to a "new manufacture" consisting of fine paper. These were followed by other patents awarded in 1695, 1702 and 1719. In this early phase of the industry the Board favoured the manufactures on a regular basis. In 1727 exemptions were granted to Juan Otonel, in Cuenca, for three fine-paper and printing mills which were renewed in 1756. Again, the family of Nicolàs de Gosque received patents on a regular basis from 1736 to 1777 for its manufactures in the Orusco Valley.

An important group of paper manufacturers were the Catalans. In 1737 Pedro Cornet planned the opening of paper mills in Algeciras. In the district of Anoia in Catalonia, exemptions were granted to the manufacturers José and Tomas Romani (1735, 1749), Jaime Talavera (1738) and Guarro (1773) in the town of Capellades and to Segismundo Borrul (1752) in the nearby town of Pobla de Claramunt<sup>57</sup>. Another enterprise which benefited were the

<sup>54</sup> AGS. CHS. Libro 249, fols. 180 et seq. "Fabrica de sombreros de Valencia".

<sup>55</sup> Larruga, *Memorias*, II, p. 98.

<sup>56</sup> NN: RR. Libro VIII. Título XXV, notes 8 and 10.

<sup>57</sup> Josep Ma Madurell Marimon, *El paper a les terres catalanes. Contribució a la seva Història*, 2 vols. (Barcelona 1972).

manufactures of the *Cartuja de Valdecristo* in the Valencian towns of Jérica and Altura which received exemptions from 1745 to 1779. Again, in the Kingdom of Valencia the fine-paper mills belonging to the merchant of French origin, Juan B. Loustau, obtained exemptions in 1751, 1762 and 1767 as well as those granted to the Marquis of Cruilles in Segorbe in 1771. In 1780 the exemptions granted to paper manufacturers were unified and "general privileges" were awarded, as had occurred in other sectors of production<sup>58</sup>, even though individual enterprises continued to receive patents such as the manufactures of Sabino Fernandez Campomanes, son of Charles III's Minister, on his estate near Mérida (1787).

#### *4) Pottery and Glass*

One of the manufactures which enjoyed special protection was the chinaware produced by the Count of Aranda in the Valencian town of Alcora, which received patents from 1729 to 1764<sup>59</sup>. In 1731 favours and exemptions were granted to four earthenware workshops in Talavera de la Reina and in 1733 to an earthenware factory in Toledo.

The manufactures of Alcora and Talavera are mentioned in the Royal Decree of 1756 which sought to rationalise the granting of exemptions. In 1778 and 1780 general rules were drawn up for earthenware manufacturers in the Kingdom<sup>60</sup>.

Some glass-manufacturing centres which received patents on a regular basis were situated in the present-day provinces of Cuenca and Teruel. In the former was to be found the village of Recuenco whose individual glass-makers, as well as those in the surrounding localities, received exemptions from 1740 to 1788. Other centres of glass production were: Vindel (1763), Molina (1768) and Buenache

<sup>58</sup> *Novi sima Recopilacion*, Libro VIII, Titulo XXV, Law IX.

<sup>59</sup> See the monographs by Escriba de Romani (1945) and Sanchez Adell (1973). *Coleccion de Reales Cédulas*, nos. 952 and 1125. AGS. CSH. Libro 249. Inventario de expedientes de la Junta de Comercio de Valencia, fols. 41-61. Fabrica de loza de Alcora.

<sup>60</sup> *Coleccion de Reales Cédulas*, n° 2.407, Real Decree of 7 July 1778.

de la Sierra (1790). In Utrillas in 1800 there was a "company of royal crystal and steel manufacture". In 1788 exemptions were granted to all crystal and glass makers<sup>61</sup>.

### 5) Metallurgical Products

In the early stages, the Board encouraged various enterprises engaged in metal-wire production. In 1706 and 1709 exemptions were granted to "new works" set up in the Court. One of the manufacturers, Francisco Ruiz de Mendoza, appeared several years later in 1730 as an iron and bronze wire maker in the village of Trespinedo.

One of the industries which received special concessions around 1730 were the tin works in Ronda<sup>62</sup>. One of the industry's first promoters was the Swiss Pedro Enrique Meuron who was granted a twenty-five year monopoly for his enterprise. Ownership and management of the latter passed into Spanish hands in the person of Miguel Tropete Venegas, the Marquis of Pilares who took the title of Managing Director and Company Chief Executive. Exemptions and patents were renewed in 1743 and 1765.

Contemporaneous to the Ronda works was the opening of the works in the town of Sallent in Catalonia for the manufacture of "iron wire, bronze, needles and pins (1728). The Sallent works were continued by the Barcelona merchant, Pujol y Senillosa (1758) and afterwards by the brothers José and Antonio Pi<sup>63</sup> who were also merchants from Barcelona and who had opened a new iron and bronze works in that city in 1776 with a new machine for working copper (1783). An important initiative for bronze manufacture was that promoted by the German Graubner in Alcaraz<sup>64</sup>. His products received exemptions in 1773, 1787 and 1800.

<sup>61</sup> *Novissima Recompilation*, Libro VIII, Título XXV, note 4 Real Decree of 10 April 1788.

<sup>62</sup> José Alcalá-Zamora y Queipo de Llano. "Progresos tecnológicos y limitaciones productivas en la nueva siderurgia andaluza del siglo XVIII (avance de investigación)", *Hispania*, tomo XXXVII (1977), pp. 379-414.

<sup>63</sup> Carrera Pujal, *Historia ... Cataluña*, IV, p. 175.

<sup>64</sup> Juan Helguera, *La industria metalúrgica experimental en el siglo XVIII. Las Reales Fabricas de San Juan de Alcaraz, 1772-1800*, (Valladolid 1984).

References to iron and steel production are less frequent in the later period. Most exemptions in this sector were granted in the Cantabrian region, like the ironworks of Juan de Isla<sup>65</sup>, and "various towns in Montana" (1768). In 1770 the Marquis of Iranda was granted a five-year monopoly "for cutting and rounding iron" in Guipuzcoa and Vizcaya for his works in Renteria<sup>66</sup>. A similar concession was granted to Ignacio Zavalo in Guipuzcoa to set up a foundry for refining and smelting iron in 1777. Exemptions were granted for iron works in the Mena Valley whose production of nails and iron accessories was destined for Cantabria's ship-building industry (1772, 1778). Patents were also granted to the iron foundry and iron works set up by don Andrés Bravo and Company in Galicia and Asturias and for the manufacture of files in the Leonese region of the Bierzo. Exemptions were also granted to industries situated in large cities, such as the manufacture of kicknacks, wire and plates in copper in Seville (1784) and other works for refining copper in the Gaditanas towns of Puerto Real and Algeciras.

#### *6) The Beginnings of a Chemical Industry*

In 1735 patents were granted for a furnace or "workshop" for producing paint. In 1769 the white-lead factory belonging to Juan Tubau in Canillejas, near Madrid, obtained patents<sup>67</sup>. Other factories specialised in this sector were also given patents in 1779 and 1803. Protection was given to the manufacture of "verdigris" or "copper acetate" which was used in tanning. In 1789 patents were granted for Prussian blue and potassium salt (1789).

The technique of etching developed towards the end of the century. In 1789 general concessions were awarded<sup>68</sup>. A total of thirteen exemptions were granted, five of them in the town of

<sup>65</sup> Jesus Maiso Gonzalez, *La difícil modernización de Cantabria en el siglo XVIII*, D. Juan F. de Isla y Alvear, (Santander 1990).

<sup>66</sup> On this figure, Zylberberg, op. cit. p. 135.

<sup>67</sup> Larruga, *Memorias*, II, p. 176.

<sup>68</sup> *Novissima Recopilación*, Libro VIII, Título XXV, Law XIV.

Cadalso (which already had a precedent in 1740). Other towns were Recuenco, several Andalusian centres and Manresa (1779, 1785). In 1803 exemptions were granted to a dyer from Zaragoza and in 1798 to a vitriol factory in Sanlúcar. In 1770 a stone allum factory in Cherta and in 1781 a factory or "small school" for allum in the kingdom of Aragon, received exemptions.

Soap factories received exemptions from 1760 through general legislation enacted in 1768-69<sup>69</sup>. The first to benefit from concessions were the towns near to Madrid - Carabanchel, Brunete, Leganés and Carabana - and afterwards in the Mancha and Andalucía.

### 7) Food Industries

Sugar from the Granada coast received a patent as early as 1692. Later exemptions were granted for refined sugar in Seville (1782, 1784 and 1789), Puerto de Santa Maria (1761) and Vélez Malaga (1798).

Towards the end of the century in Cantabria beer-brewing developed (exemptions were granted in 1785, 1786 and 1790) and flour manufacture (with exemptions granted from 1796 to 1802). One industrialist received a noble title called *Campo Giro*<sup>70</sup>. A patent was also awarded for chocolate grinding in Zurita, carried on by the *Compania de lonjistas de los gremios mayores de Madrid* (1788). Liquorice manufacture was found in the Ebro Valley. Exemptions were granted to manufacturers in the towns of Corella, Alfaro, Tudela and Mequinez. In 1788 general concessions were granted for the sector.

### 8) Luxury Goods

Patents in this sector were largely granted in the last three

<sup>69</sup> *Coleccion de Reales Cédulas*, nº 1903. " December 1768. "Real cédula de S.M. en que se sirve concedir a todos sus vasallas...libre facultad de establecer fabricas de jabon duro y blando".

<sup>70</sup> Ramon Maruri Villanueva, "Nueva burguesia mercantil y neo-nobleza en el Santander de finales del Antiguo Régimen. Algunas reflexiones en torno a D. Francisco Antonio del Campo, conde de Campo Giro", *Studia Historica*, VIII (Salamanca 1989), pp. 635-658.

decades of the century. Exemptions were granted to glass-bead makers, the majority of whom were Italians, including the manufacture of: glass beads, pearls and enamel (1770), ivory and tortoise-shell combs in Cadiz (1777, 1784) and fans in Madrid (1792), combs made from ivory and bone in La Coruna. In 1794 a patent was awarded to a German turner who manufactured "all kinds of metal, ivory and wooden goods". General legislation was also passed for this sector towards the end of the century. General rules were laid down for button manufacturers in 1782 and in 1787 for "factories for turning ivory and precious wood"<sup>71</sup>.

## **VI Factory Inspectors**

The Spanish Monarchy did not possess such a well-established corps of factory inspectors as in France. Nonetheless, the office of *visitador de fabricas* was created in Madrid in 1734 to inspect factories which enjoyed exemptions. Inspectors for specific industrial sectors were also appointed. We have already referred to the General Inspector of Dyeing. Appointments were made in different sectors and regions such as a General Inspector of Looms in Aragon (1741, 1753), a General Inspector for the Silk Guild in Granada, Jaén y Pirego (1749), a General Inspector of Tanning (1746). The inspectors might be well-off artisans, like Pedro de Texedor, who was an Inspector of Manufactures in Valladolid (1747), Alfonso Esquina, who was appointed Inspector of Bays in the Kingdom, and the manufacturer Joaquín Manuel Fos (1778). In the same year the French manufacturing expert Juan B. Feliport was appointed General Inspector for Spinning and Weaving Silk in the Kingdom of Granada<sup>72</sup>.

The Board also granted regulations to brokers in the markets of the main towns: Zaragoza (1739), Madrid (1739), Cadiz (1750), Seville (1755), Barcelona (1769). It also exercised power over the trade and manufacturing companies which were promoted by José

<sup>71</sup> NN.RR. Libro VIII, Título XXV, Law XIII. Royal Decree of 30 September 1782.

<sup>72</sup>Pere Molas Ribalta, "Valencia y la Junta de Comercio", *Estudios*, n° 3, (Valencia 1974), pp. 96-97.

de Carvajal, from the Chairmanship of the Board itself. We find references to each company in the register we have studied: the Company of Aragon (1746-1738), Extremadura (1746), Granada (1747-1751), of Toledo (1748-1776), of San Carlos de Burgos (1767), and San Fernando de Sevilla (1763-1769). The Board also drew up plans for a hardware company in Madrid (1785), a trade company in Majorca (1787) and the land and maritime insurance company promoted by the Duke of Osuna (1789). Lastly, the Board was involved in drawing up regulations for trade consulates (Barcelona 1758, Valencia 1762, Burgos 1766) and general trade bodies (Zaragoza 1762, Valencia 1764, Valladolid 1765, Toledo 1772)<sup>73</sup>.

### **VII Typology of privileges**

One of the aims of exemptions was to stimulate new manufactures. They were given to "new cloth manufactures", and to "the manufacture of newly-invented goods in Spain". In the first half of the century, in particular, beneficiaries of exemptions proposed to introduce new textiles along Western European lines. In Valdemoro in 1712 "new cloth manufactures similar to those in Britain and Holland" were proposed. Six years later, Miguel de Revellart proposed to produce in Cuenca "woollen textiles as manufactured in Flanders, Britain and Holland. Antonio Esquina set up a "new manufacture of bays like those in Britain" (1742). In Torija, José de Cifuentes claimed to manufacture woollen, silk and cotton goods which had been "newly invented in Spain".

Vicente Llopis, Master of the Silk Guild of Valencia, received exemptions for the sale of goods he had "invented" (1748). Francisco Garcia de Navas called himself a manufacturer of "new exquisite textiles." In 1747 exemptions were given to the manufacture of "newly-invented" lanterns and lamps in Madrid.

Antonio Arias called himself an "inventor" of Messina plush. In

<sup>73</sup> On consulates and general trade bodies see Pere Molas Ribalta, *La burguesia mercantil en la España del Antiguo Régimen*, (Madrid 1985).

Madrid Josefa Dominguez "manufactured fine silks like those in Holland". José de Rivera produced "an imitation of goods from foreign countries". In 1775 exemptions were given for the manufacture in Cordoba of "fine, white paper imitated from Holland".

In some cases exemptions were given to set up new enterprises and workshops. They were also granted to industrialists to carry on business which had already been established. In 1692 Valencia received a royal decree to continue the "manufacture of bays and cloth they had always had". Sometimes petitioners agreed to maintain a certain level of production, often expressed in numbers of looms. The exemptions granted to Isidro Català were confirmed "as long as he continued to manufacture chinese-decorated and plain textiles."

One of the "privileges" bestowed was the granting of the honorary title of royal manufacture (*fabrica real*). From 1760 the right to use the royal coat of arms was granted to 28 enterprises. Exemptions consisted mainly of fiscal concessions, especially the exemption from the payment of *alcabalas y cientos*, a duty levied on the first sales. In the early stages exemptions from duties were granted on a certain quantity of wine, vinegar and soap for looms. This was the case with the barragan manufacturers of Cuenca (1728), and Cordoba (1729) and with Pedro de Texedor from Valladolid (1732). Again, the clothmakers of Antequera obtained reductions in duties on soap and vinegar (1729).

Another kind of privilege was the priority over the procurement and purchase of raw materials, which was granted to the clothmakers of Toledo and Grazalema (1743) and to those of Barcelona as well as to the hatmaker Vicente Gonzalez (1760). In 1762 the priority to purchase rabbit skin and fur was given to hatmakers. The hatmakers of Seville obtained priorities over purchases in Andalucía as did the jewellery guild of Madrid in Castille. In 1769 all soapmakers were given the priority "over the soda and barilla products which they need."

Exemptions from duties on the purchase of raw materials was

also granted, as in the case of the leather manufacturers of Madrid (1702), and later the company in Pozuelo de Aravaca (1750). In 1742 the carpetmaker Juan A. de Alencastre obtained exemptions from duties "on the materials and ingredients for dyes he has imported into Madrid and its Kingdoms."

Another important aspect of exemptions were exemptions from military obligations such as billeting, levies and drafting etc. Exemption from billeting was granted to the manufacturers of Segovia (1738), Bujalance and Jaén (1745). Exemption from drafting and levies was granted especially in the period from 1730 to 1750. Manufacturers in the towns of Andalusia and Old Castille were also granted exemptions.

In certain periods the Board also sought to protect machinery used in the final stages of textile manufacturing. At the end of the seventeenth century it took measures to protect presses and mangles used for polishing woollen and silk textiles. In 1692 exemptions were granted for eight years to install machinery (*ingenios*) for wool, silk and linen manufacture in Seville. In the following year a mangle was installed in Cordoba "to polish and finish all kinds of cloth". Francisco Garcia de Navas called himself a "master of pressing and polishing" and proposed to set up a factory "for polishing all kind of silk and woollen cloth". In 1742 Juan A. de Alencastre presented a "mangle in which all kinds of tapestry were polished." The polishing of cloth was again proposed in Cadiz in 1773.

Another skill which the Board sought to encourage was the manufacture of shears for cropping woollen cloth. In 1715 exemptions were granted to a resident of Robledo in the *fabrica de Valdemoro*, who was "master of grinding shears for cropping". Two master blacksmiths from Olot, Francisco Planas and his son, distinguished themselves as masters of this technique, obtained privileges from the Board of Trade and exemption from duties in 1742<sup>74</sup>.

The policy of unifying exemptions was promoted by the

<sup>74</sup> Carrera Pujal, *Historia...Cataluna*, IV, pp. 79-80.

*marqués de Ensenada*. A royal decree of 14 June 1752 declared that all manufacturers having certain characteristics had to be granted the same exemptions. On 18 June 1756 the manufactures and products which were to enjoy exemptions were specified: silk textiles, high-quality cloth, hats, chinaware, fine glass, leather goods from Pozuelo de Aravaca "and any other manufacture of the same specialisation" like shears for cropping and iron looms for stockings<sup>75</sup>. We have seen that for each sector the granting of general exemptions became systematic around 1780<sup>76</sup>. In 1778 linen and canvas textiles and chinaware were the first to obtain general exemptions. The royal decree of 7 July 1778 declared that all chinaware manufactured in the kingdom may be exported to America and other parts free of export duties.

Generalised exemptions were extended to cloth manufactures (1779), hats and paper (1780), leather goods (1781) pewter and beer in 1795.

### **Conclusion**

The data we have presented throws light on the places and the periods in which the Board of Trade carried out its industrial policy. A wider commentary is outside the scope of this article. As a way of summarising we point to two factors which have emerged throughout our study:

- 1) the Board's tendency to encourage and promote an increasingly wider range of manufactures;
- 2) the fact that the undeniable tendency towards generalised exemptions did not completely eliminate the system of individual privileges on which the Board based its activity.

<sup>75</sup> José Rodríguez Labandiera, "La política económica de los Borbones" in M. Atola, *La economía española al final del Antiguo Régimen*. VI, Instituciones, (Madrid 1982), especially, pp. 148-159. The royal decree of 1756 in NN.RR. Libro VIII, título XXV, Ley 1, "Fabricas que deben gozar franquicias y exenciones de alcablas y cientos".

<sup>76</sup> Gonzalo Anés, "Exenciones y franquicias en los reinados de Carlos III y Carlos IV", *Hacienda pública española*, nos. 108-109 (1988), pp. 108 et seq.

