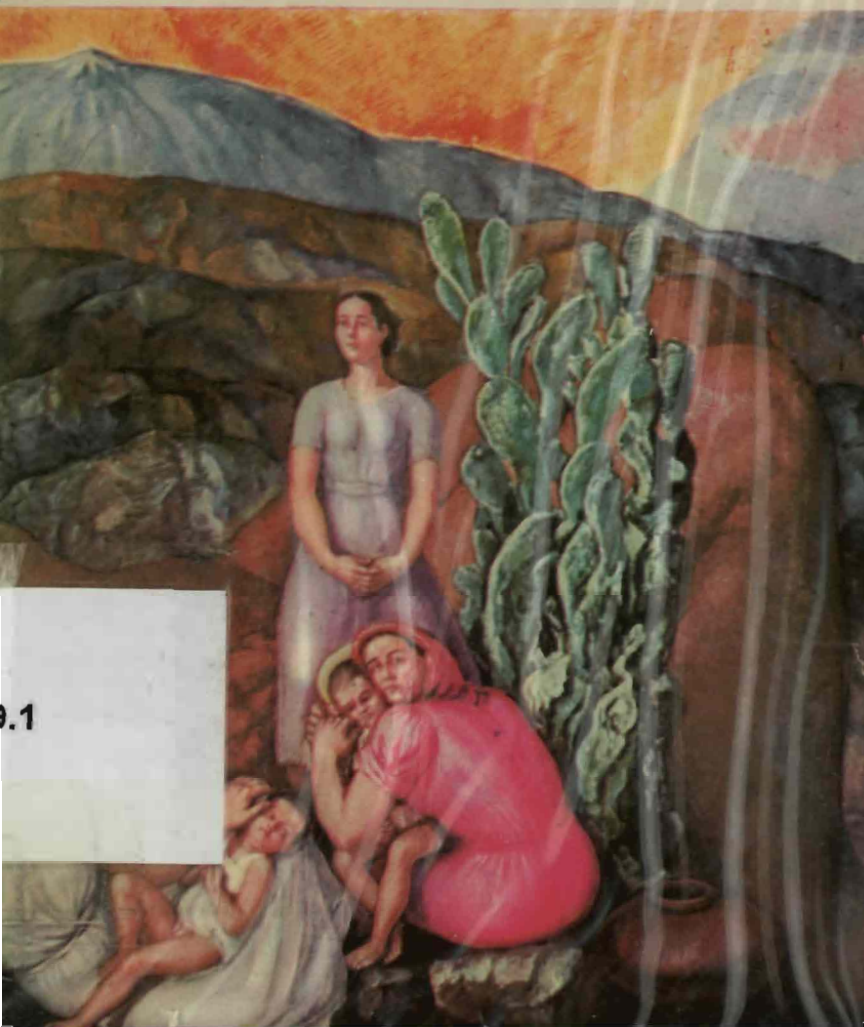


The Book of

TENERIFE

LUIS DIEGO CUSCOY

PEDER C. LARSEN



9.1

LAND AND MATERNITY
A FRAGMENT OF THE MURALS
OF JOSÉ AGUIAR, FOR THE
DECORATION OF THE CHAMBER
OF THE ISLAND COUNCIL
(EXCMO. CABILDO) OF TENERIFE.

PHOTOCOLOUR A. ROMERO

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ISLANDS



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THE BOOK OF TENERIFE



LUIS DIEGO CUSCOY and PEDER C. LARSEN

THE BOOK OF TENERIFE

(GUIDE)

BY
LUIS DIEGO CUSCOY

WITH THE COLLABORATION OF
PEDER C. LARSEN

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY
ERIC L. FOX



SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE

1966

THIRD EDITION

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THE ARMORIAL ENSIGNS OF THE MOST NOBLE
LOYAL AND INVINCIBLE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
DE SANTIAGO GRANTED BY CARLOS IV IN 1803

An oval escutcheon Or in front of a Sword of the Order of Santiago Gules a Passion Cross Vert in base there Lions Heads couped Sable two and one that in base impaled on the point of the sword on a Bordure af Waves of the Sea proper in the Chief Point a pyramidal shaped Island also proper in the Base Point a Castle of two towers also Or and on either side two Towers also Or between two fouled Anchors Argent.

The escutcheon is ensigned with a Royal Spanish Crown, and dependant below the base of the escutcheon is the Grand Cross of Beneficence (Administrative).

Sketches and vignettes by Juan Davó.

PREFACE TO THE SPANISH EDITION

The growing interest shown by travellers, students and tourists in the island of Tenerife, has prompted us to publish this book. Our intention is to inform readers about the natural conditions and the human and other aspects of this relatively small Atlantic island, in a simple and direct manner. It is not always easy for the general reader to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of Tenerife, since much of this information is only to be found in publications difficult of access.

This book aspires to be but a simple introduction to the varied themes on Tenerife, rather than a profound exposition, and it is intended primarily to draw attention to the natural beauties and varied landscapes of the island, to its history and to the extraordinary human efforts and achievements throughout a long struggle with harsh natural elements.

It is written more especially for serious readers with a view to stimulating the interest of visitors and to enable them more easily to appreciate on the spot, the natural, historical and cultural characteristics of the island. The simple descriptions can become living realities for interested visitors to Tenerife.

An attempt has been made to present to the reader a new and accessible exposition of the island, although we admit that this has not been an easy task. For the first time, the aesthetic nature of the terrain has been described, as well as the problems of its human geography, by an investigation of the reasons for human groupings in town and village communities.

The most reliable sources of information have been noted and a relevant bibliography is included, by reference to which a fuller knowledge of the subjects dealt with in this book can be obtained.

We acknowledge to have received valuable assistance and advice in the preparation of this book. We express our gratitude to Doctor Elias Serra Ráfols and to Doctor Leopoldo de la Rosa Olivera, for their revision of the text, and to the Laboratorio de Arte of the University of La Laguna, for placing their archives at our disposal, in the reference to which we were given very valuable assistance by don Miguel Tarquis. We express our gratitude also to the Museum and Library of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, for facilitating useful information. Also to those entities—Instituto de Estudios Canarios and Instituto de Estudios Hispánicos—and Ayuntamientos (Municipal Councils), for so generously and spontaneously furnishing us with data of great value in the preparation of this work.

And lastly, we express our gratitude to the Excmo. Cabildo Insular de Tenerife and the Provincial and Insular Tourist authorities, for the facilities they have provided for the better completion of this book.

Simultaneously with the edition in Spanish, editions in English, Danish and Finnish are being published, in the preparation of which we have received valuable help from notable Hispanofilos of those countries. We regard the publication of these latter editions as a duty rather than as a courtesy, in our desire to bring the contents of this book to the notice of the ever-growing numbers of visitors from countries in Northern Europe, who show such an interest in this island.

PREFACE TO THE EDITION IN ENGLISH

There is nothing we would wish to add to what is said in the preface to the Edition in Spanish, about the motives which have prompted us to write this book.

Our desire is to make THE BOOK OF TENERIFE available to English speaking readers and particularly to those who have long shown a great appreciation of the scenery and climate of the island. The translation into English has been made by Mr. Eric Lionel Fox, whose recognised competency and long association with the island have been very favourable factors in the preparation of this English edition.

We express our gratitude for his cooperation, and we can say that he has not only made a good translation of the text, but, what is more important, he has also captured the spirit of our book.

Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 3rd. October, 1957.

LUIS DIEGO CUSCOY

PEDER C. LARSEN

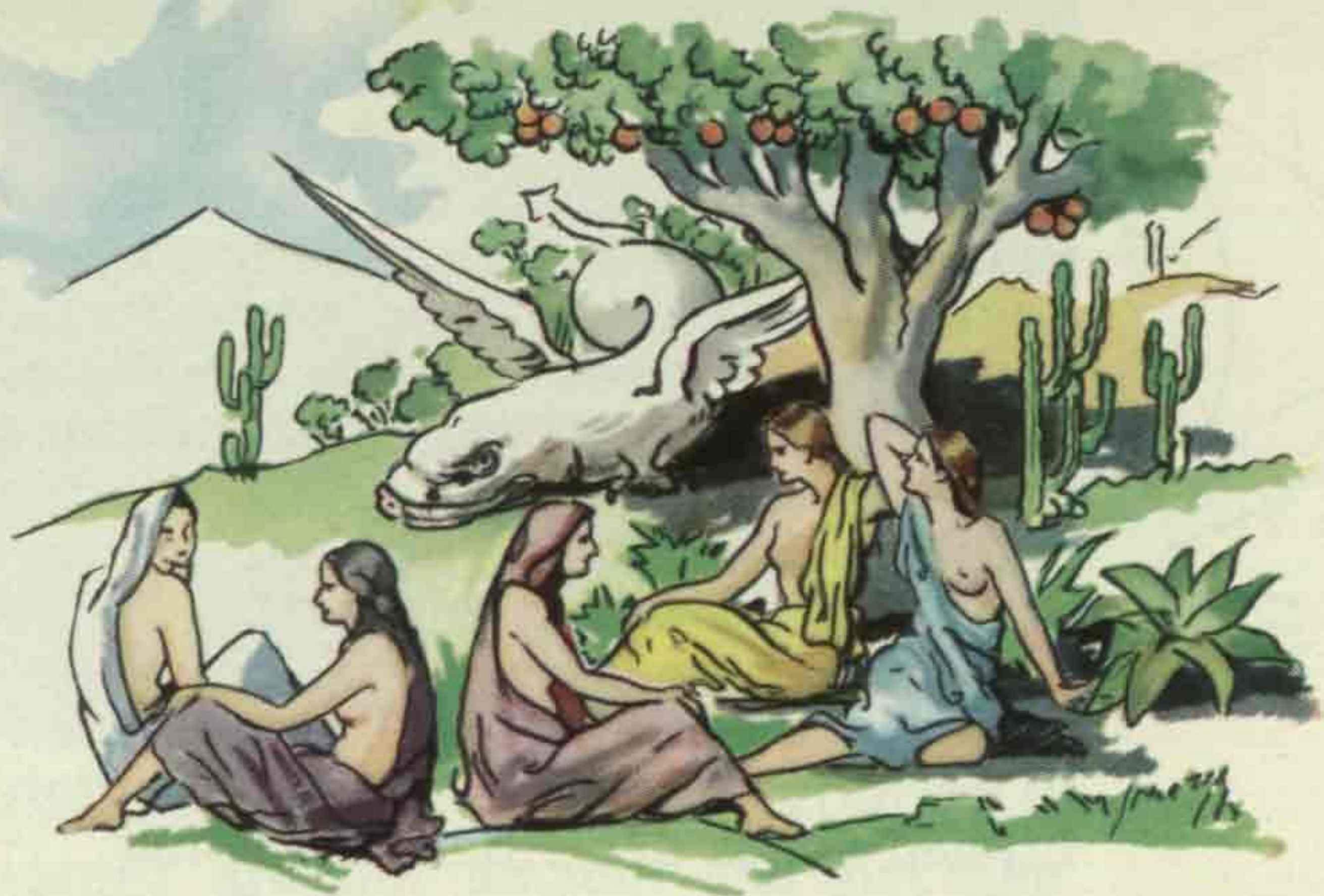
Nivaria se llamaba por la nieve
que suele platear la cumbre altísima
del sacro monte Teide, excelso Atlante;
y por la misma causa el nombre digno
de Tenerife entonces le pusieron,
que *Téner*, en su lengua significa
blanca nieve, y quiere decir *Ife*
monte alto, y así por el gran Teide
se llama Tenerife la Nivaria,
que es lo mismo que el *monte de la nieve*.

(ANTONIO DE VIANA, *Antigüedades de las
Islas Afortunadas, Poema, Canto I*)

Nivaria, so named because of the snow that often silvers the lofty summit of the sacred Mount Teide, sublime Atlante, and, for the same reason also called Tenerife, as *Téner* in their tongue means white snow, and *Ife*, high mountains; and so, named after the great Teide, it is called Tenerife la Nivaria, which signifies the snow-clad mountain.

CHAPTER I.º

Birth
of the
ISLAND

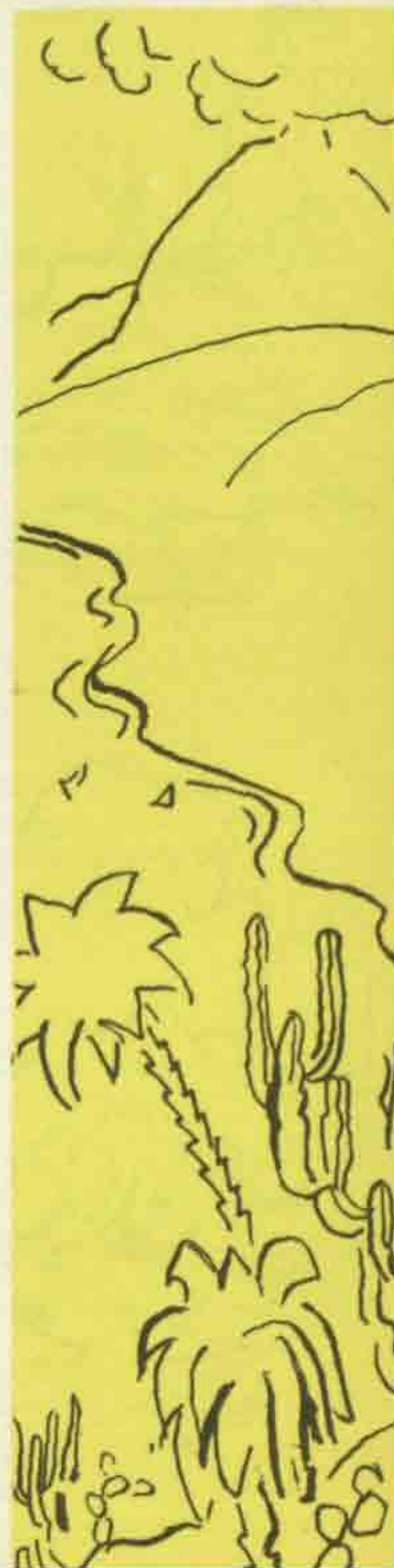


1.—Myths

Mystery appears to have surrounded the latitudes of the Canary Islands since the most remote times. The prelude to their history was sung in mythological orchestration. Jupiter sent Menelaus to the Elysian Fields, where the air was always pure and refreshed by ocean breezes. That land, says Homer, existed on the edge of the world, where winters never came.

According to Herodotus, the world ended in the *Garden of Hesperides*, where the cone shaped mountain of *Atlas* supported the sky. There the sea was not navigable, and the daughters of Atlas and *Vespero* guarded the golden apples. Hercules fought with the dragon *Ladon*, took possession of the apples and offered them to *Minerva*.

Plato, in the «*Timaeus*» and «*Critias*», speaks of the *Atlantis*, submerged «in a single day and on one fatal night». On sinking, all life on that continent disappeared, leaving only a sea of mire in which shoals emerged, presenting grave dangers to seafarers.





Mythological breezes fill the sails of the first ships to cross beyond the *Pillars of Hercules*. References to the *Fortunate Isles* were heard from the lips of daring sailors. When Plutarch relates the life of Sertorius, he mentions the discovery, told by an Andalusian navigator, of far away lands; Islands off the African coast, caressed by soft winds, gentle rains and fresh dews. The land is fertile. The seasons, so equable that they appear to be just one. Rains coming in from the sea, provide the humidity that maintains a fresh and exuberant vegetation. To the seafarer, speaking to Sertorius, those islands were veritably the *Elysian Fields* described by Homer.



In this dramatic way the Canary Islands came to be known by the Old World. They are the Islands of myths, situated at the end of the world, caressed by fresh winds, moistened by light rains and dew, and when *Atlantis* sank into the ocean, they remained as a testimony to its existence, presenting dangerous reefs believed to make the passing of ships impossible. An ancient poet speaks of damsels guarding golden apples, and of early mariners relating wonders about those favoured lands.

And thus the Islands history begins.

2.—Volcanism and Geology

Then the Islands take shape.



The history of these lands is embedded in beautiful myths and legends, Their life sprang from a happy but mysterious past, like all births in nature. Another mystery is their origin as islands. It might be said that they were the daughters of a love-match between the Sea and Fire. The Canary Islands Archipelago may have been formed by submarine craters, successively rising through



the ages in new eruptions. It is known that the Islands are not ancient and that their geological history begins in relatively recent times, perhaps in the Tertiary Period. This Period is considered the most probable for the emergence of the Canaries, as a consequence of the decompression and crumbling down of the western boundaries of the Atlantis mountain range. Since then, the islands have been shaped by constant volcanic action.

In spite of their proximity to Africa, they do not belong geologically to that continent. There is no identification between these two regions, but the fossil remains of land turtles, lizards and giant rats found in the islands, point to the unity of the Canary Islands with other lands. Later theories suggest that the Canaries rest on a continental plane.

It has still to be discovered whether the Archipelago formed part of the legendary Tertiary Continent. Scientists are not yet agreed on this question, and, to explain satisfactorily the origin of the Islands, several theories have been advanced, from the remote tradition of the *Lost Atlantis*, down





to drifting continental blocks; submerged intercontinental bridges, and erupting craters. But, in fact, the mystery remains.

Tenerife, being an island in the Canary Archipelago, shares the same geological history, and it is marked by innumerable evidences of volcanism. The trails of volcanoes have been particularly profound in Tenerife, even up to recent times.

Although no data is available about its earlier history, something is known of volcanic eruptions seen by ancient mariners, to which can be added the following historic testimonies:

1,393 references made by Basque and Andalusian sailors during the reign of Henry III.

1,430 eruptions in the Valley of La Orotava, referred to by Ca da Mosto.

1,492 references in the Log book of Columbus.

1,604 Volcano of «Siete Fuentes».

1,605 Volcano of Fasnía.

1,704 Llano de los Infantes.

1,705 Eruption of «Dos Roques» (Güímar).

1,706 Volcano of Garachico.



- 1,798 Eruption of Chahorra (Pico Viejo).
 1,909 Chinyero (in the South of the island).

The Northeast and Northwest vertices of the triangle that forms Tenerife, that is to say, Punta de Anaga and Punta de Teno, respectively, are considered to be the original nuclei of the island, or rather of two islands, whose intervening space was since filled up by successive eruptions. In this way the geological formation of the islands has been sustained and renewed by their own volcanic activity, since, in their formation, the lava flows have enlarged the islands, and are still enlarging and renewing their soil.

This powerful constructive energy more than outweighs the destructive forces of nature to which the islands are subjected. The action of winds and waves, erosion caused by torrential rains, —very destructive because of the steep gradients in the island—, fissures, coastal movements and natural chemical decomposition, cause losses which the volcanoes generously replace. So, in Tenerife, every type of lava is represented; puzzolana, basalt, phonolite, obsidian..., and the landscape, described later on, is simply a revelation of the work of the modelating agents referred to, and, in many cases, the colour of the soil is a testimony of the different eruptions; blue, red, white, black, yellow...

Tenerife has an age-old experience of volcanoes. Its intimacy with fire has continued as long as its dialogue with the sea. Its growth is to be found in sunken cupolas, in fractured mountains and new elevations, in black rocks carried by lava streams reaching the sea and changing the coastal con-

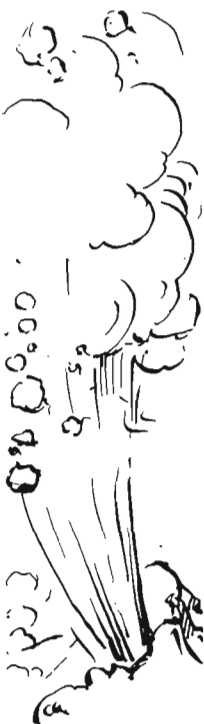


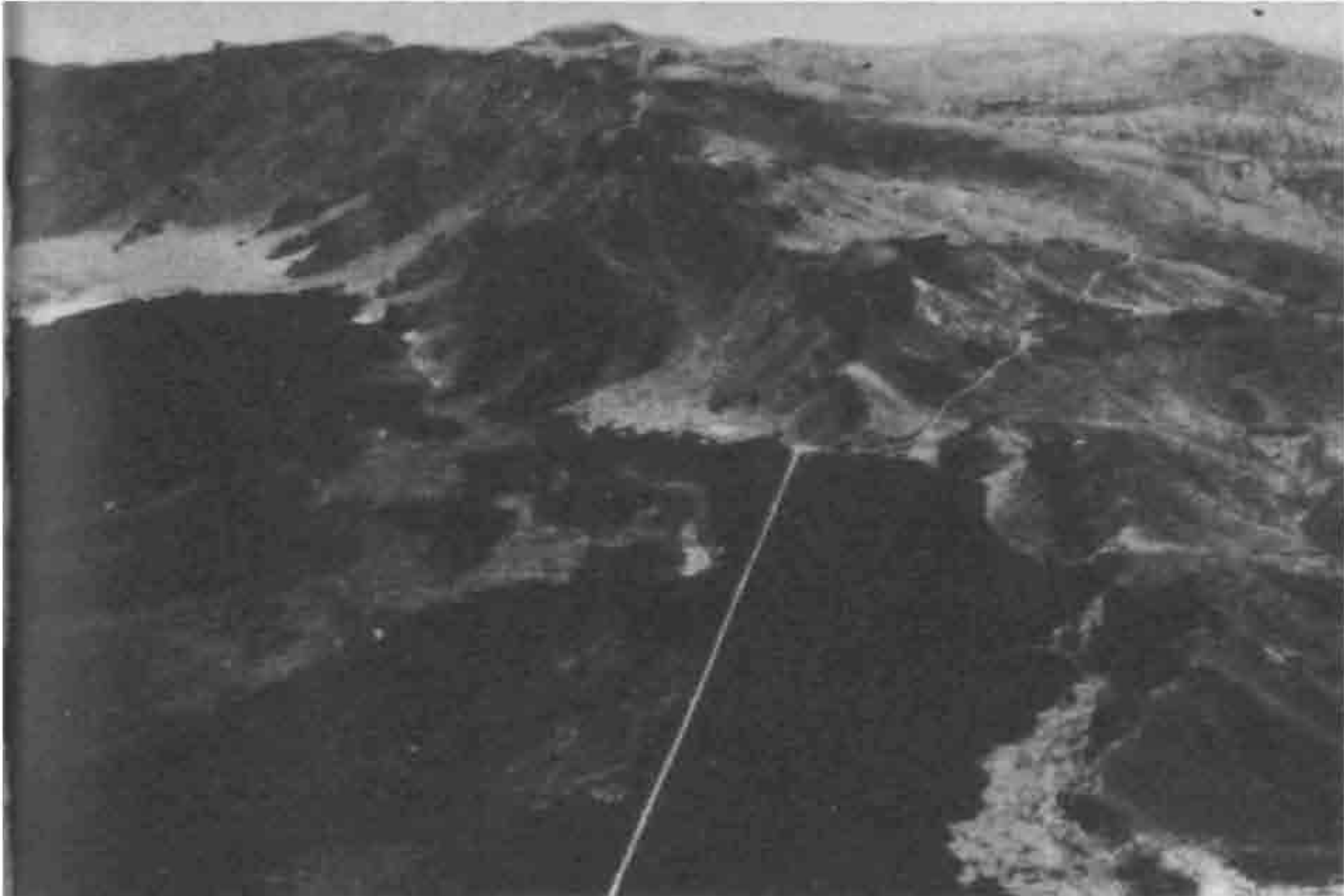


figuration, in promontories, and mounds piled stratum upon stratum over the lava beds, red and black; in the crevices of obsidian rock, in the layers of tufa and in basaltic dikes. And if all this were not enough, the presence of the Peak of Teide is a constant reminder that the island of Tenerife was built up as a foundation and base for the emergence of the volcano.

The Peak of Teide rises approximately in the centre of an old gigantic crater, 12 kilometres in diameter and 75 kilometres in circumference. This crater is called *Las Cañadas*. «The *Atlante* —wrote Herodotus— is lofty and cone shaped. It is said to be so high that it is impossible to see its summit, which is always covered in cloud. It is called the *column of the sky*». From olden times, the fame of the Teide, so like the *Atlante*, has existed, like that of the Canary Archipelago, through many mysterious legendary allusions.

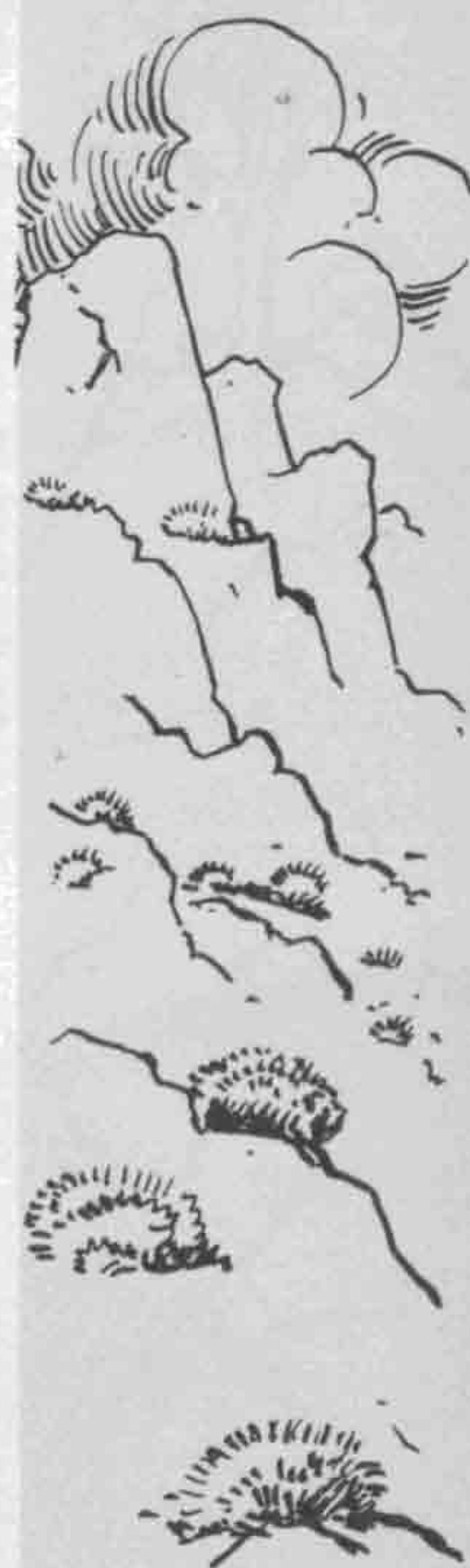
But although geologists have endeavoured to find the truth, their opinions are divided. Some believe that the crater from which the Teide rises was caused by a great explosion; others believe that it was caused by a depression of gigantic proportions. Those who support the latter theory, base their beliefs on the structure of the high cliffs enclosing the crater and on the materials heaped about its borders. According to this theory, the terrain now occupied by *Las Cañadas* was once a huge solid mountain, perhaps higher still than the present Peak, which due to some cataclysm was split in halves and then submerged, first on its eastern side and then the western. These two depressions are visible in the part called *Roques de los Azulejos*, which, being on one





of the tourist routes through Las Cañadas, provides an opportunity for the visitor to contemplate this awe-inspiring scene and to draw his own conclusions. (See Chapter IV. Routes, III, a) b).

The Peak of Teide is one of the most beautiful mountains existing. It is surrounded by mountains of pumice-stone and massive cleft rocks. Its history is a small cosmogony, related silently by itself, and by the high summits on its flanks. Whilst Las Cañadas sank, the Peak of Teide rose. It emerged, like the rest of the Island of which it is the pinnacle and culmination, through the action of earthquakes, fire, smoke and clouds of sand. High winds about its summit must have smoothed its formation into its present shape of a solitary breast. Like a soldier, on its south eastern flank, stands the volcano of Pico Viejo or Chahorra (3,105 m.), rising from masses of phonolite lava. The Peak of Teide, reaching a height of 3,718 m. above sea level, is the highest summit in Spanish territory. Around it are summits grand in their solitude, and of impressive beauty, forming an upright border to Las Cañadas: El Cabezón (2,165 m.), La Fortaleza (2,139 m.), El Sombrero de Chasna (2,400 m.), El Topo

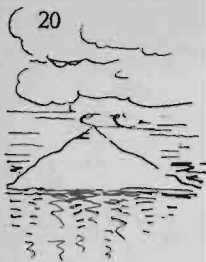


de la Grieta (2,582), Guajara (2,796), etc. The last named is the third highest point on the Island, surpassed only by the Peak of Teide and Chahorra.

The beautiful contour of the Teide amazed the seafarers of Antiquity: «In the ocean there is a mountain called Atlante, cone-shaped and of such a height that its summit cannot be clearly seen». It is the same that Pomponio Mela placed in the Islands of the Hesperides, and which later, seafarers in the Middle Ages envisaged rising from the *Mar Tenebroso*.

The Peak of Teide, besides being a powerful volcanic synthesis, is a perfect formation crowning and completing the Island's contour. But it is also a silhouette visible from a distance of many miles. Enveloped always in reverberating vapours, from the sea it simulates a delicate illusion, a smooth water colour painted on the sky, and for travellers the sight of it announces the proximity of hospitable land.

Few people know that this majestic mountain is frequented in its heights only by one species of bird, accompanied by only one kind of flower. The bird is called «Bird of the Teide» (*Fringilla Tedeia*); the flower is known as the «Violet of the Teide» (*Viola cheiranthifolia*). The violet is coloured a light blue, which is the colour of the Teide in the evenings. The bird is grey, in earthy tones, as if made of stone. No other bird, except this one, feels attracted to those heights where the fumaroles smoulder and the wind beats violently. No other flora reaches the heights of the Teide, but this solitary violet. A single bird sings and a single flower



clings to the eruptions mouldering on the Teide's breast.

The Island is born.

3.—Flora and vegetation. Fauna

If Tenerife serves as an example to illustrate the geological history of the other Islands in the Archipelago, it also serves similarly to illustrate their flora and vegetation. Because of its altitudes, one finds in Tenerife all the types of vegetation of the Islands, from the characteristic and dominant types found in the low lying Islands, like Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, through those existing in the Islands of medium altitudes, like La Gomera and El Hierro, and those characteristic of the high crests of Gran Canaria and La Palma. However, in the last two Islands named, those species proper to the surroundings of the Peak of Teide are not to be found.

If one contemplates a map of Tenerife and draws a line from the North to the South, from San Juan de la Rambla to Vilaflor and from there prolongs it to the southern coast, one observes that ascending





from the North from sea level, one reaches the maximum altitude of the Island, since the line drawn passes over the crater of the Teide, from which point one descends towards the southern coast. Following the line described, one crosses through all the vegetation covering the slopes and mountains of Tenerife. (L. Ceballos y F. Ortuño). We find, from the North to the South, two zones of xerophilous vegetation, dominated by tabaibas (*Euphorbia balsamifera*), cardones, (*Euphorbia canarieusis*), matorral leñoso de aulagas (*Launaea spinosa*), balo (*Plocama pendúla*), verodes (*Kleinia neriifolia*) and a region of purpurarios, cóscico and barrilla (*Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum* and *M. cristallimum*). On the North, the region of vegetation scarcely reaches an altitude of 500 m., whilst on the South of the island, vegetation reaches, and in some places even exceeds an altitude of 900 m. Ascending the Northern slope we find, above the region of xerophilous vegetation, another region of trees and bushes, called Laurisilva, amongst which is seen the *fayal-breza*. At first the laurel (*Laurus canariensis*) dominates, together with the viñatigo (*Persea indica*), the mocan (*Visnea mocanerā*), the til (*Ocotea foetens*), the barbusano (*Apolonia canariensis*), the acebiño (*Ilex canariensis*) and other species. The region of the *fayal-breza* is dominated by the faya (*Miryca faya*) and the brezo (*Erica arborea*). On the southern slopes the last two regions of vegetation do not appear since they are not reached by the moist winds or cloud formations which foster this vegetation, known locally as *monteverde* (Evergreen Hills).

•Pine forests begin, on the southern slopes, above the zone of xerophilous vege-



tation, that is to say, above the 900 m. level, whilst on the North, pine forests begin at 1,000 m. Pine trees grow up to an altitude of 2,000 m. in the South, and up to higher than 2,200 m. on the northern slopes.

Cultivated zones do not reach higher than the fayal-brezal region, on the North, whilst on the South they reach between the pine trees, where some land is cultivated as high up as 1,500 m. The cultivated regions are very important and, owing to the different altitudes and climatic characteristics existing, cultivation is diversified. The different regions under cultivation rise from those dedicated to tropical crops to those characteristic of the higher zones: bananas, tomatoes, maize, grape-vines, cereals, potatoes. Palm trees grow near the coast. Fruit trees and chestnut trees reach the higher zones of cultivation, up to the limits of the forest regions.

The Canary Pine tree (*Pinus canariensis*), is a robust and beautiful specimen. Work on reafforestation is intense on the high mountain slopes, forming a belt of forest some 500 m. in depth, between the altitudes of 1,330 and 1,850 m. of typical





Pinus canariensis, as well as of imported Pines (*P. insignis* and *P. pinaster*).

Near the pines, and sometimes amongst them, one finds the escobón (*Cytisus proliferus*), a luxuriant shrub covered in Spring-time with white flowers, which liven the austerity of the mountainsides precisely below the spaces where the pine forests thin out.

Above, one finds the vegetation of leguminous plants proper to higher mountain altitudes, prominent amongst which are the retama (*Spartocytisus nubigenus*) and the codeso (*Adenocarpus viscosus*). Thanks to these plants, the desolation of lava streams, the rugged crests and glens around the Peak of Teide become more amiable and the whiteness and fragrance of the retamas in flower sweeten the air in the high Spring. Finally, wild alheli and marguerites offer a delicate note of colour amongst the riot of black stones and yellow sands.

Retamas and codesos scale laboriously the high slopes of the Teide, but do not pass an altitude of 2,800 m. At that height, the single flower, «violet of the Teide», begins to appear amongst the white pumice stone mountains and up to the very mouths of the fumaroles. With this small plant, the complex distribution of vegetation in the Island ends. If the variety, in which are represented both tropical species and flora proper to high altitudes, is in itself attractive, it is not less so by its regional distribution. And in this respect few places in the world offer such a diversity of plant life, in such a limited space, than does the Island of Tenerife.

A tree which has always aroused the greatest interest, is the Dragon Tree (*Dracaena draco*), a survivor of the Tertiary flora.

Its sap which when dry is red, like coagulated blood, — «dragon blood», it is called— has been exploited commercially from ancient times, even being used by Roman dames as a beauty product. Dante spoke of a tree which dripped blood. In the early Middle Ages it was considered to be efficacious as a cure for leprosy. It has been used in the composition of many medicinal formulae. The tree is robust, with a plump fleshy appearance. Its trunk and branches are somewhat like muscular limbs. Its leaves are long, and pointed like swords. Its foliage is rounded and symmetrically perfect, and the tree decorates the landscape strangely. In reality it is a tree which suggests the vegetation of landscapes of remote periods, long disappeared.

These trees live in coastal regions, at times in inaccessible spots, clinging heroically to rocks. There are groups of dragon trees in the Northeast of the Island, —Anaga point— and isolated trees in places not far from the coast at El Sauzal, La Matanza, La Victoria and other low points on the North of the Island, and on the West, like the Valley of Masca.





A famous specimen, no longer existing, grew in the Valley of Orotava, but two other magnificent trees remain, one in Icod de los Vinos, (*milenario*, it is called), and another in the Gardens of the Seminary in La Laguna.

It is not possible to deal in further detail with the indigenous flora, but it may be of interest to point out some intriguing problems which its existence has created.

It has already been said that mystery enshrouded the early life of the Archipelago. Its origin, and that of the vegetation that covers and decorates the landscapes of the Islands, are mysterious. Pitard and Praust, students of Canary Islands' flora, wrote "This very curious vegetation, surprisingly found on the flanks of Canary rocks, represents the last vestiges of a colossal flora once extended over an immense area which has been gradually reduced to the small examples on these basaltic cliffs. They are not recent arrivals but are definitely archaic types which proclaim their antiquity of origin by their size, their unusual inflorescences and their corollas cut from ancient patterns, with sweet or acid perfumes. This vegetation is the same as that which extended in Pliocene times over the French hills of

laurels and laurestine, and now only exists in the Canaries».

The flora of the Islands is, as is seen, a valuable relic of a flora which has disappeared entirely in other latitudes, but which has been sustained in the Islands because of the climatic characteristics and the permanence of conditions, also extinct in the regions where such flora grew in remote epochs. This being so, an earlier contact with zones of the Mediterranean must be assumed, where the greater part of the Canary Islands flora originated: that contact «must have existed at least up to the end of the Tertiary Period, because many of the species regarded as indigenous of the Canaries have been found fossilized on Mediterranean shores in earth stratas of the Miocene and Pliocene periods».

Once more it can be said, and not in vain, that the Canaries are «Islands of Mystery». Their vegetation and flora which define botanically the Islands, guard the secret, perhaps never to be revealed, of their origin. In wonder one asks: How did this flora come to the Islands? What paths and what agents made their coming possible?





It is presumed that in the Miocene a union must have existed between the present Archipelago and other continental lands. This theory presupposes the existence of intercontinental planes, because it is very unlikely that the vegetation could have been propagated by such natural agents as birds, ocean currents, winds, etc. Against this argument, advanced only in order to solve this inexplicable problem, is the fact, apparently proved geologically, that such intercontinental planes do not exist. That means that the biologists try to justify their hypothesis on a thesis not accepted by geologists. «The geologists leave us with an Archipelago of recent formation but without vegetation. All remains a mystery».

And a visitor passing through the strange vegetation of the Island of Tenerife, discovers on the far horizon the surprising silhouette of a dragon tree, like an apparition from other epochs, looking something like a powerful animal with many limbs. And on the coasts, where the sun beats strongly, in gentle air and dry earth, he finds the tabaiba, a plant of grey foliage and red lustrous stalks. And on the rugged cliffs falling vertically to the sea, facing the salt sea breeze, the «everlasting» plant (*Statice spectabilis*) flourishes, with its leaves flat against the rock and with a delicately violet coloured flower. And amongst the rocky crests around the volcano, the *Serrátula canariensis* grows, a species of which few plants remain. These and other plants belong to the Tertiary Period, which by a new mystery of climate and soil have survived over the ages, far away from the glacial upheavals.

For this reason, great care must be had in the Islands not to modify the soil where

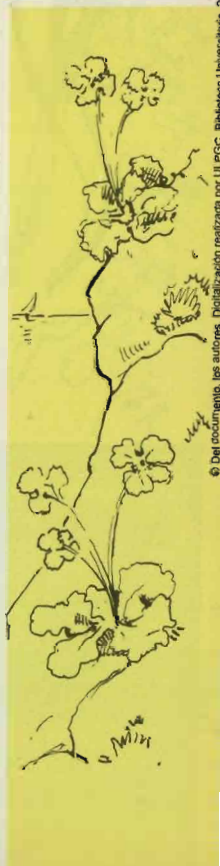


these plants grow, because only such modifications of soil and of climate, that is to say, changes in the propitious medium in which that vegetation flourishes, can cause its total extinction. And this care must be taken, above all, in the forests, where the most beautiful association in vegetation exists, which, according to botanists, represents a unique class. Both from the point of view of systemization and ecologically, these forests are very true reproductions of the flora which existed over the South of France, in the Miocene and Pliocene periods.

A miraculous vegetation that we can see growing, fresh and in full foliage, of which only vestiges and fossils remain in other parts.

In the fauna also, strange survivals are apparent, as in the case of the giant lizard which lives in the Roque de Anaga and also in the Roques de Salmor, in the Island of Hierro. But amongst the animal fossils, are found the remains of land tortoises and rats, also of large size; which lived in the Island before man appeared there.

For the rest, the fauna of the Canary Islands is not numerous, although interesting.





No wild nor harmful animals exist. Apart from domestic animals, in the countryside one finds only small rodents and reptiles, like the lizard, but there are no snakes. The air is enlivened by the song of wild canary birds, of the capirote (*Silvia atricapilla*), the lark of the Island. The shrill notes of the owl are heard in the forests, and there are abundant ring-doves in the medium zones; in the ravines and crevices the falcon and sparrow-hawk abound and in the rugged crests the small Canary eagle, the shearwater and the seagull congregate. On the sea shores there are the thick-knee and numerous passing birds like the bee-eater. There are widgeons, quails and partridges, linnets, wagtails, swallows, swifts, hoopoes, with beautiful plumage. An incessant revelry of birds, between the land and sky.

From the point of view of the entomologist, Tenerife offers a vast scope to investigators.

And to close this chapter on the flora and fauna, and not to forget the geological history of the Island, let us cast back a thought to the bird and the flower living near the volcano, and as everything presents itself as a wonder in the midst of so much mystery, let us wonder why that delicate flower and that fragile bird sought their homes in such an altitude.

4.—Climate

The Canary Islands have been described as the land of eternal springtime. This assertion, which has become a useful slogan when referring to the Islands, is in fact true. But it is not so usual to hear the explanations of the natural causes of such benign climatic conditions. This springtime is sensed in the



classic references to fertile and crass lands, humid winds from the ocean, beneficial rains and refreshing dews. This is so, in fact, and it is the more remarkable because the Canary Islands are situated in the latitudes of the great deserts and very close to the Sahara desert (115 kms. from Fuerteventura to Cabo Juby).

Only by the association of a series of favourable factors is it possible that islands which should be desert lands, display, as has been seen in references already made to Tenerife, such a diverse vegetation. It will be seen later that this vegetation includes some special and very delicate crops.

Once more the Island of Tenerife serves as an example to explain the determining factors of the climate of the Canaries: it is not only the largest island in the Archipelago, but it is the highest and possesses a very complex topography.

Following Ceballos and Ortuño, Bravo and others, who have made natural studies of Tenerife, the general factors of latitude and situation have determined its climate; the local factors being altitude and exposition.

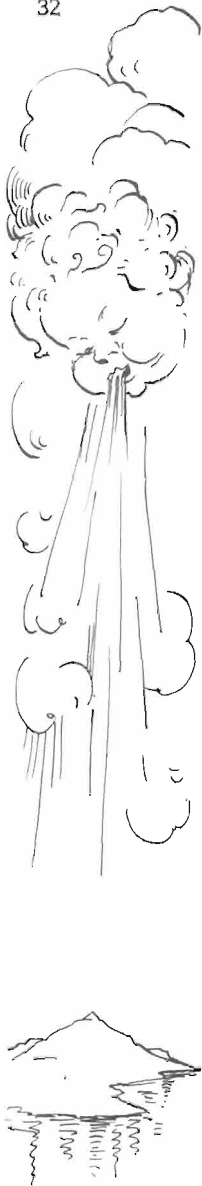


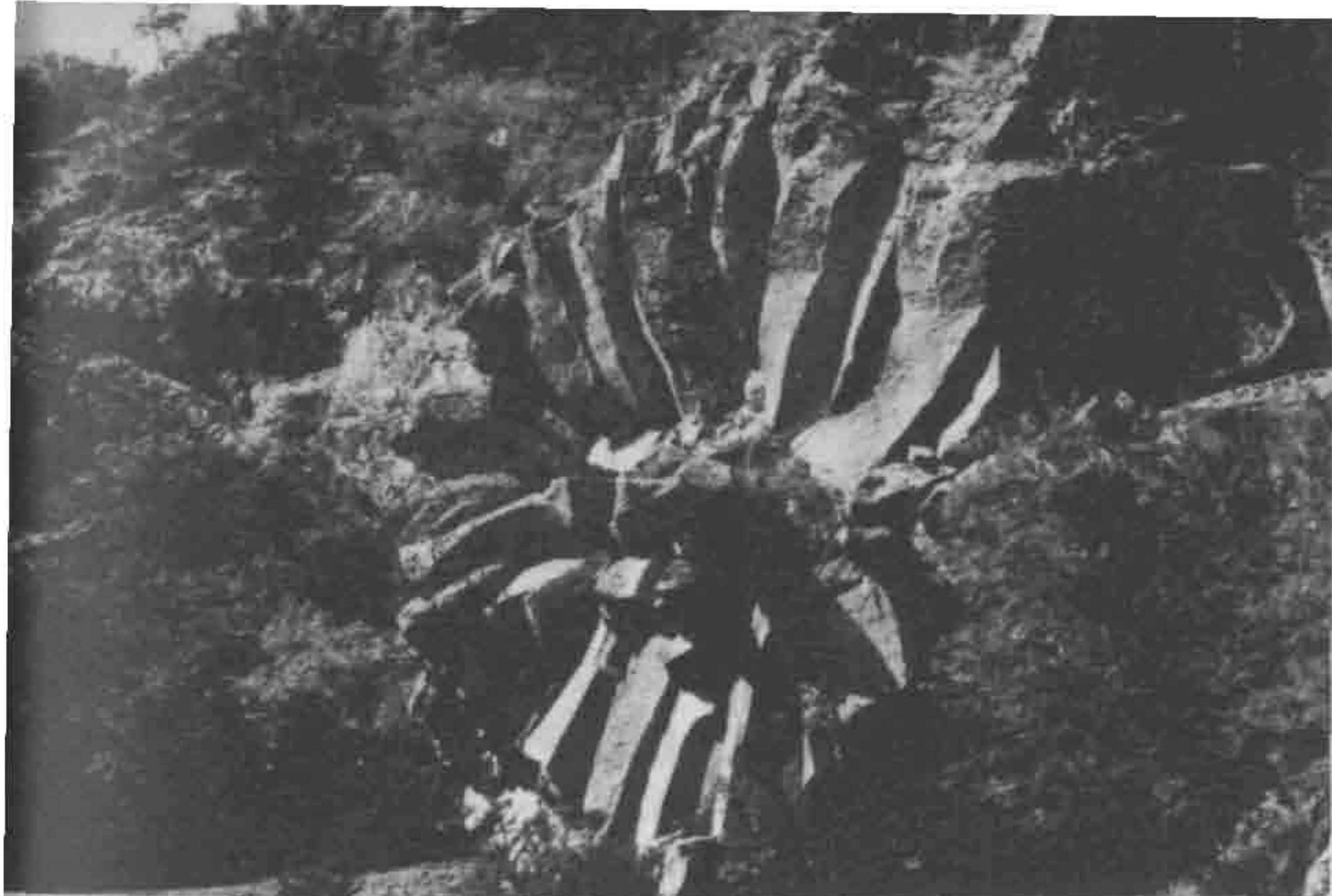
The Canaries are set in the zone of the trade winds, sea winds of great regularity coming from the Northeast. The elevation of islands like Tenerife serves as a separation between the mountainsides open to those winds and the sides sheltered from them. The sheltered sides looking towards the African continent are open to hotter winds whilst at the same time they are deprived of humidity.

The central mountain range in Tenerife, from the direction NE-SE separates the two slopes on the Island, for which reason the vegetation, landscape, economy and way of life are affected by the presence or the absence of those beneficial winds. The whole coastal region on the North of Tenerife, open to the trade winds, enjoys a very stable and benign climate, whilst the other side of the Island is hot and dry.

However, it must not be thought that Tenerife has only one climate; the general factors of latitude and situation are frequently modified by the local factors of altitude and position. The relief of the Island occasions different types of climate, and the same relief, because of the local factors, determines the different levels of vegetation which we have seen to cover both sides of the Island. For this reason it is more appropriate to speak of microclimates than of a uniform climate covering the whole Island area.

Three types of climate can be considered: the lower zone, hot and dry, which on the North side stretches from the coast up to an altitude of 500-600 m., and on the South reaches up to 1,000 m. The average annual temperature of this zone is about 20.° C. with an oscillation of 8.°. The intermediary zone, or the zone of clouds, exists only on





the Northern slopes, and in some parts of the East and Southeast of the Island. This is a consequence of the action of the trade winds, and is situated in a belt running from 600 to 1,500 m. Sunshine is attenuated in this zone, the atmosphere is fresh and moist and the landscape is intensely green. The average temperature is about 16.° C. The third climatic zone corresponds to the high lands, from 1,500 m. to 3,716, that is to say, up to the summit of the Teide. Its climate is continental and dry, with temperatures in winter lower than 0.° C. whilst the average annual temperature is about 9.° C. Snow falls every year, and it is possible to practise winter sports there. This is the explanation why, at the same time, one can enjoy life on the sea beaches or winter sports on the heights.

On the Peak of Teide the counter trade winds dominate, separated from the trade winds at an altitude of approximately 1,500 m. These winds blow, as their name implies, from the opposite direction from those which originate them. The medium zones are affected by fresh and humid winds whilst





in the lower zones the winds are hotter and drier.

On some days in the year there are winds from the South or Levant, reaching the islands from Africa: those are called the *Sahara harmatán*, which whilst scorching vegetation and drying up the soil, fill the atmosphere with an impalpable dust, brought with it. The great sand storms of the desert sometimes reach the Islands and occasionally cause also the arrival of dangerous and devastating plagues of locusts. However, the consequences of these visitations are of short duration since the insect does not breed in the islands.

Another factor which softens the climate of the islands is the sea current of the Canaries. «To the North and to the South of the hydrological thresholds of the Equator, there are two sea currents styled Equatorial currents, which run from East to West and appear to obey the force of the rotation of the Earth. The current from the North is known as the Canaries current; both currents transport water of great salinity from the coast of Africa towards the American coast. The source of the current of the Canaries is near Mogador, where the waters of the



Moroccan continental plane, expelled by the waters proceeding from the high seas, drift towards the South in the direction of the Canary Archipelago. These waters are enclosed, to the North and to the South, within two transgressive axles. This double movement forces the current towards the open sea in the direction Southeast, producing the cold current of the Canaries» (E. Le Danois). At the same time this current produces a barrier of cold air between the Canary Islands and the African continent. On its flow to the North, the Gulf Stream becomes gradually colder, and for that reason, also, these fresher waters descending on the Canaries give the Islands a benign Springtime atmosphere of their own, which they would not possess without the influence of that current.

The temperature of these waters is some 18.° to 20.° C. in summer and some 15.° to 17.° C. in winter. In this way the influx of the Ocean modifies not only the temperature proper to the latitude, but if it were not for the trade winds and the current of the Canaries, the Islands, so close to the African desert, would participate in the extreme climate of Sahara.



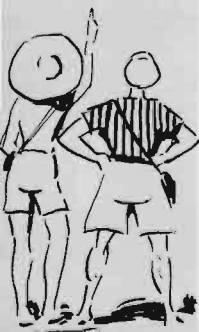


On establishing a relation between the dominant climates in Tenerife and the different levels of vegetation —the same will be remarked upon later from the point of view of human life— we see that the xerophytes (plants which need little water) correspond to the lower zones, dominating the coastal belt of Tenerife and to other coasts on the North and South of the Island.

The medium zone or that of clouds, which receives the influx of the trade winds has a humid and fresh climate, and therefore little sunshine, and provides the conditions for the *monteverde* (evergreen hills), the typical forest zones of Tenerife, and of the other islands of medium heights. For this reason, the South zone, which does not receive the benefits of the fresh winds —intercepted by the high intervening mountains— has no such forests of laurisilva and fayal-breza.

Approximately in the path of the trade winds the forests of Canary pines reach their greatest maturity, both on the North and South slopes. The highest zone, continental and dry, shelters that interesting association of leguminous vegetation of the high mountains, amongst which retama of the Teide stands out, a plant with grey branches which relieves the lifeless appearance of those lunar landscapes, and makes the lava streams more pleasant and the yellow volcanic sands look less desolate.

The intention in this short analysis of the dominant climates in Tenerife and the factors which produce them, is to draw the attention of visitors to this Island to phenomena which necessarily must surprise them. These are the influx of unfailing and beneficial winds, the presence of a vegetation and





flora which speak a different language to that of other latitudes, rocks of form and colour which seem to have appeared for the first time; breezes which seem to pass with a murmur also different, the sea with its message of far off horizons, mixed with its message of temperate breezes. Eternal Springtime, it is seen, holds its justification in this series of natural phenomena which unite to give charm to this group of seven Islands. The topic of the Islands of Eternal Springtime is herein partly explained, although the mysteries enveloping them remain with no satisfactory explanation.

As regards the morphology and the soil of the island, the volcanoes add to the labour of Springtime renovation. They do not allow the soil to age: with their contributions of lava, sand banks and extensions of dross, they carry out through the ages their regenerating mission. The islands have been called youthful, not only because of their relatively recent geological formation, but because they cannot become old.

In their vegetation, it has already been seen that the islands are a refuge for a flora no longer existing elsewhere; and in this





surprising fact is a sign of their fresh and jovial youth. It is a curious fact that this type of vegetation conserves its foliage perennially.

And in respect of the climate, the perpetual and life-giving breezes of the trade winds fill the air with mellowness. And if this were not enough, the sea round the Archipelago forms oceanic currents like two cool enveloping arms. Youthfulness, Springtime...

Tenerife, the island that exemplifies the whole Archipelago in morphology, elevation, geology, climates, vegetation, landscapes and colour, can fix at any point on its map this notice in all truth: *Island of eternal Springtime*.

5.—Nature and landscapes

Tenerife, since remote times, is a diffused mass of clouds, above which protrudes, like a blue phantasm, the Peak of Teide. The island is discovered only when one arrives by sea or flies above it. And the first impression produced is that of a high massive mountain, very complex, rugged and fractured. Bold, steep mountains await the traveller who arrives from the North, and summits, crests and crags to those arriving by air. At first sight, it appears to be an inhospitable island, causing apprehension, the more so when it is seen that these promontories and mountain slopes are treeless and that the distant contours appear of a burnt out, ashen colour. In Tenerife, the first appearances are of rock and one feels that stone comes before life: dark green-red stone, with grey effects and occasional white veins, here and there a yellow touch, as well as red stains.

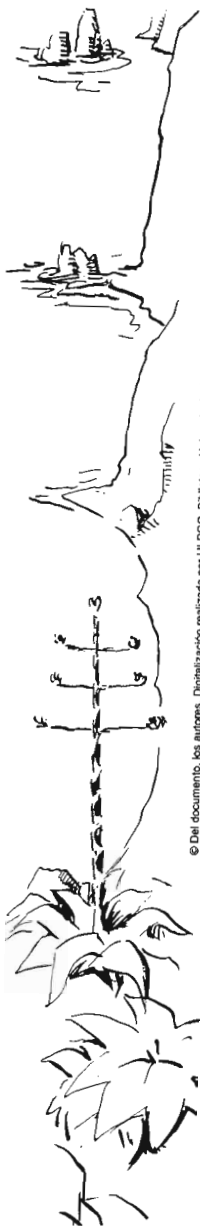
After this first aggressive presentation, one notes the variety of colour. But the beauty of the Island, which is another mystery, must be discovered slowly. An incursion into the Island in search of the hidden beauty, is an adventure full of surprises.

We have spoken of its birth, its geology and the indefatigable action of the volcanoes. We have made contact with an Island raised from the sea by fire. It is true that the sea confines it, and softens its climate whilst it infuses those special characteristics possessed by lands accompanied by oceans. Nevertheless, it is not simply an Atlantic landscape: it is a vigorous scenography in which the sea is only one of its elements. These are volcanic and not marine landscapes. So abruptly does the island emerge from the sea that it appears more like a gigantic rock fallen into the sea, around which the waves appear to be agitated.

Because of its volcanic nature, its landscapes are a true reflection of that nature. The low zones of the Island are frequently composed of lava beds rejuvenated, alluvions, and flows of volcanic rubble, angles in and out of a coast line drawn by volcanoes, steep heights that guard in their strata the dumb history of the formation of the Island. In some parts near to the coast one discovers veritable nurseries for craters, which are nothing more than plastic manifestations of great eruptive activities.

In the medium zones, under vegetation and in their eroded contours, a long chain of cones stand guard before the ridge of mountains forming the dorsal of the Island.

In the high zones many eruptive processes are visible, from the mouths of craters down to the flows of lava to points where





these were detained and have cooled off, from the flanks of former great volcanoes to the bases of high mountains more recently formed. In these high regions, the lava beds are scorched and reverberate under the summer sun, or are hidden under the winter snows. The obsidian glitters like metal. The pumice stone shows up whiter amongst the labyrinths of black stones. The cinders and the *láppilli* crunch beneath our feet. The summits depict a feverish and primitive tumult as of the first ages of the world. The mountains are broken, the cones torn, the slopes streamed with lava flows. In many cases, the appearances of these volcanic materials are so relatively recent, that complete sterility and silence reigns over them. The rocks have not yet learned to convert themselves into soil and do not yet know of the existence of roots or of the joy of a flower or the warm tenderness of a nest.

With frequency basaltic dikes emerge from the landscape like ruins of old fortresses, rocks of phonolite simulating gothic architecture or solitary structures with silhouettes of petrified trees or of monsters.

The large valleys are, geologically, simply sunken beds, but they add plurality to the insular landscape with their serene and agreeable appearance. The ravines are the deep wounds inflicted by waterfalls rushing down to the sea. And the Island appears to be enveloped in a hard and harsh terminology: rock, basalt, lava, phonolite, obsidian, pumice stone...

The beaches on the North are black because their sands ground by the sea, come from lavas which are also black. Some of the beaches in the South have brown sand originating from calcareous-tufa and volcanic ash carried towards those parts by the wind during periods of eruptions.

The Island, in one word, is a crater —Las Cañadas— and one volcano —the Peak of Teide— and the mountains; the lateral slopes and valleys are only accompaniments, the secondary figures in this great apotheosis of fire.

Consequently, the landscapes are faithful echoes of this grandiose and tormented scene. And what there is of intimacy and sweetness, of charm and delight, is a consequence of the climate. For that reason it



is well worth making an incursion over the island and to see where the landscape is beautiful, sweet, rough or wild.

The vertex of Tenerife, formed by the peninsula of Anaga, is a region characterized by a topography both complex and rough. Mountains of sharp outline dominate the ravines and narrow valleys stifled by crests and lateral crags. There are summits, like the Cruz de Taborno, which reach a height of more than 1,000 m. By the southern slope of this massive group of mountains, is Santa Cruz de Tenerife, sheltered from the dominant winds. San Andrés and Igueste de San Andrés occupy the wide mouths of the ravines. Taganana, on the northern slope of these mountains is one of the most hidden villages of the island, compressed between the inaccessible mountains and the sea. (See Chap. IV Routes to the North, l. d.). The mountains in this group are covered with luxuriant forests, the slopes of which display a vigorous vegetation, refreshed and moistened by the trade winds. Towards the West of the mountainous peninsula of Anaga, extends the forest of Las Mercedes, one of the most beautiful examples of typically Canary Islands forests. The mountainous mass breaks its formation around the plateau of La Laguna and is dispersed in hills that open in a wide arc around the Meseta de Los Rodeos, situated at an altitude of about 600 m.; a green countryside, of wheatfields and pasture land. Flat land between the dynamic horizons of mountains. A horizontal domain between the broken contours surrounding it. Towards the North, over the hills, there is a more subdued coastline beginning from the Punta del Hidalgo which runs on to Valle de Guerra. (See Routes to the North, l, a) and c).



To the West of La Laguna, through *La Esperanza*, the mountainous formation reunites, rising as it stretches from the Northeast to the Southeast, to build up the great circus of *Las Cañadas*. This range rises to form the great mountain barrier that separates the North from the South of the Island, a barrier which gives Tenerife the appearance of an island with two fronts. (See «Routes to the North, I, b).

The openland of La Laguna and its prolongation to Los Rodeos, is flanked by the mountains of *Las Mercedes* and *La Esperanza*, the latter sustaining forests of Canary Islands pines.

Crossing the flat land of Los Rodeos one reaches Tacoronte. A landscape of green hills. Here the grape fields begin, covering the slopes and reaching up to the crests. In this belt is also *El Sauzal*, *La Matanza*, *La Victoria* and *Santa Ursula*. The mountain range now begins to rise. On the South slopes the earth is drier and the mountain range lowers: *El Rosario* is to the South of *La Esperanza*, and *Taco*, *El Tablero* and *Barranco Hondo* are dispersed over a vast slope with verdure on the heights and dry copses on the lower parts.

On the other side, past the landscape of palms and vineyards of *La Victoria* and *Santa Ursula*, and the last buttresses of the mountains, one penetrates into the Valley of *La Orotava*. The coast is very broken and is only tractable where it opens onto picturesque beaches. On this slope —that is to say towards the North, is the Valley of *La Orotava*, and towards the South is the Valley of *Güímar*, two extensive sunken beds, as has been remarked. The heights of the dividing mountain range reach their highest





points over these two valleys. The Northern slope, in its lowest zone, has a stable and warm climate. The Valley of La Orotava has an extensive verdure of banana plantations and a varied flora colouring, and picturesque spots, like Puerto de la Cruz, which appear to be snatched from the Tropics. In this valley there is the Villa de la Orotava, composed of many houses stepped up the mountain side above the banana plantations, and Los Realejos, situated at the foot of the mountainous Western edge of the Valley. Vertical planes dominate in the heights and in the rugged shores and sloping planes extending downwards on which appear the most suggestive variety of greens that it is possible to imagine. (See Routes to the North, II, a).

In contrast, the slopes on the South, in the Valley of Güímar, the tones of colour are more effaced. This valley is confined between the high mountainsides that enclose it laterally and the mountains behind it. The lateral slopes fall abruptly and within the arc formed by the mountains at the rear, the black curves of old volcanic cones are visible. The coastal plane is for the most part

low. The heights are black and down the slopes to the sea the colours change to many varieties of grey, ending finally in a cold brown. Patches of verdure from irrigated land and crops, with an occasional banana plantation, are scattered over the Valley of Güimar, whilst the Villa of the same name, and the small towns of Candelaria and Arafo, adorn with their whiteness this silent, austere but beautiful expanse. (See Routes to the South, I, a).

The Island widens as one advances westwardly, and the dorsal mountain range initiates its great arc around the Teide. Inside this arc are Las Cañadas and the Peak. (See Routes to the Teide, III, a) b) and c).

Returning to the northern slope, past the hillside of *Tigaiga*, on the west of the Valley of La Orotava, one penetrates into a region—as related by writers of the XVIII century— characterised by the sheer drop of the mountainside to the sea. The paths and roads are cut out of the rock and are like lookouts over the sea. Deep ravines break up the topography. An exuberant vegetation covers the margins of the ravines and the borders of the crags. Water rushes boisterously between the rocks. Cultivation is terraced, taking advantage of the smallest beds of soil. The climate is warm. The town of San Juan de la Rambla is compressed between basaltic rocks and the sea. From here the coast continues low, dry, with old lava streams which give it a grey tone, between which the red and white of cistus, or the rock rose, appear. The mountain is covered with pines and near the limits of the forests is the little town of La Guancha, with typical peasant homesteads.





Further to the West the extensive district of Icod spreads out, with a varied landscape crowned with a pine, advancing up the very counterfort of the Teide. The coast, however, has wide banana plantations and at medium heights there are expanses of vineyards, the cultivation of which, from early times, gave the township its name of Icod of the Vines. Clear distances, mountains subdued on the horizon, forests on the heights, ploughed fields and vineyards, rugged crags over the black beaches, palms and lava streams, and over all, the most beautiful view of the Teide, whenever the clouds, always jealous, allow it to be seen.

Onwards from Icod, the coastline becomes lower, the counterforts of the mountains give way at times to openings of flat land, and between the verdure of vegetation and the black mantle of the *malpais* (desert terrain) one passes by Garachico and Los Silos until one reaches Buenavista. This is very properly called the *Isla Baja* (Low island). The coastal region is extensive, white, very silent, and the coastal plain penetrates into the sea at *Punta de Buenavista*, a sharp pointed ridge at which the indented coast of the North of Tenerife ends, in the shadow of the powerful counterfort of *Teno* (See Routes to the North, IV, a) and b).

This massive rock of *Teno* is the replica which the Northeast end of the Island offers to the massive mountains of *Anaga*. At *Teno*, the summits of *Cumbre de Bolicos* and *Cumbre de Baranán*, stand out, surrounded by winds and solitude. This rugged mass is broken by deep ravines and is one of the most wild landscapes of the island, in its impressive desolation.

On the Southern slope of the mountains that curve around the Teide, past the Valley of Güímar, there is a long expanse of white countryside, dry and arid. The mountains are in the distance, and the land descends towards the sea more gently than on the opposite slopes on the Northern side. The small towns of Fasnia, Arico, Granadilla and San Miguel, as well as Vilaflor high up on the mountain, provide a human element that counteracts the desolation of these parts. Here, the South of the island is seen in its pure aspect, a land deprived of moisture, dried up by the sun, with scarcely any rainfall, and without the typical island forests which contribute so much to gladden the landscapes of the North. Nevertheless, in the mountains there are some groups of pines, today lacking in their exuberance of earlier times.

The best beaches on the island are found on these Southern coasts, of which El Médano and Los Cristianos are worthy of special mention. Their sands are brown and the sea is tranquil and clear. On the coastal plane of Arona, bordering on the





Valley of San Lorenzo, a group of volcanic cones exist, which give that part an impressive appearance. The Punta de la Rasca boldly proclaims the southern vertex of Tenerife. The landscape here is waste and desolate, with only desert vegetation, the sky clear, silent expanses, *tabaibas* and *cardones*, and solitary rocks. And amongst all this, green patches of special cultivation which is extending over those lands as a result of irrigation systems fed by water found on the North of the island. (See Routes to the South, I, b y II).

The Southeast of Tenerife, which comprises the smallest side of the triangle, extends to *Punta de Teno* and *Punta de la Rasca*. Arona, Adeje, Guía de Isora and Santiago del Teide, with many more dispersed homesteads, speak of the obstinacy of man, in his efforts to bring life to these sullen confines. The massive *Roque del Conde* breaks the relief of this part of the Island and its dark and upright bulk contrasts with the coastal plane, low lying and pale coloured, which slopes gently to the sea. Arid expanses in which the wild teasel has taken possession as the only rightful occupant, sun heated coves and creeks in the coasts, small fishing bays, black rocky ledges, and the long and deep ravines stretching down from the heights. Over the zone of Guía de Isora, centuries old lava streams still give the landscape a dark and desolate look, like scorched earth. And up above always the black cones. The ashen mountains proclaim their volcanic origin, and it was in these mountains that the last volcano erupted in Tenerife, the *Chinyero*, which caused terror in that district in the year 1909. (See Routes to the West, I, a).



The districts in the South present a faded colouring, the calcareous tufa is of a soiled white, the earth is grey or yellowish, the mountains are ashen or grey. The planes are not so violent as those on the opposite slope, the coastal regions are wider in extent, alluvion, and low lying.

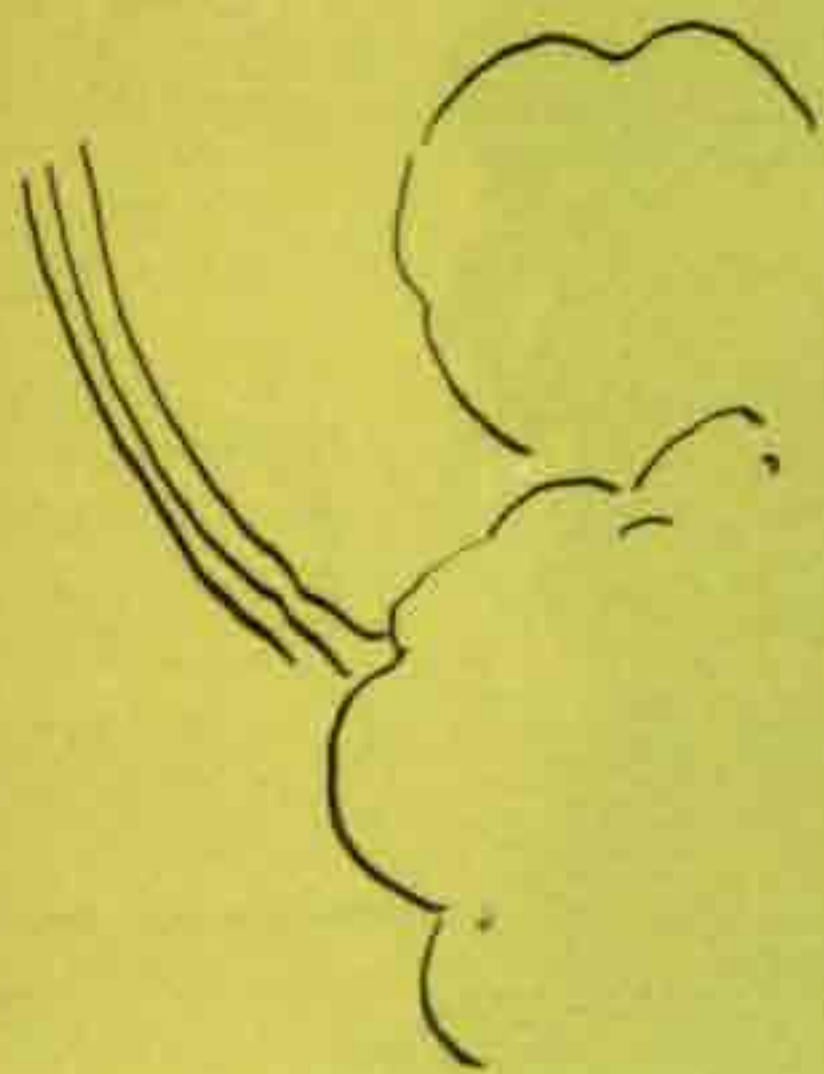
The geography of Tenerife has an alluring diversity because its contrasts are so beautiful. The successive landscapes acquire a vertiginous rhythm and over the wild nature of the Island, a varied film of colours and forms develops with opulent tropical valleys, dark and fresh forests, land scorched by volcanoes, naked mountains, slopes without vegetation, desert planes, and coasts with banana plantations and other vegetation.

But from the sea comes a fresh air and the trade winds caress the Island kindly.

6.—The island with two fronts

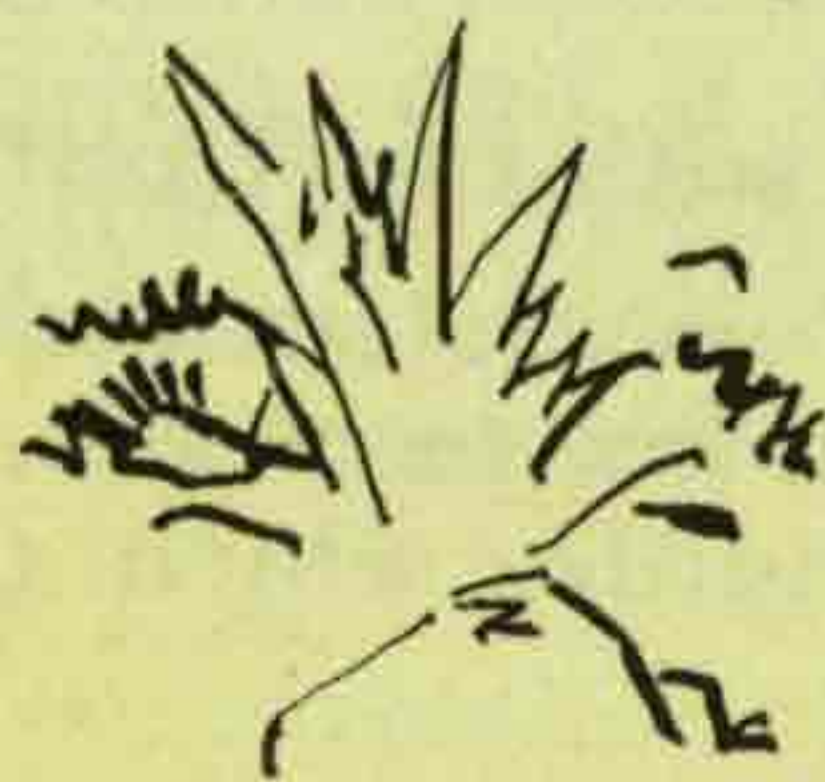
The rapid incursion we have just made has given us an image of the two fronts of the Island. Tenerife, which contains all the





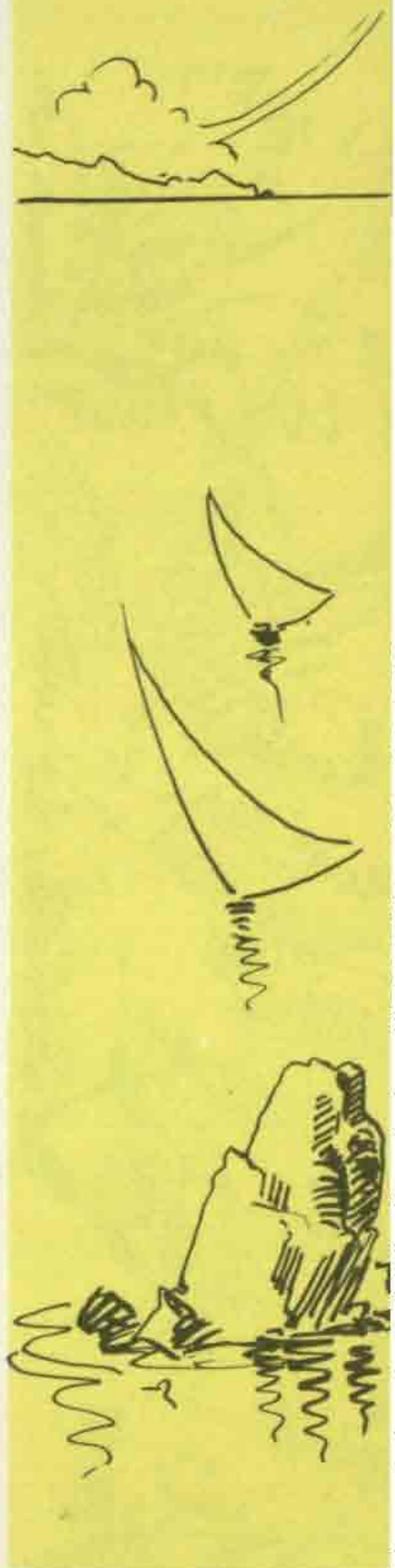
variety of climates existing in the Archipelago, as well as all the different types of vegetation, is also a synthesis of all the landscapes. But as these are so many we will reduce them to two; the landscapes of the North —and Northeast— and those of the South —and Southeast—. And the same applies if we refer to the climate and to the vegetation, as we have already seen.

On speaking of the trade winds, we have pointed out how these emanate from the Northeast and that their penetration produces a beneficial influence only on one part of the Island. The mountain range forming the backbone of the Island, constitutes an unsurmountable barrier to this beneficial current. Between 900 and 1,500 m., banks of clouds collect, compact and woolly, through



which, when the sea is out of sight, the Island appears to be floating in space. As the whole of the Northern slopes are open to breezes and clouds, the *monteverde* (evergreen hills) flourish luxuriously under their influence, as we have already described. Extremely abundant vegetation fills the valleys down to the sea, the borders of the ravines are covered with foliage and on the coastal planes all kinds of agricultural produce is grown, but particularly tropical varieties. Water is abundant, flowing from natural springs and from water galleries bored into the mountainsides.

The altitude begins to modify the climate. Palms are to be seen in the zone of sunshine, the fabulous dragon tree on the rugged landscapes, and passing up through the different regions of vegetation we reach the *retama* of the Teide. In the midst of this broken topography with bougainvilleas and geraniums, on the coastal planes between the banana plantations, corn fields and pastureland, are the villages. There are many small villages, close to each other, scattered over the slopes, strung along the borders of the high roads and paths, brightening the coasts or perched on the slopes and up in





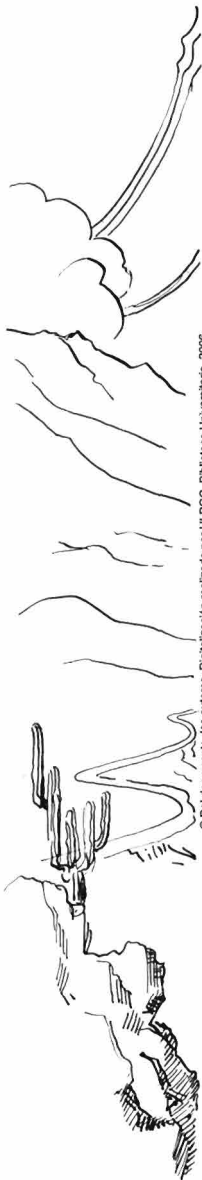
the higher regions. These are happy and colourful communities, to which the fertility and exuberance of the soil contribute a sober exhilaration.

But, when we pass to the other side of the mountain range, we are confronted with an abrupt and violent change of scene. It seems as though, suddenly, the Island has been robbed of its happiness, beauty and benevolence. Instead of green, the landscape is grey, and hot brown and dirty white tones replace the succulent hues we have left behind. The forests covering the hills and dales, are changed to patches of poor, dried-up copses, and plants which thrive on barren soils. The sun burns harshly. Desert plants ascend laboriously the mountainside from the sea up to the very limits of the pine zone. Water here is scarce, although the tenacity of man has succeeded in conveying it by almost unbelievable waterways, from the opposite side of the mountain to these waterless regions.

In the South, the stones are naked, too naked, and the expanses are forsaken but it is a landscape which charms by its suffering sweetness and its silent desolation. Probably there is nothing more solemn than an expanse of broken land on which only *cardenchas* grow, because there is nothing more severe and solemn than the *cardencha*, with its arms raised to the sky in the midst of lands forsaken by green vegetation. The mountain looks over these landscapes in all its oppressive nakedness and the distant craters add their dramatic note to the broken horizon presenting their still open mouths from which one imagines to hear their last volcanic shrieks.

The villages are white, perhaps too white in the scorching sunshine. But the inhabitants of these parts love the homesteads in which they were born, and they bestow affectionate care on their cultivated patches which appear to give fruit only in return for this devotion.

The North is a zone of agriculturalists and labourers —it is necessary to draw this distinction— and although these are also found in the South, here the land appears to have been made for agriculture. The North is a vast testimony to the exuberance and fertility of the soil. The South is an evidence of the faithfulness of man to the land, which he loves, although he knows it to be less bountiful. The North is an indefatigable and generous land, incessantly producing, and work is always going on. The South is virgin land, which would give forth in abundance if fertilised, but is sad while it waits. The North is cloud and rain. The South, a high clear sky. The North is the fountain with thin waterfalls flowing amongst the rushes



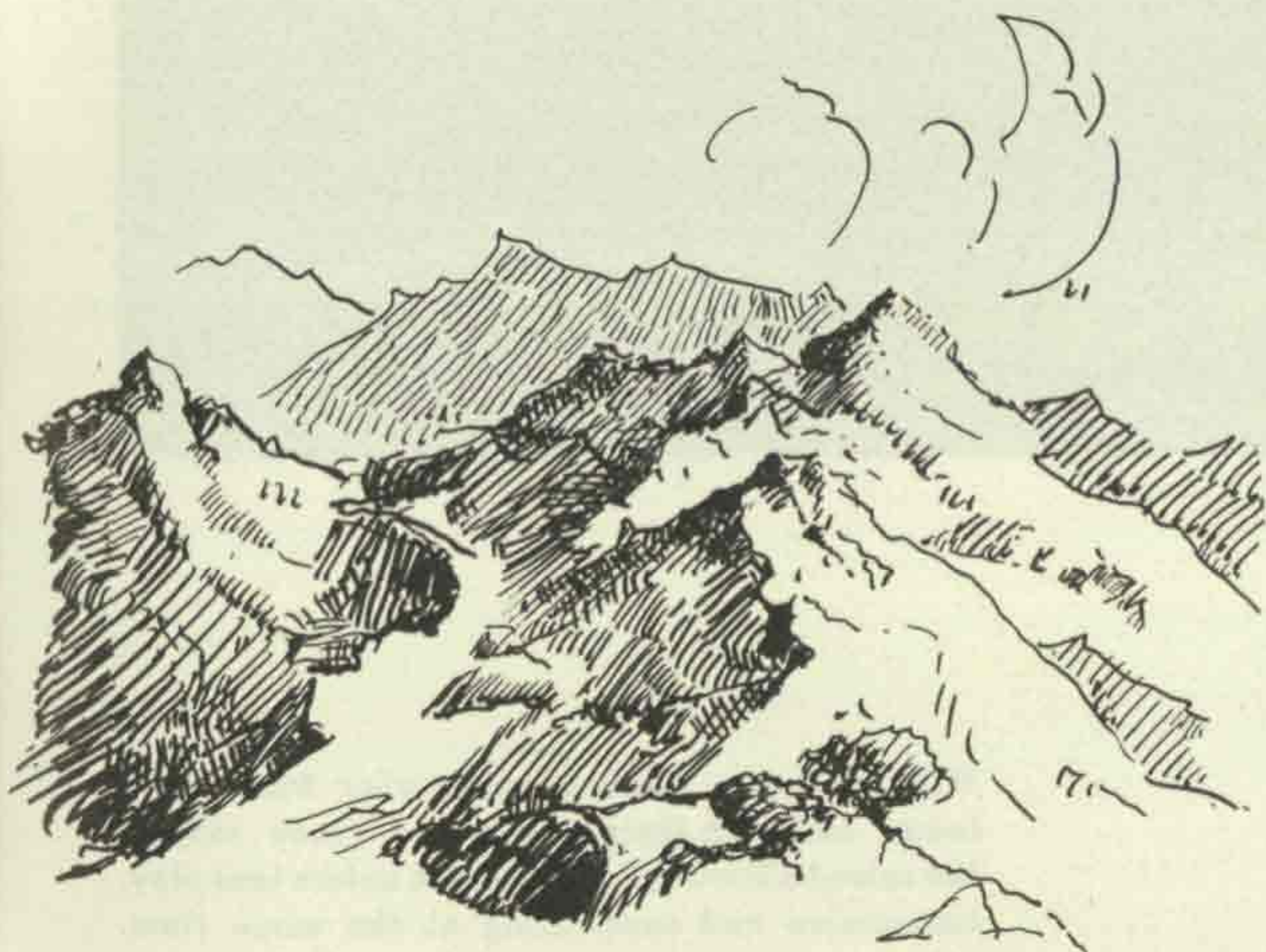
and the yams. The South is dry stone, and hidden water dikes not yet tapped. In the North there are many singing birds and in the South many cormorants in the air. In the North there are always pleasant sounds of plantations and cultivated lands. Over the expanses of the South, silence descends. The North has a basaltic solidity, a powerful architectural foundation and rounded planes. The South is the calcareous tufa castigated by the wind and sand which whirls around the roots of the shrubs, ash which is slowly becoming earth. In the North, flowers bloom in multicolour. In the South a vegetation of yellow inflorescence dominates the scene.

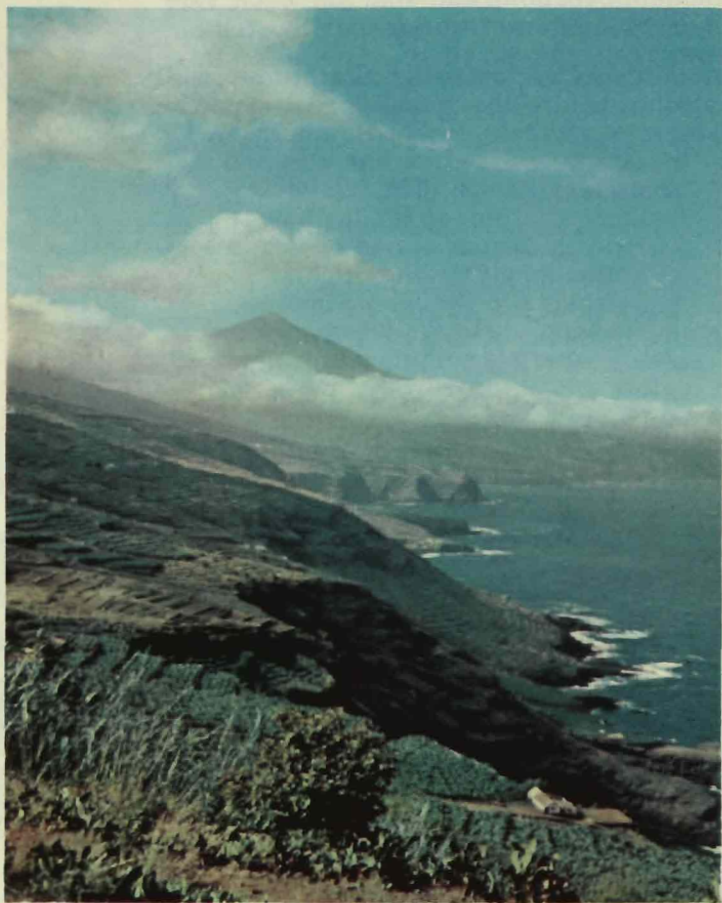
Every visitor to Tenerife should learn this lesson in variety which the island offers. It is an experience worthy to be lived. To go from one landscape to another, to receive a surprise round every curve in the roads, to become submerged in a sweet verdure and then suddenly to meet a yellow desolate waste. To discover that the island has a



mountain backbone and that on each side of this, two different worlds exist.

One of these worlds —the Northern— will display before the traveller a variegated mass of gay colours. The Southern, on the contrary, will show him gray and lustreless lands. The traveller, must, according to his taste decide in favour of one or the other land. Only the heights belong to the whole island, above which there is nothing but the sky.





With the crags, their promontories white with foam, and with their gentle and green slopes, the raised silhouette of the Teide enters into play, impressive and captivating at the same time.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

OF THE

ISLAND



1.—Prehistory

Another mystery envelops man on the island in prehistoric times. He must have arrived over the sea, but it is not known how. If he once knew the arts of navigation, he forgot them completely, because nothing has been found in Tenerife — nor in any part of the Archipelago — which points to relations between the inhabitants and the sea. It is more probable that he was not a navigator, but reached the islands with a people familiar with the sea. In fact, the *Guanche* culture, as far as is known by its archeology, points to the very opposite to any maritime traditions.



The problem of the immigration of the Canary Islands aborigines cannot be solved, for the present, with any absolute certainty. European races like the Cro-Magnon, are found deeply set all over White Africa. The Canaries, and consequently Tenerife, are

within that anthropological ambit. Early writers pointed to what is now called White Africa, as the place of origin of these people, because of many similarities of customs and tongue with other peoples moving within that same geographical area.

The first anthropologists to study the islands, found four racial types. The picture presented by Verneau is as follows: 1.° Guanche, with Cro-Magnon characteristics; 2.° semite, supposedly mixed with arab blood; 3.° a brachycephalic element of unknown origin; and 4.° a very rare type of berber.

Later, Falkenburger, who had studied collections of crania in Paris museums, distributes them in the following types:

A) (35 per 100). Guanche type or Cro-Magnon; low or medium face, low orbits, nose fine or medium.

B) (11 per 100). Negroid type, mixed with A) and a prebosquimano element, low or medium face, low or medium orbits, nose wide.

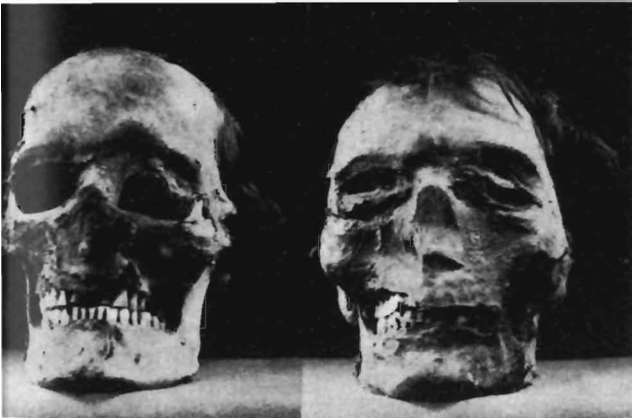
C) (30 per 100). Mediterranean type, face high or medium, orbits high or medium, nose fine or medium.

D) Mixed type, showing all possible variations of facial indices. (These groups are mesolithic or dolichocephalic).

E) (11 per 100). Brachycephalic type; varied cephalic indices. According to Falkenburger, the following distribution corresponds to Tenerife: guanches 34 per 100; negroids 9 per 100; mediterranean 35 per 100; mixed 10 per 100; brachycephalic 12 per 100.

The Guanche type appears to be defined as robust, high stature not so gigantic as is usually believed—a large head, doli-





chocephalic, wide face, low orbits and nose fine or medium.

From recent studies made of Guanche crania of Tenerife, Ilse Schwidetzky considers that the islands were a refuge for ancient European elements of white African roots. This type survives still amongst the present inhabitants of the Island, although, according to the anthropologist referred to, existing preferably in the mountain retreats, on the South coasts rather than on the North, amongst the lowest classes, and on the outskirts of the towns.

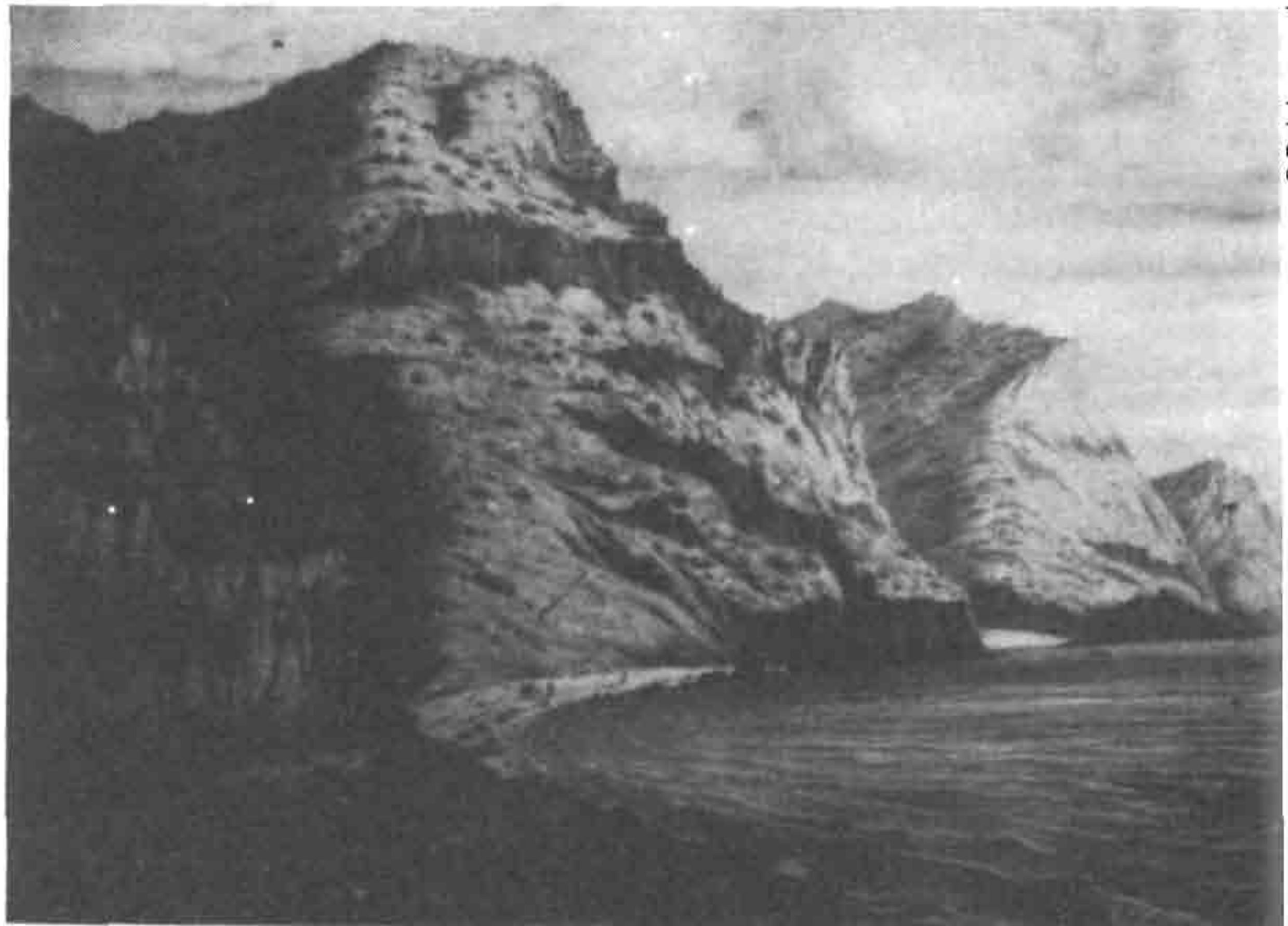
As regards the culture of the Guanches, —as the inhabitants of Tenerife were called, before the name was applied to the other Islands - little is known beyond what archaeology has revealed, as references made by early travellers and writers are very confused.

It appears that the name of Tenerife is the invention of early inhabitants of the Island of La Palma. It was composed of -Tener (snow) and -ife (mountain): that is, snow-clad mountain, or white mountain, which is how Tener-ife looks from that Island, crowned for the greater part of the year by the whiteness of the Teide.



The name, in Tenerife, is explained in the following manner: the inhabitants called their Island *Achinech*: *guan*, probably meant *man of...*, *inhabitant of...*: *guan* and *Achinech* would give the name *guan-chin-ech*, that is *the inhabitant or the man of Achinech* (J. Alvarez Delgado).

The Guanches lived in a culture purely neolithic. They lived in natural caves in the sides of ravines or in the rugged coastal lands. They occupied the region corresponding to the warm and stable climate of the Island, between the coast and the first stratum of wooded vegetation. They were ignorant of metals or of urban life, although they had a sense of human groupings and congregations. They did not build cabins, but because of the pastoral customs, they adopted natural refuges and shelters in the mountains, to which they ascended to be near fresh pastures between the Spring and Autumn. Their economy was fundamentally pastoral. They had goats, sheep and pigs. They practised an extensive rudimentary



agriculture, principally of wheat and barley. With these cereals lightly toasted, they prepared a flour meal called *gofio*, a foodstuff which still subsists, as a basic nourishment in the Canaries. They ate meal lightly roasted. Shell fish formed an important part of their food. They gathered seeds and wild fruits.



Even to the present day, on excavating caverns which served as living quarters for the old inhabitants of Tenerife, remains of food are found, consisting principally of bones of animals —goats, sheep and pigs—, and also shells of molluscs. In certain places

on the coast, near the richest banks of shell-fish, large mounds of shells, called *concheros*, are found, indicating the spots where the Guanches met to eat shell-fish. On the flat parts of Punta de Teno, there are numerous *concheros*.

The most common utensils were made of stone sharpened on basalt, chipped obsidian for cutting instruments, called *tabonas*; polished balls, also of basalt, used as projectiles thrown by hand, and scrapers and polishers of the porous lava.



They made hand mills, circular, of two stones, with which they ground the toasted cereals. For ornamentation, they used perforated shells as beads and pendants and snail shells as necklaces, although their most usual ornaments were beads made of baked clay.

Amongst their utensils of bone were awls made of the long bones of goats' feet, rough fishhooks and pieces of doubtful use in the form of spatulas with a hole in the upper part.



They made javelins, lances and sticks, of wood. These they used principally as offensive weapons, but also as pastoral staffs and symbols of authority, as in the case of the *añepa*, carried only by their chiefs.

They knew nothing of the potter's wheel, but they made a variety of ceramics, with rounded bases as well as conical shapes, sometimes decorated with incisions.

Of the language of the Guanches very few words are conserved in the toponomy and in the writings of some chroniclers. A mixture of linguistic remains belonging to White Africa seem to appear —as with the race and their culture— and also vestiges belonging to more remote linguistic areas. «Together with an initial community perhaps very primitive, a difference of language, apparent in its phonetics and lexigraphy, must be very ancient. Together with a modernity of certain elements, a great antiquity of others; and together with a linguistic and cultural mixture from recent continental Africa, some cultural and linguistic echoes of far distant centres of life. It is possible that in some of the islands the more primitive state of the language is conserved more

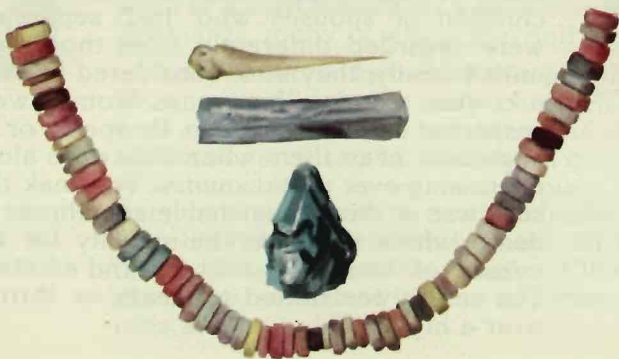


than in others, and it is certain that the mixture of tongues is not the result of the mixture of races» (J. Alvarez Delgado).

Corpses were not buried, but were deposited in caves. The bodies were subjected to a process of incomplete mummification, by external washings, followed by exposure to the air and the sun. A corpse was called *xaxo*. The funeral offerings consisted of objects of personal use —awls, stone utensils, clay beads, sea-shells, sticks, etc.— and vessels containing milk, butter, gofio and other foodstuffs. Sometimes, beside the corpse, the body of a dog was found, which shows that in Tenerife, as in other communities, the role of this animal may have been that of guide on the journey beyond the grave. All this is revealing of a cult to the dead and a belief in an after life.

Recent excavations have brought to light many aspects, little known, of the funeral rites of the Guanches. It is known that the bases of the caves were levelled with flat stones, and often, over those stones, thick planks of teak were placed, on which the corpses were laid to rest.

They believed in sexless divinities and they adored the Sun and the Moon. They



also believed in Spirits and were fearful of a demon called *Guayota*, that lived in the bowels of the *Echeyde* (Teide), which perhaps constituted the beginnings of a mythology of fire, lost before it could reach us. They had no temples nor sacerdotal castes, but they practised pastoral rites, especially to ask for rain. *Abora* is the name they gave to the supreme divinity and their name for the Sun was *Magec*. Contrasts between good and evil, sun and moon, «a fundamental category of human thought», were conceptions held by the Guanches.



Their society was organised hierarchically. The chieftain of a clan or tribe, constituted by more or less numerous groups in different regions of varying extent, was called *Mencey*. Under the *Mencey*, there were three social groups: *Achimencey*, nobles; *Achicaxna*, villains; *Chiciquitzo* or *Cichiciquitzan*, serfs, labourers or probably common fighting men.

In Tenerife the family group revolved around a respected elder, as in a patriarchal society, although in the aboriginal ethnology, vague indications of a matriarchal system exist. A man could repudiate his wife; the children of spouses who had separated, were regarded differently from those of a united family; they were considered to be in a certain manner illegitimate. Women were respected and it was taboo to speak or to approach near them when they were alone or passing over open country. To break this rule was a crime punishable sometimes by death, which was also the penalty for the crimes of homicide, robbery and adultery. The culprit was stoned to death or thrown over a high cliff.





The *Mencey* sat in counsel with his nobles and elders, in an assembly called *tagóror*. There they discussed questions of justice, order and administration, internal strife and the dangers of war and invasion.

They were a rough and rude community and were regarded as barbarians by the first explorers to know them. Neoclassic historians made an Arcadia of Tenerife, adorning its inhabitants with all kinds of virtues and perfections. The truth is that the Guanches were noble in war and protecting and hospitable when they were sure of the goodwill of strangers, and that their women were of a rare beauty, as was witnessed by Spaniards, many of whom married them.

By what is known of this people, and from records left by early chroniclers, as well as from the more recent archaeological excavations, it can be said that a community whose culture is within the pure Neolithic, had persisted up to the Middle Ages. For this reason, Tenerife became an extraordinary terrain for the study of that type of culture, so distant in time in other countries and latitudes.



2.—The meeting of two worlds

What knowledge of the Canary Islands possessed by the classic world, was lost after the fall of the Roman Empire. The *Fortunate Islands*, and the land of the apples of gold, became a lost legend. The Canary Islands, as a geographical unit, were forgotten, as well as the tales told by Andalusian mariners to Sertorius, of mysterious lands, and the reports of navigators made to Juba, King of Mauretania. Only vague remembrances remained of the islands where molluscs were collected for the making of magnificent purpura. A great silence had descended over the Archipelago.

The islands were re-discovered in the early Middle Ages. In the first years of the XIV century, voyages of discovery were made by mariners from Seville, Vizcaya and Majorca. Genoese and Portuguese sailors also participated. Lancelotto Malocello made

an expedition to the Canaries in 1312. Several expeditions from Majorca took place in 1342, and a year before, there had been a Portuguese expedition under the command of a Genoese captain. Navigating charts at this time, include the Canaries, between roses in the wind and decorative dolphins. These charts were divulged all around the Mediterranean, and in one of them, dated 1339, designed by Angelino Dulcert of Majorca, the Eastern Islands appear. More voyages followed in the last third of the XIV century and during the whole of the XV. It was in this century that the King and Queen of Spain —Ferdinand and Isabella—, under took the enterprise of the conquest of Grand Canary, La Palma and Tenerife.

The right of conquest of Tenerife was obtained by the cession to the King and



Queen of Spain, of the territorial titles to the Canaries, held by Don Diego de Herrera and Doña Inés Peraza. The islands ceded to the Crown, also included Grand Canary and La Palma, which at that time, (1477), had not yet been conquered. The conquest of La Palma and Tenerife was made by Alonso Fernández de Lugo, and the capitulation to the Crown was concerted in 1491.

When Columbus, who had already navigated between the Spanish Peninsula and the Islands, set out on his voyage of discovery, the Canary Islands played a very important part in his plans. On the 3rd August, 1492, Columbus sailed from Puerto de Palos. At dawn on the 9th August, his three caravels anchored in the port of Las Isletas in Grand Canary. There the *Pinta* had to stay for repairs because it was damaged, and Columbus left with his remaining two caravels for La Gomera. On the 25th, seeing that his pilot Martín Alonso Pinzón had not yet joined him, he returned to Grand Canary. The three caravels then returned together to La Gomera at the end of August where they arrived on the 2nd of September. On the 6th of September they set out for the



unknown. From the Tower of the Condes, a mediaeval fort built on the sea shore, doña Beatriz de Bobadilla, Lady of the island, said goodbye to the Admiral, who, attracted by her charms, had visited that rugged and rocky island. The passing of Columbus through the Canary Islands was itself a symbol: from that moment it was known that it was necessary to count on the islands for further ocean navigation, and above all, to consolidate the American route.

The Middle Ages found the Archipelago enveloped in the mysteries of the *Mar Tenebroso*. The Renaissance came to share the exhilaration when the dark mists were lifted from that dreadful sea. The trade winds, the sea currents and tides, helped the ancient mariners to reach the islands: but the trade winds, the currents and the tides made their return almost impossible. The arrival was made easy but the return was difficult. A perpetual mystery, now more intense because those who do not return never speak again. The culture in the Archipelago was necessarily geographical: for geographical reasons the classical myths vibrated vaguely around the islands. *Islands of Happiness*, from which it is best not to return. Perhaps for that reason the legend of the *Mar Tenebroso*, was invented with its heavy waters, and empty horizons, from which no-one returned. The mariner in those days who was lucky enough to return, told how his ship became uncontrollable on the homeward tracks, whilst he remembered so well the pleasant ease of navigating towards the islands, which spread themselves out before him in the mellow light of the sunset.

The Renaissance approaches the Canaries with the compass, the sextant, navigating





charts, humanities and gunpowder. A neolithic community is found. The islands, a refuge for a flora which had disappeared, guarded also a culture which had vanished from the western world thousands of years before. Towards the East, where one must look for the origin of this community, all is silent: the natives conserve no trace of their past, neither in myths, legends, nor traditions. Towards the West, the unknown ocean. Between neglect on one side, and silence and mystery on the other, are the islands. That was Tenerife when Columbus saw its flame from the sea, precisely at the moment when the secret of the *Mar Tenebroso* was to be broken. And so it was also on that first day of May in 1494 when fifteen brigantines anchored in the shelter of the cliffs of *Anaga*.

The commander of the flotilla was the Andalusian of Galician origin, Alonso Fernández de Lugo, the same officer who had to his credit the conquest of the island of La Palma. He brought with him one thousand men, 120 horses and a large supply of





firearms. The party disembarked on the beach of *Añaza*, a stretch of desolate and deserted coast where today rises the luminous city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife. From the mountains, the aborigines saw with wonder the arrival of the ships, the movements of launches and the first wave of conquerors to step onto the shore. Swift messengers took the news and gave the alarm even to the remotest parts of the island. The arrival of those «white houses», as they called the ships, startled the peace of that primitive people.

The Renaissance, the Europe of the XV century, had arrived with Alonso Fernández de Lugo. And thus was produced the meeting of two worlds. The quaternary race of Cro-Magnon, from whose roots the Guanche sprang, found itself face to face with the cultured and refined European. The rude native culture fell back in front of the brilliant manifestation of power and knowledge that came with the conquerors. Stones and javelins hurled from above, clashed



with iron weapons; the natives fled from the bullets and ended vanquished by them. With their bodies almost naked, with no other protection than rough skins, they faced men splendidly clothed and protected with armour. A barbarous tongue, also mysterious, contrasted with the clarity and smoothness of the Castilian language, in which were mixed liturgic latin and benevolent humanism. And over that virgin country, accustomed only to the passing of shepherds and flocks, horses went galloping.



When Alonso Fernández de Lugo penetrated into Tenerife it is recorded that the island was divided into clans or bands, at the head of each was a chief or *mencey*, a name which the Spaniards took to mean *king*. Between truth and legend, appear names of those kings, and the bands into which the island was divided. Without crossing swords with historical critics, the following names are repeated: the *mencey Bencomo* governed an extensive region in which the Valley of La Orotava is situated: *Beneharo* was the *mencey* of *Anaga*, the mountainous vertex of the island in which domain was the plain now occupied by Santa Cruz: *Adjoña*, *mencey* of *Abona*, in the South: *Adeje*, *mencey* of the district now bearing that name: *Romen*, who governed in the lowland called the *Daute* district; *Pelicar*, chief of the canton of *Icod*; *Acaymo*, *mencey* of the green countryside of *Tacoronte*; *Añarterve*, who dominated the extensive district of *Güímar*.



The meeting of these two worlds was angry and violent. Fortune was unequal both for the Guanches and for the Spaniards. Two happenings make this clear. Fernández de Lugo, on disembarking, advanced with

his forces, in that Spring of 1494, into the interior of the island. He crossed the open plain of La Laguna (*Aguere*), the flatlands of Los Rodeos and the green countryside of Tacoronte. Bencomo, kept informed by his spies, followed the movements of the conqueror. The Guanche mencey ordered his brother, Tinguaro, to march over the mountains with a group of fighting men and set an ambush for the Spanish Captain in the ravine, *Barranco de Acentejo*. Bencomo was to wait at *Araotava* (Valley of Orotava). Many of Lugo's soldiers pushed on to the Valley, whilst others captured cattle. The countryside was silent and deserted, and Lugo suspected an ambush. As a precaution he ordered a retreat to the camp at La Laguna, but Tinguaro intercepted his passage in the *Barranco de Acentejo*. When the struggle was at its height, Bencomo arrived with his forces. There was great carnage, more amongst the Spaniards than amongst the Guanches. It is said, perhaps in exaggeration, that the Spaniards lost between 800 and 900 men. And so ended one of the most bloody chapters of the conquest of Tenerife. The name of one of its villages proclaims this



disaster: *La Matanza de Acentejo* (The massacre of Acentejo).

The other happening took place in the following manner: After the first disaster, Alonso Fernández de Lugo returned with his forces to the Island of Grand Canary with the object of re-forming his forces and preparing for the second invasion of Tenerife, which he began on the 2nd of November, 1494. Fernández de Lugo knew that the bulk of the Guanche force was at Aguere and he ordered an advance. At dawn on the 14th of November, he reached the part which is now the entrance to La Laguna coming from Santa Cruz. The Guanche and Spanish forces combatted with great ardour but the conquerors caused havoc amongst the natives. With the arrival of provisions for the invading force, a new advance was ordered. On the 24th of December the march began: Tacoronte and the Barranco de Acentejo, of sorrowful memory, were passed, and the soldiers entrenched themselves in open country. Christmas Eve was passed in careful vigilance. On the morning of the 25th of

December the Guanches appeared facing the Spanish force. The fighting was long and bloody and the Guanches were defeated and retreated to Araotava. This feat assured the position of Lugo in Tenerife. The name of this other village proclaims his victory: *La Victoria de Acentejo*.

And this was the end: the menceyes, convinced that all further resistance was useless, submitted to the Spanish Captain. The Island was incorporated into the Crown of Castille in the year 1496.

The relating of all these episodes is not without interest, because, in view of the small extent of the island, and the short



time that has elapsed —which makes the history of the island relatively very recent—, one can almost live again the passage of the conquerors, and of the retreating aborigines, over the broken landscapes.

Of that primitive world, but also saturated with human grandeur, some events and personages have been related in a mixture of truth and delicate legend. It is interesting to bring them to life in their island scene, and so revive the enchantment of that past world. A Tenerife legend of the time of the conquest, with human beings that live and love and die, will close this brief evocation of the meeting of Guanches and Spaniards on the quaking geography of Tenerife:

DEATH OF TINGUARO

At that time, La Laguna was called *Aguere* and was no more than that, a clear blue lagoon, and Santa Cruz, a sea-shore, but like all sea-shores, tremulous and coveted. The rest of the island was peace and tumult at the same time, geology and flora, a race without history passing through phases of birth and death with the same simplicity

as a leaf passes from Spring to Autumn. It is possible that some had dreams at times, and saw damsels or felt themselves to be chieftains, sometimes in sweet pastoral settings and sometimes in bellicose raptures. And if a woman, to repose on the sea-shore or to rest on a mountain slope. The island knows of the wild flower and of warm blood in its veins and of the kiss of rocks.

There is a personage whose life and death depicts and seals all these things. And all because he wanted the sea-shore to remain a sea-shore, that the lagoon should not lose its clear blue light, that the stones should continue to protect the flower and



that the bleat of goats should still echo in the fine breezes.

He was called Tinguaro. The first time his name is heard is when Bencomo wished to kill a soothsayer called Guañameñe. The Island is still virgin; the sea-shore, later to be called Santa Cruz, is untouched. But Guañameñe is a diviner and has just predicted that strange people will soon come to the Island. The mencey does not want to believe in auguries and wishes the wizard to be killed. Then Tinguaro intervenes, having been present at the scene with other natives, and after many entreaties, he succeeds in persuading Bencomo to desist from his intention.

Tinguaro is in love with a beautiful native girl called Guajara. She corresponds to his love. His life is led between the preparation of his fighting men and his love. He lives happily until Beneharo, the mencey of uncouth Anaga, makes a proposal to him. Beneharo has a daughter called Guacimara. He has no sons. At his death, his kingdom will be without a successor. Since the Spaniards are menacing the independence of the island and Tinguaro is the best of its chiefs, Beneharo offers him, as a prize for the victory which he hopes Tinguaro will gain over the invaders, the hand of his daughter, Guacimara, and with her, the kingdom of Anaga.



Guacimara was in love with Ruyman, a prince of Taoro, but their amorous relations were unknown to Beneharo. Had he known, he would not have given his word to Tinguaro, who, before such a brilliant future, begins to forget his love for Guajara. That is the situation when the Spaniards suffer their disaster at Acentejo. In the



meantime Guacimara sighs more and more for Ruyman. Guajara, who has become aware of the offer made by Beneharo to Tinguaro, becomes desperate with jealousy. Then Ruyman, fearing to lose Guacimara, prepares vengeance on Tinguaro. Tinguaro is wounded at Acentejo, but he gives no importance to the wound because his thoughts are now all of victory over the Spaniards and his good fortune in Anaga: a kingdom and a beautiful wife. And so he hastens to tell Beneharo of the result of the fighting with the Spaniards, but the mencey is now aware that Guacimara loves Ruyman and will not consent to marry Tinguaro. As if advised by angels, Ruyman has left Taoro to go to Guacimara at Anaga. But Guacimara had the same intention, to fly from Anaga to Taoro, disguised as a shepherd. When both are returning to their own abodes, disappointed at not finding each other, they meet on the way but do not recognise one another. And forlorn, Guacimara and Ruyman, rather than return home, each decides



to remain on the hills of Aguere serving as shepherds.

Bencomo then enters the scene. Softened by the tears and entreaties of Guajara, he persuades Tinguaro to honour his word, and whilst the other two are wandering sadly over the flowering hills of Aguere, Tinguaro marries Guajara.

But the Spaniards have returned and Tinguaro has to lead his men again into the struggle. The battle takes place on the open-land of La Laguna. In the first moments, Tinguaro falls badly wounded. The hill of San Roque looking on the scene, sees how the most valiant leader of the Guanches fell like a young tree mowed down. The horses of the invaders with their casques of armour, cause that virgin land to tremble, as they trample the untouched verdure. A Spaniard, on horseback, seeing how Tinguaro has fallen, dashes upon him. Tinguaro tells him that he is the brother of the men-
cey Bencomo —as in fact he is— and that he gives himself up as a prisoner. The Spaniard was called Martín Buendía and had no mind to try to understand the strange tongue of the Guanches. He kills him outright on the spot, believing him to be the chief, Bencomo, with whom he had a great

likeness. And, as a sign, it is decided to cut off his head and bear it to the Guanches, high on a lance.

Bencomo is in Tacoronte when he receives the sad trophy. The Guanche warriors shed tears for their leader. After which, the head of Tinguaro was carried in an impressive procession to Taoro, where the inhabitants received it with great mourning. Guajara is there, overcome with grief, tearful, whilst Bencomo sings the praises of





the fallen: «The valiant father of our country is dead and he leaves our people orphans».

Tinguaro is carried away in the midst of the battle, smelling of thyme and earth, while the valley trembles under the galloping horses. Guajara cries for the death of her husband. Her name remains high upon the mountain opposite the Teide, which is gilded in the evenings by the setting sun. Tinguaro died for wishing that the clear blue of the Laguna meadows should not be disturbed and that the sea-shore should remain a sea-shore, and that chieftains should wish to defend such simple and beautiful scenes. Little more is known of him. One dares to believe that his shadow continues to command shadows. In the meadow of Aguerre, the sinister gallop of Martín Buendía's horse should still be audible. In the lanes of La Laguna, lined with brambles and wild oats, the trail of that afflicted group that carried the head of the Guanche warrior to the valley of Taoro, should be preserved.



Perhaps in the night, the echo of the weeping of Guajara might reach our ears. More than once we have tried to see the silhouette of the sorrowful widow on the heights of the mountain which bears her name, beaten by the winds on the mountain crests, white, transparent, like a flake of mist fretted by the sharp rocks.

But La Laguna lost its clarity of a blue unspoiled meadow and the sea-shore trembled before a new life, full of surprises.



3.—History proceeds

It must not be forgotten that the Canary Islands were the first overseas territories held by Spain. This fact, significant in itself, created a series of questions for Spain, of an urgent nature. Questions which, on being resolved, constituted a lesson which later became very necessary to have been learned. The Canaries, in many ways, served as an experience for the great enterprise of conquest and colonization in America.

The Island had its colonizing phase, in which, very often, the excesses of the conquerors justly incited the natives. Fortunately, the natives always found understanding and good dispositions in the Kings of Spain. Without the farsightedness and sense of justice of the Catholic Sovereigns, the colonization of Teneriffe might have presented a different character. Soon after the conquest, complaints reach the Court against Fernández de Lugo, for his conduct in regard to natives «improperly kept as prisoners». In 1506 and 1508, the King of Spain ordered an investigation into the conduct of the Governor. Serious charges were made against him, not only because of his nepotism, but also because of his arbitrary distributions



of lands and water, and his cruel treatment and enslaving of the vanquished natives.

Nevertheless, after the conquest and the assimilation of the primitive society by the conquerors, the standard of living of the people improved more rapidly than could have been expected. In spite of everything, the Canaries is one of the few territories where it is not possible to find a separating barrier between the natives and the conquerors.



The immediate preoccupation of the Governor was to create wealth by fostering an economy which did not exist, since the lands were virgin and only produced spontaneously. He gave preference to increasing the supplies of water and to the making of roads. It is known that the first roads opened were those of Icod and Daute, Orotava and Santa Cruz. It was necessary also to give special attention to matters of internal order and administration. The people, were gradually brought to conform to traditional institutions, adapted, of course, to the special circumstances of the islands.



It is curious to note that Fernandez de Lugo was granted special powers and privileges, typically mediaeval, with the titles of Forerunner, Governor and Chief Justice of the Islands, with the right to make distribution of lands, appoint functionaries and to select the persons who might remain permanently in the territory conquered by him. «But the Municipalities were established with autonomy and on a liberal basis, in imitation of the mediaeval Councils of Castille». (J. Peraza de Ayala).

The Governor divided the island into three zones or districts, La Laguna, Taoro and Daute, and appointed to each an eccle-

siastical vicar, a military commander, a commissary of the Holy Office, and a judge.

At first, few colonists came to the island, although Lugo did everything possible to attract them. When they began to come, the Governor obliged them to fix their residence in lands assigned to them, which they were prohibited from selling within a period of five years and he obliged them to bring their wives. Later, ships of many nationalities began to call at Santa Cruz, initiating a maritime traffic which considerably increased in volume as time went on. Genoese, Flemish, English and Portuguese sailors, besides many Spanish, animated this traffic. The first port of the island was Santa Cruz de Tenerife, in effect founded by the Governor on disembarking at Añaza in May 1494. It was first a simple construction of three steps for barges. In the last third of the XVI century, Santa Cruz already possessed a short quay, and although it is true that its supremacy as a port was snatched away by the ports of Garachico and La Orotava —now Puerto de la Cruz— because of the export trade in Tenerife wines from that region, the port of Santa Cruz maintained its traffic with the Peninsula, Madeira, Lisbon



and the New World. The other two ports were visited by ships trading with England, France and with western Europe generally.

For the insular traffic, ships of different sorts were built in the Island in the XVI century, although some Spanish and Portuguese ships were bought. And when the danger of privateers created a constant alarm in the Islands, armed ships were kept at the port of Santa Cruz, for the purpose of resisting the menace of pirates. Santa Cruz was the only port in the Archipelago privileged to trade with America. But its greatest development came when the port of Garachico was destroyed in a volcanic catastrophe in the

XVIII century. In the last third of this century —1763— the first mail service was established between Santa Cruz and Cádiz. In the XIX century the port received a great impetus, and towards the middle of that century the first artificial prisms were used in its further construction.

But Santa Cruz de Tenerife progressed slower than such a port merited. For political rather than natural reasons, and perhaps because the Governor, himself accustomed to wide landscapes, preferred the flat meadows of La Laguna, he chose that spot to build the first city of the Island, as soon as the initial consolidation of the conquest allowed him. La Laguna became in time the capital and seat of government of the island, which was in the hands of a *Cabildo*, or Council. For this reason, La Laguna grouped around the Governor, all the men of quality: aristocrats, captains of the conquering forces, men of letters, high functionaries, etc. And whilst this city developed a stamp of distinction, Santa Cruz, inhabited by Guanches, fishermen and strangers, of low social con-

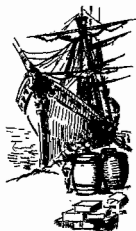


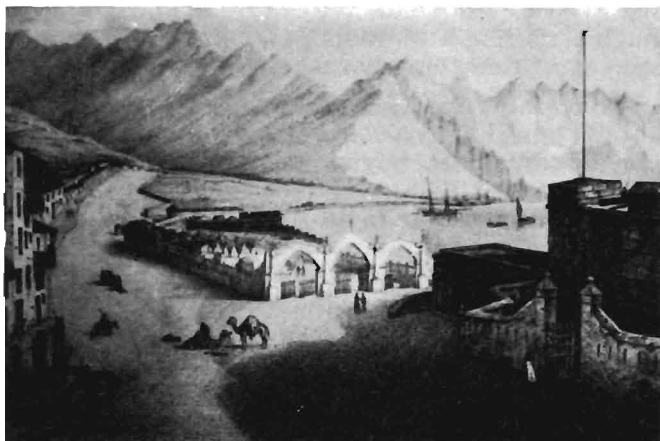
dition, lived as a dependency of La Laguna, although acquiring a marked personality of its own, as is today clearly revealed.

Today they are two cities, in both of which it is possible to discover their separate development. La Laguna, slow moving, manorial, replete with traditions, with old buildings that relate the history of the city. Santa Cruz, dynamic, vivacious, formed by contacts with the outside world which approached its door. La Laguna was the first city built in the island as a quadrilateral, and it can be said that the cities of America took the city of La Laguna as a precedent. Santa Cruz grew according to its commercial needs and its economic development. For that very reason, its urbanization was capricious, creating natural difficulties for later town planners, like other cities which have grown under jostling pressures and without any

preconceived plans. These are, therefore, two cities that serve to illustrate the evolution of the island through time. What each one was in the last third of the XVI century, can be deduced from the numbers of its inhabitants: Of the 17,641 persons living in the island in 1561, 7,200 resided in La Laguna, and only 770 in Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

The island soon grew sufficient agricultural produce to export; new villages were born over its diverse geography; churches and convents were built, from the very beginning, as well as parochial schools: Later came professorates of Latinity, the Arts, Philosophy and Theology, in which subjects the convents of La Laguna and La Orotava gained fame. As time went on, a University was created at La Laguna. Fortifications were constructed at those points on the coast most threatened by pirates, above all





in the coastal arc of Santa Cruz, where a number of castles, towers, batteries and redoubts were built. As will be seen, its situation proclaimed already the part that it would have to take as a vital spot in the maritime routes that European nations were beginning to dispute.

Attracted by the growing importance of the territory, many foreign traders settled in Tenerife, and among them were an appreciable contingent of Irish nationals. In 1509 the principal wealth of the island was sugar. Towards the end of the XVII century, a regular and valuable trade in wines existed. Since the middle of the XVI century, cultivation of the vine had become general, but it was in the following century that this cultivation reached its greatest importance, directed by an English company trading in Canary Islands wines, which was practically a monopoly, but also assured the distribution of that product to European markets. When that company ceased to exist, for different reasons, the export trade in wine dropped,



causing a general decline in external trade, as a consequence of which the islands suffered an economic collapse of extreme gravity.

Whilst the island continued to increase its agricultural production by amplifying its areas of cultivation and testing new crops, it had to face dangers which, due to its island situation, came to it from outside. The black death, pest, yellow fever and cholera, preyed upon the unsuspecting inhabitants, century after century. Filibusters and pirates made easy the entry of outside penetrations, attracted by covetousness of its privileged position as an indispensable port of call on many maritime routes, and especially on those directed to America.

These mortal epidemics came nearly always from the West Indies, and the black death, which was brought from Cuba in the year 1701, and which devastated the island, is still remembered. The presence of corsairs and pirates around the coast was almost always due to the calling at Santa Cruz of galleons and other vessels from America, with valuable cargoes. Covetous winds filled the sails of the pirates and an air of fear enveloped the inhabitants of the island. Attacks became very dangerous from the second half of the XVII century, although the two strongest attacks took place in the XVIII century. By the way these attacks were repulsed, an historian has called this century «the century of the Canary Islands' heroism», because it was not only Tenerife, but the whole Archipelago, that suffered the repeated visits of corsairs from the North.

At the end of April, 1657, the English admiral, Blake, appeared before Santa Cruz de Tenerife, with a fleet of 36 ships. A Span-



ish flotilla was anchored in the harbour, composed of eleven ships, under the command of Diego de Eguez. On being attacked, and fearing that his ships would fall into the hands of the English, he set them on fire. Blake, denied the prizes he had hoped to take, and harassed by the fire from the coastal batteries, retired, after losing more than 500 men, in his frustrated action.

In 1706, another attack, this time by Gennings, proved the valour of the defenders. And Gennings was obliged to retire.

In 1797, Admiral Nelson presented himself before Santa Cruz de Tenerife. He lost his arm in the attack on the city, suffered considerable material and human losses, and abandoned the port without gaining his purpose. This one exploit is enough to illustrate the history of a people, and it meant for Tenerife the enriching of its coat of arms with a new blazón.

But the XVIII century was for Tenerife the century of its cultural enlightenment. In that century, many of the fruits matured which were brought from Spain with the conquest, or with the colonization and the island's subsequent intense immigration. Its





close contact with Europe brought to the island all kinds of novelties, very soon after they appeared; scientific and literary novelties, novelties in fashions and in the *salons*. The libraries on the island were being enriched with the most successful and famous works. In La Laguna there were debating clubs, like that of the Marques de Villanueva del Prado, where the most varied topical themes were discussed, as well as proposals for the material and spiritual improvement of Tenerife. Out of that club came forth the most important historiography produced in the Archipelago, the «Historia General de las Islas Canarias», by José de Viera y Clavijo, which is still valued as a standard work.

To the islands, gothic influences had arrived, in images, both as ornaments and as architectural details. Also an appreciable plateresque message, which brought beauty to the stones of the islands. The pompous baroque style appeared, influencing facades and the carvings of images and altar pieces. The breath of rococo was perceptible, and



one can follow the progress of neoclassicism, which left so many notable marks on the art of the islands. The XVIII century brought to the islands the distant air of Versailles, of powdered wigs and dames of opulent beauty. After which, romanticism remained long in the Islands, as had occurred with the baroques, both of which styles appeared to find in this community a propitious ground in which to flourish. Architecture, painting, sculpture, and poetry are a good proof of a great capacity for assimilation in the islands, and of creative powers. An architecture of Spanish origin, but with a Canary Islands accent, was created. And the same occurs in the manifestations of their art in general and in a special degree in their typical music, and popular industries. What was called colonial architecture in America had previously been practised in the Islands, and spots in the old city of La Laguna, in La Orotava, Puerto de la Cruz, Icod, and also in the old port districts of Santa Cruz de Tenerife—as well as in towns and villages in the other islands— have the greatest likeness to other spots which can be found in colonial America.



If it is surprising to contemplate all that has been done to the external aspect of the islands in less than five centuries of their history, more surprising still is all that has been achieved in the order of spiritual progress. From the earliest times, the history of Tenerife has received its impulse from its conquerors, in which the Guanches collaborated as they could. Islanders have shown brilliance in the fields of science, of art, of soldiery and of the Church. Those men descended from the stock of the conquerors, but also from their union with the natives.





And to lead forward a people from neolithic darkness into the highest intellectual and spiritual spheres, is an enterprise which suffices in itself to illuminate with the maximum splendour, the whole historical evolution of Tenerife and of the Canary Islands in general. And to pause to consider this fact is much more important than descending to considerations of a different order, which because of their excessively local character, do not give such a wide and generous view as that we have weakly portrayed.

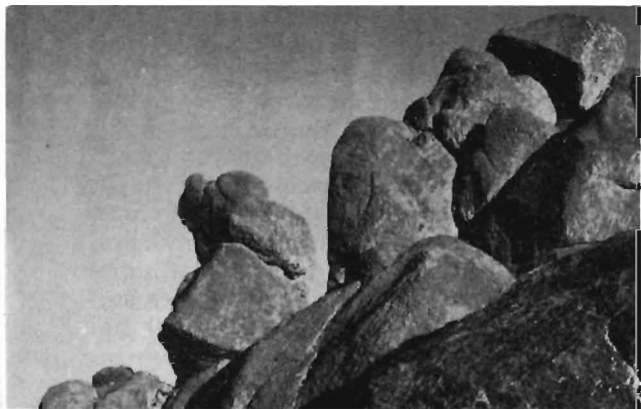
Spain made the test in the Canaries, on a small scale, of what later was to be realised in America. For that reason, the historical development of the Islands — Tenerife is only an example of what occurred in the whole Archipelago — should move us to deep thoughts. Not always have the colonizing nations achieved such a success in such a brief time. Here the neolithic man has progressed, more through conviction than by force. And what in other latitudes might have signified a work of centuries and the necessity of separating boundaries be-



tween the native population and the conquerors, in the island was achieved in a smooth and tranquil manner.

4.—Man and terrain

Tenerife, an island of stone. Sloping planes everywhere. The stone is in the soil. The lava emerges over the landscapes. Man, in order to dominate that ruggedness has had to struggle and make violent efforts unceasingly, to make the earth productive. We have already seen the wild nature, almost intractable, of its broken topography and diverse and changing terrain. To this is added the intertropical situation of the island that has given prevalence to legends of a land of mysterious fertility. Man has had to contend with rock, with lava and with sand. He has turned up the beds of ravines, has ploughed the slopes and built up terraces. And on turning over the lava he has discovered, with joy, the subjacent humus, soil which in other parts received the light of the sun. In the beds of the ravines he has searched for stratas of alluvium and the timid trickles of water which he has directed carefully to his crops. In the wide valleys that extend from the sea to the mountain

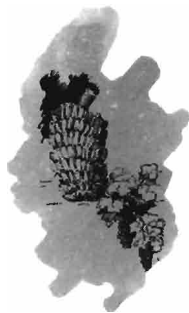


crests, he tested a whole series of different crops, from those which give a tropical pulp to those traditional agricultural products proper to temperate zones.

The rocks have given flowers and fruit. The hard basalt has opened to offer the bounty of cool and transparent founts of water. The mountains have been perforated. Let no-one deceive himself, on contemplating the landscapes of Tenerife, that all this has been given freely by the soil and the climate. If these elements have done miracles, the greatest miracle has been performed by man. The sky is not prodigious in rains, and where water is most needed, is where the

islanders have persisted in growing the most exacting crops. Water, which has always been a chief factor in the grouping of human beings, was very scarce in the island. The small springs, the thin waterfalls down the cliffs and slopes, served to congregate primitive communities, but were not sufficient to sustain a large population, and much less to serve large plantations. Opening galleries that penetrate for miles into the mountainsides, in search of large subterranean deposits which collect rain water, the islanders have, when accompanied by good fortune, gone on creating wealth. This titanic effort is not always crowned with success and frequently such enterprises have to be abandoned after boring for thousands of metres, and the search for water, so jealously hidden, has to be renewed in other places. In Tenerife alone, more than 550 kilometres of water galleries haven been perforated.

The search for subterranean water supplies has brought with it a modification of the landscape, because it has made possible a special cultivation, which is now the



basis of the islands' economy. Ordinary crops are still grown, for the most part in dry lands, watered by occasional rainfalls, because small growers cannot afford the expense of buying water.

In this sense, Tenerife offers two definitely different belts of cultivation: special crops, that occupy the belt running from the sea-shore up to 300 metres, and ordinary crops sown on the medium height zones and even at slightly higher altitudes.

When we spoke of Tenerife as an island of two fronts, on drawing attention to the differences of climate, landscape and vegetation between the North and the South, we alluded to a difference in agriculture. The agriculture and therefore the economy of each of these zones, are different. So they were in primitive times. In the North, the natives, maintained a pastoral existence, but also occupied themselves with agriculture, whilst in the South the primitive population was extremely dispersed and led a nomadic life.

From all this, one deduces that nature had to be conquered and that the earth, instead of being a mother, might perhaps be regarded more as a hard step-mother to the islanders. «For these reasons, when trying to establish the essential economic conditions of the Canary Islands, one should commence by stating that, contrary to what

might otherwise be believed, the islanders have had to work very hard and very well before their anxieties were rewarded with the prosperous economy which they have today achieved».

But this has meant as many centuries of effort as there are in the Islands' history. The inhabitants could not subsist by relying





only on traditional crops. It is true that there is a type of farmer who limits his crops to cereals or vines etc., as in other agricultural communities. But the land in the islands did not produce a sufficiency for an easy life, and as from the first moments of colonization, new and even unknown crops were tried out—the first being the sugar cane—the selection of suitable lands became a necessity, as well as a division of labour in agriculture. The agricultural tiller, pure and simple, continued faithful to his fertile farmland, but of necessity, the agricultural planter was born, experimenting with virgin lands and new plantations. And each of these groups, over the years, humanised the landscapes, up to the point that great extensions of the island —The Valley of La Orotava serves as an example— only preserve their topographical pattern whilst all the rest, except the forests, is the work of man.

The meteoric regions dilate around the Teide, and except for the shrinkage suffered in typical vegetation and the beginnings of reafforestation with imported species, it can be said that here the natural landscape preserves its original lines and its primitive



chromatography. This also occurs in *Las Cañadas del Teide*.

The meteorised semi-arid lands have been brought into use by man. These rest upon layers of lava or calcareous tufa. To preserve the little humidity they hold, they are covered with layers of ground pumice-stone and, in the terraces treated in this way, vines are grown. This type of cultivation is known in many parts of the South.



In the semi-arid regions, above all in the South-East and the South, tophus, or calcareous tufa is found, which man has not yet exploited, because the breaking up of this white sterile crust to convert into crop producing land, is an altogether too costly enterprise. White patches sterilise some landscapes in the Valley of Güímar, as well as in extensive zones of Adeje, Arona, Arico and the coast of Granadilla.


In these same districts one finds wide expanses of whitish landscapes composed of pumice stone, (lapilli), in which vines are cultivated.

In the zones watered by winter rains which have a mediterranean climate, deep formations of *terra rossa* can be found also entombed beneath wide currents of lava.

Brown lands, containing vegetable mould, are found in the North of the island and in part of the peninsula of Anaga, but these nearly always rest on old layers of calcareous tufa.

This classification of the regions of Tenerife, made by Hans Hausen, enables us to see with greater clarity the work of man in the different districts. Only the lands of *terra rossa* and brown earth, attracted the traditional agriculturalists, that is to say those amongst the early colonists who only





knew how to grow vegetables, cereals and vines. The potato came later. The remaining lands, not so attractive, were worked by the same class of agriculturalists, but although they found them difficult, and churlish, they set themselves to dominate them. That is


how the semi-desert lands strewn with calcareous tufa and pumice stone on the edges of lava streams, were converted into small patches and sloping terraces, which constitute the heroic efforts of man in the South of the island, compared to his easier task with the generous fertility of the North.

And it was in zones disdained at first by the classical agriculturalists, where special cultivation was tested. The usual farming implements, of Roman origin, went on sowing, harvesting, thrashing and winnowing as of old. And the peasants celebrated their feasts and sang their folk songs as they had done in remote times. The new cultivations changed the landscapes, and, there, new styles of working the land were adopted, whilst the noble implements of the past were forgotten.

In this way Tenerife has been able to show through the centuries of its history, the conquest of its diverse lands, in an effort that could not often be repeated. And it is this effort which has brought to the island a flourishing economy and its independence in the world.

5.—Towns and villages.

Rural communities came to life. Their appearance had already been justified in primitive native communities. It can be affirmed almost as a certainty, that where villages appear today, a native community existed before. For that reason the villages are on the margins or at the mouths of ravines, on high hills, on raised ground near the



coast, or, occasionally in the vicinity of what was a pasture district. The only city established artificially, without contact with a native past, is La Laguna. The old capital was formed at the mouth of the ravine, *Barranco de Santos*, although the ravine itself was populated by the Guanches of the region of Anaga.

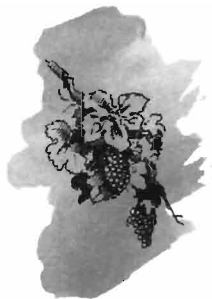


The greatest density and concentration of people is found in the North and North-east, and the greatest dispersion in the South and Southeast. Men gathered in those parts that had the colour and smell of earth, moistened by winter rains and which could therefore sustain crops and cattle. La Laguna, which was created by the personal decision of the first Governor, enjoyed, besides its strategic position, the advantages of an open countryside, an agricultural prelude of green plains which anticipated the soft undulations of growing wheat.

But in order to understand up to what point men searched out the belt of land typically agricultural and moist, it is sufficient to know that of the 31 villages in the island, 19 are in that belt and only 12 are in the South; that more than 20 are at levels between 300 and 700 metres, except one that reaches almost up to 1,000 metres —Santiago del Teide, between the North and the South—, and another as high as 1,500 metres —Vilaflor, in the South—; two are between altitudes of 100 and 250 metres —Buenavista and Icod de los Vinos— and only four are on the sea-coast, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Puerto de la Cruz, Garachico and San Juan de la Rambla, on the North, and one other, Candelaria, on the South.

The majority of the villages in that agricultural belt consist of from 2,000 to 7,000





inhabitants, both in the North and the South, which indicates a secure and stable rhythm of livelihood, almost without fluctuations. The growth of some towns has been due either to the existence of special crops, or to their commercial activities.

Güimar, in the South, in a semi-arid zone, has more than 10,000 inhabitants, but this is because it has united the ordinary farm workers with the planters. Icod de los Vinos, with more than 17,000 inhabitants, proclaims by its name the reason for its flourishing life, besides being set in the best banana growing zone. La Orotava, with more than 20,000 inhabitants is the most important centre of banana production in the whole Archipelago. Puerto de la Cruz, with more than 12,000 inhabitants, is situated on the coast of the Valley of La Orotava, and although its growth began with the export of wines in the XVIII century, today it is within the area of banana plantations. In the Valley are also Los Realejos, Alto and Bajo, which together have more than 15,000 inhabitants: these towns possess water, and thrive on ordinary farm produce, and banana plantations. Tacoronte, including El Sauzal,



(a close neighbouring village), which has almost 10,000 inhabitants, depends principally on wine, possessing the best vine-fields in the island. And finally, Santa Cruz, with its port, through which pours all the commerce of imports and exports of the island, making possible the vertiginous growth of the city. It should be observed that not one village in the South has a population of more than 7,000.

The rural population greatly exceeds that of the towns. And it is that population which gives human character to the landscapes. In fact, one should not be too dazzled by the large and splendid plantations of bananas, or even the temporary and extensive plantations of tomatoes in the Southern

zones, where the virgin land is very generous when it is watered; one should not become too enchanted with the patches of colour of the bougainvilleas, with the draping of greenish yellow of the sugar cane -- which is still cultivated in the island—, or with the exotic silhouette of the papaw-tree; all this is not the island, although it helps to present an appearance of mellowness and charm. The real island is in that belt where the farming communities continue to sing and to produce as in the old days, with their wheat fields and vines; the eternal bread and wine. The island is the farmer's cottage, with his farm implements resting in the shade inside a shed; it is the thatched cottage; the barn for stowing grain and the small gardens of carefully kept plants, some wild, around the homesteads. It is the quiet peasant, who speaks slowly in a sweet Castillian, as if suspended in time. It is the humble hermitage that keeps old devotions alive. It is the little village in which everyone is engaged in the same kind of work from



morning till night, from one year to another. It is the smell of earth, and the smoke of fragrant logs burning in the homes. It is the rain in winter, and the sun that dries the corn in summer.

And thus the towns and villages of Tenerife were born and have evolved; first by primitive natives and then by the attraction of the soil and its colours. It is the passionate story of man groping for land, grasping it in his hands, breathing its smell, separating stones, and learning the hidden virtues of its colours. Crossing the island one ends by not knowing which is the most extraordinary, whether the rapid progress towards mature manners of living, or this passionate possession of the soil. It must have been the latter, because without that possession, communities cannot thrive as they do today, scattered throughout the medium heights, from which they look out with secular serenity over the vivacious map of the island.





The Peacefulness of the villages is signaled by the tall spires and belfries of their churches under the eaves of which swallows nest.



Chapter III

P
RODUCE OF THE LAND
AND
HISTORY OF ITS AGRICULTURE



1.—In the beginning

From the first moments of the colonization, it became necessary to find in the land and in the animal life on it, the indispensable elements for ensuring the sustenance of the newly formed population, which, for natural reasons, tended to increase rapidly. In view of the nature of the island and its characteristic vegetation, it was the rocks, the forests and certain agricultural products, which formed the basis of the early export trade. Lichen off the rocks, resin from the pines, and timber from the forests. Hides were also an important item in the early export trade. There are official dispositions referring to these exports as early as 1497.

Dragon blood preserved its prestige between legend and miracle. It was regarded almost as a magic drug in the Middle Ages, and the attention of the early navigators was drawn to the existence of this coveted product in the hands of the natives: «They brought large quantities of figs and dragon blood, to exchange for fishhooks, old pieces of iron and sewing needles. The dragon blood they brought was worth two hundred gold *doblas*, and what they received for it was hardly worth two francs».

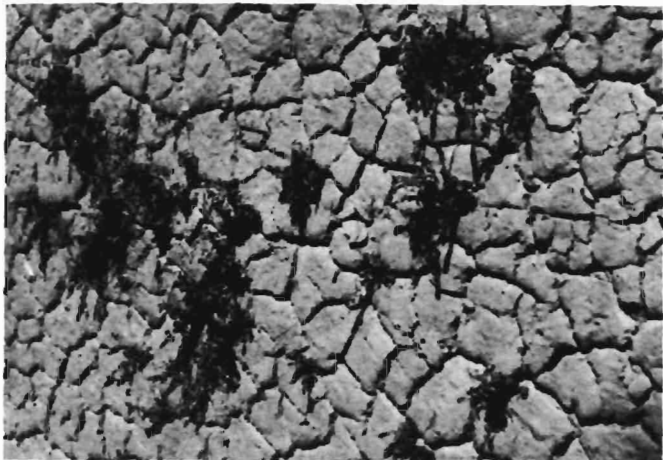
But perhaps the first products of an intensive exportation were pitch obtained from resin from the pines, and lichen. Already in 1498 the Island Council (Cabildo) takes note of the production of pitch. No limitations were made to those wishing to engage in its production. Numerous groups were employed collecting it and it is probable that some villages grew larger as a result of so much work on draining the pines. The establishment of Vilaflor, at the height at which it stands, in the most famous pinewoods of the island, may be an example of this activity.

2.—Orchilla. (Lichen)

Commerce in *orchilla*, (Lichen *Roccella*, L) was famous. It is a lichen often employed in the preparation of dyes. The French called it *orecilles*, the Italians *orcella* or *roccella*, the seafarer Cada-mosto, *oricola*, and the conquerors with Bethencourt called it *orsolle*. Agreements and dispositions are known to exist in Tenerife in the year 1499, providing for payment in money and not in kind, for sales of *orchilla*.

It is said that this lichen was an article of commerce between the *Phenicians* and the *Carthaginians* and its dyeing properties are associated somehow with the name of *Islas Purpurarias*, by which name some of the Canary Islands were known. This rough and frizzled lichen grows on the coasts and mountains. Because of its characteristic dryness and roughness, it appears to be a dead plant. It grows in bunches and has a fibrous appearance and is the colour of chocolate, sometimes very dark, almost black, with white patches. The largest specimens are not more than ten centimetres in length.

Up to relatively modern times it was used to produce purple dyes. During the XVII and XVIII centuries the volume of exports of *orchilla* was very



important. As a note of interest, mentioned on passing, a cargo of *orchilla* collected in Fuerteventura, left Tenerife for Amsterdam only five years ago. This lichen has evidently not yet been forgotten.

As a curiosity, we set out below a formula employed in the XVIII century for treating *orchilla*, and obtaining its beautiful dye. «Reduce this precious herb to a paste, grind it, sift it and place it in a glass bowl. The natural colour given by the *orchilla* is of the flower of flax with a violet tint. But if the stuff is first dyed a light blue, the resultant colour is of the rosemary, of the pansy or of amaranth. With stuff prepared with lemon juice, the dye becomes a lovely blue». (José de Viera y Clavijo).

The collection of this lichen was dangerous: it required light weight and agile men, willing to take risks, because of the difficult places in which it grew, bristling with dangers. Even in the last century there were many men engaged in collecting *orchilla*,

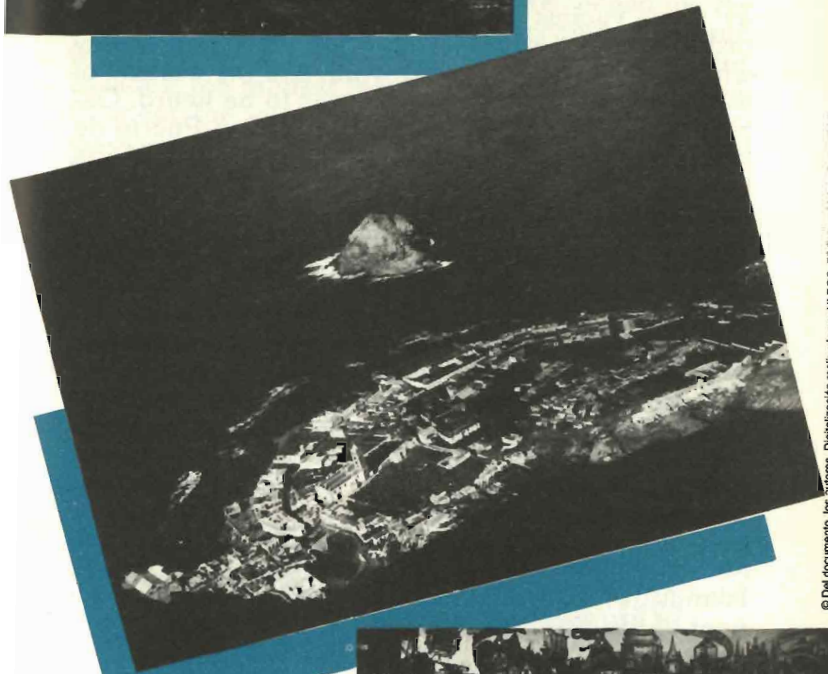
often by hanging from ropes over high cliffs on the sea coast.

3.—Sugar

Sugar cane came to the Canary Islands over a long route, complex and mysterious: China, India, Persia, Cyprus and Sicily. The Portuguese took it to the island of Madeira, from whence it was brought to the Canaries, soon after the conquest. The planting of sugar cane in the islands was made obligatory, and such was the impetus given to this cultivation that already in 1506 the export of sugar was regulated. Portuguese workers, specialised in sugar planting, and called «Masters of Sugar», made the first plantations in the Canaries and taught the local inhabitants the necessary techniques.

It can be said that with the arrival of the sugar cane, a type of «planter» appeared in the islands, to which specialised group we have already alluded, as distinct from the traditional agriculturalist. Tenerife acquired its first full rhythm of development from this surprising cultivation. Because of it, certain zones are classified: some like Tacoronte and El Sauzal were excluded because they were not considered to be suitable. On the North, the sugar plantations were dotted over the extensive district which runs from La Orotava to Daute. A sugar mill existed in Taganana and another at Güímar. Towards the middle of the XVI century there were sugar mills at Adeje and Abona. At that time some 12 sugar mills were working at full production in the island.

Waterfalls were dominated and transformed into power to move the sugar mills. The forests echoed the crashing of falling trees, felled to provide wood for the furnaces of the mills. From the same forests, wood was obtained for the making of boxes for the export of sugar, then packed in separate blocks.



The production of sugar gave the island an activity difficult to imagine, and the majority of the inhabitants were employed in this industry. Roads were made and small ports built in several distant points on the coast. The little ports of Güimar and Abona were built thanks to the sugar trade. The fine road that crosses the forests and mountains between La Laguna and Taganana —a road known as «Las vueltas de Taganana»— was opened in order to bring sugar cane from that deep valley where only the sound of wind, and the ecstasy of water falls between the rocks, was to be heard. Garachico, Puerto de Orotava (today called Puerto de la Cruz), and Santa Cruz, were the exporting ports to the most unlikely European ports, where only the privileged and powerful consumed this valuable product. Long roads crossed the island. The road leading over to the North, from Santa Cruz to the Daute district, was opened feverishly to facilitate the transport of sugar.

The Canaries began to be renowned, thanks to this trade. On a tapestry hanging in the Municipal Hall at Antwerp, a scene from the beginnings of the XVI century, is depicted: The Mayor of the city is welcoming a captain of a ship that has arrived with sugar from the fabulous islands. *Islands of Sugar*, they were then called, because the islands have always been known by suggestive names. Sweet Islands, which sweetened those verses of a French poet of the XVI century:

*Pour vous, ventres goulus, pour vous il faut aller
chercher le sucre dous jusques en Canarie...*

(Guillaume de Salustre du Bartas)

Within the plantations and around the sugar mills, the movements of ebony forms could be seen, of negro slaves. The fever of the slave trade began. The coast of Africa was near, and the Atlan-

tic had become an ocean crossed and recrossed in all directions by ships crammed with slaves. Sugar, negroes, agitation, sweat: all passing through the Canaries to the West Indies. Like commodities, like sugar itself. The colonization of these lands, there as here, began with a soft prelude, but later shuddered at the sad songs of the negro in the shadows.

When sugar plantations were begun in the New World, and production there became enormous, this trade in the Canaries was unable to compete. Besides, the modest insular planter found it difficult to meet the comparatively high cost of production involved in the preparation of rugged lands, and the high price of scarce water supplies. Soon the cost was too high compared to the export value, and the sugar trade of the islands languished. In this grave economic situation, the islands turned from their sugar plantations and began to cultivate vines. The vinefields substituted the plantations and the feverish whirlwinds of the sugar mills gave place to the quiet labours of the vinefields and the penetrating odour of the wine presses.





4.—Wine

At the beginning of the XVI century sarmen-
tum were introduced into the Canaries from Crete.
The message from the Mediterranean continued,
now becoming a beautiful reality. The rough island
was to know about vine-stocks and the air was to
be perfumed by the fragrance of grape juice. New
words came to enrich the vocabulary of the peas-
ants: grape-vine qualities, *listan*, *negramolle*, *mal-*
vasía. Malvasía, a famous wine, was to leave its
luminous transparency in the richest cut-glass
winecups of Europe. Wine for princes!

The earth of the island had been turned over
and prepared to take the vine-stocks that were to
give the island so much fame. For the peasants this
meant new techniques and new occupations. What
is not known can be learned. From Jerez came
coopers to teach their trade. Workshops were
opened in Garachico and La Orotava. The expe-
rience gained in the export of sugar, served from
the first moments in the export of wine. The ports
were ready and also the roads crossing the island.
Wine from Icod —called «of the Vines»,— and
Daute, reached the port of Garachico. From Puerto

de la Cruz, wine from the whole Valley of La Orotava and surrounding districts, was exported; the production of Tegueste, Güímar, Arafo, San Andrés and Taganana, was brought to Santa Cruz.

Again the islands reached out to Europe and with them Tenerife. And the wine trade also took the islands to America, smelling of malvasía and confusing the heads of exacting wine-bibbers. The whole of the XVI and XVII centuries smelt of Canary wines. Shakespeare's personages become intoxicated with the aromatic Canary Sack. Mistress Quickly, in Henry IV, reminds one of her clients that he has drunk too much Canary wine, «a wine marvellously penetrating and which perfumes the blood». Sir John Falstaff, whom Shakespeare calls «Sir John Canaries and Sugar», had in his pockets a note of a supper:

Item: A capon,	2/2d
Item: Sauce	4d
Item: Sack, (Canary wine) 2 gallons	5/2d
Item: Anchovies and sack after supper	2/6d
Item: Bread (a halfpenny)	ob.

«O monstrous —exclaimed Prince Henry—, but one halfpenny-worth of bread to this intolerable deal of sack».

Pirates lurking around the islands became good drinkers and some of them, like Francis Drake, prowled in Canary latitudes in the year 1585, only to get a thousand bottles of wine.

Canary wines haunt the most famous literary pages; Voltaire is grateful for a present of this wine, and Walter Scott, in the Antiquary, selects the best glass service in which to serve the delicious malvasía.

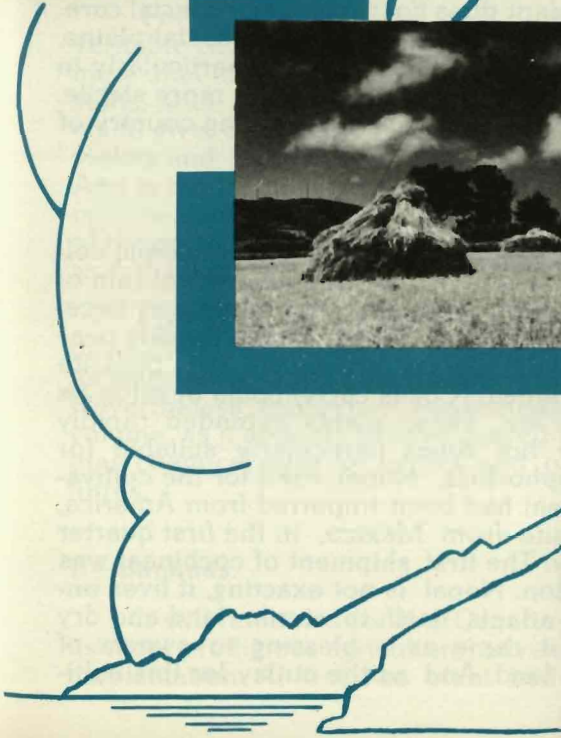
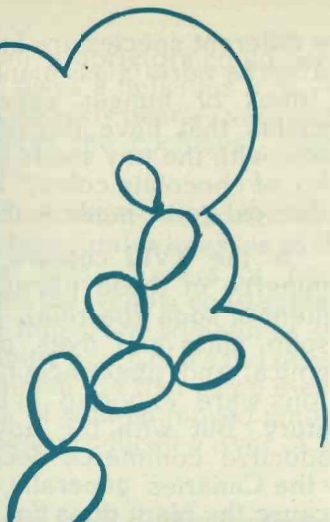
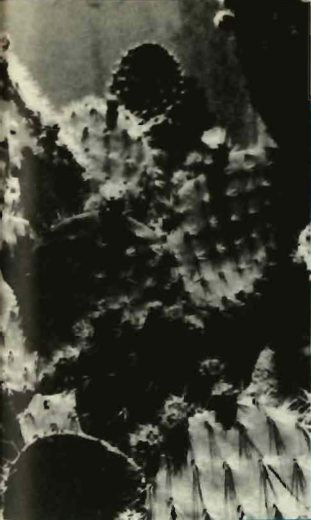
It appears that lava and volcanic ash gave their strength to this wine. Together with its prestige, the island's commerce grew. At the middle of the XVIII century, a company known as «The English Company for Canary Wines» functioned in the islands, and held a monopoly. The protection which it enjoyed, produced serious disturbances, like that called «Derrame del Vino», which provoked the intervention of the Court. The restrictions then applied to this monopoly, the disorganization of trade and, finally, the plagues that attacked the vines and the dissolution of that company, produced calamitous consequences; the export of malvasía diminished and although exports were authorised to America, competition with the wines of Madeira and Oporto, brought the trade to an end.

But, again acting their part as a link between two continents, the islands passed their wine-stocks to America, as a gift from the Archipelago. The vineyards of Chile, Perú, Mexico, etc., originated with the sarmentum taken there from the Canaries.

The ruin of the wine trade was another lesson which deeply affected the Archipelago. It demonstrated that an economy dependent on a single product brings ruin, as soon as interest in that product is lost in external markets. It had happened before with sugar and now again with wine. But thanks to the efforts of the islanders and to the goodness of the climate, new cultivations were at once tested. And so, amongst other trials, the cultivation of cochineal began.

5.—La barrilla. (Salt Wort)

We have already mentioned amongst the *purpurarios*, the *cosco* and the *barrilla* (*Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum* and *M. cristallinum*), on the lower belt of the xerophilous plants. They are plants that grow on the sea shore, in sterile land.



The different species are known as *cofe-cofe*, *cosco* and *hierba vidrio* (glass plant) or simply *vidrio* (glass). In times of hunger especially during the long droughts that have devastated the districts of the South, with the tiny seeds of *vidrio*, toasted, a rough gofio, of chocolate colour, was eaten in substitution of the real gofio, made with cereals.

In the XVIII century, there was an intense commerce in these plants, because of their rich content of soda (*barrilla*), used in the manufacture of soap, glass and dyes, and also used in certain chemical and pharmaceutical products. Hundreds of tons were exported in the first third of the XIX century. But with the advance of chemistry, this productive commerce declined. For Tenerife, and for the Canaries generally, this was a serious loss, because the plant does not require any special care, and covers large extensions on the coastal plains, both in the North and in the South, particularly in the latter, because there the terrain is more sterile.

England was the principal importing country of *barrilla*.

6.—Cochineal.

Cochineal came to remedy the economic collapse in the islands caused by the gradual ruin of the export trade in *malvasia* wine. But it was necessary to acclimatise the *Cactus opuntia* (prickly pear tree), and other species on which the parasite known as cochineal (*Coccus cacty*) could develop its full biological life. These plants extended rapidly over the low hot zones particularly suitable for cactus and euphorbias. Nopal used for the cultivation of cochineal had been imported from America, and the parasite from Mexico, in the first quarter of last century. The first shipment of cochineal was made to London. Nopal is not exacting, it lives unwatered and adapts itself to sterile land and dry climate, and it came as a blessing to owners of unproductive land. And as the outlay for this culti-

vation was so little, small proprietors could participate easily in it. Nopal gives a delicious fruit—the *higo pico* or *higo chumbo* (prickly pear)—very sugary and juicy, and so, besides the cochineal, a nourishing fruit was produced.

Tenerife had large extensions dedicated to this cultivation. Even today, like dumb witnesses to their importance in bygone days, clusters of nopals appear, decoratively, on the yellow coastal plains. And like a shade of past times, one sometimes sees, amongst them, the inclining figure of an aged peasant woman, collecting cochineal. In that same manner hundreds and hundreds of women moved amongst the nopals when cochineal produced a river of gold flowing into the islands.

For that reason, the end of this trade was a veritable catastrophe for the islands. The clear carmine that the cochineal left in the most delicate stuffs, with all the combinations of colour that it could give, disappeared with the irruption of aniline violets and blacks. Coal was now producing dyes. And in the last third of the XIX century the trade in cochineal tottered. The aniline dyes did not give tints of the same quality as did cochineal, but finally they won the day.

Cochineal has always been exported, although in small quantities, up to the present day, because its principal use is now in the making of lipstick. Nevertheless, this export has recently increased in volume, as it appears to have proved more effective than chemical dyes for nylons and other synthetic fibres.

7.—Bananas.

It still remained for the Canaries to undertake its most prodigious agricultural adventure: the banana plantation. At first this plant had only served a



The bunches of bananas are born in the midst of a mystery of green leaves, and the fruit begins to appear between the purple folds of the bracts.

purely ornamental function. The first plants were brought from Guinea. They were tall ungainly trees, their wide leaves gave shade in the gardens; they grew near water and decorated pleasure grounds. Most probably it was this species that was taken to Santo Domingo in 1516, which demonstrates the early date that banana plants were introduced into the islands. In 1526, bananas were eaten in the islands, and their quality drew the remark from a resident English merchant: "their taste is more delicious than the best sweetmeats".

During the XVII and XVIII centuries, the goodness of bananas became well known. It appears that the species then cultivated was of the variety *Musa paradisiaca*. The variety, however, which became intensively and extensively grown in the islands, and gave the islands its most brilliant agriculture and economy, was the Chinese species called *china* or *enana* (*Musa cavendishii* or *M. sinensis*). It is said that this species was introduced by Sabino Berthelot, a French historian and naturalist who lived for most of his life in Tenerife, where he was occupied in consular duties, and also made a profound study of the islands.

During the second half of the XIX century, the islands were still suffering from the ruin of the cochineal trade. As is seen, from the end of the XV century or the beginning of the XVI century, banana trees were growing in the Canaries, but were not exploited commercially. Nearly four centuries had to pass, not much less than the whole history of the Canaries, and many economic crises had occurred, before the islanders fixed their attention on bananas. With the time that had transpired, with the increase of population, with the development of their ports, with their experience acquired in exporting and with the extraordinary increase in maritime traffic, it appears as if all this was only a preparation for the important banana trade. It was, therefore, the propitious moment for undertaking

the great enterprise of establishing banana plantations. And this was done only in the four islands where plantations were possible; Tenerife, Grand Canary, La Palma and La Gomera. But of the four, Tenerife is the island with the greatest volume of production.

But the same problem arose with banana plantations as previously with sugar plantations: the preparation of the soil and the high price of water made such undertakings only possible for large landowners or persons with ample capital resources.

Generally the banana lands have to be made up artificially: the crust of calcareous tufa or rock has to be broken up, excavations are necessary to form a bed in which transported earth is placed. But before this, two deep layers are necessary, the lower one of stones and the top one of gravel, with the object of forming a permeable base: On this is placed the layers of earth in which the banana trees are planted. This preparation is called "sorriba". Each plantation is surrounded with high walls of stones and around the plantations walls or palisades are set up as a protection against strong winds.

Water and fertilizers are constantly required. After twelve or fourteen months, the trees produce their first bunch, one only per tree. The bunch flowers in clusters. Their bracts are of a purple colour, shiny and sombre. Their flowers are masculine and feminine and their developed ovaries are the bananas. The stem takes some six months before its fruit matures.

Throughout the plantations, deposits of water shine like mirrors. The landscape is covered with an intense and uniform verdure. Within the plantations activity is constant. The peasants care for the roots, clean the soil, irrigate, and fight parasites that attack the plants. Women, with their heads covered with wide palm hats, clean the bunches and, when cut, carry them on their heads. In the packing sheds



there is an incessant bustling and the work is animated by singing.

In Tenerife, the zone of greatest production is the Valley of La Orotava; all over the North, from the sea coast to a height of 300 or 400 metres, bananas are grown. The most important zones, besides the Valley of La Orotava, are Icod, Garachico, Los Silos, and Valle de Guerra. There is also some cultivation in the South; Valley of Guimar. Adeje, the coast of Guia de Isora, and on some coastal zones of San Miguel and Arona.

Now the Canaries should be called "Islands of Bananas". It appears that the mission of the Canaries has been to dye in beautiful colours rich garments, to sweeten with its sugar, to confuse minds pleasantly with delicious wine, to satisfy delicate palates, and to fill the air with fragrance.

8.—Tomatoes.

The export of tomatoes is one of the secure sources of income for the Archipelago, and constitutes, like the banana trade, an important source of

foreign currencies. "The tomato has in the economic life of the islands, the same importance as that of the banana. And one cannot say that it disputes with the banana trade for first place as an export, because there can be no dispute where there is goodwill between two brothers when each occupies and defends a clearly distinct zone of the family economic front. These two fruits from a single privileged source, appear to have come to an agreement to occupy lands differently situated and with different characteristics, which share preferential markets in European countries". (F. Alonso Luengo). The banana comes from the North zones and the tomato is from those in the South. Tomato cultivation invades the lower coastal zones. Crops can be raised all the year round although there is greater production in the winter months, to take advantage of the period of shortage of supplies in Europe. And because the South zones enjoy a warmer and more uniform climate in winter, it is there the largest tomato plantations are concentrated. With eleven or twelve irrigations, cultivation is assured. The seed is imported from England, as it is found that the seed suffers in the islands a process of degeneration.

The three principal crops are gathered between October-December, January-February, and March-May.

The most important tomato zones in Tenerife are those of Guimar, Adeje, Granadilla, Arona, Arico and Guia de Isora.

The tomato plantations give life to semi-desert lands. The scattered patches of green present in those stony parts an unexpected beauty. From afar one sees the bamboo stems set crosswise in the plantations like trestles, to which the branches of the plants are tied with raffia. Both the gathering and the delicate packing of this fruit, is done principally by women.

9.—Potatoes.

The privilege of being able to produce two or more crops a year permits the islands to export considerable quantities of potatoes. Potato exports figure in third place, after the banana and the tomato. The potatoes arrive at European markets in periods when no crops are available in Europe, and when potatoes are produced in abundance on the Continent, they are imported as seed at a low price. Seed potatoes are generally imported from England and Ireland. The varieties most preferred are *Up-to-Date*, *King Edward* and *Royal Kidney*.

As a consequence of the rationalization of the crops, local needs are assured, whilst at the same time appreciable gains are obtained from exports.

All kinds of land is taken advantage of, even the edges of the banana plantations. In the districts of the South, the potato beds are protected by layers of lapilli (Pumice stone) to retain the moisture in the land. In the North, the best zone is that situated at medium heights.

10.—Other products.

In recent years the cultivation of tobacco has been increased. That grown in fresh and humid zones is of an excellent quality. There is a flourishing tobacco industry in Tenerife, which produces cigarettes and cigars from excellent mixtures of local tobacco and imported leaf.

The coffee tree grows easily in Tenerife. It is not specially nor extensively cultivated, but on land under other cultivation; preferably in the banana plantations, some coffee trees are grown. In this way the coffee tree benefits by the irrigation, fertilizers and other attentions given to the banana trees. Icod, Garachico and Los Silos produce coffee of very good quality.



In many parts on the North of the island there are still many white mulberry trees remaining as a testimony to a silk industry, now disappeared. The silk worm was cultivated in Icod, Los Realejos, and San Juan de la Rambla. The threading, weaving and the dyeing of the silk was an occupation for many hands. As a proof of the importance of that industry in the island, it is interesting to note that in 1778, Agustin de Bethencourt y Molina, a famous Canary engineer, invented a spinning machine for silk. Fibre from the henequen (Mexican agave), is now being treated for the making of ropes.

The almond tree has an economic importance for those parts in the South where it is cultivated; The Valley of Santiago and Guia de Isora. The spectacle of almond trees in flower is very beautiful over the black lava streams, and in landscapes where stones predominate over vegetation. In recent years the cultivation of cotton has been extended considerably, even into land destined formerly to ordinary crops.

Fruit trees abound in the island; figs, oranges, nisperos, apples, pears, currants, pomegranates, plums, quince, etc., and with the stately date palm, the guava-tree, the papaw, the mango-tree and the cherimoyer, one more proof is provided that the

islands are between two worlds, possessing the flavours and fragrance of two worlds, which they offer to all who visit them.

11.—The Free Ports.

A special customs regime of Free Ports is in force in the Canaries. There are two free ports in the island of Tenerife; Santa Cruz and Puerto de la Cruz. This regime was established by Royal Decree of the 11th of July, 1582. The benefits that the regime gave to the islands were incalculable. Traffic in Canary Islands ports increased greatly in volume; the islanders could devote their agriculture to special crops which assured an exportable surplus, whilst articles of first necessity could be imported at very advantageous prices, exempt from customs duties.

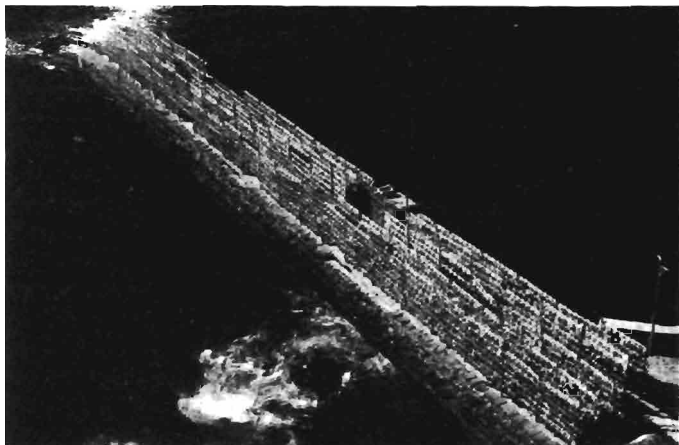
The continuance of the Free Ports regime has been considered of vital importance for the Archipelago, to such an extent that economists have regarded it as the "to be or not to be" of the islands; "The prosperity and the welfare of the Archipelago or its ruin" (R. Diaz-Llanos).

The inclusion of this subject in this chapter dedicated to agricultural production, is more than justified; fruit coming from the Canaries on entering the Peninsula does not pay customs dues, which naturally, are not levied on products imported into the islands.

It is curious to note that, in past agricultural conditions, orchilla, barrilla and cochineal figure amongst the Islands products exempted from customs duties on entering the Peninsula.

LIVE STOCK

On an earlier page, it was mentioned that the natives reared goats, sheep and pigs, as their only domesticated animals; and on these their economy was principally based. With the colonization of the



island and the importation of new and varied species, the live stock of the island was increased. But, it can be easily appreciated that, because of the broken topography of the islands, consisting of so much arid and semi-arid spaces, and very limited pasture land, live stock has never been an item of importance in the economy of Tenerife. It is, however, important as regards local requirements, both for labour in the countryside and for meat.

The live stock is characterised by the same species as those existing in the Peninsula: horses, mules, cows and pigs, besides goats and sheep. Donkeys abound and are an auxiliary, indispensable for work on the land and for transporting milk and farm produce. Ploughing is done with cows, and mules are employed for drawing the typical tribulum for thrashing wheat. In the South there are many camels, which are imported from the neighbouring African coast. They adapt themselves very well to conditions in the islands and are an essential element of labour, helping in the work on the land, in thrashing operations, and sometimes patiently pulling the plough.

FISH

The Guanches consumed a large number of shell fish, but they fished in a very limited way — only catching fish near the shore — and with very rough tackle. However, fish is very varied around Tenerife: there are some seventy different kinds. Some are common to the coasts of the Peninsula, like the herring, sea-bream, horse-mackerel, sardine, small hake, and the merluce.

A large part of the fish caught is consumed fresh, and the rest is salted. "Salted fish", constitutes a popular dish, and with potatoes, the typical dish called "papas y pescado" is prepared. The potatoes are cooked in their skin, the fish is prepared apart, and on serving, a red piquant sauce is added, called, "mojo" or sometimes "mojo picón".

Although part of the fish caught in the islands is salted, the main salt fish industry depends on fish caught on the Sahara banks, principally in the Bay of Galgo, where since olden times Spanish fishermen have had free fishing rights. The whole



fish is salted, (*pescado salpreso*), or in pieces or fillets (*bacalao canario*), which can be prepared in the same way as real cod. In the vicinity of Santa Cruz, there are many fish salting factories.

The fish preserving industry has developed notably in recent years. The species used in this industry are principally tunny and striped tunny. In Tenerife this fish is caught in the sheltered waters of the South, largely between Los Cristianos and Playa de Santiago. At this last named place, and on the Playa de San Juan, the most important fish preserving factories are established. Fish is specially abundant in the channel which separates Tenerife and La Gomera.

Whilst dried fish is exported to the Peninsula, to foreign possessions on the West Coast of Africa, and to Spanish possessions at the Gulf of Guinea and the Sahara, preserved fish is sent principally to Italy, although other European markets have shown interest in recent years.

The fishing industry is a relatively important item in the economy of Tenerife.



CHAPTER

IV

The
visitor
in the
Island

INTERINSULAR AIR AND SHIPPING COMMUNICATIONS



Canary Islands



1.—The landscape and people.

The first thing a stranger to Tenerife notes, just as soon as he sets foot on the island, is that he is in a country different from any other he has visited. It is said that this is not Europe, but neither is it America. The landscape is not more beautiful nor impressive than others in the world, but it is simply different. The elements that make up and define the landscape are proper to the island. And it is not just the presence of a decorative volcanic landscape, and a relief always ascending, as if tormented, but that the colours suit the forms; the foregrounds fit properly into their backgrounds, and the vegetation not only complements this harmonious whole, but assumes the role of communicating to the island a striking diversity.

Faced with all this, the visitor will experience the most diverse reactions; eulogy will frequently be mixed with analytic reflections, the interpretation of natural phenomena will be paralleled by a lyrical

interpretation of them. And there will be those who recount their visit to the island as if they had discovered it, whilst others will be charmed more than by its geography, by a series of anecdotes and picturesque situations. Everything is permitted. All the reactions are pleasant.

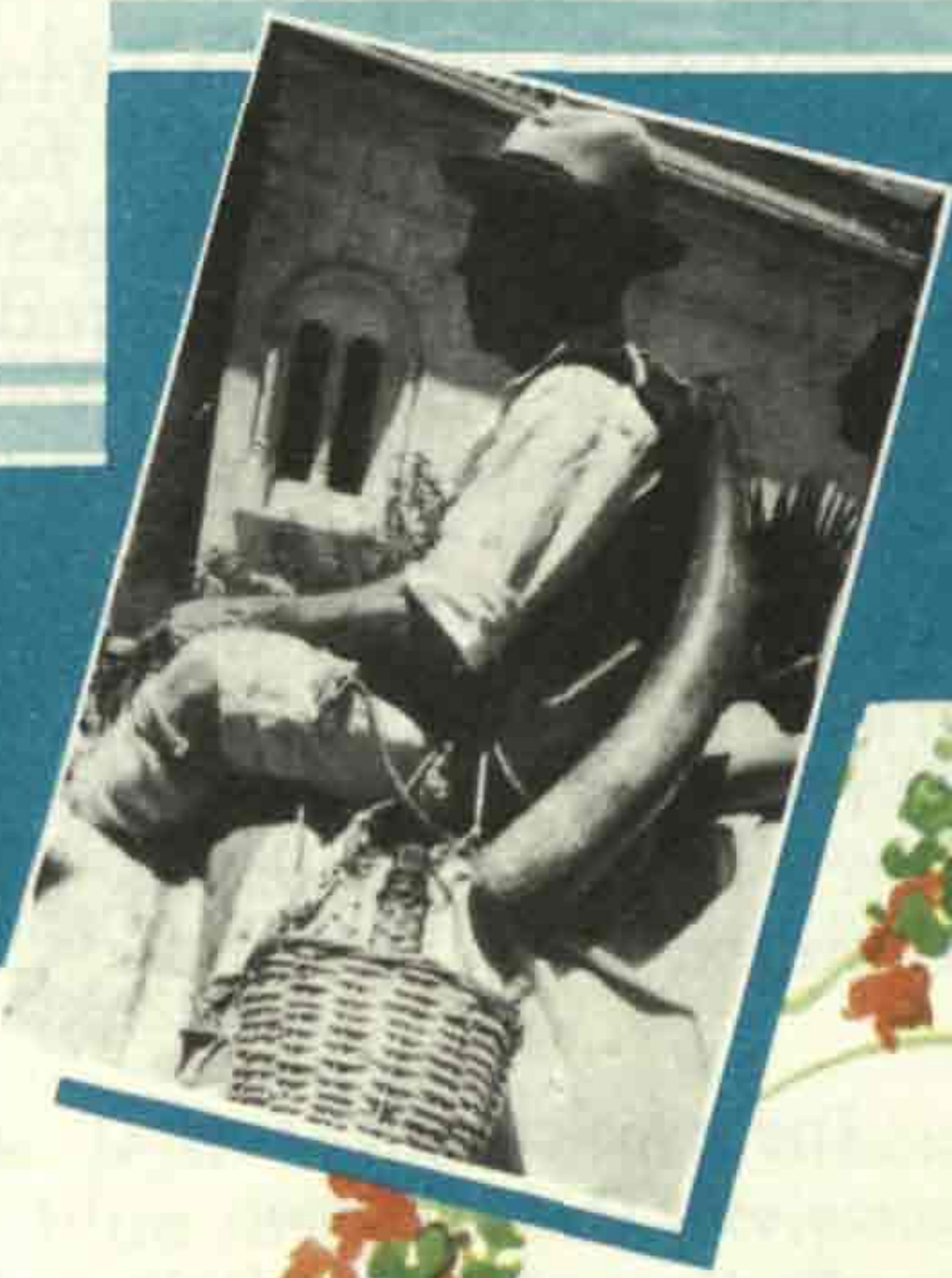
Later, the stranger will come into contact with the people, with the inhabitants of the island. And it is possible that this contact will give him more surprises. Besides their courtesy and generosity, he will find them to be sober, sociable and hospitable. He will be surprised to find in the cities, a cultural atmosphere of a high level: and he can talk of music, literature, painting, the theatre, and art in general, because, in fact the island lives the same cultural rythm as that on the Continent.

In the country districts, he will find hospitable peasants, quick to give explanations or to become disinterested guides, if asked to do so. Very often the shepherd on the mountains shares his cheese, gofio and milk with a passer by. And if he has nothing else to give, he sometimes offers with great amiability: «¿Shall I milk my goat for you?». And the most noble virtues are manifest in these details of human simplicity.

The fertile and luxurious lands of the island have the inhabitants that they merit.

2.—Songs and dances.

Both in the popular dances as in the songs, Spanish contributions have naturally been superimposed on those of native origin, introduced from the first moments of the conquest. The natives sang and danced; their old songs were syllabic and "their dances energetic and expansive, rough, violent and nervous, and often abundant in leaps and gyrations". And, nevertheless the *tempo di canario* (as



this rhythmical and melodious dancing was called), went out from the island to invade European halls of the XVI century, before it was displaced by the ceremonious minuet. However, the *tempo canario*, in which are included the *tanganillo*, the *tajaraste*, the *saltonas*, the *Santo Domingo*, etc., did not emigrate: but preferred not to leave the Archipelago, and could be heard continuously re-echoing in our valleys and in our villages» (Amaro Lefranc). These dances are of native origin and a marked and agitated rhythm predominate in them.

The origin, influence and metre are questions still unsettled, and it is not our intention to enter that discussion. For the stranger it is enough to know that the inhabitants sing and dance. That in those dances and melodies, one can as soon find a distant native reminiscence as an old Spanish survival.

Apart from the dances cited, the visitor will hear and see danced *folias*, *isas*, and *malagueñas*, with their lively colours and merry movements. Guitars and *timples* sound, tambourines bang, castanets clack, drums strike deep notes and the flute whistles smoothly. A masculine voice rises with the couplet, or a woman's voice will blend with the air. Men and women dance, circle in rounds of colour, trace arabesques with their arms, while their feet mark the rhythm gracefully. The couplets speak of the Island homesteads or treat of melancholy love themes:

Todas las canarias son
como este Teide gigante:
mucha nieve en el semblante
y fuego en el corazón.

The women of the Canaries
like the gigantic Teide
have snow-white faces
but fire in their hearts.

And if it is true that there is a native influence in the rhythm, it is more true that the couplets are inspired by the insular geography:



3.—Typical dress.

Under the little palm hat, flows out an ample coloured kerchief which frames the face and falls airily over the shoulders. A white blouse of subtle drawn-thread work, and a black bodice, embroidered with flowers and ears of wheat. The skirt flows from the waist in multicolours to the feet and is puckered on one side with braid, ending in tassles. The pucker shows the starched petticoat trimmed with lace. The skirt is coloured black, red, and yellow in vertical stripes. The feet are visible in boots, and when the dance permits such an indiscretion, an ankle can be seen clothed in a rough woollen stocking, But withal, this closed and severe dress does not spoil the figure, but rather gives it a graceful and light air. There is something floral and harmonious in women so dressed.

A wide hat of dark felt. White shirt, black waistcoat, sometimes in blue and black stripes, breeches buttoned at the knee, over wide and short plaited linen breeches, leather or woollen leggings, boots, stick or cane; this constitutes the dress of the men. When it is cold or raining, an ample blanket envelops the menfolk, drawn in at the neck and falling freely to the ankles.

These were the dresses of the islanders. Today they are donned only on festive occasions: one still sees the little palm hat on country women, and the white ample blanket over the shoulders of some peasants.

The *mago* and the *maga* —as the peasants are called— guard their noble traditions jealously, against any tendency to disappear. That is why it is so pleasant to roam through the countryside and to find, like something new, such age old customs.

4.—Rural dwellings.

Walls coloured white, ochre or blue. Roofs of two or four slopes of red tiles, moulded and baked in the island. One or two doors on the front, and windows at the sides. Both doors and windows painted green or vermilion. The house, rectangular or square, with an annex which serves as a kitchen. The interior is divided by thin partition walls or whitewashed sacking. At the entry, a room, pompously called *sala*: tables and chairs against the walls. On the tables, crucifixes, Saints and Virgins, jars with artificial flowers, small porcelain figures and sometimes a sea-shell with rippled mother-of-pearl. On the walls, the enlargement of a soldier with *kepi*, of a grand-father with a long moustache, or a man and wife, whose far away youth is turning yellow in the old photograph. La Virgen de Candelaria, Patron Saint of the Canary Islands, is hanging also on the wall, the engraving encircled with phantasies of flowers and birds in silvered colours. On the other side of the partition, two or three bedrooms, also separated, according to the number of the family. If the occupant is the owner of an important farm, at some distance from the house he will have a shed with a few cows. In an enclosure of dry stones he will keep some goats, and in the pigsty—a small circular construction, also of dry stones— will be the black pig. Chickens run about



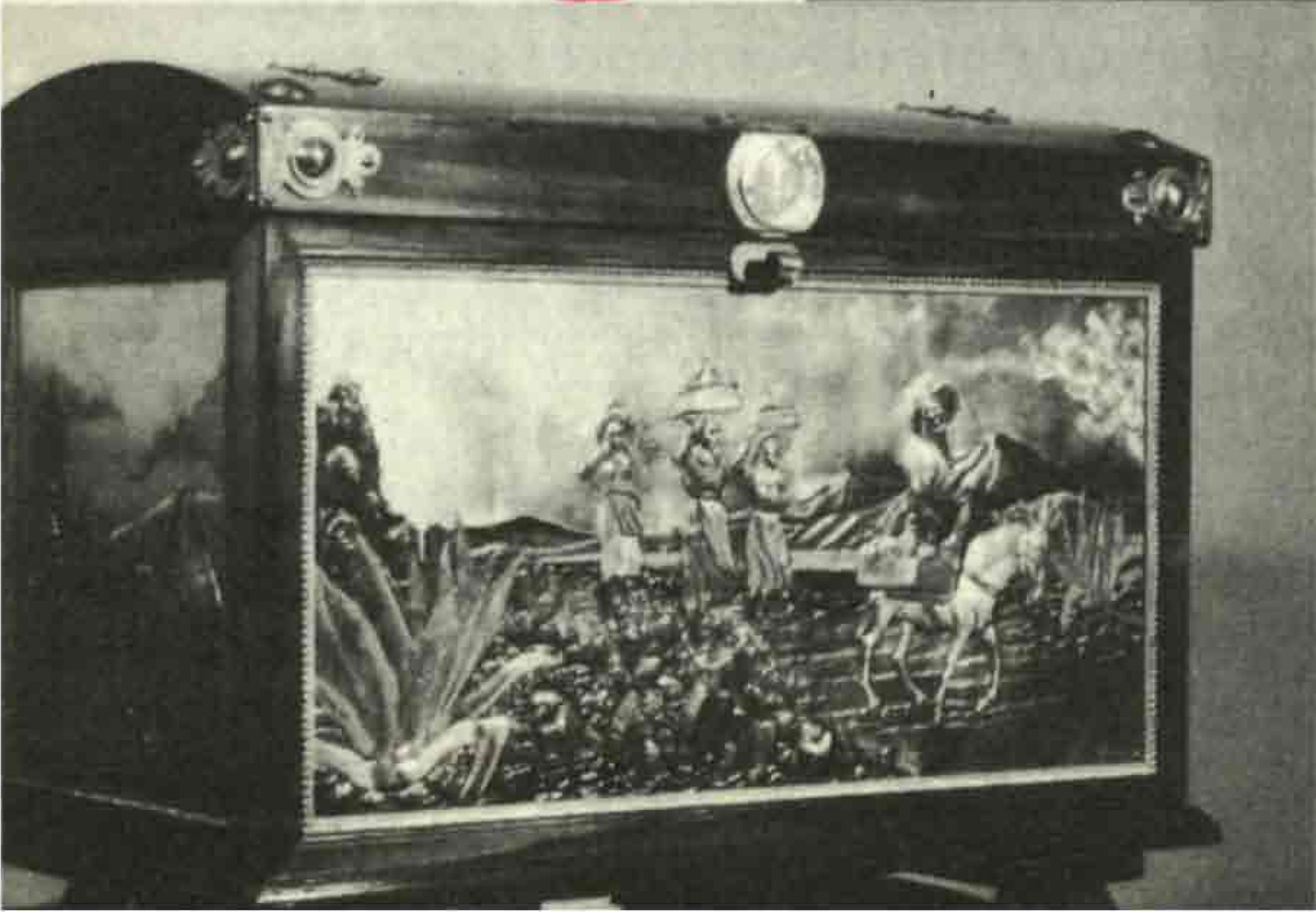
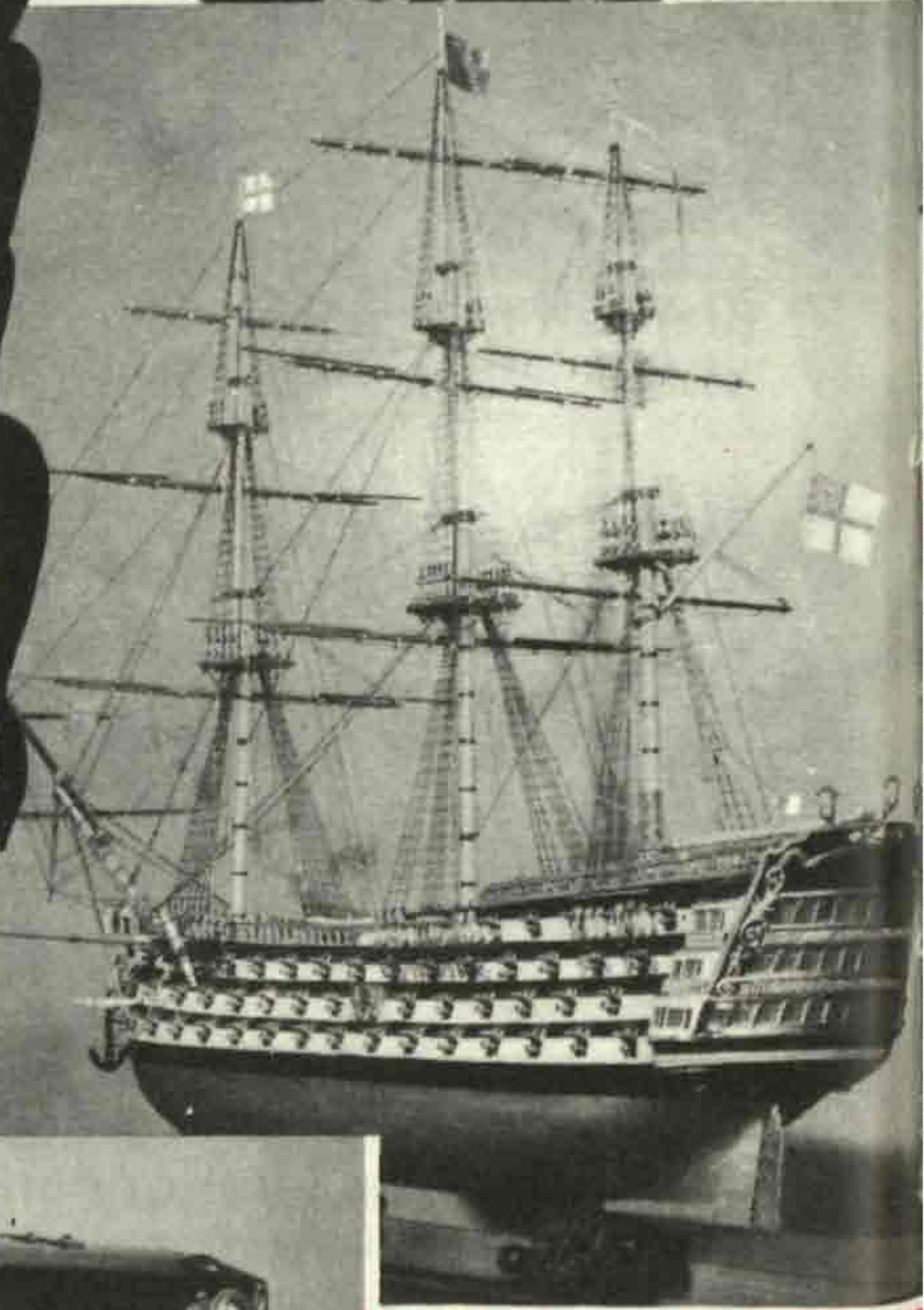
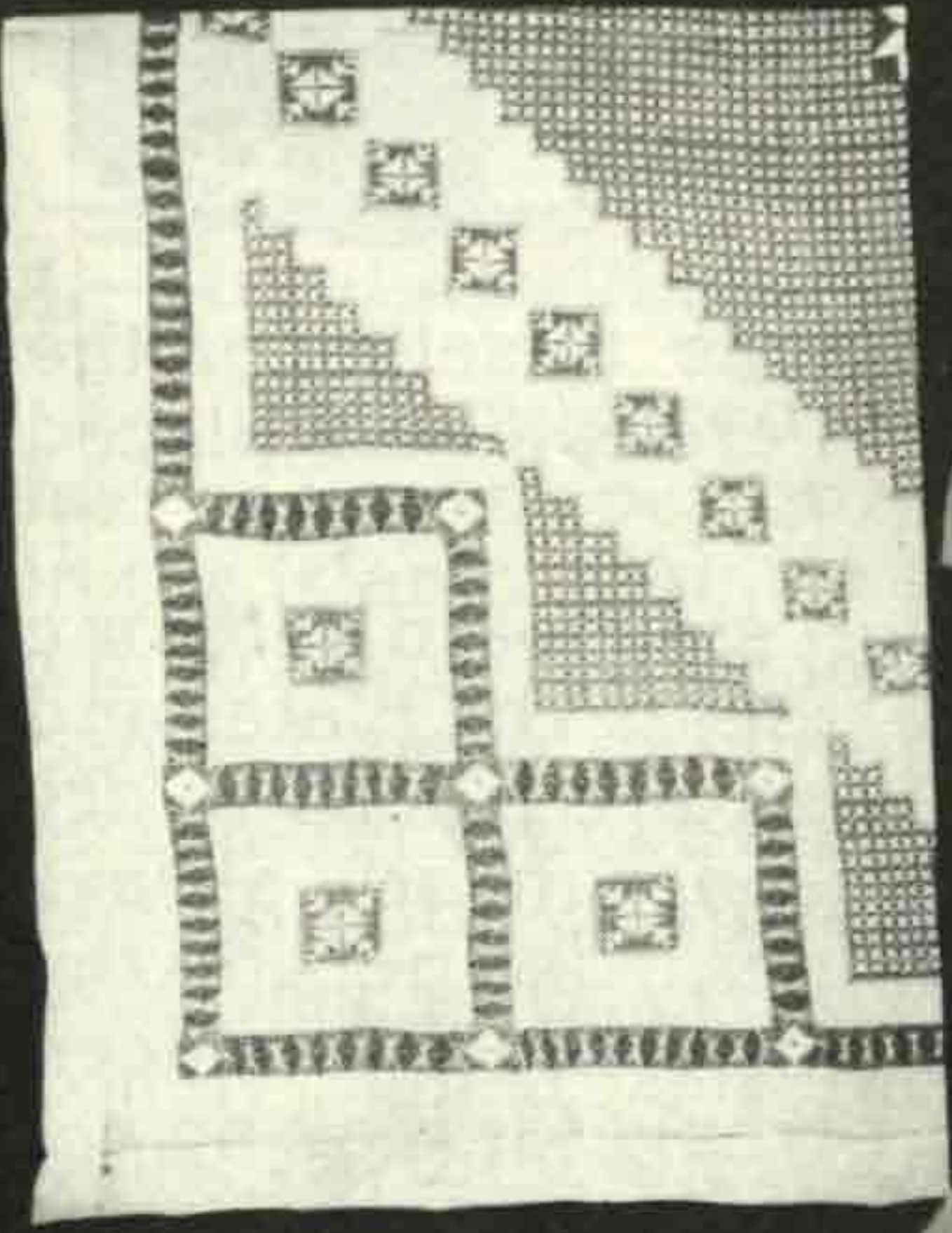
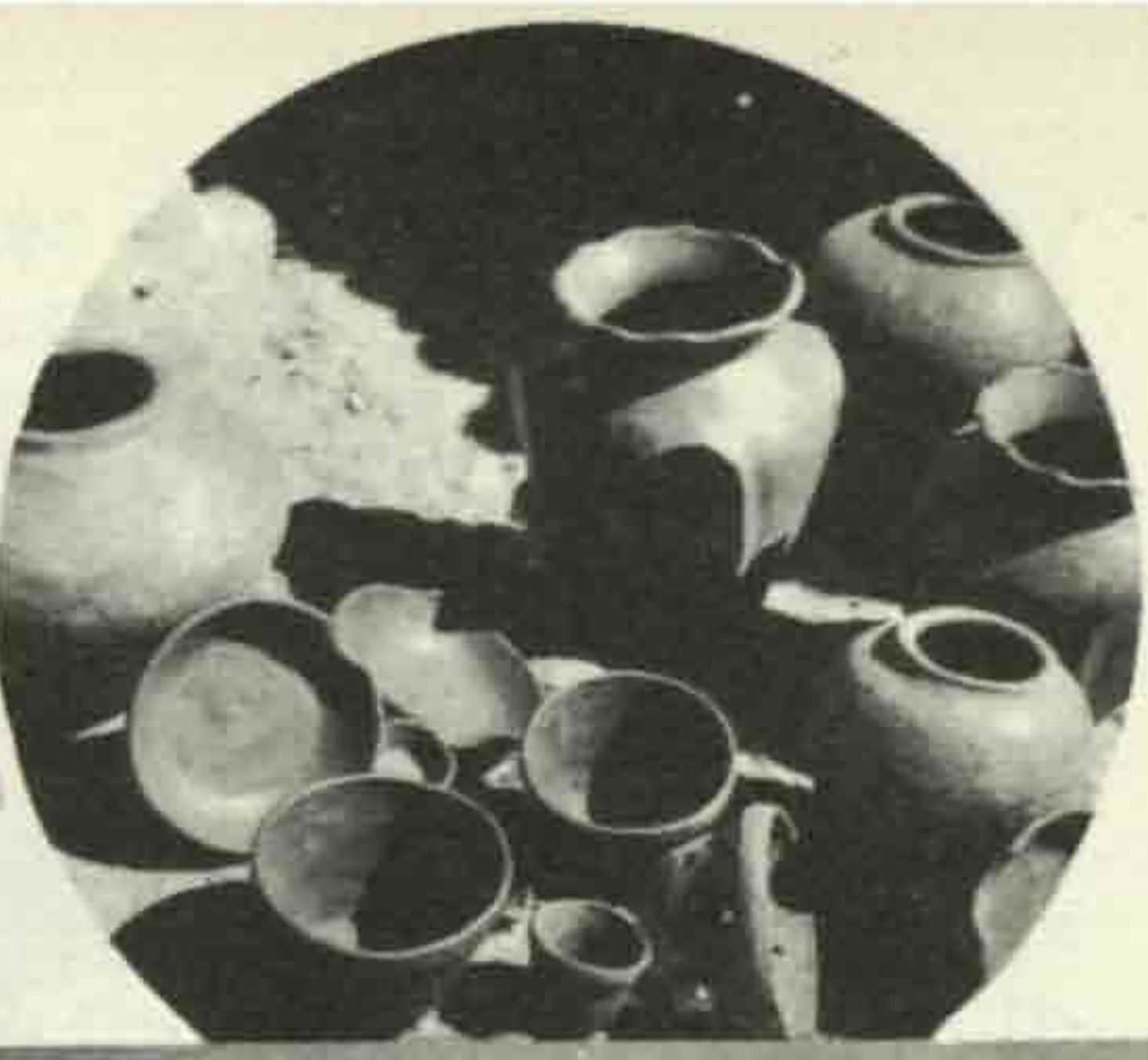
freely and at nightfall they come to settle on the branch of a nearby tree, or on cross-pieces placed conveniently for them.

The kitchen has a stone sideboard with one or two wood-burning cooking stoves. The plates and dishes are washed outside, and are placed to dry on a stone bench where there are nearly always some geraniums and heliotropes. Also outside the kitchen there are three stones on which is placed the toasting pan; in this the cereals for making gofio are toasted. In the outhouse the farm implements are kept: plough, harrow, thrasher, etc.

That is the home of a small proprietor, *medi-nero* or modest peasant. Then there is the home of the rich proprietor, or the well-to-do peasant. In it there is a barn, interior courts, wine-press, wine cellar and very often, a chapel. These are mansions of the country gentry.

In places near the forest there are thatched cottages. The walls are of dry stones, whitewashed and spotless inside.

But both the humble and larger houses, as well as the cottages, are surrounded with flowers. When the fire is lighted, a blue and perfumed smoke rises into the air. And, maybe, with it also rise the notes of a song.



5.—Popular industries.

Tenerife may be proud of its manual industries, and in the first place is that of drawn-thread work and embroidery. With these fine hand labours, the women of the island have won a merited fame. To their manual dexterity is added a fine good taste and a great patience, which give together results of extraordinary quality and beauty. The women work in workshops, but more frequently they do their work at home, and at the same time, attend to their household duties.

Drawn-thread work and embroidery is done in all the villages of Tenerife, but most intensely in La Orotava, Puerto de la Cruz and Los Realejos. The visitor to the island will find in the hands of ship-side vendors, these white cloths, showing the most delicate handwork. They are also to be seen at the Airport in illuminated stands. The island greets the visitor with its drawn-thread work and embroidery. And in any village in the interior, bending over long frames, the women sing while their hands pass and repass the needle, leaving forms of a suggestive and delicate pattern.

Perhaps only a few women spinners remain in the island. There were many in the South, in Tegueste and in the hidden Taganana. Where there were spinners, there were weavers. The weaving machine, made in rough carpentry, of thick wood, was kept alone in a secluded room. The weaveress was old. She had linen in her hands. Art and phantasy combined the colours. There, on that loom was made the linen cloth for multicoloured skirts, knapsacks or saddle-bags, shirts, knee breeches, and specially, quilts, that covered, like a garden in flower, the old lathe-turned bedsteads. It is possible even today to contemplate the work of some old spinner woman. And it is possible, also, that in Taganana, in Tegueste, or in any village in the South, a weaving frame rests —with dust on its woodwork— from a labour that it will never renew.

A survival of the Guanches art of pottery remains in the few potters who still work in Tenerife. In these later years, important pottery centres have unfortunately disappeared from the island. This old industry has been vanquished by imported objects of a better quality. Potteries still accessible to a visitor, in which the different stages of work can be seen at close range, are those existing at La Victoria de Acentejo. There the miracle can be seen of clever hands moulding clay into the gracious forms of a drinking vessel, of a *gánigo* (a Guanche word still in use, meaning an earthen bowl or vessel), a toaster, receptacles for water, a brazier, a flowerpot, etc., made without a lathe, the symmetrical pieces shine red in the sun, with their covering of red ochre, to be later put altogether into the oven. These pieces are rough in appearance, thick and plain looking, but they serve to establish an intimate relationship with the Guanche art. But, in fact, it is not easy to find this industry preserved in many places.

In the small industry of basket making, several vegetable substances are employed. With straw and wicker, sieves and baskets to sift grain are



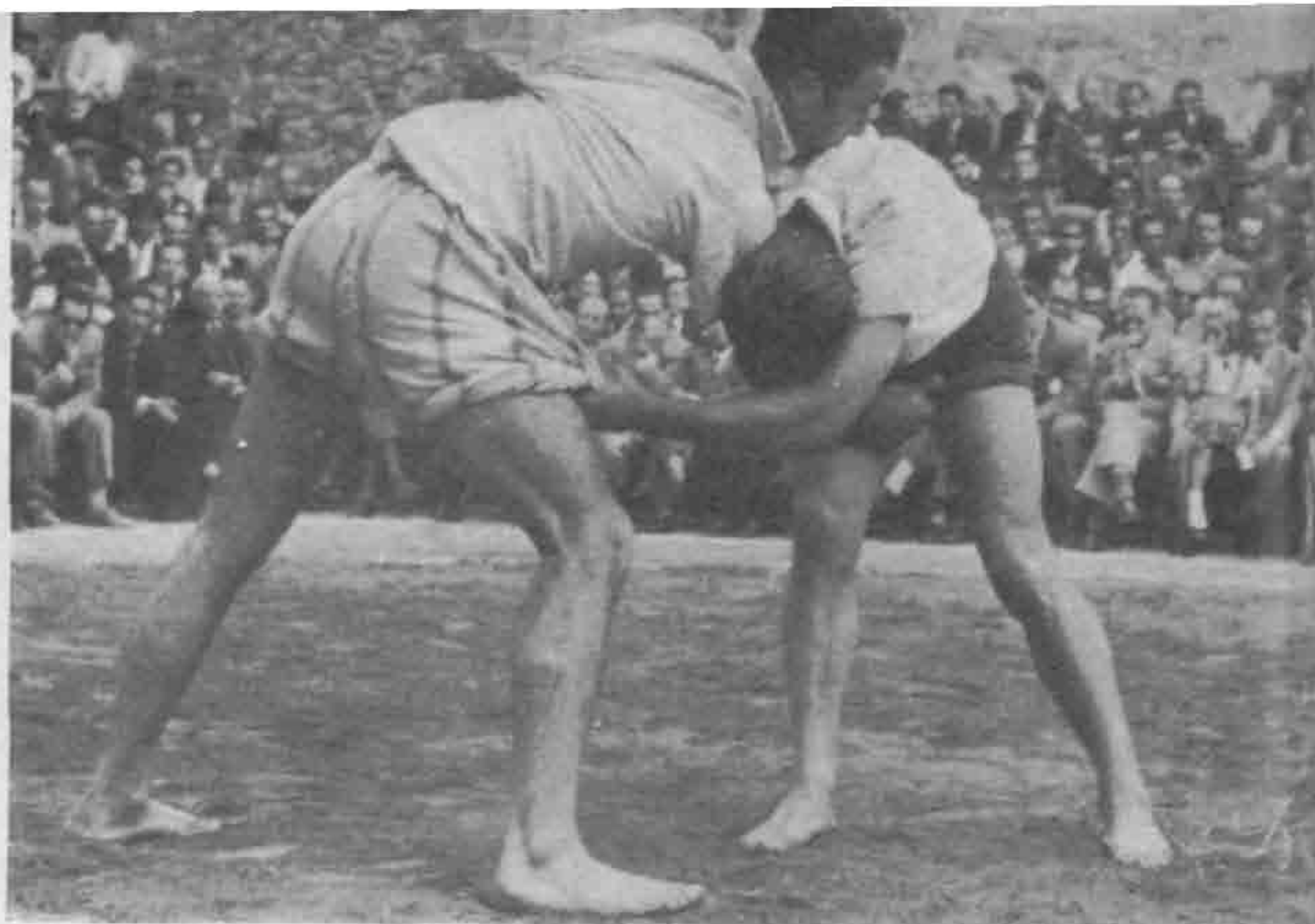


made, and baskets are also made of cane and wicker. With fibre of cattail, cording is entwined. With palms, brooms and netting are made, and with the same material, hats with wide hirms, or those curious little ones that complete the typical feminine dress.

These are modest activities, it is true, but they preserve the old fashioned manual labours of peasant homes; feminine work of an ornamental kind, and producing also such homely necessities as dresses and utensils.

6.—Feasts and popular spectacles.

At harvesting time, the village feasts begin. They are feasts with a countryside flavour. Hearts and arches are constructed with branches, flowers and fruits of the vicinity. Grain is represented in curiously elaborated loaves of bread. Many of these practices derive from old Roman feasts and were brought to the islands by the early Spanish colonists, such as the custom of placing small sailing ships on peasant carts drawn by oxen, as was done in Imperial Rome. This tradition is kept alive, principally in the districts of La Laguna, Tegueste, Gene-



to and Las Mercedes. In the peasant *romerías* (long dancing processions), these carts with sailing ships built on to them, with their full sets of sails in the wind, smell of wheat.

Other customs or diversions proceed more or less directly from practices usual amongst the natives, like *juego de palo*, a sort of fencing match with two long and flexible sticks. This sport requires great agility and an extraordinary mobility of the legs.

However, the most characteristic sport is the *lucha canaria*, (Canary wrestling). It seems that its antecedents are very remote. The natives were known to engage in this sport. "This exercise of strength, diversion and spectacle, the primitive nature of which cannot be doubted, because it was known to impress strongly the Spanish conquerors, was also practised in the same manner by the Egyptians. Anyone who has once seen a *lucha canaria*, will recognise the different feats and incidents of those duels or bipersonal wrestling, presented by Beni-Hassan in more than 120 relief groups" (J. Alvarez Delgado).

Cock-fighting also takes place in the island, as an entertainment. Rival bands present their respective birds and large bets are made.

The popular feasts are very colourful. Processions, dances —very often interpreting the maypole dance with ribbons— before a Saint, with faithful followers, bands of music and fireworks. The sky is clear and high. The sun beats down. From temporary booths come smells of frying and wine. Guitars play and country songs are sung. All this goes on when the soil is resting, and the stubble is yellowing.

On festival nights, fireworks are let off. The “Entry” of The Image of Christ of La Laguna, is famous in all the Archipelago for its extraordinary display of fireworks.





TOURIST ROUTES

In Chapter 1, the island has been described. (5, Nature and Landscapes) Therefore, geographically it is already known. A deep incursion was made over the island. In that way, the most important routes have been marked out and attention was drawn to the double aspect which the island presents, as a consequence of its relief (Chapter 1, 6. The island with two fronts). Now it is only necessary to give those routes in a more detailed form. A stranger to the island needs a guide, and the pages that follow will serve that purpose. After the description of nature and landscapes, already made, come the villages.

With the object of not making the routes too complicated, the principal routes are included in a plan, but without forgetting secondary routes, which, added to the principal routes, ensure a more complete knowledge of Tenerife.

ROUTES TO THE NORTH

I.—*Santa Cruz de Tenerife-La Laguna.*

- a) La Laguna-Monte de Las Mercedes.
- b) La Laguna-Monte de La Esperanza.
- c) La Laguna - Tegueste-Tejina - Bajamar-La Punta del Hidalgo-Valle de Guerra-La Laguna.
- d) Santa Cruz de Tenerife - La Laguna-Taganana-San Andrés, (including route I, a).

II.—*Santa Cruz de Tenerife-Valle de La Orotava* (Includes Route 1, as far as La Laguna).

- a) La Orotava-Puerto de la Cruz-Los Realejos.

III.—*Routes to the Peak of Teide.*

- a) By the dorsal road (including Route 1, b).
- b) By La Orotava (including Routes 1 and II).
- c) Ascent of the Peak of Teide.

IV.—*Santa Cruz de Tenerife-Buenavista.* (Includes Routes I II).

- a) Valley of La Orotava-Icod-La Guancha.
- b) Icod-Buenavista-Punta de Teno.

ROUTES TO THE SOUTH

V.—*Santa Cruz de Tenerife-Los Cristianos.*

- a) Santa Cruz de Tenerife-Valley of Güimar.
- b) Valley of Güimar-Granadilla-Los Cristianos.

VI.—*Granadilla-Ultaflor-Las Cañadas del Teide.*

VI.—*Los Cristianos-Guía de Isora.*

ROUTES TO THE WEST

VIII.—*Icod-Guia de Isora-Los Cristianos.*

- a) Guia de Isora - Playa de San Juan-Playa de Alcalá-Playa de Santiago-Punta de Teno.



ROUTES TO THE NORTH

I.—*Santa Cruz de Tenerife-La Laguna.*

Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

During the XIX century many attempts were made to divide the Archipelago into two provinces, and this was done transitorily between 1866 and 1868. That division did not prevail, and the Archipelago returned to its unity, with its capital in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, which category it had never lost. Finally, the Law of the 21st of September, 1927, divided the Archipelago into two provinces, with the denomination of its two respective capitals, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. This division remains at present.

After the disembarking of Alonso Fernandez de Lugo at Santa Cruz de Tenerife, its future importance was assured, and it became the capital of the Canary Islands. On the arrival of the Conqueror,

this part belonged to the kingdom or *menceyato* of Anaga. It was an uncouth and arid shore with hillsides behind, covered with heath. A large number of Guanches inhabited the caves in the ravine, Barranco de Santos, through which part Fernandez de Lugo penetrated. He placed the Cross of the Conquest on a spot now called Barrio del Cabo. Here, the original nucleus of the future capital was established. At first some huts were erected and then the community became more defined. In 1500, the streets of La Caleta, Barranquillo, and the Plaza de la Iglesia were traced. Lime was brought from Lanzarote; earth from Bufadero and Guadamojete, and workmen came from Grand Canary, for their construction.

Santa Cruz, in the later years of the XV century, lived in the measure of the events following the conquest and experienced the first anxieties of colonisation. Guanches formed part of the heterogeneous community composed of soldiers, sailors, and tradesmen. At the beginning of the XVI century, Santa Cruz had a landing stage on the sea shore, of three steps. In 1585, this project was amplified and improved. At that time, the settlement possessed the new streets of Castillo, Candelaria and Cruz Verde, besides those previously mentioned. The town looked towards the sea. It was a nucleus of not more than a thousand inhabitants. Being such a valuable stopping place on routes to America, Santa Cruz had to be fortified. Records of fortifications exist from very early days: in 1464, Sancho de Herrera, son of Diego Garcia de Herrera, had attempted to penetrate into the island, and erected a tower on the shore. In 1494, Alonso Fernandez de Lugo built another, which was destroyed in attacks made by the Guanche, Jaineto, and his men. In 1511, the first fort was built, worthy of the name. In 1570, during the reign of Phillip II, the Castle of Saint Cristobal was built, being finished in 1579. It has since been demolished. It is said that from this

castle the shot was fired which caused the loss of an arm to Admiral Nelson. In 1648 the Castle of San Juan was built, which still stands. The Castle called Paso Alto also belongs to the XVII century. During the XVIII and XIX centuries, other defensive works were constructed, completing a chain of walled redoubts and batteries, all along the coast.

The building of the mole received a great impulse in the XVIII century, when Santa Cruz became the principal port in the island. During the whole of the XIX century, great strides were made in the enlargement and improvement of the port. Although the projects for further enlargement went back to the middle of the XVIII century, it was a century later before the harbour works were notably advanced, thanks to the introduction of artificial prisms in the construction of the mole.

With increased traffic in its port the town grew, and the XVIII century can be regarded as the great century for Santa Cruz, making it conscious of its future importance. Increased traffic ran parallel with better social conditions and a greater political maturity. Cultural development was extraordinary. In that century some beautiful churches were constructed in colonial Canarian style, as well as other buildings showing a characteristic insular baroque style: The Palace of Carta, in the principal square, Plaza de la Candelaria, was completed in 1752. Some of the houses in La Marina belong to the same century; their patios, galleries, staircases and balconies of teak, may still be admired.

The statue, El Triunfo de Candelaria, is a beautiful allegory of the appearance of the Virgin to the Guanches. It is one of the most important Spanish monuments dedicated to the Virgin. It was chiselled in white marble of Carrara, by the celebrated sculptor, Canova, in his early period.

The marble fountain that adorns the Plaza de Weyler, set amongst the garden of luxuriant Indian laurels, is very interesting.



Landscape: *Oil painting by J. Davó.*

Air and light. Caught in that light and enveloped in that air, the objects portrayed reflect unsuspected colours. And the landscape extends, sweetly and joyously, down to the sea.

The Parochial church of the Concepción, first built in 1502 but destroyed by fire in 1652, was rebuilt in the XVIII century, the period in which Santa Cruz reached its greatest splendour. This church has five naves. It contains interesting workmanship in baroque style; the altar of the Virgin del Carmen, in polychromed wood, and the chapel of San Andrés, also in wood. There are notable images, like that of La Dolorosa, by the Canary visionary, Luján. Perez (1756-1815); La Concepción, by Fernando Estévez (1788-1854); San Joaquín and Santa Ana, by Rodríguez de la Oliva (1695-1777); paintings like the Nacimiento de Cristo and the Purísima and the Child, by Juan de Miranda (1723-1805). The main altar piece is of great beauty, (baroque XVIII century). The incrusted marble pulpit is a most delicate work. Because of its antiquity, attention is drawn to the image of the Virgin de la Consolación, in very old Gothic style, which was brought by the Conqueror. This is considered to be one of the oldest images in Tenerife.

Amongst the treasures in this temple, is the shrine of the Holy Hearse, in silver, the bier for the procession of Corpus Christi, and Holy Vessels, made by the silversmith, Damian de Castro of Cordova.

It is a tradition that in this temple, a fragment of the Cross upon which Our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, is preserved. In the Chapel of Santiago the flags and trophies taken from Nelson, at the time of his frustrated attack on the town, are kept.

The Convent of San Pedro Alcantara (in the Parish of San Francisco), is another beautiful specimen of baroque art of the XVIII century, although the principal chapel and the central nave are of the XVII century. The main altarpiece is of great beauty, (baroque, XVIII century). The paintings on the ceiling of the principal chapel are by Quintana (XVII century-1725). In the interior of the temple there are pictures and images of great artistic value, like the



“San Pedro Alcántara” of the XVIII century, and “El Señor de las Tribulaciones” of the XVII century.

The church of Pilar is of the same XVIII century, with an interior in the form of a cross. The main altar piece is also of the XVIII century, as well as an image of the *Virgin de las Angustias*, a work of Miguel Arroyo, and there is a reproduction of the original image of the *Virgin of Candelaria*.

The chapel of the Venerable Orden Tercera has a single nave. The ceiling of the principal chapel is by Miranda. An image of the *Señor del Huerto*, was made by an anonymous sculptor in the XVIII century.

There are several hermitages dotted around the town. The hermitage of San Pedro González Telmo, has an historical interest, because it is erected on the spot where the Conqueror set the Cross of the Conquest. The hermitage of Regla possesses an image of the *Virgin de Guadalupe*, of Mexico, and it is believed to have been brought by a pious islander on returning from America. The hermitage of San Sebastian is on the side of one of the roads leading towards La Laguna. These hermitages may be placed between the XVII and XVIII centuries.

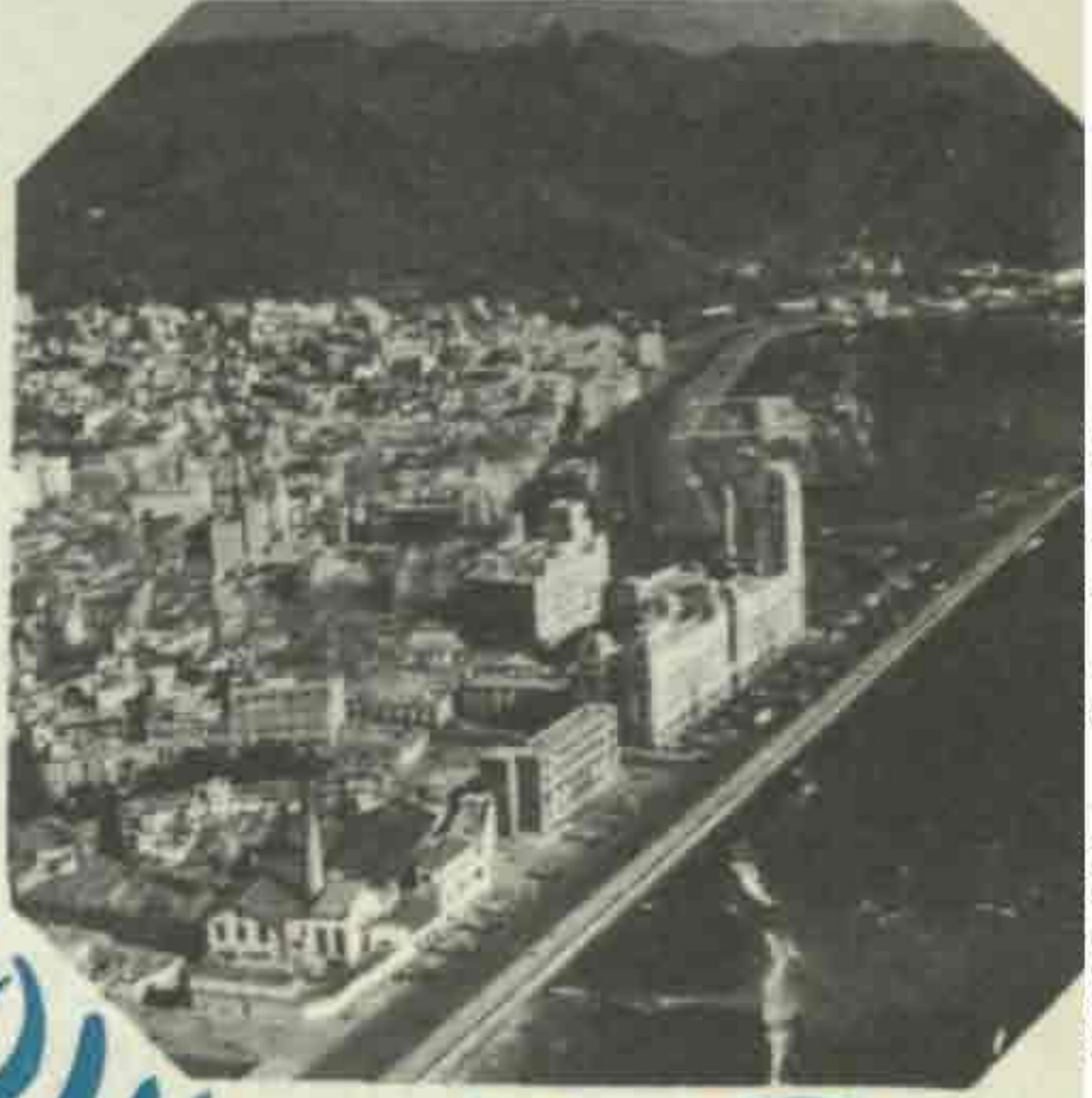
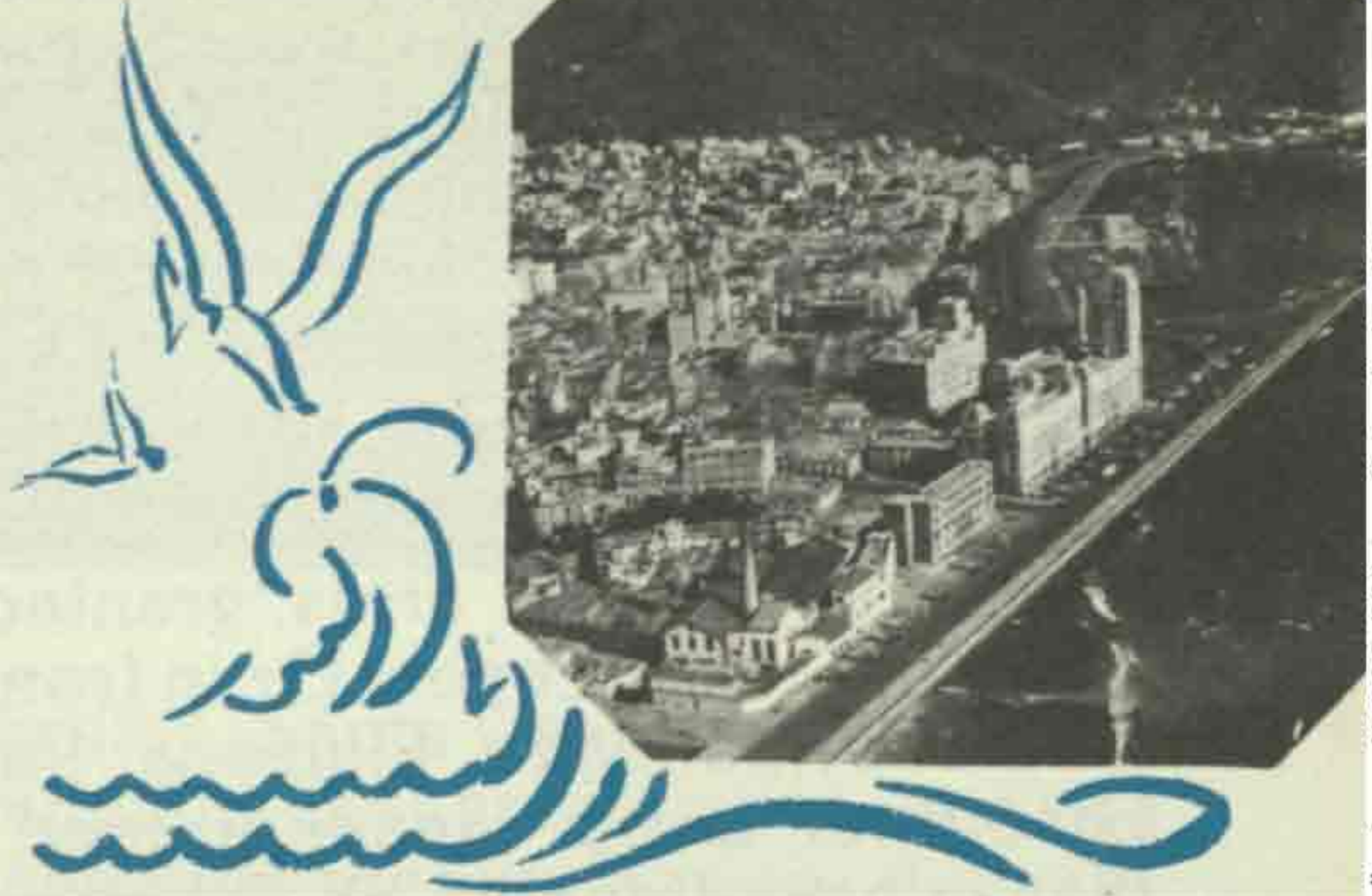
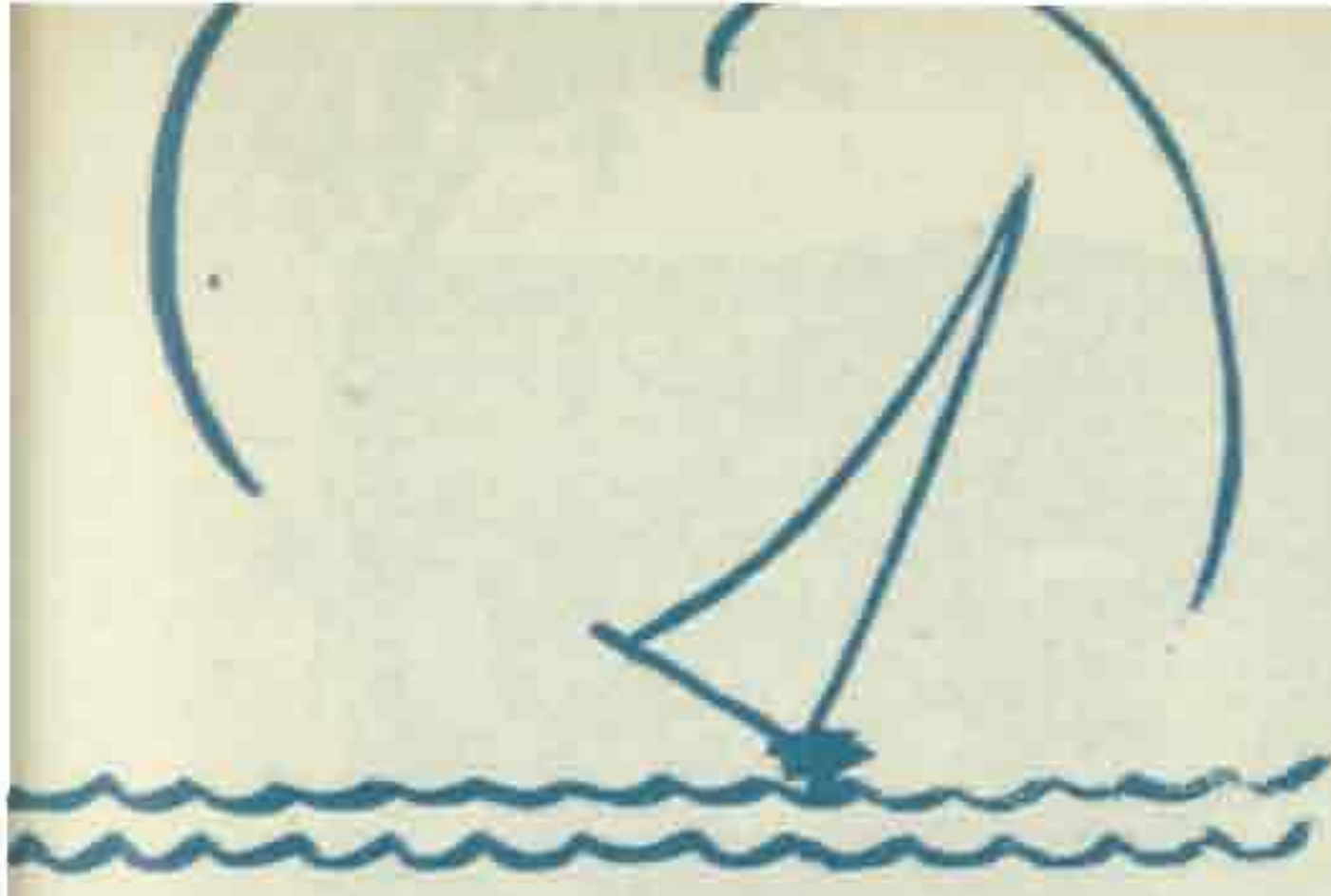
It was also in the XVIII century that the city reached its greatest height of heroism. Already, in



1657, a fleet composed of 36 ships of the English Admiral Blake, had been repulsed. In 1706, Jennings, with 11 ships, was obliged to retire. And, finally, all attempts to take Tenerife ended with the defeat of Admiral Nelson, on the 25th of July, 1797. Nelson appeared before the town with eight ships—Theseus, Culloden, Terpsicore, Zealous, Leander, Seahorse, Emerald and Fox—a fleet of 393 guns, but the heroism of the city prevented him from taking it. Before retiring and after receiving honourable treatment from the defenders, commanded by General Gutierrez, Nelson was given a small barrel of Tenerife wine.

The first maritime mail service with Cadiz was established in 1763. The Captains General of the Archipelago, who had resided in Grand Canary up to 1661, and in La Laguna up to 1723, took up their residence from that date in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, where the Captain General's residence and headquarters have remained.

The first printing press, and the building of an aqueduct from the neighbouring mountain of Aguirre, date from the XVIII century.





In October, 1803, a Royal Charter given by Carlos IV, granted the town the title of "Most Noble, Loyal and Invincible City of Santa Cruz de Santiago"; creating it a privileged city and independent of La Laguna. Finally the city gained the category of Capital of the Archipelago, the right to which condition had been disputed by La Laguna and by Las Palmas.

The history of Santa Cruz is gracefully resumed in its coat of arms, granted also by Carlos IV; "And oval escutcheon Or in front of a Sword of the Order of Santiago Gules a Passion Cross Vert in base three Lions Heads couped Sable two and one that in base impaled on the point of the sword on a Bordure of Waves of the Sea proper in the Chief Point a pyramidal shaped Island also proper in the Base Point a Castle of two towers also Or and on either side two Towers also Or between two fouled Anchors Argent". "The escutcheon is ensigned with a Royal Spanish Crown, and dependant below the base of the escutcheon is the Grand Cross of Beneficence (Administrative)".

The flag of Santa Cruz has a blue background, with a white diagonal cross.





Today, like its flag, Santa Cruz is a white and blue city. The mountains that surround it, and the wild bulwark of Anaga give the city a more delicate appearance. Spread out on the sea-shore at the foot of mountain slopes, the city reaches up these, while it continues also to extend along the coast. The harbour is protected from the North and East winds, and the line of its moles also provides shelter from the occasional impetuous winds from the South and West.

The city preserves some beautiful buildings, as has been said, and some districts have a strong savour of colonial and marine settings. But as one leaves the shores, one sees modern buildings surrounded with gardens. Its squares are shaded by the wide branches of Indian laurels. In its avenues one sees the blue flowers of jacaranda trees, the burning colours of flamboyants, the bright lacquer of bougainvillaeas, reminding one of delicious and beautiful cities in tropical islands, except that here the climate is more temperate.

The city is now passing through an interesting

phase of urban development and has ambitious projects, but these are kept in tone with its character of an insular and Atlantic city.

Capital of the Province, seat of the General Military Headquarters of the Canaries; Civil Government House, Provincial Law Courts, etc.

Population: 111,023 de facto

109,871 de jure.

Service of autobuses to all the villages in the island. Taxis and tourist motorcars on all the tourist routes. General Post Office, Regional Telegraph Office, Telephone company (Compañía Telefónica Nacional de España), Radio transmitting stations. E. A. J. 43 of Radio Club Tenerife, and of Radio Juventud de Canarias.

Feasts: 3rd of May, Invencción de la Santa Cruz, commemorating the founding of the City, called Spring Feasts. (Fiestas de la Primavera), lasting over several days. 16th of July, feast in honour of the Virgin del Carmen.

Picturesque spots: the road to San Andrés, (beaches), Los Campitos, Tahodio, Valleseco, María Jimenez, Semaphore of Las Manchas, and Punta de Anaga, (in the semaphore of Punta de Anaga, the sport of submarine fishing can be practised, especially around the Roques de Anaga).

Is the headship of a judicial district.





LA LAGUNA

The first city traced and squared by its founder, Alonso Fernandez de Lugo. Time does not spoil it. The city was founded in 1496, as the residence of the Conqueror, framed within green gentle distances, and surrounded with orchards and fields. One can regard La Laguna as the first city to be built in Tenerife, with a Spanish look. It has lived throughout its long history, a sober retired and ceremonious life. There were peasants and artisans, but also gentle folk, licentiatees, notaries, government officials and ecclesiastics, resided there, And it was, without doubt, a reproduction of a small Court, composed of the estates of clergy, nobility and commons, clearly stratified.

It was not always an episcopal city, although today it is the capital of the Nivariense Diocese. The bishopric was instituted more recently, by a Papal Bull of Pio VII, in the year 1818, and by Royal Order of Fernando VII, in 1819.

A city of churches and convents, with long and clear roadways adorned by noble houses and buildings. Professorships were established for studies

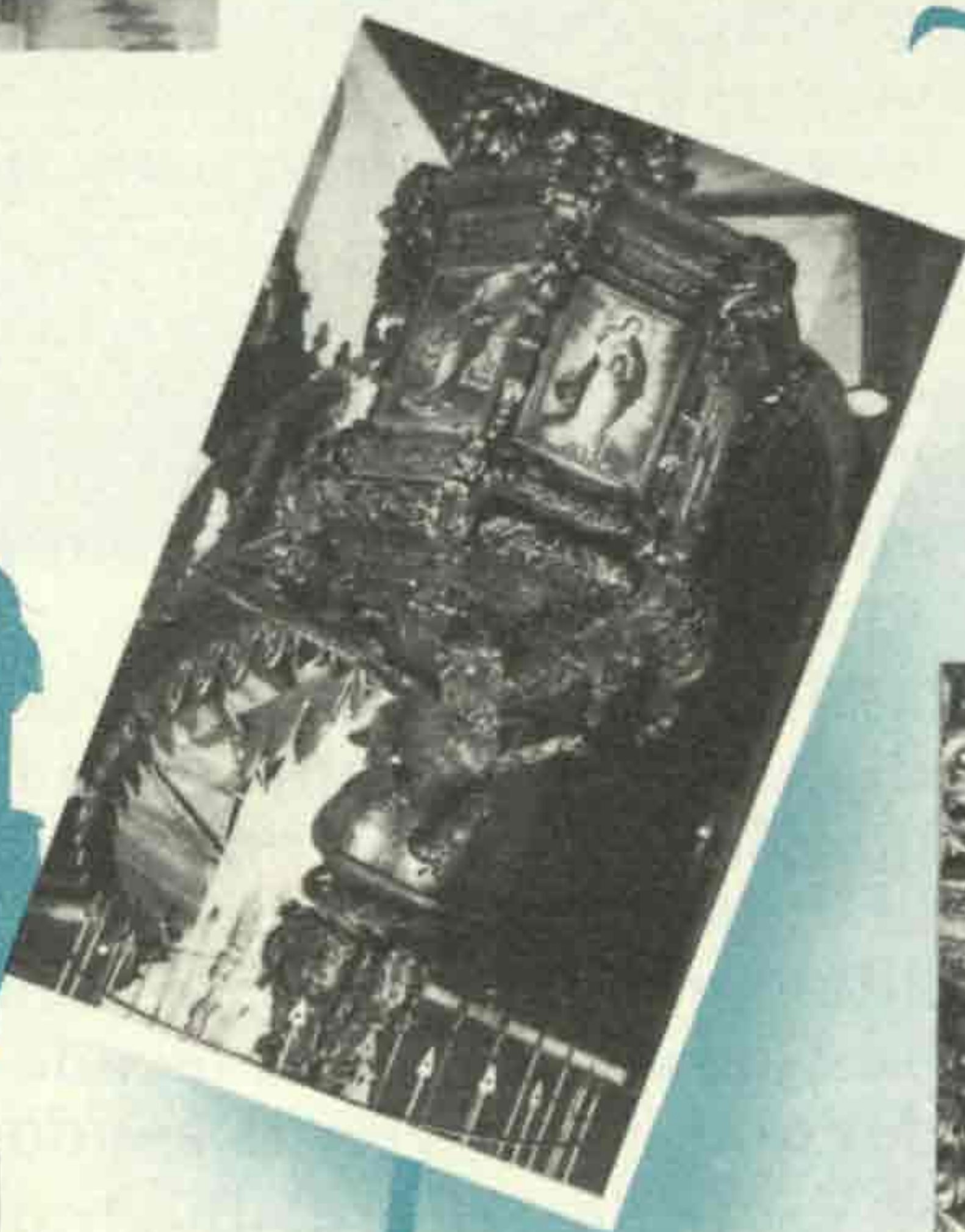
and its fame gradually increased until it became the capital of the Archipelago.

La Laguna has been a city since 1510, and has the title of "Most Noble and Loyal", since 1534. Its coat of arms, which is that of the island of Tenerife, is described as follows: A shield Argent in the base waves of the sea proper Azure and Argent an island with a flaming volcano at the right side a lion rampant and at the left side a Castle above the Archangel Saint Michael armed with a lance pointing towards the flames issuing from the volcano on a Bordure Gules the legend: *Michael Archangele veni in adjutorium populo Dei.*

Dominicans and Augustinians rivalled to make La Laguna the intellectual centre of the Archipelago, and from the beginning of the XVIII century, the Augustinian University was empowered to confer degrees.

Politically and administratively the history of La Laguna is, in a great measure, the history of the island. The Island Council already functioned as such since 1497, and was governed by its own statutes from the first moment. Roads were opened up, lands were ploughed and aqueducts were built. The Conqueror, from La Laguna, undertook the great enterprise of founding new towns. He was succeeded by his son, Don Pedro, who continued the work of his father. Afterwards came the government by the "Most Magnificent Gentlemen Governors and High Magistrates". With the later appointment of a Captain General, the military, political and judicial affairs were controlled under his sole authority. This mandate continued during the XVII and XVIII centuries: it has already been said that in 1723, the Captain General changed his residence to Santa Cruz.

The urban development of La Laguna passed through the phases of the first thatched cottage buildings of stones, to the interesting edifices which are still the pride of the city. To the civil architecture was added the religious. Churches, alters, pic-



tures, images and religious treasures, have contributed to make La Laguna unique in the Archipelago.

Around the temples, in the straight streets bordered by white walls or facades darkened by noble patine, time seems to have halted. And perhaps this constitutes the greatest charm of the city, its not having disowned its past, and so offers to strangers, both the charms of its delicate landscapes, and an urban aggregate full of suggestive themes. Its climate is proper to its altitude, with winter rains and frequent mists, which communicate to La Laguna that air of seclusion and severity which characterises cities of lineage, or of University or Episcopal cities. Palaces with sombre facades in dark stone, enrich the streets. Over the portals are noble escutcheons. On rainy days, gargoyles scatter singing water along the deserted streets. Bells ring in the mist. The air smells of the mountains.

The charm of the city is its own and the stranger will find pleasure in discovering it. It is sufficient to wander round its streets, to gaze at the facades, to pry into the wide vestibules of the old palaces and to enter the temples.

The Cathedral —formerly the Parochial Church of Los Remedios— was begun at the beginning of the XVI century (1515); it was enlarged in the XVII century. It had to be closed in 1897, because of its ruinous condition and in 1905, work commenced on the building as it now stands. Its facade neoclassic, of Tuscan order and its interior is pseudogothic.

In one of sacristies, the Cathedral's treasures are permanently on view. An interesting piece is a processional shrine in silver repoussé work, of the XVIII century. A monument of Holy Thursday is also in silver repoussé. The pulpit of marble, is work of the XVIII century. An assembly of the Holy Supper was produced in the XVII century, and the images of La Magdalena, The Virgin of Candelaria, and of Holy Christ, are works of the Tenerife sculptor, Fernando Estévez (1788-1854).



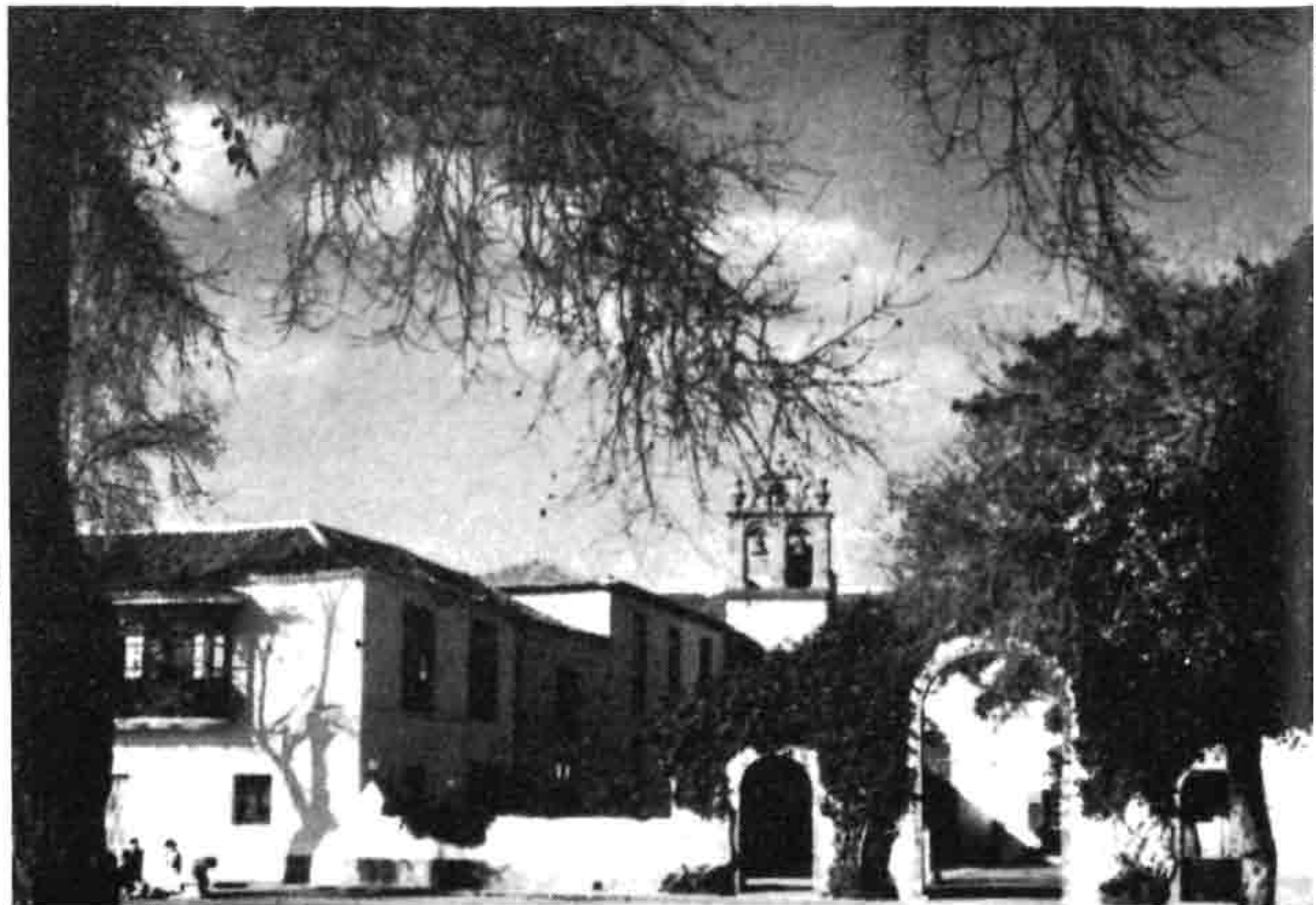
Meadows of La Laguna

Watercolour by A. Gonzalez Suarez

Drifting clouds in a high sky. A peaceful countryside, with green farmlands and tame domestic animals, encircles the city, and above the trees rise the steeples of its churches.

In the treasures of the temple an image of the Virgin of Light, of the XVI century, is kept. From the same period are some Flemish paintings belonging to the altar piece of the Virgin de los Remedios. There is a picture of the Holy Supper, by Miranda (1723-1805), and in the Capitulary Hall there is a portrait of Bishop Bencomo, painted by Luis de la Cruz (1776-1853). The painting of Animas, which can be seen in the interior of the temple, dates from the middle of the XVII century.

The Church of the Conception dates from the beginning of the XVI century, and in its interior there are interesting Gothic details and plateresques in the stonework, in Canary-Moorish style, (XVI and XVII centuries), in polychromed wood, a choral railing carved in wood, (baroque of the XVII century), a baroque pulpit, considered to be an exceptional work of wood carving; all this has no equal in the Archipelago. The tower was built in 1697. The vaults, and the seats for the choir, are of the XVIII century. The principal sacristy is neoclassic (1785-1802), and the principal chapel in neogothic style, is of the same date. There is a baptismal font of glazed ceramic, of the XV century. The treasure of this church is very valuable; notable pieces are a shrine





in wood and copper, of the XVI century, the grand processional shrine, in silver repoussé, (XVIII century), and a monument of Holy Thursday, also in silver repoussé.

Images and paintings complete the treasures of this old temple; and image of the *Virgin of the Conception* (XVII century), *La Dolorosa*, called *La Predilecta*, a work of the great religious artist of the Canary Islands, Luján Pérez (1756-1815), and *La Purísima*, *El Señor de las lágrimas de San Pedro*, by Fernando Estévez, and other valuable paintings. The painting of San Juan—a miraculous picture because it is said that the Saint sheds tears—is dated 1592. There is a *Purísima*, by Miranda, another by Atanasio Bocanegra, and another image similarly dedicated, in beautiful baroque of the XVII century.

The Royal Hospital of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores was founded in the XVI century. The door is a work of the XVII century, and the main altar of the chapel, in polychromed wood, is of the XVIII century (1705). There is an old carving of *La Dolorosa*, certainly contemporary with the foundation of

this hospital. Two paintings by Quintana decorate the main altar.

The church of San Agustín was reconstructed in the XVIII century, although its foundation and first construction was in the XVI and XVII centuries. It belonged to the Augustinian convent, which is today the National Institute of Secondary Education, and is one of the most perfect architectural works in the city. Whilst the convent preserves its plateresque appearance, the interior of the church reveals, in its neoclassic features, the period of its reform (1767-1784). The altar of *Cristo de Burgos*, in polychromed wood, is in baroque style of the XVII century, the same period as the image (1681). The image is the work of Lázaro González.

The old Dominican convent, today the parochial church of Santo Domingo, is in plateresque style (XVI-XVII centuries). Apart from its architectural interest, it contains curious objects of art; the throne of the Holy Hearse, and a monument of Holy Thursday, in silver repoussé. There is an image of *La Magdalena*, by Fernando Estévez. Large and beautiful frescoes, the work of contemporary painters, Mariano de Cossio and Pedro Guezala, cover the walls of this temple,

As an annexe to this church, is the Conciliatory Seminary, over the old Dominican convent. In the gardens of the Seminary, one can contemplate an extraordinary Dragon tree, which is visited by everyone passing through La Laguna. Many travellers have spoken of this tree. One of them, who visited La Laguna in 1804, and saw the tree, relates that on visiting a convent some charming nuns were selling packets of vegetable residue of a red colour (dragon blood), which they recommended for the preservation of the teeth and gums.

The convent of San Miguel de las Victorias (San Francisco, Sanctuary of Christ), possesses one of the most venerated images in the whole Archipelago; Christ of La Laguna. After the Conception, it

is the second temple to be erected in the city. "The main chapel was reserved by the Conqueror for his burial place, and although it was not completed at his death, his relatives completed it and buried him there" (Rodríguez Moure). The image is Gothic, probably brought to Tenerife at the end of the XV century. The altar, the throne and the cross, are worked in silver repoussé, (XVIII century) and the monument of Holy Thursday is also in silver.

In La Laguna there are numerous hermitages and convents. The convent or monastery of Santa Catalina de Sena, has a plateresque facade (XVI-XVII century). The throne of the Corazón de Jesús and the monument of Holy Thursday, are in silver repoussé. There are sculptures and paintings of interest.

The monastery of San Juan Bautista, (Monjas Claras), was the first monastery built in La Laguna. Its foundation dates from the end of the XVI century, its baroque oriel, as also its choral railing and the Moorish ceiling of the chancel, are of the XVII century. It possesses good works of art, like its monument of Holy Thursday, in silver repoussé, images of *San Pedro*, *San Juan*, *Santiago* and *Corazón de María*, by Rodríguez de la Oliva (1695-1777),





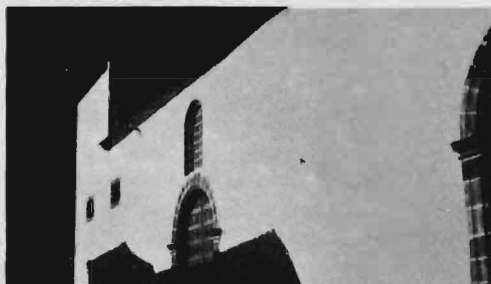
the *El Señor del Huerto*, by Luján Pérez and many other images and retables of the XVIII century.

The convent of San Diego del Monte, situated on a high spot, surrounded by groups of poplars, was built in the XVII century. It has a statue of its founder, Juan Interián de Ayala, in prayer. Because of its situation, of the personalities who chose it as a place of retirement, and because the lay-friar Juan de Jesús lived within its rustic and angelic walls, the convent of San Diego del Monte possesses a delicate legendary air.

The hermitage of San Juan dates from the XVI century, and its facade reflects that period. It was restored at a later date. In it there is an image of *San Plácido*, by Fernando Estévez, and some modern sculptures.

The hermitage of *Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes*, on the road that leads to the mountain so named, is a curious specimen of religious construction, situated on a countryside.

The hermitage of *Nuestra Señora de Gracia*, on the side of the road leading up from Santa Cruz, is a reminder of the Conqueror's vow to commemorate his victory over the Guanches at La Laguna.



The hermitage of San Benito, on the outskirts, is of a sober design, and the feasts in honour of that Saint are the occasion for popular parades of peasantry, which are renowned in all the Archipelago.

Other hermitages, of San Lázaro, San Cristóbal, San Roque, on the roadside, or placed on hills, beautify, with their simple architecture, the meadow landscapes of La Laguna.

The list of civil buildings worthy of a visit would be long; and only a few will be noted, like the present Episcopal Palace, in the street called San Agustín, which was the old residence of the Conde del Valle de Salazar, a beautiful specimen of baroque art of the XVII century (1681). Its very harmonious facade, is an elaborate work in dark masonry. The palace of the Marqués de Villanueva del Prado, (Palacio de Nava), is in dark masonry of the same style. The central body of the building and the portal, are of the XVII century, and the rest is of the XVIII century. Some of the houses in the street called Herradores, like that known as the house of Mustelier, are plateresque, built at the end of the XVI century. And there are more residences in the streets called la Carrera, San Agustín, Anchieta and the squares of the Adelantado, and of the Conception.

The Municipal building, of neoclassic design, has on its stairways some murals depicting amongst other scenes, the presentation of the Guanche menceyes to the King and Queen of Spain. This building was constructed in the XIX century. The facade onto the street Carrera—the Magistrate's residence—is plateresque (1545).

The University is an ample and modern edifice, harbouring the Faculties of Law, Philosophy and Letters, and Chemistry. Economically, the livelihood of the extensive district of La Laguna, depends on agriculture and livestock. Its livestock is the most important of the island. Bananas, tomatoes, sugar

cane, cotton, tabacco, besides ordinary market garden produce, are grown on its fertile soil. It has some industries of glassware and pottery.

But, withal, it is the city itself, with its memories and its historic testimonies, its peace and its power of evocation, that seduces the visitor.



Distance from Santa Cruz 9 Kms.

Altitude 550 m.

Population: 46,492 de facto 46,620 de jure.

Communications: autobuses with Santa Cruz, in permanent service: several services daily with La Orotava and villages en route: Service to La Esperanza, Las Mercedes, Punta del Hidalgo (change at Tejina for Tacoronte via Valle de Guerra) Post Office, Telegraph and Telephone centres.

Feasts: 7th of March, Santo Tomás de Aquino (University festival): first Sunday in June, typical procession of San Benito. Solemn Holy Week. June, Corpus Christi, with flower petal carpets: 27th of June, San Cristobal; 15th of September, feasts of the Santísimo Cristo de La Laguna; 29th of September, San Miguel.

Picturesque spots: Las Mercedes, Tejina, Bajamar (natural swimming pool), Punta del Hidalgo (sea bathing), Guamasa, Los Batanes, Geneto, San Diego del Monte, Mesa Mota, Valle de Tabares, Homicián.

Seat of the Bishopric; Capital of the University District of the Canary Islands; is the headship of a judicial district.





a) La Laguna - Monte de las Mercedes (12 kms).

This excursion is short but full of interest. One crosses through the ploughed meadow, and peasant countryside and slowly penetrates into a forest formed principally by beech trees, heath and laurels.

Water fills with rumours the Llano de los Viejos, an open spot in the forest, and here, and in the Llano de los Loros (not named after the parrot, but because "loro" is the vulgar name applied locally to laurel trees), one can contemplate extraordinary high specimens of those trees. The road, as one climbs, presents visions of the many coloured landscapes of the meadows below, and of the mountains above. From the *Cruz del Carmen*, one views a spacious horizon, and the dorsal range of the island up to the Teide. From the *Pico del Inglés*, one can see the two slopes of the North-East vertex of Tenerife, with the coast line of Santa Cruz on one side, and that of Punta del Hidalgo on the other. All seems to be crests, crags, ravines and narrow valleys, that break up the Punta de Anaga. Sometimes mist rises, the forest disappears and, emerging through the woolly mist, sharp pinnacles appear, like aerial islands in a sea of clouds.

A large part of the peninsula of Anaga is visible from the *Pico del Inglés*, and one can follow the line which delimits it, and which begins from

Bajamar towards Santa Cruz, crossing over the open meadowland of La Laguna.

b) La Laguna - Monte de la Esperanza (9 kms).

This is a very pleasant excursion through the typical Canary pine forest, which has supplied all the teak employed in the construction of the most beautiful buildings in the island: beams, panelling, columns, balconies and lattice work, altar pieces, stairways, balustrades, doors, etc. Without the Canary Island pine, local architecture would not otherwise have reached such a high grade of beauty. Teak, because of its colour and resistance, can almost be classed as a precious wood.

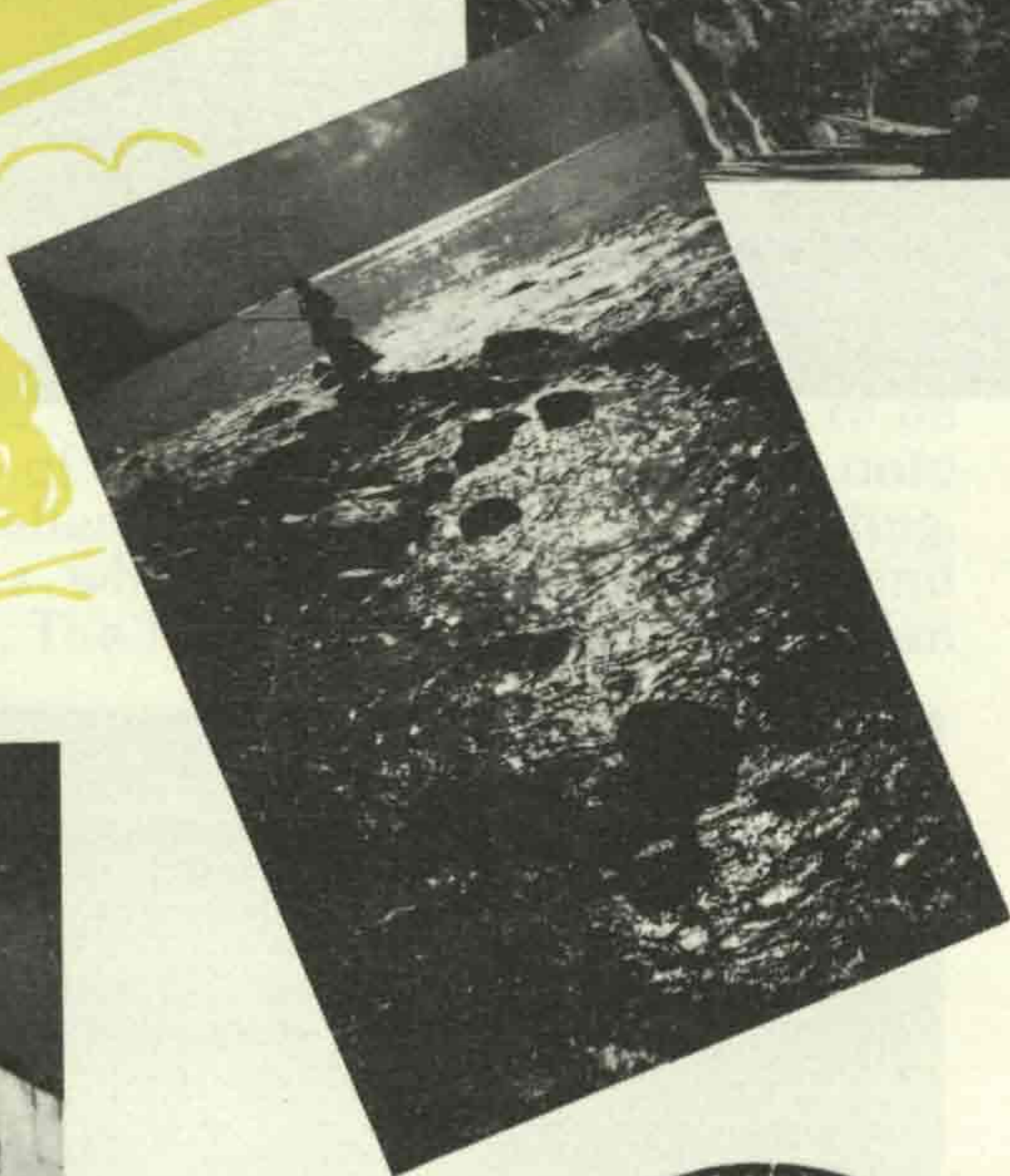
Whilst the way up to the Monte de la Esperanza offers a succession of varied and picturesque landscapes, the pine forest itself creates pleasant emotions, as one can appreciate from the look-out balcony of the *Pico de las Flores*. The air smells of resin. Branches caught by the sun, appear to be alight. Patches of light filter through the trees onto the grass and fallen leaves. The relief is undulating, as are the trees which grow above our heads and below our feet. The Monte de la Esperanza has an





A wine press of Tenerife:
Oil painting by Angel Romero Mateos.

Sunshine. Young vine branches. Gathering of the vintage proceeds with an age-old rhythm and in the wine press the ripe grapes reach their maturity. The racking of the wine is a feverous process in an impatience to see the must flow. The air has a dense and piquant odour. And from the old teak of the wine press comes the smell of very old wine, because teak preserves the odour of its first stum.



impressive grandeur and the tree-lover will find solace and repose.

c) **La Laguna-Tegueste-Tejina-Bajamar-La Punta del Hidalgo-Valle de Guerra.**

TEGUESTE

One can make the excursion from La Laguna to Tegueste on foot. Starting from the road called San Diego del Monte, one leaves La Laguna to arrive at the village, where there is a convent of the same name. From the *Mesa Mota*, can be seen the stretched-out meadowland and the city. Passing over hills, one reaches *Las Peñuelas*, an historical place where the Guanches prepared an ambush for the conquerors. The entry into Tegueste is through the *Callejón de los Laureles*. This is a rustic village, and in the spring its fields are covered with blue flowers.



Distance from Santa Cruz	16 kms.
Altitude	400 m.
Population: 3,914 de facto	4010 de jure

Communications: Service of autobuees with La Laguna (connection there with the capital), and with Tejina (connection there with Tacoronte, Bajamar and La Punta de Hidalgo).

Post Office and Telephone services.

Feasts: 24th of September, Nuestra Señora del Socorro.

Picturesque spots: Pedro Alvarez, La Goleta an Las Peñuelas.

Belongs to the judicial district of La Laguna.

If the excursion is made by motorcar, one leaves La Laguna by the road to Tejina which runs through the Valley of Tegueste, after crossing Las Canteras. The road continues towards the coast, going through the village of Tejina. Here there is a small sugar mill. In the church of San Bartolomé, there is an image of *La Dolorosa*, by Luján.

On the coast one finds the place called Bajamar. Its coast line is of lava, and in has a large natural swimming pool in the sea which is frequented by many sea-bathers.

The road between Bajamar and Punta de Hidalgo is like a cornice cut in the mountainside, high above the sea. This part of the island was the domain of the Guanche chief Zebensui. The road ends in *San Mateo*. From this point can be seen the ribbed coast of Anaga on the slope, dominating the rocky needles called *Los dos Hermanos*.

The return journey is from Punta del Hidalgo and Tejina. Here the road is forked, one way leads into Valle de Guerra, a low coast with extensive cotton plantations, sugar cane and bananas.

The road continues, through the valley, towards Tacoronte, and to complete the circuit of the present route, one must take a branch road that ascends to the main road, through Tacoronte. From the curve of *El Corral Viejo*, the complete panorama of the valley, and the whole of that coastline comes into view. Behind is an abrupt landscape of volcanic rocks and hills, and the country road continues through the fertile flatland of Guamasa, to reach later the main road to the North, at a point called *El Molino*.

This circuit, which can be covered in two hours, contains spots of great beauty. (Distances from Santa Cruz: Tegueste, 16 kms.; Tejina, 20; Bajamar, 23; La Punta, 27; Valle Guerra, 25).



d). Santa Cruz de Tenerife - La Laguna - Taganana - San Andrés (including routes 1 and a).

There were three classic routes for an excursion to Taganana: the first was through the *Valle del Bufadero*; the second, through the *Valle de San Andrés*; and the third, from La Laguna and *Las Mercedes*. The first was the least recommendable, the second was the shortest route although the most laborious, and the third was the most comfortable, (A B C de las Islas Canarias, 1913). That was when the excursion had to be made by foot or on muleback, over ravines, hillocks, mountains and forests. Today those three routes have been reduced to one only, through La Laguna and Las Mercedes, because now a road circuit unites that mountain with San Andrés, passing over the edges of the crests of the peninsula of Anaga. Since the road is a circuit, this excursion can be made in the opposite direction,

—Santa Cruz, San Andrés, Las Mercedes and La Laguna— but it is more interesting in the first direction described, and with less strain on motor vehicles.

After arriving at Las Mercedes, one can continue for a fair distance on a good branch road, and complete the visit to Taganana on foot, through the typical wild vegetation of the island. The broken lines of the NE vertex of Tenerife can be clearly seen. One crosses by *Roque Guañaque* and *Las Degolladas*, where there are springs of clear and fresh water. The road called *Ueltas de Taganana* is full of surprises: the freshness and verdure of the forest, the arrogance of the rocks, the desolation of the crests, the bucolic peace of the deep valleys, the infinite expanse of sea that breaks, always obstreperous, against the abrupt high coast. After crossing the *Barranco del Agua* and *Los Naranjeros*, one arrives at Taganana.

TAGANANA

This district belongs to Santa Cruz, and the village is one of the oldest communities in the island. In 1500, the Conqueror granted land there for sugar plantations. It has already been noted that these sugar plantations were the reason for opening the road now known as *Las Ueltas de Taganana*, to make possible the conveyance of sugar from the deep valley to La Laguna.

Taganana is a Guanche word, which students believe meant "the zone of the rocks". On occasions, this part has been referred to as "the Switzerland of Tenerife", but of course, without snow.

Its inhabitants are hospitable, and its women have the fame of being very beautiful. Fair types appear to predominate and from this circumstance a legend exists: it is said that Nordic groups, through



shipwreck or other circumstances, were obliged to remain in that deep and idyllic valley.

Over that mountainous zone, picturesque homesteads are dispersed, either nestling on high points, or scattered on the slopes, as if sunk in the narrow valleys; Almáciga, El Draguillo, Las Palmas, Portugal, Las Casitas, Chamorga, El Faro, etc. In this broken country, and on these same mountains, Guanches lived. There are innumerable caves all over the Anaga peninsula, which are a testimony to the presence of that primitive race, born and raised in the mountains. Those who live in that geological confusion now, are worthy successors of the Guanches because of their love for their mountains and narrow valleys.

The earth is fertile, and produces all sorts of crops. Between its mountains, defying the gulfs, are dragon trees, with fabulous forms, twisted by the wind. On the coast of Taganana there are some small and sheltered beaches.

The Parochial Church of Nuestra Señora de

las Nieves, harbours an interesting work of art; a Gothic triptych of the *Adoración de los Reyes* (Adoration of the Kings), of the Spanish-Flemish school, (XV and XVI centuries).

Whoever wishes to know the nature and charm of these valleys, can make excursions from Taganana to *Las Montañas*, to *Punta de Anaga* (Anaga Point), and to hidden villages in that wild geography.

To return to Las Mercedes, one again takes the road that runs on the dividing edge of that complicated mountainous mass. The sea can be seen on both sides, and the visitor is struck by the hard rocky surroundings. including those called *Las Carboneras*, *Afur*, *Roque de Taborno*, *Roques de Anaga*. Cutting the water by its strutting ridge, the *Punta de Anaga*, can be seen.

The descent towards the valley of San Andrés is made close against the slopes, which bring into view a silent sea of mountains, which appear to advance towards one.

San Andrés, at 8 kms. from Santa Cruz, is a little fishing port. The road that joins it to the capital, runs capriciously, at times touching basalt rocks and at times close to the sea.



On the coast between Santa Cruz and Iguete de San Andrés, where this road ends, there are some beaches, frequented all the year round; on the outskirts of San Andrés, is a renowned beach called "Las Teresitas".



II.—Santa Cruz de Tenerife-Valle de La Orotava. (including route I, as far as La Laguna).

This is the traditional excursion offered to visitors, because it can be covered in a relatively short time, and provides an interesting succession of landscapes and the view of the Valley of La Orotava, (also called Valley of Taoro), of universal fame. Tourist literature, and accounts of travellers, give first place to the Valley of La Orotava. After Alexander von Humbolt went on his knees before it, this Valley has become one of the few places in the world which must be visited. This route is full of variety and colour, and on penetrating the island, one sees the contrasts between forceful reliefs and the many picturesque spots appearing everywhere (see chapter II, 5).

The stretch of road that runs from La Laguna

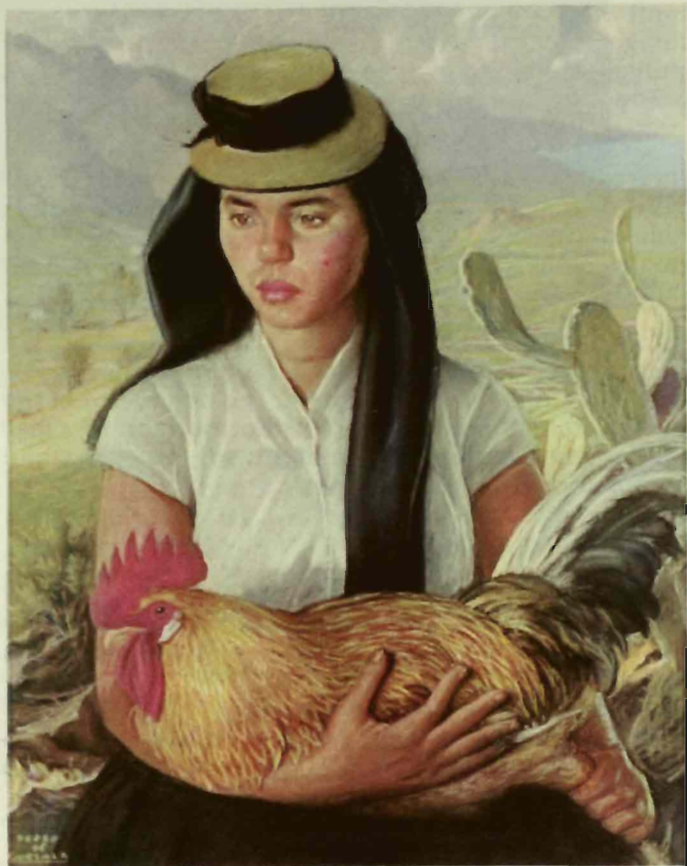
to Tacoronte, crosses the flattest and greenest parts of the island. It gives the impression of a different country altogether, were it not for the volcanic hills all around. At a short distance from La Laguna is the Airport of Los Rodeos, (at 12 kms. from the capital, and only 3 kms. from La Laguna), A delightful view on this route, is from the natural look-out point, near the Airport, called *La Cruz Chica*, from which the landscape over Tejina and the Valle de Guerra is seen spread out below. The road continues through Guamasa and passes the Golf Club. Continuing through picturesque villages, facing onto the road, one enters the undulating countryside of Tacoronte.

TACORONTE

This part was in the old Guanche district of the same name. The main road to the North passes through it. There is a branch road to Tejina, which has already been mentioned. A landscape of hills and slopes; fertile earth, with vines and sown land. The coast of steep crags, has great beauty. There are many dispersed homesteads. It is a place preferred for summer quarters; because of its agreeable climate. Forests are nearby, like that of *Água García* which contains a very typical flora.

It was an important zone in times before the Conquest, and was well populated, as is demonstrated by the numerous caves in the ravines and crags, many of which were Guanche habitations and its prosperous economy is based on agricultural produce, principally wine.

Tacoronte is a special religious centre, because an image of Cristo de Los Dolores, so widely venerated in the island, is kept there in what is called the Santuario del Cristo. This was originally a chapel in an Augustinian convent, which no longer exists. The Santuario, with its harmonious facade, was



"Maga" holding a cock: *Pastel* by P. Guezala

Here is a profound serenity. The "Maga", (peasant woman), is standing before a familiar landscape, perhaps in front of her own orchard or poultry yard. Behind her, the island unfolds delicately blue distances.

built about the middle of the XVII century. The image of Christ, embracing the cross, is made of polychromed wood, and it is believed to have been made in the year 1662.

The Parochial Church of Santa Catalina is an interesting example of baroque style, of the same XVII century. This work dates from 1664. There is also an altar piece of the same period. Amongst the images, is a carving of the Virgin del Carmen, executed by the religious artist, Luján Pérez.

But the greatest attraction of Tacoronte is perhaps its landscape, so delightful because of its soft and transparent distances. The silhouette of the Teide stands out on the distant horizon in clear outline, and in the winter months it appears white and sparkling.

Distance from Santa Cruz	20 Kms.
Altitude	475 m.
Population: 10,190 de facto	10,329 de jure.

Communications: Autobuses and tourist motorcars with the Capital. Connections with villages en route

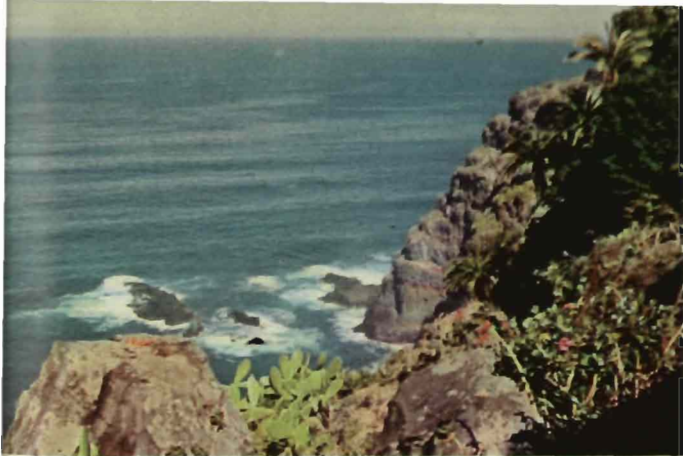
Postal, Telegraph and Telephone offices.

Feasts: Corpus Christi; 15th. Sept.; festival of Nuestro Señor de los Dolores (Christ of Tacoronte); 25th Nov. Santa Catalina.

Picturesque spots: Agua García (forest); Guayonje (ravine and crags); el Prix (sea bathing).

Is in the judicial district of La Laguna.





EL SAUZAL

After passing through Tacoronte one arrives at El Sauzal. This is a small municipality dependent principally for its wellbeing on the cultivation of vines and market produce, although on the coast, bananas and sugar cane are grown. It has a broken coastline, with large rocks like *La Garañona*, some 310 m. high, cut out as if with a pick, over the sea. On the mountains there are forests of pine and foliage.

The old nucleus of this district exists in the spot called El Sauzal, where the Parish Church stands. From the church square, one can view the whole coastline of the island to the distant extreme of the North East. The *Cueva de los Viejos*, (Cave of the aged), is an interesting Guanche habitation, embedded in a leafy glen in the mountainside.

The main highway does not go through the village, but there is a short connecting branch road. In this village, and on the side of the road, there is a natural look-out called *La Branda*, a spot where one must stop and take in the vision of the island and of the distant Teide. Advantage can be taken of this stop to visit a large farm house, with a wine press, wide courtyard, garden and a hermitage in beautiful workmanship.

The foundation of the Parish Church goes back to the XVI century, but its principal buildings were erected in the XVIII and XIX centuries. Pictures of the XVII and XVIII centuries hang on its walls, and adorn the altar piece. The church is dedicated to Saint Peter.

Distance from Santa Cruz 22 kms.

Altitude 315 m.

Population: 3,316 de facto. 3,281 de jure.

Communications: Frequent services daily with the Capital, Tacoronte and villages en route.

Post Office and Telephone service.

Feasts: 2nd August, 1a Virgen de los Angeles; 29th June, Saint Peter.

Picturesque spots: Los Angeles, Cueva de los Viejos, El Puertito, La Baranda y El Monte.

Is in the judicial district of La Laguna.



LA MATANZA DE ACENTEJO

The boundary separating El Sauzal from La Matanza is the *Barranco Cabrera* (Ravine), a neighbourhood well populated by the Guanches because of its many caves. The archaeology of this zone is very interesting.

The village of La Matanza is on the left hand side of the main road, but a branch road leads up to it. Its homesteads are dispersed over the sloping countryside.

Its name was given to it by the Spaniards because of the defeat suffered there, on being attacked by the Guanches, on the first attempt made

to penetrate across the island. (Chapter 11,2). The fighting took place in the *Barranco de Acentejo*, near the village. The chieftain, Tinguaro, took part in the battle, about whom a legend has already been related. (Chapter 11,2). It is a land of vines and market produce. The coast is not so rugged as that of El Sauzal. The landscapes are of high hills and slopes. In the lower zones, bananas are cultivated.

The Church, constructed at the beginning of the XVII century, was burnt down in 1936, and was later rebuilt.

Distance from Santa Cruz	25 kms.
Altitude	471 m.
Population: 3,555	3,604 de jure.

Communications: Frequent services daily with the Capital, and places en route.

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 17th January, San Antonio Abad; 6th August, festival of El Salvador.

Picturesque spots: San Antonio, Guía and La Caleta.

Is in the judicial district of La Laguna.

LA VICTORIA DE ACENTEJO

The highway continues, between maize fields, sown land and vines. The high lands are brown and green. The coast is less rugged. There are good farm lands, plenty of water, and banana plantations in the lower zones. Many palm trees stand out amongst the homesteads and on the hills. The urban centre of the village is dominated by the sharp pointed tower of its church. This temple is intimately related to important episodes of the conquest of the island. At La Matanza, a defeat is remembered; at La Victoria the triumph of the Spaniards over the Guanches, (25th December, 1495; Chapter 11,2). More than 2.000 Guanches were killed.

Fernandez de Lugo, to commemorate the victory, ordered the building of a hermitage dedicated to the Virgin de los Angeles. It was a poor construction of dry stones, which could not support the weight of a belfry. Nearby there was a high pine, and from one of its branches the church bell was hung, and in the shade of that tree the first Mass was said. The pine tree still stands there erect, and now shades the white walls of the church. This temple contains valuable pieces of embossed silver, paintings and images of high artistic value, and a baptismal font in beautiful carving.

In this locality, on the side of the old road, an industry of hand made pottery still exists, using the techniques inherited from native potters.

Distance from Santa Cruz	27 kms.
Altitude	300 m.
Population: 5,349 de facto	5,559 de jure.

Communications: Frequent services daily with the Capital and places en route

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 17th January, San Antonio Abat; 31st August. Nuestra Señora de los Angeles.

Picturesque spots: Los Altos and La Costa.

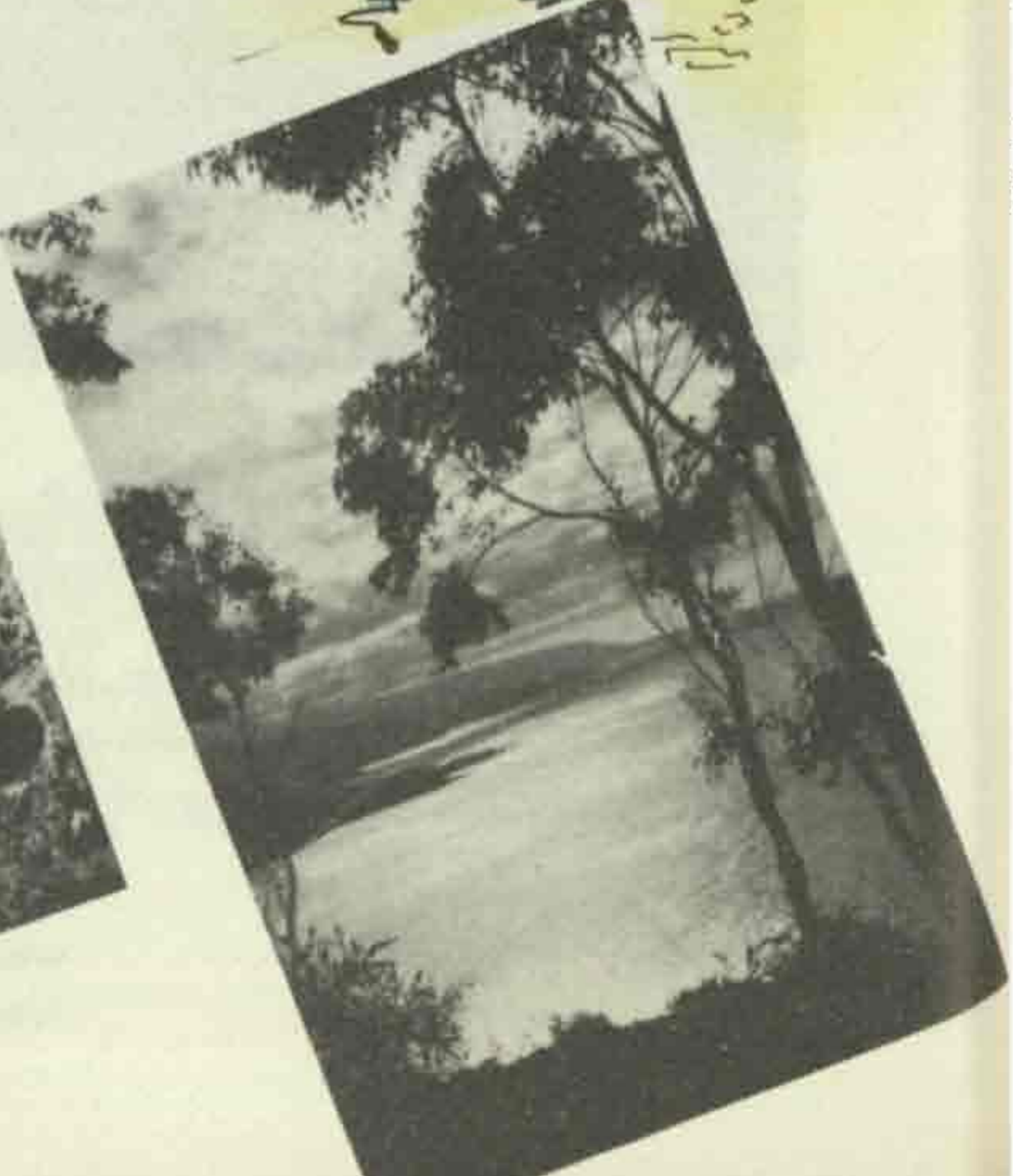
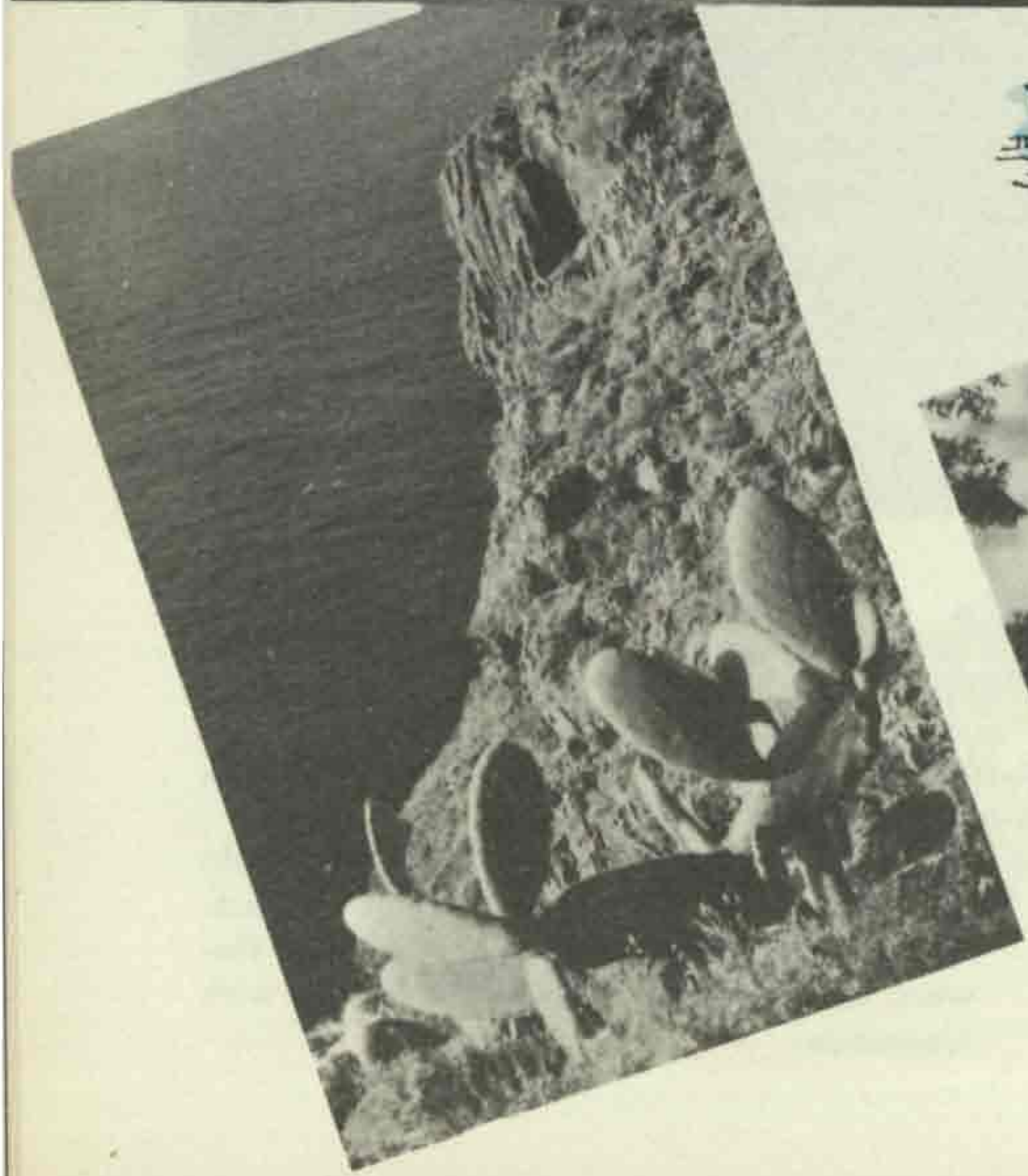
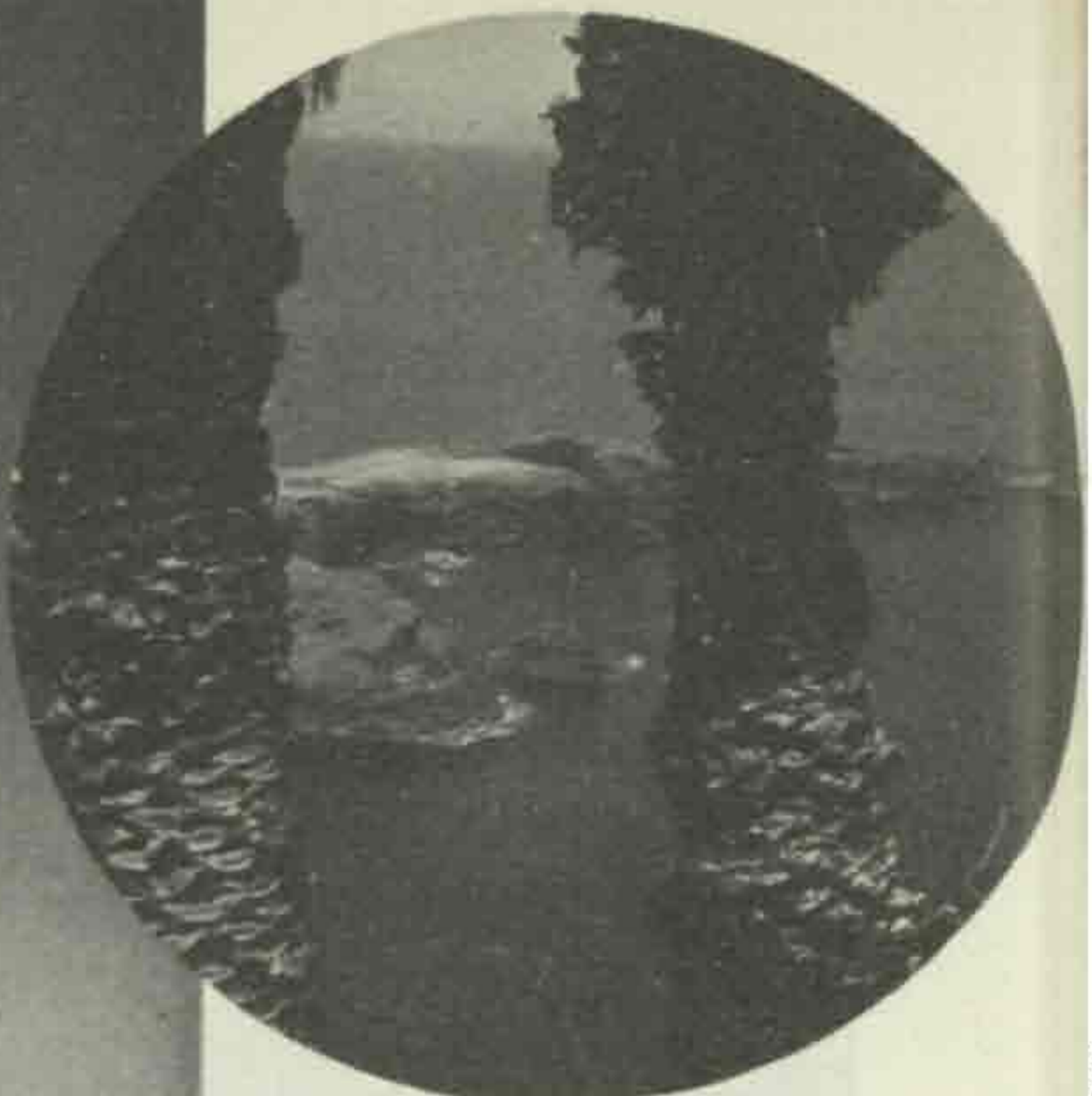
Is in the judicial district of La Laguna.





Patio with flowers: *Water colour* by F. Bonnin

The homestead is humble and the patio is hidden, but it is brightened with flowers, and in the evenings the "holy nights" flowers open their petals to fill the air with fragrance.



SANTA URSULA

Barranco Hondo, separates the boundaries of La Victoria de Acentejo and Santa Ursula. Palms continue to adorn homesteads, and the countryside of sown lands and vines. The coast is very rocky, but there are fertile flat patches dedicated to special crops, and extensive banana plantations. The most important urban nucleus is near the highway, but there are many dispersed houses over the countryside. In the high lands there are leafy forests of chestnut trees.

The church was constructed in the XVII century. Among the works of artistic value which merit special mention, are the image of Santa Rita, made by Fernando Estévez, and a Christ, the work of Luis Cabrera Viera, (XVIII century), uncle of Viera y Clavijo.

The road branches, one road leading to the Villa de La Orotava, and the other leading on through the Valley and through the island. Near this road junction, opposite a wide expanse of landscape, tradition has it that Baron de Humboldt here went on his knees, in a romantic gesture of admiration. The Valley opens out its view, from the road, in all its wide perspective: the coast is cut away, the land ascends gradually and, behind an arc of high mountains, the Teide stands high above all.

Distance from Santa Cruz	31 kms.
Altitude	275 m.
Population: 4,524 de facto	4,768 de jure.

Communications: frequent services daily with the capital and places en route.

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 21st October, Santa Ursula.

Picturesque spots: La Corujera, Cuesta de la Villa, (view over the Valley of La Orotava), Quinta Roja and high rocks that dominate the borders of the Valley.

Is in the judicial district of La Laguna.

a) La Orotava - Puerto de la Cruz - Los Realejos.

VILLA DE LA OROTAVA

In the centre of an extensive Valley of 62 square kilometres, is the renowned Villa. There is an intense verdure on the coast which gradually rises up the slopes, reaching as far as the high mountains. In winter, these mountains are covered with an almost unreal whiteness, above the vast expanse of green and blue. While there is snow on the mountain crests, flowers bloom in the Valley and the sun gilds the beaches.

This zone formed part of the Guanche kingdom of Bencomo, who lived in some caves in the Barranco del Pinito; (the road passes near this spot). The foundation of the Villa goes back to the early days of the colonization of Tenerife, and because of the fertility of its soil and the abundance of water, it was from the beginning an important agricultural centre, in which the city flourished. Because of its situation, its streets are very steep. This circumstance gives to the urbanised whole an extremely picturesque aspect; while on one side one sees high facades, on another there are long lines of roof tops. From the highest spot, called *Villa de Arriba*, one can contemplate, from the North to the South, this picturesque development of houses which descends until some of the houses appear to be leaning against the banana plantations below.

There are buildings of great architectural beauty, with long balconies in the most pure Canary Islands style. The old streets look like silent rivers. Down some, in hidden aqueducts, runs water boisterously. From the high walls, climbing plants overflow in cascades, and the gardens are full of trees and roses. The old houses have patios with interior balconies supported by columns, wide staircases in carved wood, and lovely gardens. All this proclaims a happy past and an assured present.



The squares of this graceful city are also gardens. *La Higuera del Botánico* behind the Municipal Palace, preserves rare botanical specimens.

In the Villa de la Orotava, the custom of covering the streets with carpets of flower petals first originated, and this is done on the festivities of the Octava of *Corpus Christi*. It is an inimitable art, which reveals a fine sensibility. The steep streets offer a magic perspective in colour; long tapestries and beautiful designs in eucharistic themes, totally prepared with flower petals, are spread out over the stone paths. In the square in front of the Municipal Palace, a huge tapistry is prepared with coloured earth. The colours are not dyes, but natural colours of earth, brought mainly from the Cañadas del Teide. The dull tones and the delicate colours, give the tapistry a spiritual smoothness. The final conclusion of the Fiesta Mayor is the Octava de Corpus, which is celebrated in the Villa de La Orotava by a campestrial procession called San Isidro, one of the most interesting and fine manifestations of folklore held in the whole Archipelago. The Parish Church of the Concepcion has very elegant lines. Its principal facade is flanked by two graceful towers, (baroque of the XVIII century). The treasures in this Church merit a visit, not only because of their value, but because of the beautiful silversmith work in them: Outstanding examples are a Gothic custodia of gilded silver, and a collection composed of a custodia, chalice, cibory and wine vessels, in silver repoussé, rococo style of the XVIII century. The main altar, of neoclassic design, is a harmonious Italian work in marble and alabaster, by Giuseppe Gaggini.

Besides some artistic baroque retables—one of the Virgen de la Concepción is of the XVII century—there are images made by the most famous Canary Islands sculptors; *La Dolorosa*, San Juan Evangelista, *María Magdalena*, by Luján Pérez

(1756-1815), and a carved figure of *San Pedro*, by Rodríguez de la Oliva.

The Parish Church of San Juan, at the higher part of the Villa, also contains works of great artistic value; those of special merit are the carvings of the *Virgen del Carmen*, and of the *Virgen de la Gloria*, also by Luján. The beautiful carving of the *Señor de la Columna*, is by Roldán (XVII century).

In the hermitage of the Calvario, at the entrance to the Villa, a group called *la Piedad*, the work of the religious artist, Estévez, is venerated.

Streets, temples, squares and gardens, compose this urban group, making it the most attractive town in the island. The buildings are harmoniously disposed and the variety of greens which surround them give them an even whiter appearance. The mountains form a circle in the distance, and the Teide looms high above them.

Distance from Santa Cruz	37 kms.
Altitude	350 m.
Population: 20,739 de facto	21,329 de jure.

Communications: Several services daily with the Capital. Services with places in the Valley, especially with Puerto de la Cruz and the Botanical Gardens.

Taxis and tourist cars to Las Cañadas del Teide.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephone services.

Feasts: Solemn Holy Week; June, Octava de Corpus; beautiful flower petal carpets. First Sunday after the Octava de Corpus, Procession of San Isidro; 2nd July, Feast of the Señor de la Columna.

Picturesque spots: Aguamansa (forest). El Ancon (beach), Benijos, Las Candas, La Cruz del Teide, El Pino, La Florida, La Luz, Tafuríaste and La Perdoma. The Cañadas del Teide are in the municipality of La Orotava.

Is the head of a judicial district.



JARDIN DE ACLIMATACION (Botanical Gardens)

Between La Orotava and Puerto de la Cruz, at a spot called *El Durazno*, is this Garden, famous in the world for the rich variety of species it contains.

Its area, which will soon be increased, is no more than two hectares, and it is extraordinary that in such a reduced space, such a rich collection of exotic plants are contained. The Garden, which was called the *Jardin del Rey* —“The King’s garden”— was founded in 1788, during the reign of Carlos III, and the idea was to acclimatise in it species brought from the New World. Attempts had been made to acclimatise these species in Madrid and Aranjuez, but without success, because of the crudeness of the winter climate on the Castilian highlands. An illustrious resident in the island, the Marqués de Villanueva del Prado, first began the work of preparing the garden. The spot called *El Durazno* was chosen, near the coast, because of its good and stable climate, all the year round. He ceded the land gratuitously, as well as the water for its maintenance. For more than four years this worthy Marqués de Villanueva del Prado met, from his private purse, all the expenses incurred to put this extraordinary garden into good order.

"The garden is at present a beautiful collection of plants in which one can appreciate interesting species in the world, it being noted that plants proceeding from many contrasting climatological regions thrived side by side, owing to the benign and stable climate of Tenerife. Apart from its scientific value, the beauty of some specimens and the harmony of the whole, make this garden an evocative place, pleasant and worthy to be visited" (Jardin de Aclimatación de La Orotava. Descriptive Guide. The acquisition of this guide is very useful when visiting the Garden).

PUERTO DE LA CRUZ

This city was founded at the beginning of the XVII century. It was inhabited by people of the Valley and by strangers, especially by natives of Catalonia and by Portuguese. In 1548, King Phillip IV joined it with La Orotava, making it the port of this district. Today it is an independent municipality and has the title of City.

From this port, most of the wine of Tenerife was exported. Its maritime traffic was extraordinary. The coves of *San Felipe*, or *Puerto Viejo* (Old Port), of *Limpio Grande*, of *Limpio de las Carabelas*; the *Boca del Puerto*, the *Fondero del Rey*, the *Desembarcadero del Penitente*, are all spots that help us to evoke the rich past of what was once the Port of La Orotava, later called Puerto de la Cruz, and now a port and city of renown because of its natural beauty.

It has the air of a colonial maritime port, and its greatest charm is in knowing how to conserve the old, harmonizing it with the new. Spread over the dark ruggedness of a malpais (arid zone), today Puerto de la Cruz is a garden with the most soothing exotic vegetation of papaws, palms, bougainvillea, banana trees, etc. This exotic appearance, like a white orchid with pink and blue embellishments,



and the benignity of its climate, attract visitors, to the point that it is the place most preferred by tourists and is, without doubt, the pre-eminently tourist city of Tenerife. There, the beaches are attractive in winter; the sun shines all the year round, and all the year round there are flowers in the gardens. The air smells of the sea and of the gardens. It is a city made as if to remain as it is for ever, because its charm is drawn from conditions which do not change; the sun, the sea, the rocks, the beaches, the vegetation, all delightful.

In the rocks of *Martianez* there are caves that were inhabited by the aborigines. The beach of *Martianez* is frequented by many visitors. From it, one can view the beautiful coastline of Tenerife. High up on the rocks there is a place called *La Paz*; the outlines of cypress trees stand out against the transparent sky. The mountain of *Taoro* peers over the houses and the sea shore. Beyond the cemetery, old fortresses shaded by palms, recall historic episodes.

The convent, today the church of San Francisco, possesses a Christ of Mercy, carved by the Tenerife religious artist, Domingo Pérez Donis. Another carving of Christ of Humility and Patience, dates from the beginning of the XVII century.

The Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de Francia, founded in 1603, contains interesting retables of the XVIII century, in polychromed wood. The religious artists Luján and Estévez have some





interesting works, like Santo Domingo, (Luján), and San Pedro, (Estévez). The image of Nuestra Señora del Rosario is a polychromed carving of the XVII century. The venerated image of the Señor del Gran Poder de Dios, is a carving of the Seville school, of the XVII century, but the angels of the throne, and the silverwork, were executed in the following century. The altar piece has pictures of scenes from the life of Christ, painted by Luis de la Cruz. This temple has valuable treasures, amongst which are crosses and litters in silver, and a gilded silver shrine made in La Havana in 1703.

There are several hermitages in the district; San Telmo, constructed by the disbanded Sailors Guild, possessing images, religious retables and artistic works, of the XVIII century; Nuestra Señora de la Peña de Fuerteventura, in the neighbourhood called San Felipe; San Antonio de los Portugueses, in the district of the same name: San Amaro, near the Botanical Gardens, and Nuestra Señora de la Paz, which is the oldest of the city.

An Anglican Church, (All Saints), is situated in the gardens of the Hotel Taoro, and there is also a protestant cemetery.

Puerto de la Cruz and its district has been officially declared to be a place of tourist interest.

Distance from Santa Cruz	39 kms.
Altitude	25 m.
Population: 12,273 de facto	12,600 de jure.

Communications: Autobuses and tourist motorcars in frequent services with the capital, places in the Valley, routes to the North and routes to the Teide via La Orotava.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephone services.

Feasts: 10-16th July, Feasts in honour of the Gran Poder de Dios and of the Virgen del Carmen.

Picturesque Spots: Martiánez (beach and swimming pool), Rocks of Martiánez, La Paz, El Robado, Gardens of the Mountain of Taoro, Castle of San Felipe, Botanical Gardens, and all the coast line. San Telmo swimming pool on beach.

Is in the judicial district of La Orotava.

LOS REALEJOS

Realejo Alto and *Realejo Bajo*, have been united into one municipality under the name of Los Realejos. Situated on mountain slopes, their homesteads extend from North to South, over the hillsides. Their history is connected with the later chapters of the history of Tenerife. Here the Guanches surrendered to Alonso Fernandez de Lugo, and for that reason, the Parish Church of Santiago in Realejo Alto was built there, in 1498. This is the oldest temple in the island. In Realejos Bajo is the Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Concepción, built in the first third of the XVI century, and its doors show Gothic and plateresque details. In has a beautiful baroque altar piece, in polychromed wood of the XVII century. In the Parish House in Realejo Alto, one can admire three Spanish-Flemish tablets, (XVI century). There are carvings of the XVI and XVII centuries. It is said that in its belfry, a bell donated by the Spanish Sovereigns Ferdinand and Isabella, is preserved. The baptismal font is figured



in jasper. A piece of the cross which Fernández de Lugo set up in that place, at the foot of which the first mass was said, is kept there. The roofs of the churches are in Moorish style.

In Realejo Bajo there is a fine dragon tree.

Los Realejos resume the typical landscapes and sown lands of Tenerife. Water is abundant. The coast is covered with banana plantations.

At the extreme West of the Valley, Los Realejos are like two white patches under the shade of the mountains.

From La Orotava to Los Realejos one can proceed by an old road that crosses the Valley from East to West, and passes through *La Perdoma* and *Cruz Santa*. A curious view of the Valley can be seen from half way between the sea and the mountains.

From Los Realejos one can reach Icod el Alto via *Las Vueltas de Tigaiga*. From *El Lance*, on the edge of the mountain and on the side of the road to la Guancha, which is under construction, one can

view the whole of the Valley of La Orotava from the West to the East; this view is very different from that more frequently seen coming from the route from Santa Cruz to La Orotava.

Distance from Santa Cruz 45 kms.

Altitude: Realejo Alto 375 m. Realejo Bajo 300 m.

Population: 16,627 de facto 17,430 de jure.

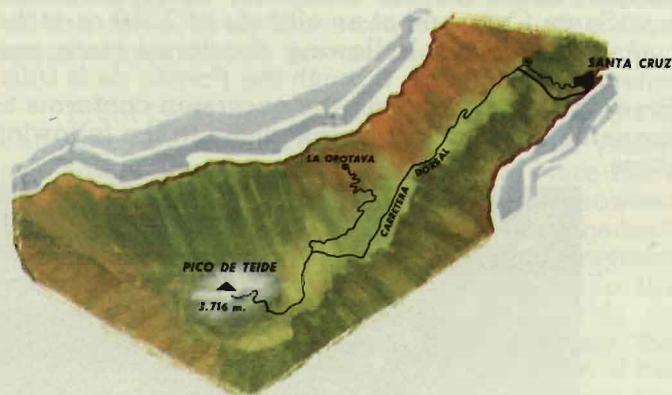
Communications: several daily with the capital and frequent services with places in the Valley.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephone services.

Feasts: 29th June, San Pedro; 16th July, Nuestra Señora del Carmen; 25th July, Santiago.

Picturesque spots: Gordejuela, Palo Blanco, Cruz Santa, Tigaiga and Icod El Alto.

Is in the judicial district of La Orotava.



III.—Routes to the Peak of Teide.

- a) By the dorsal road (comprising I, b)
- b) By the road from La Orotava (comprising II, a)
- c) Ascension of the Peak of Teide

a) **By the dorsal road.** (61 kms. from Santa Cruz).

The road starts from La Laguna. As far as the Esperanza Forest, the route is already known. Passing through the forest, one quickly gains height. At some 1,500 m. above sea level, from the eminence known as *El Draguillo*, one can see the mountain slopes down to the sea on the North and South of the island. Higher up, after passing the *Montaña de Chirijer*, the Valleys of La Orotava on the North and the Valley of Guimar, on the South, are clearly seen, like two twin depressions. The horizons of the island extend in crests, folds and deep valleys. The Teide dominates the mountain horizon. Basaltic dikes, ravines, immense abysses, full of solitude, out of which the clouds rise, and down below, the villages like white points over the mountain sides. Open volcanoes, and rugged broken mountain ridges. Cloudless expanses on the South, green landscapes on the North. On the hillock of Izaña, at 53 kms. from Santa Cruz, and at an altitude of 2,360 m. is the Izaña Observatory. Following the dorsal route, one enters Las Cañadas through the *Portillo de la Villa*. From this point onwards the excursion conforms to the same description as that given in the following route.



b) By the road from La Orotava. (73 kms. from Santa Cruz).

Of old, the Villa of La Orotava was the best centre for making the excursion to Las Cañadas, and to ascend the Peak of Teide. One set out at daybreak on muleback, and the trip usually took three or four days, if one wished to see the whole Teide region and to contemplate the fascinating spectacles in those parts. With the construction of new roads, however, the excursion can now be made in much less time.

A visit to Tenerife was always justified for the sole purpose of ascending the Teide, and the arrival of famous scientists and travellers was always with the final object of seeing the volcano, and viewing from its summit the graceful dispersion of the Archipelago. In few parts of the world can one ascend to 3,716 m. above sea level, in such a short space of time. Let us now arrange this excursion.

From La Orotava, a road leads directly to Las Cañadas. After crossing the high part of the Valley, one enters the woods of Aguamansa. Here there are very luxuriant chestnut trees with renowned specimens, like the "castaño de las siete pernadas". The road winds through the Monteverde (Evergreen hills), of Fayal-brezal, already described. To the right, as one ascends, the Valley unfolds its tapestries. To the left, above the forest, are the crests of the mountain ridges. In the zone of the broom (see chapter 1, 3. *Flora and Vegetation*), the mountains are clearly seen and the Teide shows itself in all its grandeur. The lavas here have begun to flower, and are animated by the green-greys of the retamas. In Spring, these plants perfume the mountain heights, displaying their white and pink tones in profusion. In Winter, snow covers the black stones and yellow sands. In Summer, the sun

scorches the stones and heightens the reflexes of of the obsidian rocks and vitreous lavas.

The entry into Las Cañadas is also through the Portillo de la Villa. Stretches of brown and yellow earth appear in succession, and multicoloured lavas, amongst a perpetual riot of rocks. The Teide presides over that weird lunar landscape. Las Cañadas (small planes imprisoned between lava streams), follow one after another: *Cañada of Diego Hernández of La Angostura*, of *La Grieta*, of *Monton de Trigo*, *Cañada Blanca*, *Llano de Ucanca*, *Cañada of Pedro Méndez*. Black lavas from the *Boca de Tauce*, and the brown solitude of the *Llano de la Santidad*. An uninterrupted circle of mountains trace a wide arc around those landscapes (see chapter 1,2 *Vulcanism and Geology*); *Arenas Negras*, the *Topo de la Grieta*, *Montaña de Guajara*, *El Sombrerito*, *El Cedro*, are on one side; *Montaña Rajada*, *Montaña Blanca*, *Chahorra* or *Pico Viejo* are on the other.

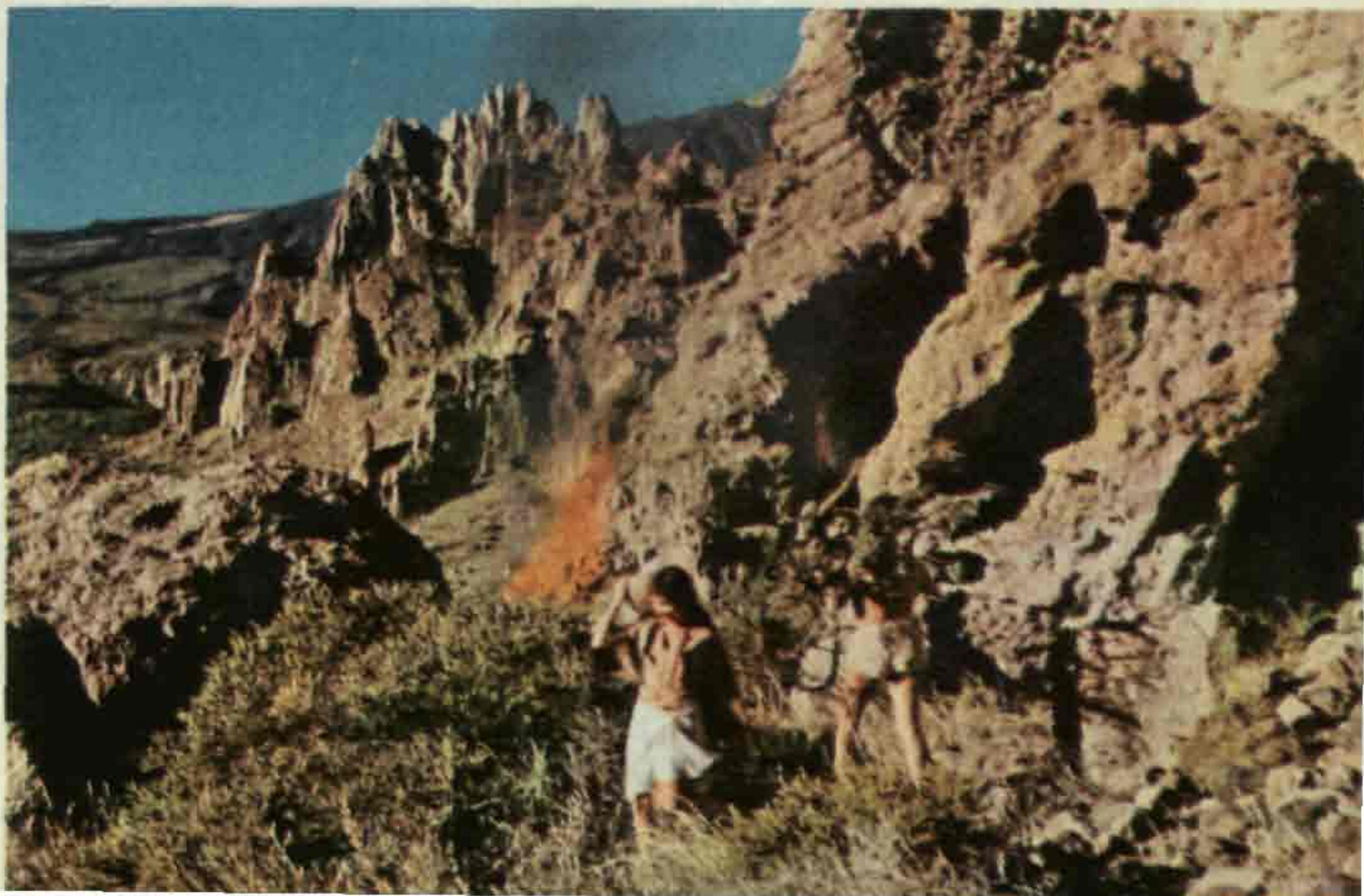
Scattered craters, and eruptions, which have left clear traces of their courses, are now still and cold. All this appears as a vision to the visitor, who captures the message of a primary world, as if just come into being.

After crossing the *Cañada Blanca*, one goes on to the mirador (look-out) of *Los Roques*, from which can be seen the *Llano de Ucanca*. This *Llano de Ucanca*, the usual terminus of this route, is like a dead sea, where the waves have dried against the borders and around small islets. Rocks, in fantastic forms, sketch their chimerical profiles in a sky as clear and hard as glass. In *Los Azulejos*, the stones have the blue colour of copper oxide. Behind the tourist hostel, (Parador), erosion has bored the orange coloured rocks. The flat lands are white. The distances black. The volcano, *El Chahorra*, exhibits the gaping mouth where it last erupted. Still rivers of black lava. The air is diaphanous. The *Teide* appears, always gently purple, with some black gashes and some white patches.

Beyond *Los Azulejos*, round the edge of the Llano de Ucanca, one reaches the Boca de Tauce; (the road continues to Vilaflor, a town in the island, described when dealing with the routes to the South). The lavas of the Chahorra flowed up to the Boca de Tauce, in 1798; a dusty road crosses them, and beyond, one enters the Llano de la Santidad, from the border of which can be seen the distant stretches of the Southeast of the island, over the villages of Chío and Guia de Isora. In the evenings, one can usually see the blue silhouettes of the islands of La Palma, La Gomera and Hierro.

Inside the Cañadas, one can make excursions on foot; see the deep angles at the foot of the Topo de la Grieta and of the Montaña de Guajara; from the Sanatorium one can ascend the last named mountain, the third in height in the island (2,796 m.). The spectacle that one descries from that height is only comparable to that to be seen from the summit of the Teide itself.

Las Cañadas, besides being an inspiring lesson in vulcanism, and an extraordinary geological illustration, enclose the greatest chapter of the primitive history of Tenerife; the Guanches went up there with their flocks, and amongst the lavas, are found the retreats and shelters which they used. In



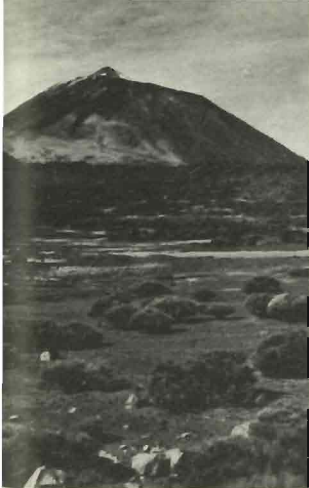
recent years some important archaeological discoveries have been made in Las Cañadas.

c) Ascension of the Peak of Teide. (The complete route is 75 kms.).

The road that crosses Las Cañadas, passes the foot of Montaña Blanca. From here the path to the Peak begins, first leading to a quarry of pumice stone, and then continuing by a foot path which zigzags up the steep side of the volcano.

It is advisable to prepare carefully the ascension to ensure its success. Contrary to the opinions of the guides, we reject the ascension by night, for the elementary reason that one cannot enjoy the beauties of nature at night. We give this advice, because of the frequency of nocturnal visits to the Peak.

The ideal plan is to go to Las Cañadas in the morning, take a midday lunch there, and begin the ascension, if in Summer at five o'clock in the afternoon, and in Winter, if the snow permits, an hour earlier. The ascension can be made on foot or on horseback. First, one has to overcome the rounded hills on Montaña Blanca, composed of loose pumice stone. Having passed this first stretch, we find ourselves at the base of the Teide. Here the *Lomo Tieso* begins, and by a zigzag path one overcomes this steep slope. Evening is now coming on, and the Teide begins to project its shadow, first over Las Cañadas, then over the island, and later over the sea, where it advances until it covers the island of Grand Canary. The evening is then like undulating wavelets of purple gauze. At nightfall, without fatigue, one reaches *Alta Vista* (3,250 m.), where there is a comfortable refuge in which to pass the night.



Boca de Tauce



Llano de Uanca



Los Roques

Cañada Blanca



Cañada de la Grieta



Cañada Diego Hernández



Portillo





El Cráter

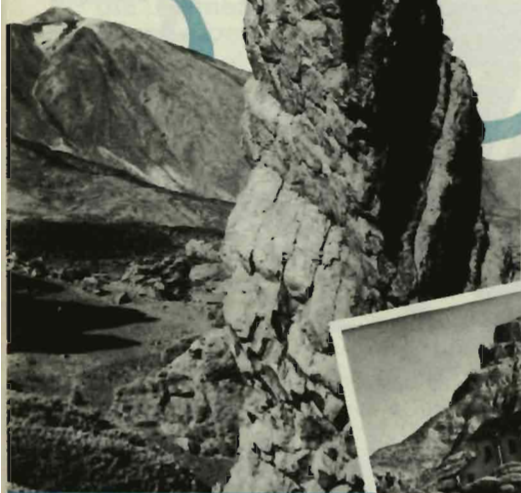


La Rambleta

Refugio Altavista

Lomo Tieso

Montaña Blanca





The ascension is renewed at dawn, over a landscape of crunching lavas, to arrive at *La Rambleta*, where one perceives the first sulphuric emanations from the fumaroles, especially at a spot called *Narices del Teide*. The ground is softer. The path leaves the lava streams and winds up to the *Pilon de Azúcar*, practically at the end of the route, near the very edge of the crater. The crater has a depth of some 25 m. and a diameter of 50 m. It is easy to enter.

Dawn awakens. The sea looks like a sheet of steel. The sky begins to take on an illumination of tones in pink and mother-of-pearl. Inflamed grooves begin to cross the sky. At our feet, the complete map of Tenerife, in relief, unfolds itself, and on the horizon are the islands of El Hierro, La Gomera, La Palma and Grand Canary. On very clear days, it is said, one can even see the most Eastern islands of Fuerteventura and Lanzarote.

It is well worth while to prolong one's stay in the crater. The fumaroles let off their yellow vapours. One sees, below, the urban groups looking very small in the distances. Meanwhile the shadow of the Teide becomes detached from the horizon, and as the sun ascends, its shadow over the island of La

Gomera is gradually reduced over the intervening sea until it meets the coast of Tenerife. The crests of the mountain ridges are lit up, and the sea is a mass of reflexes. And between the evening and the dawn from those silent heights, it seems that one has been present at the death and the resurrection of the island.

On descending from the Pílon de Azúcar, one can visit the *Cueva del Hielo* (an ice cave), a deep cavern where formerly there were always blocks of ice. Now, because the base of the cavern has been broken by audacious and ignorant persons, it is only an ice cave in name. Writers of the XVIII century speak of magnificent parties for which ices and cold drinks were prepared with the ice brought from this famous cave. When Viera y Clavijo visited it in 1799, he says that "it had at its base nearly a yard of water, so pure and cold that it was not possible for four persons to drink from a small glass, and under the water one could see a layer of hard ice". Up to a few years ago, it was a surprising spectacle to find in this cave, in mid-summer, festoons of ice and hanging icicles.

The descent from the Teide is easy and rapid, and one can be again at La Orotava or Puerto de la Cruz, for lunch.

From Montaña Blanca to Alta Vista, the ascent can be made in three hours, without hurrying, (one hour and a half from Alta Vista to the crater), and the descent can be made in about two hours. Arrangements can be made for a motorcar to be waiting at the foot of Montaña Blanca.



IV.—*Santa Cruz de Tenerife-Buenavista* (including routes I and II).

a) Valley of La Orotava - Icod - La Guancha

SAN JUAN DE LA RAMBLA

On leaving Los Realejos, the road ascends gently. From the road, at a sharp bend, the pleasant spot called *Rambla de Castro* can be seen; this place has the appearance of a tropical landscape, because of its vegetation. The road itself forms a natural balcony, from which one can see the coastline below, with its violent salients projecting into the sea. The road is carved out of the mountain, which slopes steeply down to the sea. This is one of the most beautiful coast routes in the island. It passes over deep ravines, lined with crags, like the *Barranco Ruiz*. One sees palms, rose-bay, tamarind-trees, banana-trees, and water flowing down the slopes and into the plantations. The suburb of *Las Aguas*, shows up white on a bed of lava. And by this picturesque route one arrives at San Juan de la Rambla, a town confined between the sea and massive basaltic structures, which have obliged it to develop from East to West. Its coastline is capricious and, near the town it is arid and stony. although today, since recent new water supplies have been found, much of this formerly waste land is being prepared for cultivation. The Parish church has a beautiful design, and it possesses sacred vessels and rich silver objects.



Distance from Santa Cruz	52 kms.
Altitude	50 m.
Population: 4,008 do facto	4,412 de jure.

Communications: frequent daily services with the capital and places en route.

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 3rd May, the Santa Cruz; 24th June, San Juan Bautista; first Sunday in August, the Virgen del Carmen; 24th October, San Rafael.

Picturesque spots: Las Aguas (ideal for submarine fishing), La Portalina, Barranco Ruiz.

Is in the judicial district of La Orotava.



ICOD DE LOS VINOS

The road continues to Icod between cistus, pines and banana trees. Its name comes from the famous wines produced, and are still produced there. But its name might have been Icod del Teide, because from no other place in the island does the volcano present such a majestic view.

The city of Icod was founded in 1501. Its homesteads form a cross over a gently sloping terrain. As an urban group, it is one of the most interesting in the island, not only because of its town plan, but because of its harmonious grouping of buildings in a pure Canarian style. It is surrounded by crags covered with leafy vegetation, extensive banana plantations, and farms carefully tended. The fine country houses are surrounded with palms. Its climate is benign and stable.

Because it is prosperous and is constantly being improved, —it is the head of a judicial district— Icod can be called the capital of the *Isla Baja* (Low Island). Like a Grand Lady, the city gives great attention to the preservation of its natural beauty. It has beautiful squares and gardens, like the Park of L. Cáceres, where the pomp of Indian laurels unites with the graceful silhouettes of tropical vegetation.

The Municipal building, and the Parish Church, dedicated to San Marcos, are worthy to be visited.

The church is constructed of hewn stone, and dates from the XV and XVI centuries, although its interior was executed between the XVI and XVII centuries. The porch is renaissance style, and the altar piece is baroque of the XVII century. It possesses valuable jewels and rich pieces of silver-work. There is a large cross in filigreed silver, made in Mexico, and donated to the Church. An outstanding image of great beauty, is that of San Diego de Alcalá, the work in polychromed wood of Pedro de Mena, of the Granadine school (1628-1688). There is a retablo with paintings of the XVI century, and an interesting painting of Animas, of the XVIII century. In the convent of San Francisco, the Christ of the Waters is venerated, a carved figure of the XVII century. In the convent of San Agustín, one can admire retables, pulpits and ceilings of the XVII and XVIII centuries.

The Chapel of Los Dolores is an interesting example of local carpentry, especially in the ceilings and retables, in which one discovers a graceful rococo style.

Icod takes great care of the most famous dragon tree in the Canaries, "el drago milenario", as it is called, as if it were the totem tree of the city. Icod could also be called "of the Dragon Tree", because, although the excursion is full of agreeable surprises, a visit to the Dragon Tree cannot be missed. This tree is a centre piece in a neighbourhood of palms, and is surrounded by pleasant gardens, all contributing to make it appear higher, stronger and more majestic.

From Icod, one can visit the Monte de Castro, thickly covered with pines, over an expanse of some 6,000 Hectares, and containing more than 6 million trees; *El Amparo* and *La Vega*, on the slope, has interesting rural buildings; Playa de San Marcos is a delightful spot, where one can bathe in the sea all the year round. On the mountain range that closes

it on the South called *El Amparo* and *El Masapé*, there are deep caves, which the Guanches used as cementeries. *Buen Paso*, in a quiet countryside, conserves a famous pine tree, which, tradition has it, was there at the time of the conquest of the island.

Distance from Santa Cruz	64 kms.
Altitude	225 m.
Population: 14,020 de facto	16,243 de jure.

Communications: frequent daily services with the Capital, places en route, and connection with the West route.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephone services.

Feasts: 25th April, San Marcos Evangelista; 25th July, Nuestra Señora del Buen Paso; 27th August; Santa Bárbara, last Sunday in September, feasts in honour of the Santísimo Cristo del Calvario.

Picturesque spots: The gardens of the Dragon tree, Belmonte, Buen Paso, La Vega (look-out post over Icod), El Miradero, Caleta de San Marcos (beach), Santa Bárbara, El Pinar. Is the head of a judicial district.



LA GUANCHA

One ascends to La Guancha by a branch road off the general highway to the North, from a point near Icod. It is an extensive municipality which stretches from the base of the Teide to the sea. The diversity of altitudes permits of a variety of vegetation, beginning with ordinary plants, and ending with alpine species. Its vast pine forest is a continuation of that at Icod.

The town is picturesque and is divided into two urban centres, La Guancha proper, and *Guancha de Abajo* (Lower Guancha). It also has numerous little suburbs and houses scattered over a wide landscape, reaching down at *La Costa*, to the sea shore. There is abundance of water from borings into the mountains. Its economy is based on ordinary crops, principally potatoes and cereals.

Two routes lead to La Guancha: that just mentioned, branching from the general highway and which ascends between old lava flows covered with lichen, and another, from Los Realejos, via Tigaiga and Icod el Alto, which crosses the island at a higher level, and from which it is possible to view the sea and the mountains in a wide perspective. This last route is still obstructed, and cars cannot yet circulate its whole length.

Distance from Santa Cruz	67 kms.
Altitude	580 m.
Population: 3,527 de facto	3,865 de jure.

Communications: frequent daily services with Icod (connecting with services to the Capital) and with places en route.

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 19th March, San José, 20th August, feast of Nuestra Señora de La Esperanza.

Picturesque spots: Guancha de Abajo, La Asomada, Cerco Gordo and El Pinar.

Is in the judicial district of Icod de los Vinos.

b) Icod - Buenavista - Punta de Teno

GARACHICO

It can be said that Garachico was founded in 1500, with the concession of lands there. "A delightful place with an opulent sea port"; that is how it was described in the XVIII century. Behind it was wooded land, springs and running water, before it was devastated by the volcano.

It is situated at 4 kms. from Icod. A part of the town, as well as its famous port, disappeared as a result of a volcanic eruption at the beginning of the XVIII century. This eruption began in the *Montaña Bermeja de Trebejo*, and from the *Atalaya* the lava flowed over the homesteads and the port. In spite of that catastrophe, its old grandeur is apparent in what remains of the old town; palaces of dark stone masonry, like that of the Marques of Adeje, in baroque style of the XVII century; and churches, —the first church at Garachico was destroyed by the volcano in 1705— like that of Santa Ana, it was built in 1548, and restored in 1704, after being partially destroyed by fire. Its interior has rich works of local carpentry and cut stone, and also of religious artists and silversmiths, Outstanding examples are the images of Santa Ana, and San Joaquin, by Luján, and paintings of San Pedro, San Cristóbal and La Purísima.

A military building, the Castillo de San Miguel, still stands, and is of the XVI century (1575).

A short road circuit comprising *La Caleta*, *Genovés*, *San Juan del Reparo* and *San Pedro de Daute*, completes our acquaintance with this tranquil part of the *Isla Baja*, which is described in the old couplet:

*Garachico, puerto rico,
tiene su mejor blasón
en que cuando da la mano
dá también el corazón.*

*Garachico, thriving port,
regards as its greatest honour
that where it extends its hand
it also gives its heart.*

The finest views can be seen from the road from Icod to Guia (kms. 66, 67 68).

Distance from Santa Cruz	68 kms.
Altitude	25 m.
Population: 4,618 de facto	5,045 de jure.

Communications: frequent daily services with the Capital and places en route.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephones.

Feasts: 6th January, La Epifanía del Señor; 24th June, San Juna; 26th July, Santa Ana; 25th November, Santa Catalina.

Picturesque spots: La Caleta, El Guincho, San Pedro de Daute and el Malpaís.

Is in the judicial district of Icod de los Vinos.



LOS SILOS

Situated at 6 kms. from Garachico. Its boundaries are within an old Guanche district. Its foundation is contemporary with the conquest. Its landscape is a contrast between coastal alluvial planes and high mountainous buttresses. The soil is fertile, and because of its exuberant cultivation, it looks like an oasis. The urban district is well laid out, and has some modern buildings. Its principal wealth is in banana plantations. Being in the calid zone, coffee trees and other tropical species flourish.

The Parish church, whose patron Saint is Nuestra Señora de la Luz, was built in the year 1,629, but its facade was radically restored in 1925. In this temple, the image of the Santísimo Cristo de la Misericordia, in baroque style, is venerated (XVII century).

Los Silos has places which merit being visited: Las Moradas, Cuevas Negras, La Isleta, where the mountain falls steeply into the plain; forests, like those of *Aguas* and *Pasos*, interesting examples of small Canarian thickets; beaches and coves easily accessible; mountains like the *Aregume*, near the town, from which beautiful views can be seen; valleys, like the *La Tierra del Trigo*, which is very fertile. There are banana plantations, and an old sugar mill. Special cultivation has speeded the development of the town, which, in a period of thirty years, has increased its inhabitants some 150 per cent.



Distance from Santa Cruz	74 Kms.
Altitude	100 m.
Population: 4,074 de facto	5,052 de jure.

Communications: frequent daily services with the Capital Icod and other places en route.

Feasts: 17th January, San Antonio Abad; 8th September, la Virgen de la Luz.

Post Office and Telephones.

Picturesque spots: Cuevas Negras, Erjos, *Tierra del Trigo*, Las Moradas, La Caleta and El Monte.

Is in the judicial district of Icod de los Vinos.



BUENAVISTA

Situated at 5 kms. from Los Silos. A landscape in sienna, white and green. The coast is low, and the earth fertile. There are fruit orchards and banana plantations.

It is a very old town and has much character. Its foundation dates from the beginning of the XVI century. It preserves houses built in the XVII and XVIII centuries. The Parish church erected in 1513, is dedicated to the Virgen de los Remedios. It contains artistic retables of the XVI and XVII centuries. It has polychromed ceilings in Moorish style, rich pieces of silver work, sacred vessels in precious metals, and an image of San Francisco, by Alonso Cano.

Buenavista, the terminus of this route, and the last town on the extreme NW. of the island, lives in perfect peace; its district is in a landscape perhaps the most mountainous and broken, abrupt and savage of Tenerife. There, the massive rock of Teno rises, a replica to that of Anaga. Wild summits, deep ravines, and mountain ridges, to the heights of which the sound of the sea never reaches. Teno is the last desperate cry of the island, proclaiming itself a bulwark against the immensity of the ocean.

One can reach Teno by three routes; that which ascends by the idyllic Valley del Palmar and borders the broad mountain of Baracán (891 m.), the highest point in the range, to arrive at Teno de

Arriba: then descending by the crag to *Teno de Abajo*, which is near the coast. Here, there is a plain swept by the wind, and on a volcanic crag is the lighthouse of Teno. Sheltered by *La Punta*, the sea at this spot is always calm. There is a landing place, and small beaches and coves.

Another route is that passing *El Rincón*, up to the crags of Teno itself. It is possible to do the journey on foot, and also on horseback, although the path is not always easy.

The third route begins by boat from Buenavista to *La Punta*. This trip is not always possible because the sea there is very open to the wind and often becomes rough.

Masca is a village or suburb of Buenavista, nestling amongst the mountains. There are few inhabited places in the island situated in a spot more severe and wild. (Another maritime route to Teno will be found in "Routes to the West", a).

Distance from Santa Cruz	77 kms.
Altitude :	100 m.
Population: 4,006	4,442 de jure.

Communications: frequent daily services with the Capital: connection in Icod for routes to the West.

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 17th January, San Antonio Abad; 24th August, San Bartolomé; 25th October, Nuestra Señora de Los Remedios.

Picturesque spots: Los Carrizales, El Palmar, Plays and Puertito (submarine fishing), Teno and Valley de Masca.

In in the judicial district of Icod de los Vinos.





ROUTES TO THE SOUTH

V.—*Santa Cruz de Tenerife - Los Cristianos*

- a) Santa Cruz de Tenerife - Valley of Guimar
- b) Valley of Guimar - Granadilla - Los Cristianos

VI.—*Granadilla - Vilaflor - Las Cañadas*

VII.—*Los Cristianos - Guia de Isora*

- a) **Santa Cruz de Tenerife - Valley of Guimar**

The routes to the South are long, and rather difficult to reduce to a simple plan, which we have however, reduced as much as possible, for the convenience of visitors who may not have much time available. The route we are now suggesting, anticipates for the visitor the characteristics of the South terrain and, on passing, draws attention to localities of historic or of typical interest. On leaving Santa Cruz, and after passing through La Cuesta, one borders the volcanic mountains of *Ofra* and *Taco*, then crossing the *Barranco Grande*, *San Isidro*, and *Barranco Hondo*, leaving behind *El Rosario*, a municipality of some 6,000 inhabitants, within whose boundaries, and at its highest part, is *La Esperanza*.

Distance from Santa Cruz	6kms.
Altitude	300 m.
Population: 6,122 de facto	6,285 de jure.

Communications: frequent services of autobuses with the Capital.

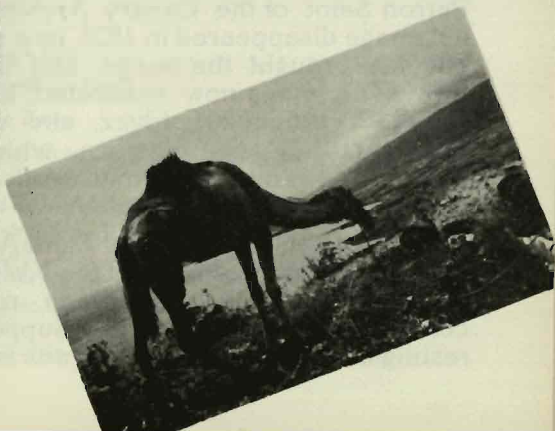
Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 5th August, Nuestra Señora de la Esperanza; 7th October, the Virgen del Rosario.

Picturesque spots: La Esperanza, Llano del Moro, El Sobradillo and El Tablero.

El Rosario is in the judicial district of La Laguna.

After passing *Barranco Hondo*, the road lowers. One passes *Punta de Guadamojete*, where the ridge descends, and a coastline begins with small coves, beaches and salients. One enters the Valley of Guimar. On the right of the road and from a sloping terrain, one sees the town of Igueste de Candelaria, and by taking a branch road, one soon arrives there.



CANDELARIA

Candelaria is a place of pious histories and legends. It is on the sea-shore, and its white houses contrast with its beach of black sand.

Not only Candelaria, but the whole of the Valley of Guimar is saturated with those histories and legends. To the beach of *Chimisay*, now in the boundary of Guimar, and at a spot called *El Socorro*, the image of the Virgen de Candelaria arrived, brought by the sea. This event occurred at the end of the XIV century, (1390 or 1391). The *mencey* of Guimar took charge of the image and placed it in his cave. There it remained for 50 years. Later, a Guanche, called *Anton de Guimar*, who had been baptised a Christian, removed the image to a grotto called *Achbinico*, there to render cult to the Virgin; that grotto is today called *San Blas*, and can be visited. This was, in reality, the first Roman Catholic church in the island, and in it, the first baptisms of Guanches were performed. It was also a burial place.

Until 1526, the miraculous image remained in a Sanctuary which the second Governor, Don Pedro Fernandez de Lugo, ordered to be constructed. The convent annexed, was built in 1803, after a former convent was destroyed by fire. Since 1530, the Dominicans are the chaplains and guardians of the Patron Saint of the Canary Archipelago. The original image disappeared in 1826, as a result of a flood. The sea brought the image, and the sea carried it away. The image now venerated, is the work of the sculptor Fernando Estévez, and was executed in the year 1827. The Basilica, which will soon be completed, is an important work of the Tenerife architect, E. Marrero Regalado.

The Parish Church of Santa Ana is a spacious edifice built at the middle of the XVIII century. There is an image of the *Crucificado*, made in the XVII century. A group of the Holy Supper is a very interesting carving.



The Municipal building is worthy of note. Besides its interesting balcony, all the woodwork is in good carpentry. It is called the *Cabildo* (Council), because the Tenerife Cabildo lodged there when attending, in corporation, the feasts in honour of the Virgin.

To have an idea of the importance of the feasts of the Virgen de Candelaria, it is enough to say that between the 14th and 15th of August, more than 35,000 pilgrims and visitors, congregate there.

Distance from Santa Cruz	24 kms.
Altitude (the high built up part)	25 m.
Population: 4,485 de facto	4,522 de jure.

Communications: frequent daily services with the Capital and places en route.

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 2nd February, La Purificación de la Virgen; 26th July, Santa Ana; 14th and 15th August, La Ascención de la Virgen (feast of the Virgen de Candelaria).

Picturesque spots: Igueste Candelaria, Chibisaya and Caleta de Pescadores.

Is in the judicial district of Santa Cruz de Tenerife.



ARAFO

A town on the sloping mountain side, with volcanoes above it, and with rivers of lava which did not reach the sea. An intensive cultivation of vines rises by steps, up to the outskirts of the town. There are many nopal's and orchards, and an abundance of fruit trees. Water, from borings into the mountainsides, flows constantly down canals and aqueducts. The crops of potatoes and tomatoes are important. The boundaries are wide, and extend from a spot called *Media Montaña* down to the sea. Up above is broom, pines, and thickets of hairy cytissus. On the coast, there are quiet spots and beaches, like that called *Playa de la Diuda*, much visited in Summer. High peaks on the mountain range which, like the *Pico de Tio Marcial*, dominate the wide expanse of the Valley. This zone was well populated by Guanaches; in the ravines and on the high mountains, as well as on the coast, numerous caves then inhabited have been discovered, amongst which were many used as cemeteries.

It has a small temple dedicated to San Juan Degollado. There is a beautiful painting of San Agustin, by an anonymous artist. The temple which

has a single nave, dates from the beginning of the XVIII century.

It has been said that Arafo is "pleasant and attractive" because its inhabitants are "extremely cordial and hospitable". With the addition of its good climate and quiet mode of life, Arafo is a refuge of peace and tranquility.

Like many towns in the island, Arafo also has its own tutelary tree: the pine of the Calvary, which, by legend, survived the harassing lava flows and the violence of hurricanes.

Distance from Santa Cruz	31 kms.
Altitude	480 m.
Population: 3,045 de facto	3,079 de jure.

Communications: several daily services with the Capital and places en route.

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 29th August, la Degollación de San Juan Bautista.

Picturesque spots: Volcano of El Agujero, Caserios de La Hidalgo and Icosia.

Is in the judicial district of Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

GUIMAR

This locality gives its name to the Valley, Guimar, Arafo and Candelaria, divide this geographical region between them, in which the high mountain range behind, slopes gradually down with a gentle gradient over a wide expanse to the sea. And so it is with the colour scheme, high up the tones are black —open volcanoes— or of a dark green; on the slopes these tones are softened with green crops and vines, later to become a gilded brown; passing down through the greys of the fig trees, the emerald green of the banana plantations, and ending in white patches on the coast.

The Valley of Guimar is a replica of the Valley of La Orotava, on the opposite side of the mountains; these valleys appear to be the result of envious geography, wishing to repeat itself. And if the latter captivates by its exuberance, the former



does so too, because of its discreet tonal effects and the balanced distribution of its masses. It is also fertile, but not with such overflowing fertility. Its waters flow through aqueducts between its fields, although not so boisterously as in La Orotava Valley. A purely natural valley with purely natural landscapes, which the hand of man has not been able to transform so radically as to obliterate the tormented cast in which the island was formed. Like the Valley of La Orotava, it also has two high mountain ranges which embrace it. A visitor sees all this from the look-out called *Mirador de Don Martín*, which is, without doubt, one of the best placed look-outs constructed over a Tenerife landscape. From the mountain ridges down to the sea, the stones remain as nature placed them, and man has done little to dissemble such massive ruggedness. And it is precisely this fact, that gives the Valley its strange beauty, which, from the look-out, one absorbs with all one's senses, in an air filled with the smells of



wild vegetation, and an atmosphere so transparent, that one sees clearly the tree on the mountain, the fig-tree on the slope, and the heath on the coast.

Opened as if by a knife from the top to the bottom, are the ravines of Chiñico, del Coto, del Río, and Badajoz. Their borders are enlivened by tender verdure; the wild fig-tree grows there, as well as the weeping willow, and the madroña of lustrous trunk and delicious fruit. On the height of *Izaña*, is perched the white building of the Observatory. In the lower part of the Valley, is the *Montaña Grande*, or *Montaña del Volcan de Guimar*, a crater of 300 m. in circumference, and 60 m. depth. From its summit one has an ample perspective of the Valley. In the high hills, there are springs of pure, fresh water, known as the *Madre del Agua* and *Cueva del Culantrillo*; peaceful and pleasant spots.

The history of Guimar is animated by the action of the Mencey Añaterve, the first to submit to the Spanish Sovereigns, accepting a pact with Alonso Fernández de Lugo. Within the boundaries of Guimar, is the *Playa de Chimisay* (beach), where the image of the Virgin of Candelaria first appeared, and the cave to which it was taken until it was later carried to the cave of Achbinico, to be found there by the Conqueror. The whole terrain of Guimar is full of grottos where the Guanches lived, or buried their dead. And the mystery guarded in the inaccessible cave of *El Cañizo*, in the *Barranco Badajoz* (ravine), has still to be discovered. In this district, there are descendants of the ancient inhabitants of the Valley, united through generations of inter-marriage.

From the point of view of geography and landscapes, Guimar constitutes one of the most attractive places in Tenerife, since it serves to illustrate the characteristics of the terrain adjoining it to the South. The city has developed from the East to the West, on an inclining surface, and the highway continues through it from North to South. It has

pleasant squares and streets full of tranquil charm. Its economy is well developed, because the fertility of its soil is great and its volume of agricultural production is very important; from potatoes, of excellent quality, vines, cereals and market produce, to banana and tomato plantations. Both as an urban centre, and economically, it is, without doubt, the most important town in the South of the island.

The Parish Church of San Pedro is a beautiful architectural work, in which there are valuable and interesting objects of art.

On the coast is the *Puertito de Guimar*. *El Socorro*, on the shore of calcareous tufa and crass vegetation, is also worth visiting.

Leaving Guimar, in the direction of Fasnia, one passes through *La Medida* and *El Escobonal* (500 m.). The route now begins to penetrate into the real South.

Distance from Santa Cruz 31 Kms.

Altitude 280 m.

Population: 11,114 de facto 11,364 de jure.

Communications: several daily services with the Capital and places en route.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephone services.

Feasts: 2nd February, El Socorro; 29th June, San Pedro.

Picturesque spots: Lomo de Mena, El Volcán, El Escobonal, Puerto de Guimar, Barranco Badajoz and Mirador de Don Martin (look-out with splendid views of the Valley of Guimar).

Is in the judicial district of Santa Cruz de Tenerife.





b) Valley of Guimar - Granadilla - Los Cristianos

FASNIA

A town founded at the beginning of the XVII century. The old Parish Church, probably of the same date, was burnt out by fire and is in ruins. There are old windmills in a ruinous state.

After crossing the deep ravine, *Barranco de Herques*, one enters the district of Fasnía, to which district belong the villages of *La Zarza*—on the mountain— and *La Sombrera* and *Sabina Alta*, which, like Fasnía, are on the roadside. White homesteads built on white land. Cistus, cactus and euphorbias, and pines on the high land. Barren coasts. The huge round mass of the volcano called *Montaña de Fasnía*, with a small hermitage dedicated to *Nuestra Señora de los Dolores*, on its summit. Typical construction with blocks of stone of calcareous tufa. Subdued colours, white and ashy. Fasnía is indeed an authentic town of the South.

Distance from Santa Cruz	49 Kms.
Altitude	450 m.
Population: 3,402 de facto	3,646 de jure.

Communications: service of autobuses with the Capital. Valley of Guimar and places en route.

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 16th August, San Joaquín; 2nd fortnight in September, San Roque.

Picturesque Spots: *La Zarza*, *Puertito de los Roques*; *Montaña de Fasnía*.

Is in the judicial district of Granadilla de Abona.

ARICO

Arico el Viejo, Arico el Nuevo, Lomo de Arico; these three names proclaim the wide dispersion of the inhabited groupings that constitute this extensive municipality, consisting of some 24 groups. Its terrain is of an impressive whiteness, formed almost entirely by calcareous tufa, or covered with old volcanic ash. And, nevertheless, with the water obtained by borings into the mountains, and water conveyed from the North of the island in aqueducts, important extensions of apparently sterile lands have been converted into cultivated soil. Here the crops of potatoes are the most important of the island, and tomato production, for export, is also very important.

In the built up nucleus of Lomo de Arico, is the Municipal Building. The houses are very white, and the whiteness of the roads is almost blinding; it has small squares with leafy trees, and houses of typical construction. The camel is a familiar animal to this landscape, and is employed as an auxiliary in the labours on the land, sometimes drawing a plough, or a harrow, or traversing the land, and along the roads and streets, outlining its high and complicated silhouette against the sky, or against the white walls of houses.

The Parish Church of the Villa de Arico is dedicated to San Juan, but Nuestra Señora de Abona is also venerated there. The foundation of this church dates from the first third of the XVII century. The baptismal font is of the same date. The Temple has good carpentry work in Tenerife workmanship, and valuable jewels, like a shrine in gilded silver with jewels, and a chalice of delicately worked silver repoussé.

La Punta de Abona, where there is a lighthouse, and the *Punta del Carnero*, form a small bay in which is the little old port of *Poris de Abona*, very

sheltered and possessing small beaches. It has a good communication by road.

An interesting excursion on foot can be made to the mountain ridges: from Arico one can arrive in three hours, after passing an extensive pine wood, to the summits of *Guajara* and *Topo de la Grieta*, over Las Cañadas and opposite the Teide.

Distance from Santa Cruz 68 Kms.

Altitude 575 m.

Population: 5,766 de facto 5,965 de jure.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephone services

Communications: several services with the Capital and places en route.

Feasts: 24th June, San Juan Bautista; 8th September, Nuestra Señora de Aboua.

Picturesque spots: Madre del Agua, El Pinar, Icor, El Rio, La Caleta and El Faro.

Is in the judicial district of Granadilla de Abona.

GRANADILLA DE ABONA

This town may be called the capital of the South. It is the headship of a judicial district. A very characteristic city because of its mixture of the old and the modern. Situated half way up a mountain slope, it is between high pine forests and an extensive coastal region of a desolate aspect. Nevertheless, its soil is rich, and on its land all the ordinary crops are grown—garden vegetables, pulses, potatoes, cereals and vines—and on its coasts, large crops of tomatoes are produced. Its foundation dates from the early days of the colonization of the island. The Parish Church, dedicated to San Antonio, holds retables and carvings of the Canary school, and sacred vessels in silver repoussé. Another religious building is the ex-convent of San Francisco, founded in the last third of the XVII century. It was destroyed by fire in 1745 and was rebuilt at a later date.

Granadilla de Abona has a capricious urban design with long sinuous streets, cut through by others steeply sloping. Amongst the houses, in the town, there are leafy orchards; the air of Granadilla smells of orange blossoms and the streets appear



to be decorated with the gilded balls of the orange trees. The soil within its boundaries is well cultivated, and it is surprising to see the vigour of the crops growing on the pulverised calcareous tufa.

There are some very picturesque spots: Charco del Pino, which is crossed by the high road; Los Abrigos, a small fishing village; Las Vegas, in the high zone, with good communication over a path, and with rich soil and old country homesteads; here, there is a hermitage placed on a hill from which one can see a great extent of the South. Near the pines, cactus grow vigorously.

El Médano. A port with a landing pier, houses sprinkled over the sea shore, and an excellent beach, the longest in Tenerife; brown sands and clear water. The beach extends between the Punta

del Médano and *Punta Roja*, where a high hill rises, called *Montaña Roja*, an old volcano of sand and scoriae. This beach is much visited during the summer season.

Distance from Santa Cruz	82 Kms.
Altitude	675 m.
Population: 6,074 de facto	6,109 de jure.

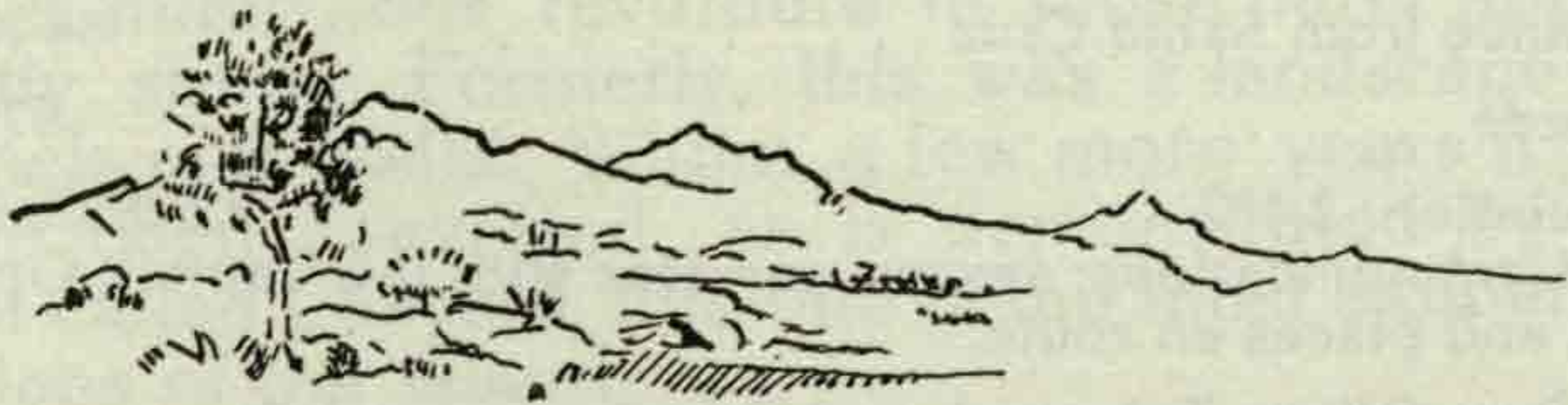
Communications: several services with the Capital and places en route (Autobuses up to Vilaflor and tourist motorcars on the route to Boca de Tauce and Las Cañadas).

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephone services.

Feasts: 13th June, San Antonio de Padua; 29th June, La Delegación de San Juan Bautista.

Picturesque spots: Chimiche, Las Vagas, Charco del Pino, El Médano (beach and sea bathing).

Is the headship of a judicial district.



SAN MIGUEL

Situated between Granadilla and Arona, its landscapes are characteristic of this zone. It has a very long coastline, but cultivation on its soil is limited to the availability of water for irrigation.

The aspect of the town is very picturesque, as it is itself a sort of balcony with flowers and orange trees, high above the grey coastal land. It has a Church with a single nave: its interior offers little of interest. Nevertheless, it is within the design of religious buildings in the island, although the tower which is being added to the right-hand side of the facade, breaks the harmony of the edifice. In it, one can admire a painting of Christ, beautifully executed.

In the neighbourhood, there are some very rugged and deep ravines.

Distance from Santa Cruz	88 Kms.
Altitude	575 m.
Population: 3,182	3,678 de jure

Communications: several services with the Capital, Granadilla and places en route.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephone services.

Feasts: 24th June, San Juan Bautista; 29th September, San Miguel; 8th December, Nuestra Señora de la Concepción.

Picturesque spots: El Roque, Tamaide, La Centinela (extensive view over the Valley of San Lorenzo and the coast).

Is in the judicial district of Granadilla de Abona.



ARONA

Arona is also a balcony, above craters. From the *Calvario*, can be seen the extended bleached coastline, of deep alluvial land. This view could be seen before, coming from San Miguel, from the look-out called *La Centinela*. The *Valley of San Lorenzo*, *Cabo Blanco*, *Aldea Blanca*, *Las Laderas*, *La Sabanita*, *Buzanadas*, are flanked, girded, and strewn with rugged and strutting rocks, and with craters, around which the roads trace yellow labyrinths. Forests like that of *Igara*, of *Bento*, *Imoque* and of *Jama* are dumb witnesses of reliefs, now disappeared. Mountains like that of *Guaza*, in a delirious modelling. In the extreme South of the island this landscape synthesizes a tormented geological past, and the naked truth of a terrain with the vocation of a desert. The verdure that one sees is very recent. Water is arriving through miles of aqueducts, producing a miraculous reverdure in those parts apparently sterile. Formerly, this was a landscape for camels and goats. Within a few more years it will have been converted, as is demonstrated by the spot called *Chayofa*, into one of the most exuberant regions of the island.

The town of Arona dominates, from its height, these surprising extensions which may be regarded as the strangest of the island, after *Las Cañadas* and the *Teide*. The town is small, but has a delicate charm. Its streets are well kept; with orange trees, and hanging plants on the walls. Near *El Calvario*, is the most extraordinary example of mastic-tree that exists in the whole Archipelago.

The Parish Church of San Antonio Abad has a single nave. Although it was made a parish in 1796, this construction was much earlier. It has some carved images by popular religious artists, like one of the *Virgen de la Concepción*, by Francisco García Medina (1739), and of San José, neatly executed.



The most venerated image, is that of Cristo de la Salud, in Canarian style. The main retablo, in local carpentry, was brought from the convent of San Francisco in Adeje. It is poor in objects of silver, but possesses some litters in plated metal repoussé, a modern work of Molina, which serves to demonstrate the persistence of a silversmith tradition in the island.

The visit to Arona is always justified because of the varied surprises in its landscapes, and because it conserves its very pure insular characteristics.

Los Cristianos. The beach, port and bay of Los Cristianos are within the boundaries of Arona, and, with *Las Galletas*, proclaim the beauty of that coastline. But Los Cristianos constitutes a real terminus to this itinerary, since it is reached by the two principal routes, that coming from the North crossing all the West, and that from the South, by which the island is encircled.

The bay is sheltered and the small port—two

berthing piers— facilitates the traffic of fishermen and coasting ships, and the beach of brown sand and clear water, is one of the most frequented. The place is tranquil, and the urban nucleus extends at the foot of a crater of reddish sand.

There is an important industry of puzzolana; installed in a factory building which at the beginning of this century worked on the distillation of pine resin. The present industry exports puzzolana to the Peninsula and foreign markets. A fish conserving factory also exists, since the catch of tunny-fish and a smaller variety of striped tunny-fish, (bonito) is important off those coasts. Its agriculture prospers, particularly in tomatoes and some bananas. The tranquility and the transparency of its sea, make Los Cristianos a favourite place for the sport of submarine fishing.

Distance from Santa Cruz 105 kms.

Altitude 575 m.

Population: 6,178 de facto 4,971 de jure.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephone services.

Communications: daily service of autobuses with the Capital and places en route to the South and West.

Feasts: 17th January, San Antonio Abad. Principal Feast, the first Sunday in October.

Picturesque spots: Cabo Blanco, Chayofa, Valle de San Lorenzo, Los Cristianos (beach and fishing).

Arona is in the judicial district of Granadilla de Abona.

VI.—*Granadilla-Vilaflor-Las Cañadas del Teide*

In the series of routes to the South, this route has the particularity of joining the main highway (I. Santa Cruz de Tenerife - Los Cristianos), to connect with that to Las Cañadas (III. Routes to the Teide, a) and b). This route is worthy of special

attention, because the road from Granadilla —Vilafior— Las Cañadas del Teide, is, without doubt, one of the most spectacular routes, as well as allowing the visitor to complete his knowledge of the landscapes of Tenerife. Also, this route can be taken as a continuation of the road from the *Playa del Médano*, on the coast of Granadilla, which quickly rises from sea level to Granadilla (600 m.), and then passes through Vilafior (1,400 m.), to arrive at the Boca de Tauce (2,100 m.), and to continue, if desired, over the Las Cañadas road, already mentioned.

The road leaves Granadilla through sown lands, and rapidly gains height. The bleached tones of the lands, and the uninterrupted cultivated terraces, are very attractive. In reality, the mountain is climbed by constant curves in the road. And from each of these, one sees how the ashen landscape widens, always with craters in the depths below. When the pine forest begins to invade the mountain, the homesteads of Vilafior appear.





VILAFLOR

This is the highest inhabited spot in Tenerife, and in the Canaries. Because of its altitude, and the purity of its air, it has always been regarded as a veritable sanatorium for those suffering from chest affections. Vilaflor is completely surrounded by pines, and has a forestal and agricultural character, because the benignity of its climate permits the cultivation of all kinds of ordinary crops. It has many fruit trees also. Like a mountaineer and farmer, it lives by the protection of the mountain and by tending the soil. Its pine forest was the most famous in Tenerife, not only in extent, but because of the gigantic specimens that grew there. In spite of the fellings suffered, it is still a beautiful forest, and of those famous pines, there are still a few good examples; the pines called "*pinos gordos*", one of which has a trunk with 8 metres circumference, and a height of 60 metres.

The village is charming, with sloping sinuous streets, onto which the fronts of old houses face. The church, at the highest point in the village, dominates the surrounding houses. This temple has jewels and images of great artistic value. like the image of San Pedro, attributed to the famous religious artist, Pedro de Mena.

Some well-shaped cypress trees project their green silhouettes over the white walls. All around Vilaflor, superb summits of mountains cut the sky, with the solitary profile of the *Sombrero de Ghaspa*.

Its water is very good, and the springs of *Água Agria* and *Traste de Doña Beatriz* are considered to be salubrious.

The districts of Vilaflor are *La Escalona*, *Jama* and *Trebejo*, from all of which one can view large extensions of the southern extremities of Tenerife.

Vilaflor is, in reality, a marvellous haven of peace, among pines.

Distance from Santa Cruz	}	via Esperanza	91 kms.
		via La Orotava	105 kms.
		via the South Road	96 kms.

Altitude 1,450 ms.

Population: 1,743 de facto 1,829 de jure

Communication: Service of autobuses with Granadilla, where there is a connection with the Capital and places en routes to the South.

Post office and Telephones

Feasts: 29 th June, San Pedro

Picturesque spots: *La Escalona*, *Jama*, *Trebejos* *El Sombrerito de Chasna*, *El Pinar* and *El Calvario*.

Is in the judicial district of Granadilla de Abona.

One leaves Vilaflor to the right, to continue the ascent towards the *Boca de Taucè*, at which point one enters *Las Cañadas del Teide*. The road winds amongst pine trees; the village is now seen far below, white and green. The mountains unfold their beauty, not only forestal, but geological. Basaltic formations simulate gigantic organs in stone out of which the sounds of orchestral winds can be heard. As one ascends, the pine forest

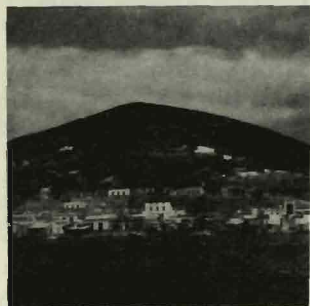
begins to thin out. The heights show a beautiful dispersion of pine trees amongst which are interspersed cytusus and retamas. The sea is far below, and floating over it, delicately blue in colour, are the islands of La Palma, La Gomera and El Hierro. Over the high pinnacles, the clouds rest. In the defiles and ravines, the fresh air of the mountain crests floats. The rocks are becoming darker in colour. On turning a bend, the Teide and the Pico Viejo appear. Crossing through the break in the mountains of *Boca de Tauce*, the lunar landscape of Las Cañadas appears. If this view is seen in the evening, the visitor will discover the magic of a world dyed in violet. It is best to proceed slowly, silently, whilst flat lands, volcanoes, lavas and sands, sink under the caress of purple lights.

Distance from Santa Cruz to the Boca Tauce	}	via Esperanza	74 kms.
		via La Orotava	86 kms.
		via Vilaflor	114 kms.

VII.—*Los Cristianos-Guía de Isora.*

La Punta de la Rasca marks the Southern vertex of Tenerife. There is a lighthouse. An interesting excursion by sea can be made from Los Cristianos to La Punta, first to the foot of high cliffs falling steeply into the sea, and then continuing round the low volcanic coast.

Doubling La Punta, and still in Los Cristianos, one encounters an extensive flatland known as *El Camisón*, with a typical coastal vegetation of *tabaibas*,, gorse and *purpurarios*, Its soil is sandy, with calcium formations, which are collected to convert into lime; there are numerous kilns erected on *El Camisón*. There are also some important salt-pans. In the neighbourhood, the calcareous tufa, is capriciously marked by erosion, caused by wind and sand.



There is a road connecting Los Cristianos with Adeje, but there is also a track which has greater interest for the visitor because of the variety of picturesque spots which it traverses, although because of its condition, it is not advisable to use it.

Hemmed in to the shore of a calm sea, with small, solitary beaches, the track leads over a terrain, impressive by its forsakenness and desolation. Above, are high dark mountain masses, like the upright *Roque del Conde*, over which always appears a stationary white cloud.

Between the base of the mountains and the sea, the terrain extends in a gentle slope; but what impresses one most, is not its low toned colour, nor even its solitude, but the extraordinary quantity of cardencha (*Euphorbia canariensis*) which cover it. In few places would it be possible to find a more curious association of coastal vegetation of the island. For that reason, the *Llano de Fañabé* must be regarded as one of the places worthy to be visited, because it presents the contrast between the North and the South, in its purest sense.

It is an uninhabited zone, -a few persons occupy caves opened in the sides of the calcium hills-dominated from the sky by ravens, and on the land

by lizards. The *Llano de Fañabé* constitutes, by itself, a true motive of attraction to the lover of the wilderness.

Having crossed all this solitude, which extends from Arona to Adeje, one reaches the last named place, either by the road mentioned, or by the track described. But Adeje, because of its situation, figures more properly in the *Routes to the West*, as also Guia de Isora, an intermediary place in the first of those routes; Icod-Guia de Isora-Los Cristianos. The description of the route, Los Cristianos-Guia de Isora, is therefore reserved for inclusion in the *Routes to the West*.



ROUTES TO THE WEST

VIII.—Icod de los Vinos-Guia de Isora-Los Cristianos.

This route to the West is characterised by the diversity of the landscapes which one crosses, and by its rapid ascensions.

One passes abruptly from one slope to another, with a total change of scenery. On the descents the same occurs, leaving behind green fertile landscapes, to enter others of great dynamic formations, and an extreme aridity. One will see these changes as the route unfolds.

After leaving Icod, the curves in the road are converted into high balconies, and slowly, towards the East, appears the island's coastline, with its shores and mountains, and towards the West, the end of the dorsal mountain chain, and the low coast of Buenavista, and the blue mass of Teno.



EL TANQUE

About El Tanque, one can say that it is a village with unexpected view-points, from which one can contemplate long distances of a subdued terrain, and wide sea horizons. The drawn-out silhouette of the island of La Palma appears in the distance, amongst clouds, breaking the surface of the sea.

But the spot that most attracts attention at El Tanque, is the *Atalaya*, from which one contemplates the flow of lava that devastated the port of Garachico; one of the most impressive views of the whole island,

On reaching the ridge of Erjos, the Teide and the Pico Viejo are in full view, as well as the whole range of mountains as far as the Punta de Teno. Here, one is on the ridge of the mountains that divide the two slopes.

Distance from Santa Cruz	72 kms.
Altitude	450 m.
Population. 2,275 de facto	2,518 de jure.

Communications: several services with Icod (connecting with the Capital) and places on the routes to the North and to the West.

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 19th March, San José.

Picturesque spots: Erjos, Ruigómez, La Atalaya (view over Garachico).

Is in the judicial district of Icod de los Vinos.



SANTIAGO DEL TEIDE

After crossing grey and reddish terrain, and leaving behind the dark green of the heath, the visitor looks over the deep Valley of Santiago, in the centre of which, amongst poplars and cypresses, appears the bleached village of Santiago del Teide. What most attracts attention is, with the change of forms, the change of colours. Santiago del Teide is a place compressed between mountains. Its church of several spires, has a strange look, in the midst of patches of sown land and vines. Large farmsteads proclaim the peasant activity of that part. There are old wine-presses, very well preserved, which still produce abundant and rich wine.

Amongst the most interesting spots in Santiago

del Teide, are *Tamaimo* and *Arguayo*. *Tamaimo* is the vigorous reply of man to a hard and hostile nature; it is the white over the black, the superhuman effort of bringing peace and sustenance out of stones. It is encircled by the mountains of *Herrero*, *Arguayo* and *Guama*. The cemetery of *Tamaimo* is one of the most touching that one can contemplate: its walls are raised neatly amongst coal black lava streams, and it gives the impression that the dead are buried under the lava.

Arguayo is up a slope, dominated by the *Roque de Arguayo*, a powerful basaltic mass of great height. The group of homesteads is very old, and one finds examples of interesting architecture of rural *Tenerife*. *Santiago del Teide* is a point of departure for two interesting excursions; to the volcano of *Chincherro*, which erupted in 1909, and to the *Valle de Masca*. These excursions can be made on horseback. To *Chinyero*, via *Las Manchas*, it takes two and a half hours. To *Masca*, only one hour.



Distance from Santa Cruz	86 kms.
Altitude	950 m.
Population: 1,968 de facto	2,267 de jure.

Communications: several services with *Icod* (connecting with the Capital) and places on the South and West routes.

Post Office and Telephones.

Feasts: 25th July, *Santiago*.

Picturesque spots: *Tamaimo*, *Arguayo*, *El Mollado*, *Valle de Arriba* and port and beach of *Santiago* (ideal for the sport of submarine fishing).

Is the judicial district of *Icod de los Vinos*.



Mountains of Teno:

Oil painting by M. Martin Gonzalez

Rugged, vigorous and severe; nature wishing to pierce the sky with its age-old tormented crests. Only the silence and the blue shadows in the ravines soften the scene of this geological upheaval.

GUIA DE ISORA

The Valley of Santiago has been left behind, with its cereals and its lavas, its confused topography and its clear skies. The road advances over a brownish terrain until reaching *Chio*, a communal group belonging to Guía de Isora, and which has, at an altitude of 670 m. above sea level, the value of an oasis in that desert countryside.

Guía de Isora, surrounded by *malpaises*, (desert lands), and volcanic hills, is dominated by the *Chahorra* or *Pico Viejo*. The place might have been called *Guía de los Picos*. Isora is an aboriginal name. The houses stand amongst almond trees and nopals, which grow in the scoriae. Banana plantations trace green squares on the coast, where also tomatoes are grown in abundance.

Although this district must have been inhabited by primitive groups dedicated fundamentally to a pastoral life, the first references to its foundation as a town are in the first third of the XIV century. It is known that at the beginning of the XVII century, there were only 400 inhabitants.

Guía today, is a progressive locality on the West of Tenerife; very white, clean and well planned. Its progress has been possible, thanks to the finding of water in the boring called *Tágara*. At present, within its boundaries, some 30 water galleries are being bored into the mountainsides.



There are also a number of small water tanks scattered over the country, which are called by inhabitants, " espejitos de diez céntimos", (ten cent mirrors).

From its privileged situation, one can view vast perspectives of mountain, coast and sea, with the Island of La Gomera closely visible.

Its church is dedicated to the Virgin de la Luz. It was formerly a hermitage, and has recently been restored. It had a magnificently carved retable, of which only some elements remain in the present main altar. The images of most artistic value are those of the Virgin de la Luz, and of the Cristo de la Dulce Muerte.

Picturesque spots in the vicinity are the Monte de Chío (3 km. by road), and the pine grove and ravine of Tágara. This excursion must be done on foot, by rising paths. Many of the names of its groups of homesteads have a strange aboriginal euphony: *Chajajo, Chirche, Chiguerque, Aripe*, etc.

Also, Guia de Isora has famous trees: a solitary mastic tree, which dominates the lower part of the town, and the twin pine trees of Tágara, called "morchos", some 35 metres high, and with trunks that cannot be spanned by ten men. The terrain has a most impressive vigour; it is frightening to think of the torments of fire that have overwhelmed those parts. There, the caressing trade winds do not reach, and it can well be said that man has regained the land from the most absolute sterility. Nobody better than an artist, born in Guia, the painter Martin Gonzalez, could transmit to us the fierce message of those landscapes.

Distance from Santa Cruz	}	from the North	106 kms.
		from the South	146 kms.
Altitude			580 m.
Population: 5,829 de facto			6,540 de jure

Communications: Several services daily with Icod (connecting with the Capital and places on the routes to the North), Adeje and places on the routes to the South.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephones.

Feasts: September, special feasts in honour of the Virgin de La Luz.

Picturesque spots: Chio, Pinar de Tágara, Playas de San Juan and Alcalá, (beaches where the sport of submarine fishing can be indulged).

Is in the judicial district of Granadilla de Abona.

A D E J E

Adeje is a town with the vocation of an oasis. Its old history is united with seigniorly lands, and with traffic in negro slaves. Today it depends upon a prosperous agriculture. Its coasts are rich in fish. It was an interesting locality from the point of view of its character, specifically insular; churches, convents, noble insular architecture; the *Casa Fuerte* proclaims and retains the aspect of seigniorly dominion; and many farmsteads dispersed over its countryside. But with the passing of time, and its later economic prosperity, cement constructions detract from its old charm. There are still spots, like the remains of the *Casa Fuerte*, and in the vicinity of the church and convent, which speak of that past. The Parish Church of Santa Ursula has two naves, and amongst the numerous artistic objects it contains, are a collection of gobelin tapestries (XVIII century), of great beauty, but in a lamentable state of preservation. The workmanship, in polychromed wood, is in Moorish style. There are baroque retables, with themes of flowers and fruit, gilded and polychromed. The retable of the Virgin del Rosario is also polychromed. There is an interesting railing in carved wood, and many examples of popular carpentry and sculpture, like the image of the Virgin de Candelaria, a facsimile of the primitive image.



The boundaries of Adeje stretch from the sea to the mountain summits, and within them is the *Barranco del Infierno*, It is one of the deepest chasms in Tenerife; a strange place because of the narrowness of its borders, and shaded spots, where the sun never penetrates; the vivacious vegetation like tapestries, on its walls, and many caves where numerous remains of the aborigines have been found.

From the point of view of nature, Adeje can be considered, with Guía de Isora, as one of the most characteristic localities of the Southeast of the island.

(For the part between Adeje and Los Cristianos, see III.—*Routes to the South*; Los Cristianos *Guía de Isora*, which describes its landscapes.

Distance from Santa Cruz	} from the North	125 kms.
		} from the South
Altitude		250 m.
Population 5,098 de facto.		4,745 de jure.

Communications: Service of autobuses with the Capital and places en route to the South and West.

Post Office, Telegraph and Telephones.

Feasts: 5th October, San Froilán; 21st October, Santa Ursula.

Picturesque spots: View from Roque del Conde, Barranco del Infierno, La Caleta, El Puerto, Ifonche and Hoya Grande.

Is in the judicial district of Granadilla de Abona.

a) **Guía de Isora - Playa de San Juan - Playa de Alcalá-Playa de Santiago-Punta de Teno.**

This is a derivation from the route to the West.

From Guía de Isora, a road runs down to the coast—continuing after to Adeje— and reaching the Playa de San Juan. White buildings on waste land. A typical fishing port, with a calm sea.

A path that bends with the entries and salients of the sea shore of this low coast, leads to the Playa de Alcalá, situated to the North. The soil is cultivated and grows bananas and tomatoes. Alcalá is another small fishing village, possessing a little landing place.

Further to the North, and before arriving at the Puerto, or Playa de Santiago, is the sheltered and solitary Playa de la Arena, an ideal spot in which to feel alone by the sea. Here the high elevations of the promontory of Teno begin. In Puerto de Santiago, there is a numerous group of fishermen. This place is in the municipality of Santiago del Teide.

On the beach, there is a fish preserving factory. Horse mackerel, and large and small tunny fish, are the principal kinds industrialised.

But the whole of this coast, because of the richness of its species, the perpetual calm of the sea, and the agreeable temperature, is one of the spots most preferred for amateur submarine fishing. There are no hotels nor pensions available, but it is always possible to find hospitality in some private house.

From these little ports, with numerous fishing boats, one can make excursions along the coast, and it is also possible to go from here to the island of La Gomera in private motor-boats. The trip takes less than two hours.

But the excursion which should not be missed, is that from the beaches to the Punta de Teno. The coast, at first low and arid, with black indentations, rises abruptly after passing the *Punta de Tamaimo*. Gigantic basaltic masses



advance into the sea which penetrates, in dark waves, the rocky prows of the promontories. The long ravines run in between the mountains, dark and inaccessible. Boats can come near to the ravines and anchor under the shadow of the Teno mountain.

When the promontory, passed the bulwark of *Taburco*, lowers at *El Frailete*, one is already in the small cove, *La Punta*, where the lighthouse stands. We have reached the Western extreme of Tenerife.

The lighthouse is well built and the functionaries stationed there welcome visitors cordially.

At night, the flashes of the lighthouse of Teno begin their dialogue with those of the lighthouse of *San Cristóbal*, which is lighted in the near island of *La Gomera*. (See Routes to the North, IV, b) *Icod-Buenavista-Punta de Teno*.

The complete journey round the island covers a distance of 252 kilometres.



The Canary Island Archipelago consists of the following islands:

Tenerife, Gran Canaria, La Palma, La Gomera, El Hierro, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote, with the islets Isla de Lobos, Alegranza, Graciosa, Monaña Clara, Roque del Este and Roque del Oeste.

It is divided into two provinces: Tenerife, La Palma, La Gomera and El Hierro, capital Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura, Lanzarote and islets; capital Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Geographical situation:

27° 44' - 29° 15' North latitude and 13° 26' - 17° 53' West longitude. Maximum altitude of the Archipelago:

Peak of Teide, 3,716 m.

Total combined area of the Archipelago. 7,543 square kilometres.

Area of the province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 3,444 square kilometres.

Area of the island of Tenerife: 2,058 square kilometres.

Population of the province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife:

437,410 de facto	451,265 de jure.
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Population of the island of Tenerife:

339,357 de facto	354,662 de jure.
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Distances from the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife to the ports of the other islands and to the African coast.

To Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.	54 miles.
To Santa Cruz de La Palma	102 »
To Arrecife (Lanzarote)	186 »
To San Sebastian de La Gomera.	61 »
To Puerto del Rosario (Fuerteventura)	156 »
To Valverde (El Hierro).	156 »
To Cape Juby (Coast of Africa)	180 »

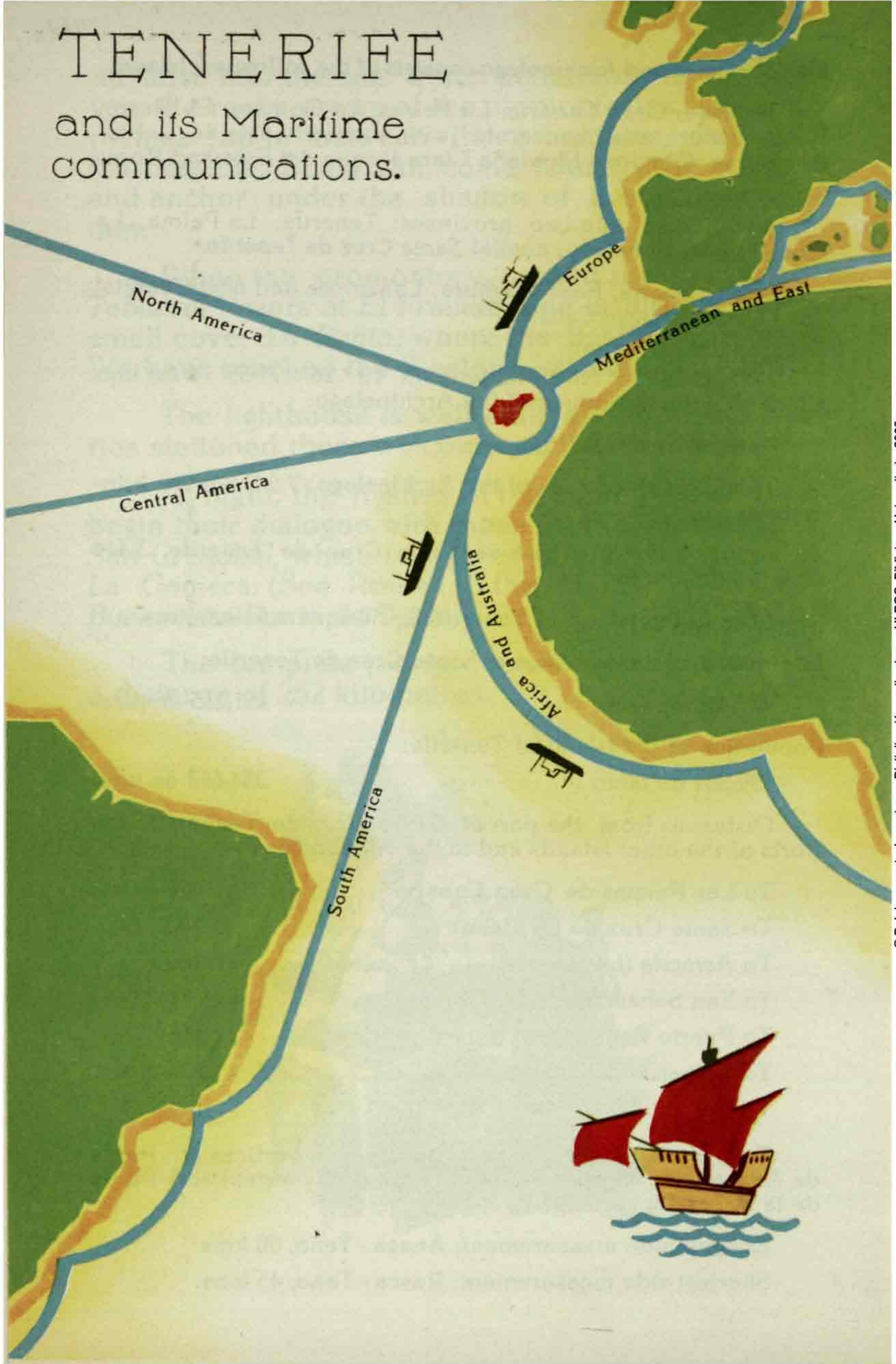
Tenerife is in the form of a triangle with vertices at: Punta de Anaga (NE. vertex), Punta de Teno (NW. vertex) and Punta de la Rasca (S. vertex).

Longest side measurement: Anaga - Teno, 80 kms.

Shortest side measurement: Rasca - Teno, 45 kms.

TENERIFE

and its Maritime communications.



INFORMATIVE APPENDIX

FOR THE PASSING VISITOR

Short excursions

Many travellers on passing ships can spend a few hours in Tenerife and to help them to make good use of their brief stay, we offer some information about short excursions, amongst which is, naturally, a tour of the city of Santa Cruz.

ITINERARY IN THE CAPITAL.—(See Chapter IV. The Visitor in the island, Routes to the North, Santa Cruz de Tenerife). Near the quay and facing the bay is the Cross of the Monumento a los Caídos, (Monument to the Fallen), from the top of which a wonderful view of the Capital can be seen; in the crypt there are some interesting pictures. The *Palacio del Cabildo Insular* is a fine architectural work, which will soon house a Guanche archeological museum, as well as some large mural pictures by José Aguiar. The *Avenida de Anaga* offers views of the bay; in the *Plaza de la Candelaria* is the *Palacio de la Carta*, a very beautiful example of Canary Colonial architecture, and a *Monumento a la Candelaria*, the work of Cánova; in the Church of the Concepción, relics from the defeat of Nelson are kept, and there are some fine baroque images and retables. In the Church of San Francisco, there is good craftsmanship and retables. The Municipal Museum contains painting, sculptures, and Guanche archeological collections. The Casino-Principal has mural paintings by Nestor and Aguiar. In the Market Place of *Nuestra Señora de Africa*, one finds flowers, fruit, fish, etc. The *Castillo de Paso Alto*, has a good collection of old canons of the XVII and XVIII centuries, one of which, named «Tigre» is famous as having been fired against Nelson in 1797. Two pleasant and inviting squares are the *Plaza de Weyler* and the *Plaza del Principe*. Magnificent views over the Capital and the Port can be seen from the *Carretera de los Campitos* and from the *Mirador de Vista Bella*, the latter, situated on the side of the road to La Laguna, is an ideal spot for taking panoramic photographs of the Capital. A model institution for the care of orphan and needy children, maintained by the Island Council, is the *Jardín Infantil de la Sagrada Familia*; on descending from this institution by the autopista, one can see the large Oil Refinery installations. (2 hour excursion),

TO LA LAGUNA.—At 10 kilometres from the Capital; a city of ancestral traditions, with its *Cathedral*, *Episcopal Palace*, *National Institute of Secondary Education*, *University*, *Church of the Concepcion* (which possesses a beautifully carved pulpit), a famous *Dragon Tree* in the garden of the Seminary (Conciliar). There are fine old houses of the XVI, XVII and XVIII centuries; churches and convents; and evocative old streets. (2 hour excursion),

MONTE DE LAS MERCEDES.—A thickly wooded mount, reached from La Laguna, offering magnificent views of the Laguna Valley, with the Peak of Teide in the distance, as well as of the Northern slopes and mountain crests of Anaga. (These views are best seen from the look-outs of Cruz del Carmen and Cruz de Afur). (2 hour excursion).

BAJAMAR.—Possessing a natural swimming pool on the sea shore. There is a restaurant bar. (3 hour excursion, including time for a bathe).

MONTE DE LA ESPERANZA.—On the dorsal road up to the Esperanza Pine forests, offering panoramic views of the mountains and coasts. A good view point is the *Pico de las Flores*, from which the Peak of Teide can be seen in the distance. (3 hour excursion).

SANTA CRUZ-SAN ANDRES.—As far as Bailadero. Woods, mountains, crags (3 hour excursion).

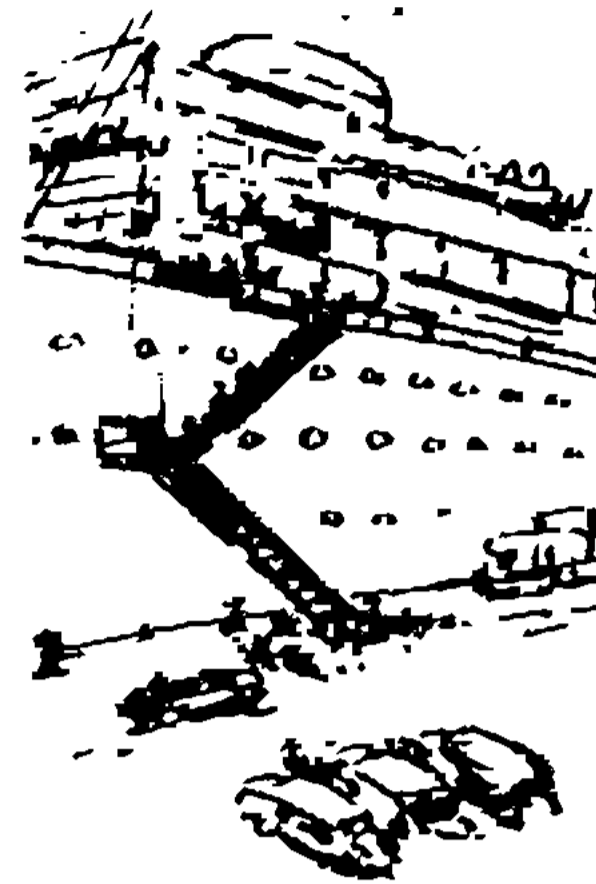
SANTA CRUZ-CANDELARIA.—Here is the large Sanctuary erected to the Patron Saint of the Canary Islands. If the excursion is extended to reach Güimar, one passes some banana plantations, with other diverse cultivations. (3 hour excursion).

SANTA CRUZ-LA LAGUNA-TACORONTE and places on the North route to the **VALLEY OF LA OROTAVA.**—A garden of banana trees and flowers. This is the tourist centre of the island. There are large hotels, pensions, swimming pools and beaches. (4 to 5 hour excursion.—See Chapter IV, Routes to the North).

INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Temperatures

As has been described in other parts of this book, the climate of the Canary Islands is exceedingly benign; it is not necessary to wear very warm clothing at any time of the year. Light clothing is recommended, but including a raincoat. A table of temperatures follows:



Month.

Average temperature.
centigrade.

January	17.5
February	17.5
March	18.3
April	19.2
May	20.3
June	22.3
July	24.2
August	25.3
September	24.3
October	22.9
November	20.5
December	18.5
Average throughout the year	20.8



Sun glasses, bathing suits and evening wear

Visitors are recommended to bring hats and sun glasses, because of the strong sunlight, to which visitors are not always accustomed. For sea bathing, visitors are advised to wear serious bathing costumes, which are better adapted to local severe customs and official regulations, in this respect. Although there are no strict rules in the Canary Islands about wearing evening dress, persons frequenting the best hotels are advised to bring their dinner jackets or evening dresses.



Water, food and sun bathing

One hears speak of *Canary fever*, which sometimes occurs amongst visitors to the island, but this ailment should not be exaggerated. Such cases, which are generally of a benign nature, are attributed by some to the climate and by others to flies. In fact, the true reason is to be found in the change of climate and food. Medically it is classed as a diarrhoea of a colic type, followed sometimes by a short period of fever. It appears to be the result of a certain excitement of the germs present in the intestines in contact with those present in the local water and food. This condition can be aggravated by the eating of too much fruit, or by a lowered resistance to infection caused by immoderate exposure to the sun's radiations, in persons from Northern countries who are unaccustomed to so much sunshine. As a preventative, it is recommended that visitors should, during the first few days of their stay, drink mineral water and refrain from eating too much fruit, or salads, which foods, however, can be indulged in freely after a few days of acclimation. Sun bathing should only be taken methodically and in progressive stages.

SHOPPING.—Shops open at 9 a. m., and close from 1 to 3 p. m., when they open again until 6 p.m. Some shops are permitted to remain open during the night, when tourist ships are in port, or for other reasons. The language in the Islands is exclusively Spanish, but in many shops, English, Italian, French and other foreign languages are spoken. There is a service of interpreters in many other languages, at the disposal of visitors. (To obtain the services of an interpreter it is only necessary to make a request to the Junta Insular del Turismo, Avenida José Antonio, N.º 2).

CURRENCY.—The only legal currency in the islands is the peseta. Foreign money can be exchanged at local banks, or in the Travel Agencies listed in Category "A" (See List of Agencies).



CUSTOMS.—The principal ports in the Canary Islands are Free Ports; no duty is leviable on passengers' luggage, provided this consists of only personal effects.

ENTRY.—The entry into the Canary Islands is subject to the visitor holding a valid passport with a Spanish visa, which should be requested from Spanish consular representatives in foreign countries.

IMPORT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.—Visitors may bring in a motor vehicle, provided it is covered by an International Triptyque. The vehicles can remain in the islands for one year, without further requisites.

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE

Museums and libraries

MUNICIPAL MUSEUM. —José Murphy Street, near the Plaza del Príncipe. This museum has paintings, and sculptures. Some of the halls are dedicated to local artists, many of whom have become famous internationally. These include Nicolás Alfaro, Valentín Sanz, Fernando Ferrán, Francisco Bonnín, Robayna, González Méndez, Aguiar, Romero Mateos, etc. Some works from the Museo del Prado are stored there, including a picture of *San Andrés* by Ribera and an *Orfeo* by Brueghel and works of Madrazo, Domínguez, Muñoz Degraín, Espartel, López Redondo and other notable artists, who in their time were honoured in National exhibitions. The Municipality also possesses works of special value by E. Brasseleer, J. Jordaens, Guido Remi, Van Loo, L. de Morales, A. del Rincón, etc.

In well lighted galleries, there are some very interesting sculptures, amongst which are some original works of local artists, like Tarquis, Compañ, Perdigón and Borges, and also works of notable Spanish sculptors on the mainland; Querol, Benlliure, Cabrera, Carretero and others.

There are also exhibits of collections of Guanche ethnography and anthropology, of great scientific value.



This museum is open to the public on weekdays (excepting Mondays), from 10 to 13 hours and on Sundays from 9 to 13 hours.

MUSEUM OF THE EXCMO. CABILDO INSULAR DE TENERIFE: (Island Council).—This is at present in formation and will be dedicated exclusively to Guanche archaeology and anthropology, and will contain valuable collections obtained in recent excavations added to those at present exhibited in the Municipal Museum, with the object of unifying in one collection, all the valuable archaeological material available. This museum will be installed in the building of the Excmo. Cabildo Insular de Tenerife, in ample galleries and will be set out on modern scientific lines.

MUSEO DEL MAR.—(Maritime museum).—At present being constructed. This new building is being provided by local entities and will be dedicated preferentially to typical Canary Islands' species. It will have a section on oceanography which will establish an exchange of information with similar foreign centres of investigation.

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY.—Installed in the same building as the Municipal Museum and has the same entrance. It has a good reading section, under specialised supervision. Recently this library has been greatly enlarged and is well patronised by the public. It possesses a good collection of local books. Open to the public on weekdays from 15 to 21 hours; Saturdays from 15 to 19 hours.

SAN CRISOTBAL DE LA LAGUNA

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.—This possesses the collection of books belonging to the Provincial Library, which is the most valuable and numerous collection in the Canary Islands, and was originally formed by the Instituto of La Laguna. It consists of tens of thousands of volumes, amongst which are works of great value: a Codex with miniature paintings and a very beautiful collection of incunabula. In addition this library has collections of works, belonging to the University, on a great variety of subjects, amassed over many years. It is a modern installation, housed in the new University building. Persons interested in visiting this library should apply to the University.

PUERTO DE LA CRUZ

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM "LUIS DIEGO CUSCOY".—This is a small hall, in the Instituto de Estudios Hispánicos, where amongst other exhibits, there is a valuable collection of ceramics.

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART "EDUARDO WESTERDAHL".—A gallery of paintings and sculptures, in which the most modern tendencies in Art, are on view.

LIBRARY OF THE INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS HISPANICOS.—(See the references made to this Instituto, on page 266).

ENGLISH LIBRARY.—Situated at a pleasant spot near the Grand Hotel TAORO. It possesses a large number of well selected books, and is considered to be the second in importance of its kind in Spain.

VILLA DE LA OROTAVA

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY.—Of a local character, but with a carefully selected collection of volumes.

ICOD DE LOS VINOS

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY. Similar to the last named.



EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTRES

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

ADDRESS:

Escuela Profesional de Comercio	25 de Julio, 5.
Escuela Superior de Bellas Artes y Escuela de Artes y Oficios.	Numancia, 2.
Escuela Náutica	Av. de José Antonio.
Instituto Nacional de Enseñanza Media	Av. Pérez Armas.
Academia de Medicina del Distrito	San Francisco, 30.
Academia Provincial de Bellas Artes	José Murphy, 2.
Círculo de Bellas Artes	Castillo, 41.
Conservatorio Profesional de Música y Declamación	Teobaldo Power, 5.
Museo Municipal	José Murphy, 8.
Orquesta de Cámara de Canarias (Sociedad Filarmónica).	Teobaldo Power, 5.
Museo Arqueológico.—Palacio Cabildo Insular.	

La Laguna

Universidad de San Fernando	Av. Universidad.
Instituto Nacional de Enseñanza Media	San Agustín.
Escuela Normal	Nava Qrimón.
Colegio Politécnico.	San Agustín.
Instituto de Estudios Canarios.	Universidad.
Seminario Conciliar	Santo Domingo.
Real Sociedad Económica	San Agustín.

RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETIES AND CLUBS

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

REAL CLUB NAUTICO DE TENERIFE.—This club has become, in many respects, the favourite meeting place for distinguished international tourism, within the natural limitations of a private club. It is characterised principally by two aspects of its activities; sport and recreation. It possesses a swimming pool, in which national and international competitions are held; also races and competitions of sailing boats, and yawls are organised. There is some aquatic skiing in the harbour. There are three tennis courts, a baseball court and a hand-ball court, and there are facilities for fencing, table tennis and other authorised social games.

In its splendid halls, brilliant dances are held, like those on the festival days of San Pedro, the Virgen del Carmen, New Year's Eve and Pentecost. Dances to the Club's orchestra are also frequently held. It possesses a bar and restaurant.

Admission to this club is by application, which is submitted for approval, to the Governing Committee.

CASINO PRINCIPAL DE TENERIFE.—Plaza de la Candelaria.—This is a private club, membership of which is subject to approved application. It possesses a bar and restaurant and holds dances and festivals for its members and guests. Its sumptuous halls are decorated with works of eminent Canary Islands' artists, amongst which are José Aguir, Francisco Bonfin, Nestor de la Torre and others. Within the natural limitations imposed by its rules as a private Casino, visitors are admitted and made welcome.

CIRCULO DE AMISTAD XII DE ENERO.—Ruiz de Padrón, 8.—This club is situated near the beautiful Plaza del Príncipe. It is a centre of great social activity, celebrating frequent festivals, dances, literary sessions, cinematograph and musical festivals, chess tournaments, etc.

MASA CORAL TENERIFENA.—Ruiz de Padrón, 18.—This society is specially devoted to folkloric interpretations, with its own groups of musicians, dancers and singers, who have given splendid representations of popular music and dances in several international and national folklore festivals. It has also organised exhibitions of Canary Islands ethnography, which have aroused extraordinary interest. Facilities are frequently provided by this society for distinguished visitors to attend musical festivals in its spacious dance hall.

GOLF CLUB DE TENERIFE.—At 15 kilometres from the capital. Its characteristics are: 18 holes; 3,000 M² and 38 bogeys. An excellent grass field. It possesses a bar and restaurant and a luxurious club house, with residences for players. The views around the Golf Club are extraordinarily beautiful. It is situated at an altitude of 600 metres. Telephone: Guamasa 4.



CIRCULO DE BELLAS ARTES.—A private society which has been and continues to be the principal artistic and cultural centre in the capital. In addition to the frequent recitals, concerts, theatricals, lectures, etc., which it organises, it holds exhibitions of paintings and sculpture. These exhibitions foster the creative ability of local artists, and on occasions exhibitions are held of the works of foreign visiting artists, who are always made welcome by the society.

ORQUESTA DE CAMARA DE CANARIAS.—This orchestra is housed in the building of the Conservatorio Profesional de Música y Declamación, in the Palace of the Provincial Council, (Mancomunidad), in N^o. 3, Teobaldo Power street. It is reputed to be a very select orchestra and gives periodical concerts in the Municipal Theatre, called "Teatro Guimerá". Famous international soloists often take part in these concerts.

La Laguna

REAL SOCIEDAD ECONOMICA DE AMIGOS DEL PAIS.—This centre dates from the XVIII century. During its long existence it has maintained a lively interest in all questions, both spiritual and economic, affecting the life of the islands. It possesses a very interesting library, in which are valuable volumes relating to the activities of the Society since its formation and during the past century. Its collections of manuscripts are also of great value. This library is accessible to visitors. In the lower dependencies of the Municipal Building of La Laguna, Antigua Universidad, c/ San Agustín.

INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS CANARIOS.—This entity gives preference to studies of Canary Islands' history and local themes. All local investigators are affiliated to it. Many publications have been produced by outstanding specialists in the most varied subjects treated. Cultural courses are organised and close contact is maintained with similar bodies and individual investigators in foreign countries. Its headquarters are in the Instituto "José María Quadrado", of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, and it maintains close contact with the University of San Fernando de La Laguna.

ATENEO DE LA LAGUNA.—Plaza de la Catedral. La Laguna; Telephone 259822. This society has maintained during many years the prestige of Tenerife in Letters and Art. Its literary and artistic festivals have been famous, and are still held on one day of the Feast of Cristo de La Laguna.

ORFEON LA PAZ.—This society cultivates choral music in its centre at the Plaza de la Concepción, 5. Telephone 259652.

Puerto de la Cruz

INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS HISPANICOS.—This cultural society is affiliated to the Instituto de Cultura Hispánica, in Madrid. It possesses a public library, which is part of the National Reading Libraries Service. It holds lectures, recitals, and exhibitions of paintings and sculpture, amongst which are frequent exhibitions of paintings by foreign artists residing temporarily in that picturesque locality. Calle Quintana, Tel. 371331.

The University of La Laguna and the visitor to Tenerife

Every year, from the 1st. to the 30th. September, the University of La Laguna holds University Extension Courses for foreigners.

The classes, given by specialised teachers, are principally on the Spanish language and literature, and on Spanish history and art. There are also lectures on contemporary subjects and visits and excursions to the most interesting places in the island, as well as artistic and folklore representation.

These courses are open to Spanish and Foreign students, by application to the Secretariat for the *Curso para Extranjeros*, at the University of La Laguna.

The registration fee for the full course is 500 pesetas. Inscriptions may, however, be limited to separate studies: Spanish language, 200 pesetas; Spanish literature, 150 pesetas; Spanish Art, 150 pesetas; Spanish history, 150 pesetas.

At the end of the Course, students who so wish, may obtain by examination and payment of the prescribed fees, certificates and diplomas.

A certificate of attendance; 50 pesetas. Certificate of competence, in the Spanish language, 100 pesetas; Certificates of competence in other subjects, 50 pesetas. Diploma for Hispanic Studies; 150 pesetas.



Students who apply in advance, may be boarded in the University Residences, at the daily rate of 65 pesetas.

Students who are inscribed and who so desire, may be furnished with a certificate of inscription by the Secretariat for the Course, which document may facilitate the granting of a visa on their passport, in the corresponding Spanish consulate abroad. Independently of these courses, any foreign student may attend classes at the University, with the authority of the Professor concerned.

For fuller information, please apply to the *Secretariado de Publicaciones, Universidad de La Laguna, Canary Island, Spain. Telephone, 259819.*

SPORTING CLUBS

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

REAL CLUB NAUTICO DE TENERIFE.—Carretera de San Andrés. (See Recreational and Cultural Societies and Clubs). Telephone, 243788.

BALNEARIO.—Open to the public. Situated at 3 kilometres from the capital, on the Carretera de San Andrés. There is a swimming pool, beach, bar and restaurant. There is communication with the capital every 20 minutes.

GOLF CLUB DE TENERIFE.—(See the information herein).

GOLF MINIATURA.—Situated in the Municipal Park. Open at all hours and possesses 18 holes.

STADIUM HELIODORO RODRIGUEZ LOPEZ.—Avenida de Bélgica.—A large football ground with modern installations and large capacity, in which national and international matches are played.

TIRO NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA (Shooting).—Rambla Generalísimo Franco, 23.—It has a shooting range at Rambla del Generalísimo Franco, 125 for arms of calibre 2 (American), compressed air and bows. It also has an open air pigeon range at Las Mesas, at some 4 kilometres by road up the carretera de los Campitos.

La Laguna

SOCIEDAD DE TIRO DE PICHON.—(Pigeon shooting), at la Mesa Mota.

Puerto de la Cruz

Shooting range at Castillo de San Felipe.

Tennis Courts: Hotel Taoro, Outdoor Games Club, which also practises the games of Croquet and Badminton.

LA LUCHA CANARIA (Canary Islands' Wrestling).—A typical sport of the Islands. Private clubs exist in many parts which keep up the standard and purity of this local sport. There are frequent contests between opposing teams, which generally coincide with the more important local feast in different towns and villages.

PLAZA DE TOROS (Bull Ring).—Some bull fights take place during the Feasts of the Patron Saint of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, in the month of May.

THEATRES, CINEMAS, etc.

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

Teatro Guimerá.—Plaza Isla de la Madera, Telephone, 241815. Comedies and musical plays are presented in this theatre, and in the winter months, operas, and Philharmonic concerts at which international artists cooperate. This theatre was founded in 1893.

Teatro Baudet.—General Mola, 10, Telephone 241815. **Teatro San Martín.**—San Martín. Telephone, 244234. **Cine Avenida.**—Avenida Buenos Aires, 9. Telephone 241739. **Cine Buenos Aires.**—La Costa, Telephone 222223. **Cine Costa Sur.**—Barriada García Escámez, Telephone 220953. **Cine Princesa.**—Princesa Dácil, 31. Telephone 220263. **Cine La Paz.**—Plaza de La Paz. Telephone 224931. **Cine Moderno.**—San Sebastián, Telephone 243953. **Cine Numanca.**—Numancia, 18. Telephone 243435. **Cine Price.**—Salamanca, 12. Telephone 222739. **Cine Rex.**—Méndez Núñez, 3. Telephone 245254. **Cine Tenerife.**—Avenida General Mola, Telephone 224238. **Cine Toscal.**—La Rosa, 44,



Telephone 242139. Cine Victor.—Plaza de la Paz, Telephone 224831. Cine-landia, La Cuesta, Telephone 221301. Cinema Victoria.—Plaza de La Paz, Telephone 221621. Ideal Cinema.—(Cinema in the open air). San Francisco Javier, 70, Telephone 244241. Parque Recreativo.—Plaza Patriotismo, 1, Telephone 243341. Royal Victoria.—La Rosa, Telephone 243434.



BEACHES AND SWIMMING POOLS

PLAYA DE LAS TERESITAS.—In San Andrés, at 9 kilometres from the capital. Communication by autobus every half hour: buses leave from the Avenida de Anaga.

PLAYA DE ANTEQUERA.—To the north of Santa Cruz. Communication is only by motor launch, if hired in advance at the landing stage on the mole. (Marquesina).

SWIMMING POOLS at the Nautical Club and Balneario, on the carretera de San Andrés. There are good services of buses.

SWIMMING POOL.—At the Hotel Mencey.

BEACH OF BAJAMAR.—In the village of Bajamar, some 23 kilometres from the Capital. There are autobuses from Santa Cruz, changing at La Laguna. At this spot there is a good natural swimming pool on the beach.

PLAYA DE MARTIANEZ.—At Puerto de la Cruz. A swimming pool near the beach. There is another swimming pool at the Hotel Taoro, some 39 kilometres from the Capital.

SAN TELMO swimming pool on the beach at Puerto de la Cruz. Bar and restaurant. Hot salt water baths and Turkish baths.

PLAYA DE SAN MARCOS.—(Icod).—At some 64 kilometres from the Capital. There are buses from Santa Cruz to Icod.

PLAYA DEL MEDANO.—At 93 kilometres from the Capital. Communication by autobus via Güimar and Granadilla.

PLAYA DE LOS CRISTIANOS.—At 110 kilometres from the Capital. Communication by autobus via Granadilla.

PLAYA DE LA VIUDA—At 25 kilometres from the Capital, on the Coast of Arafo and near Candelaria. Autobuses to Arafo and Güimar; there is a path leading down to the beach.

Numerous other beaches exist around the coasts of the islands.



CONSULATES

Alemania. Villaiba Hervás, 2. Teléfono 241490.

Austria. San Francisco, 17. Teléfono 247739 y 243047.

Bélgica y Gran Ducado de Luxemburgo. Robayna, 3. Teléfono 242142.

Bolivia. Iriarte, 1-2.º Teléfonos 243971 y 243445.

Brasil. 25 de Julio, 34. Teléfono 241841.

Colombia. García Morato, 12. Teléfono 242115.

Costa Rica. B. Alfonso, 15. Teléfono 243127.

Chile. Marina, 15. Teléfono 247275.

Dinamarca. Castillo, 72. Teléfono 241793.

Finlandia. Castillo, 72. Teléfono 241793.

Francia. Méndez Núñez, 37. Teléfono 245357.

Gran Bretaña. Marina, 15. Teléfono 242000.

Italia. Pilar, 25. Teléfono 245709.

Liberia, Pilar, 3. Teléfono 245890.

Mónaco. Avenida Benito Pérez Armas. Teléfono 223899.

Noruega. Marina, 59. Teléfono 241935.

Países Bajos. García Morato, 12. Teléfono 242115.

Panamá. Marina, 3. Teléfonos 220940 y 244294.

Perú. B. Alfonso, 15. Teléfono 243127.

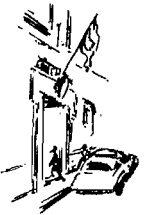
Portugal. García Morato, 12. Teléfono 242115.

República Dominicana. San Vicente Ferrer, 50. Teléfonos 243588 y 244880.

Suecia. Costa y Grijalba, 23-2.º Teléfono 241904.

Uruguay. 25 de Julio, 9. Teléfonos 242966 y 243646.

Venezuela. Pilar, 25. Teléfono 243398.



BANKS

Banco de Bilbao	La Marina 9	Telephone	244683
Banco de Bilbao Agencia "A"	Plaza de Weyler 13	"	241838
Banco Central	San Francisco 6	"	241190
Banco de España	Viera y Clavijo 25	"	243590
Banco Español de Crédito	Plaza Candelaria 6	"	244790
Banco Exterior de España	Valentín Sanz 9	"	242488
Banco Hispano Americano	Valentín Sanz 21	"	246595
Banco de Santander	San Francisco 9	"	244480
Banco de Vizcaya	José Murphy 1	"	245993
Caja de Ahorros y Monte de Piedad	Plaza Santo Domingo	"	244642



NEWSPAPERS

- Daily: •El Día• - Valentín Sanz, 15, Telephones 243344 and 244193.
 •La Tarde• - Suárez Guerra, 38, Telephone 243245
- Weekly: •La Hoja del Lunes• - Plaza de la Candelaria, Telephone 243117
 •Aire Libre•, Valentín Sanz, 10, Telephone 243344.
 •Jornada Deportiva•, Valentín Sanz, 15, Telephone 243344.
 •Tenerife•, Duggi, 35, Telephone 224356.

RADIO TRANSMISSIONS

RADIO CLUB TENERIFE - (E. A. J. 43), Alvarez de Lugo, 2, Tel. 243542. Hours of transmission from 12 noon to 11 p.m.

RADIO JUVENTUD DE CANARIAS - General Morales 3, Tel. 241523 Hours of transmission from 8 to 9 a.m. and from 12 noon to 4 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to 12 midnight.

Radio Nacional de España. Valentín Sanz, s/n. Tel. 247306.

PUBLIC OFFICES

- Capitanía General de Canarias, Plaza de Weyler, Tel. 242593.
 Gobierno Civil de la Provincia, Méndez Núñez, 5, Tel. 244992.
 Comisaría General de Policía, Méndez Núñez, 5, Tel. 243776.
 Excmo. Cabildo Insular de Tenerife, Av. José Antonio 2, Tel. 242090.
 Excmo. Mancomunidad Interinsular, Av. José Antonio, Tel. 242090.
 Delegación de Comercio, Pilar 1, Tel. 241379.
 Hacienda Pública, Avenida de José Antonio 2, Tel. 245238.
 Administración Principal de Puertos Francos, Avenida de José Antonio 2, Tel. 244910.
 Centro de Telégrafos, Plaza de España, Teléfono 241388.
 Post Office, Plaza de España, Teléfono 222002.
 Transradio Española, Plaza de la Candelaria, Teléfono 244280.
 Compañía Telefónica Nacional de España, T. Pówer, 6, Tel. 003.

CHURCHES

- Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de la Concepción, Plaza de la Iglesia.
 Parroquia de San Francisco, San Francisco.
 Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, calle del Pilar.
 Parroquia de San José, Prolongación Méndez Núñez.
 Iglesia de la Cruz del Señor, Cruz del Señor.
 Parroquia de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Barriada de la Victoria.
 Iglesia de San Fernando, Barriada de García Escámez.
 St. George's Church (English), Plaza 25 de Julio.

Travel Agencies authorised by the Dirección General del Turismo
SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE

- Viajes Atlántida, San Francisco, 9, Teléfono 245979.
 Viajes Aeromar Expreso, San Juan Bautista, 7, Tel. 246999.
 Viajes A. T. E. S. A. Avenida de Asuncionistas, 22, Tel. 222898.



Viajes Blandy. Marina, 45. Tel. 244880.
 Viajes C. Y. R. A. S. A. Avenida de Anaga, 13. Tel. 246480.
 Viajes Marsans. San José 1. Tel. 242240.
 Viajes Meliá. Pilar, 9. Teléfono 244150.
 Viajes Solymar. San José, 2. 2.º piso. Teléfono 247082.
 Wagons-Lits/Cook. Pilar, 2. Teléfono 246736.

PUERTO DE LA CRUZ

Oficina Información Turismo. Tel. 371928.
 Viajes A. T. E. S. A. Avenida de Venezuela. Tel. 371579.
 Viajes Atlántida. Plaza de los Reyes Católicos. Teléfono 372594.
 Viajes C. Y. R. A. S. A. (Hotel Bélgica). Tel. 371894.
 Viajes Insular. San Juan, 20. Tel. 371640.
 Viajes Macari. Quintana, 25. Tel. 372445.
 Viajes Solymar. Quintana, 21. Teléfono 372359
 Wagons-Lits/Cook. San Telmo, 20. Teléfono 371763.
 Turistcanarias, S. A. (sucursal). Calle del Rey, 1. Telf. 371623.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECCION GENERAL DEL TURISMO.—Palacio del Excmo. Cabildo Insular, Telephone 242227 Telegrams: "TURISMO TENERIFE". This office depends on the official Spanish Tourist organisation in Madrid.

ISLAND TOURIST BOARD.—Organised by the Excmo. Cabildo Insular de Tenerife, Avenida José Antonio, Tel. 241539

INTERPRETERS.—There are a number of interpreters at the service of the Travel Agencies, to which visitors interested should apply,

Offices of the official Spanish tourist agency in foreign countries

BRUSSELS.—42 rue d'Arenberg. BUENOS AIRES.—Florida, 753 (Galerías Pacifico). CHICAGO.—39 South La Salle Street, Room 613. STOCKHOLM.—Smalandsgatan, 11. GIBRALTAR.—Irish Town. LA HAVANA.—Calle CárceI (Capdevilla) 107. LISBON.—Travessa de Salitre, 37. LONDON, S. W. 1.—Spanish Tourist Office, 70 Jermyn Street. MEXICO D. F.—Paseo de la Reforma 1-3-5. NEW YORK.—22 (N. Y.) Spanish Tourist Office, 486. Madison Avenue. PARIS.—Office Espagnol du Tourisme, 29 Avenue George V. ROME.—Piazza di Spagna, 55. SAN FRANCISCO.—Spanish Tourist Office, 68 Post Street. TANGIER.—Rue du Statut, 83. ZURIC.—Spanisches Verkehrsbureau, Claridenstrasse, 25.

SEA AND AIR COMMUNICATIONS

Teneriffe is an island with constant communications with the rest of the world. The Canaries lie in a crossroad between Europe, Africa and America. Because of its' condition of center island of the archipelago, Teneriffe canalizes all this important traffic and is the center from where the communications to the other islands are irradiated.

The Port of Santa Cruz de Teneriffe is visited by the most important shipping companies of the world which maintain a regular traffic between three continents, including Australia. Furthermore Teneriffe is an obliged port of call for all the big tourist cruisers that preferably visit the island in winter, owing to the benignant climate.

A steady communication between the islands and any other part of the globe is not only guaranteed by sea; the communications by air are not less intense. From the airport of Teneriffe — Los Rodeos — you can connect with Europe, Africa and America. The traffic by air is very important, especially in winter, which is the propitious time for the travellers proceeding from cold countries.

Also the islands are communicated by sea, with daily services, and by air those of Tenerife, Gran Canaria, La Palma, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura with various services each day.

Owing to the frequent changes introduced by the companies in their itineraries, the traveller can obtain last moment information from the brochures edited by responsible entities and, even better, through the authorized travel agencies, a list of which will be found in one of these information pages, with the corresponding addresses.



HOTELS

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE	Category	ADDRESS	Telegraphic Address	Telephone
Hotel Mencey	L	Calle de los Campos		246775
Hotel Anaga	2	Imeldo Seris, 3	Anagotel	245090 (4 líneas)
Hotel Diplomático	1 A	c/ de A. Nebrija, 6.		223941
Hotel Ramos	2	Rambla Pulió, 95		224340
Hotel Teno	2	Plaza Candelaria, 10	Teno	246293-4-5
Hotel San José	3	Sahla Rosa de Lamas, 7		245794-5
Residencia Peceño	1 B	Pilar, 5	Pencotel	243994 (5 líneas)
Residencia Tamaide	1 B	General Franco, 110	Tamaldotel	247191-2-3
Residencia Tanauau	1 B	Padre Anchieta, 6		
Residencia Pino de Oro	2	Los Campos, s/n.	Pino	242490
Residencia Padrón	3	Avenida General Mola, 112	Respa	222940-1
Pensión Miramar	PL	Avenida de Anaga, 5	Miramar	246347
Pensión Príncipe	PL	Pilar, 3	Principotel	245990-1
Pensión Catahuña	1 A	Imeldo Seris, 104		241188
Pensión Aznara	2	Bernabé Rodríguez, 3		244725
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 Benavides. Benavides, 21.
 Viuda de Yanes. Ramón y Cajal, 6.
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 Taelca. Marina, 45. Teléfono 244362.
 Opel-Vauxhall. Ramón y Cajal, 6.
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 Fernando González Palenzuela. Plaza Weyler. (Agencia Peugeot).

CLINICS AND HOSPITALS

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

Clinica Zerolo: General Surgery.—Enrique Wolfson. Telephone 247078. Clínica Fariña: General Surgery. Teobaldo Pówer, 5. Telephone, 243315. Clínica Bafiars: General Surgery. Pérez de Rosas, esquina Alvarez de Lugo. Telephone 243749. Clínica Barajas: Ears & Throat, Pérez de Rosas, 3. Telephone 243348. Clínica Santa Eulalia: General Surgery: Rambla General Franco, 84. Telephone 244180. Clínica Llabrés: General Surgery. San Sebastián, 64. Telephone 244890. Clínica Santa Lucía: Ophthalmology, 18 de Julio, 3. Telephone 241809. Maternity Clinic "Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes": Santa Rosa de Lima. Telephone 243756. Sanatorium Rodríguez López. Traumatism, Radiotherapy, 25 de Julio. Telephone 241633. Clínica Santa Mónica: General Surgery. Méndez Núñez, 68. Telephone 245293. Instituto Policlínico: General Surgery. Pérez de Rosas, 16. Telephone 241731. Clínica Covadonga. Maternity. Jesús y María, 9. Telephone 241830. Radiology: Castillo, 49. Telephone, 242836. Clínica San Juan de Dios: La Cuesta. Telephone 245586. Casa de Socorro, First Aid Station, José Murphy. Telephone, 241502.

Civil Hospital: Fuentes Morales. Telephone, 247475. Children's Hospital: Carmen Monteverde. Telephone, 246179. Military Hospital: Galcerán. Telephone, 247881. In La Laguna. Hospital de Dolores: Sol Ortega, 7. Telephone, 259532.

Anti-Tuberculosis Dispensary: San Lucas, 46. Telephone. 242049. Anti-tuberculosis Sanatorium: Montaña de Ofra. Telephone, 220640. Provincial Mental Sanatorium. C. Manicomio. Telephone, 224040. Spanish Red Cross: San Lucas, 46. Telephone, 242407. In La Laguna. Trasera Plaza Concepción, 11. Telephone, 259626.

La Laguna

Clinica Trujillo: General Surgery. Herradores, 47. Telephone, 259420. Clínica Uclay: General Surgery. Plaza de la Concepción, 11. Telephone, 259980.

PUERTO DE LA CRUZ

Hospital. Teléfono 371858.

La Orotava

Clinica D. Máximo Martín Martín: General Surgery. Clínica D. Ignacio de Zárate: General Surgery.

Icod de los Vinos

Dr. Benigno Martín de Torres: General Surgery.

Los Realejos

Clinica Estrada: General Surgery.

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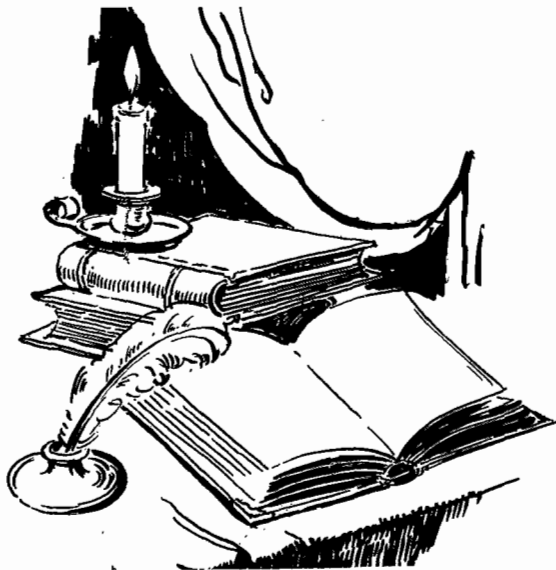
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ROMERO, S. A., in Santa Cruz de Tenerife,
on the 20th, of October, 1966.***

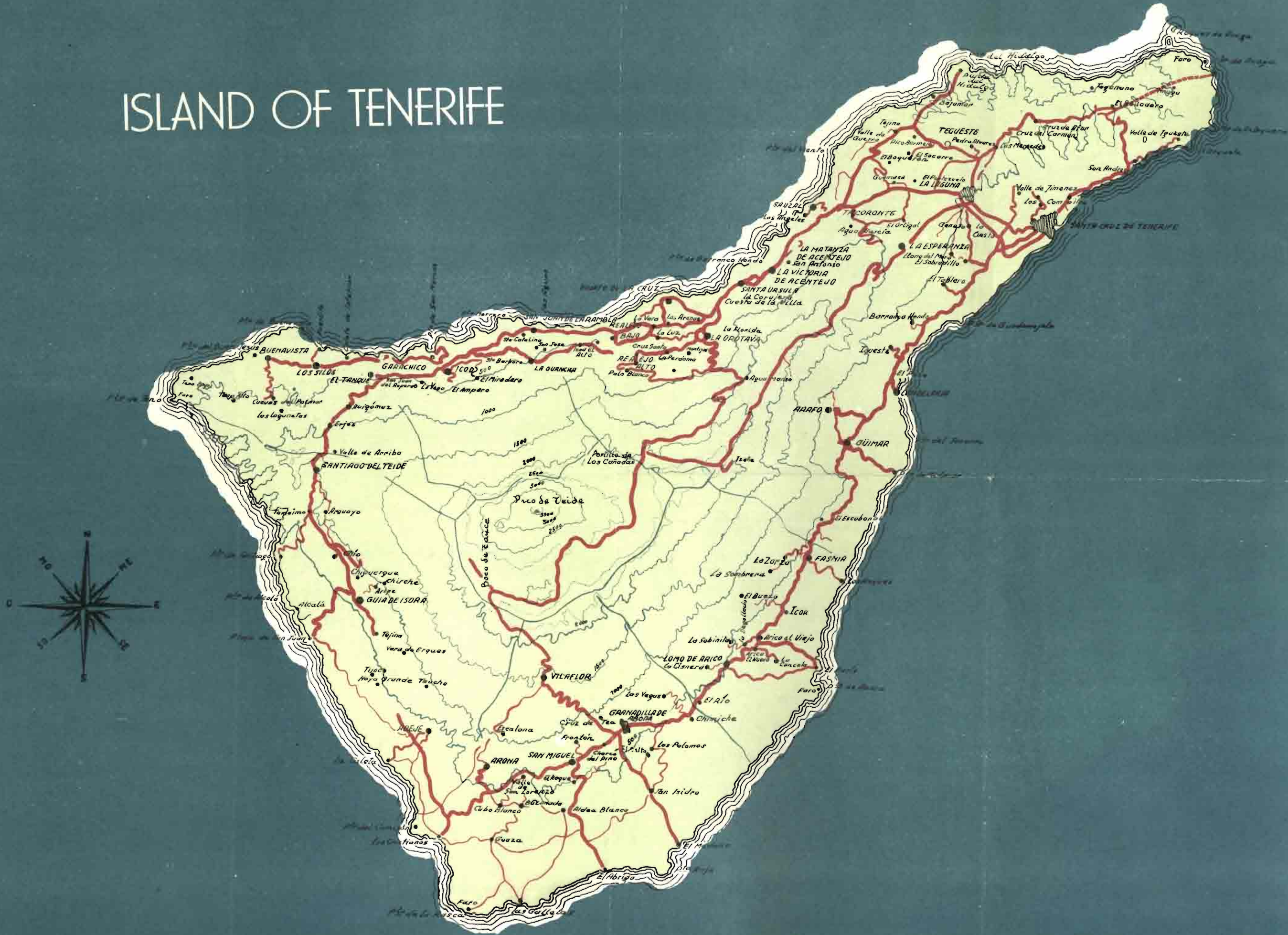
Santa Cruz of Tenerife

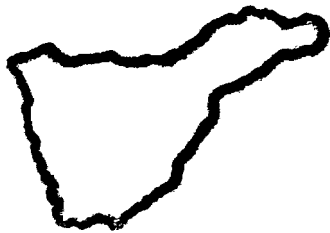
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ISLAND OF TENERIFE







THE BOOK OF
TENERIFFE



BOGEN OM
TENERIFA



KIRJA
TENERIFFASTA

The Book of
TENERIFE

LUIS DIEGO CUSCOY
PEDER C. LARSEN

ISLANDS AND
VOLCANOES
ARE MANY.

TENERIFE IS AN
INCOMPARABLE
ISLAND.

THE PEAK OF
TEIDE IS UNIQUE.



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