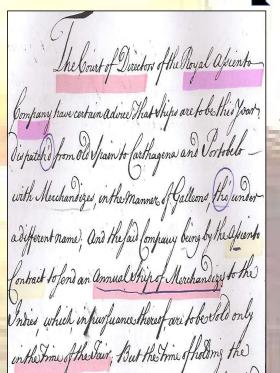
Lía de Luxán Hernández Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC)

Diplomatic Letters (1732-1739) concerning the Asiento Contract:

How Diplomatic Relations between England and Spain were established

CHARACTERISTICS

- •Written in the First person
- •Written in English by Englishmen by order of the Court of Directors of the South Sea Company to Thomas Geraldino (1682-1755), originally named Fitzgerald, watched over the interests of Spain first in the company's London Court of Directors -according to the art. 28 of the Asiento Contract- and later as Spanish ambassador in London. He saved these letters until his death.
- More direct than Third Person Notes
- Not as formal as Third Person Notes
- Official character in contrast with Non Papers
- •Use of <u>abbreviations</u> and other peculiarities of the English Language in the 18th Century
- •Signed by <u>W. Smith</u>: Secretary of the Court of Directors
- Issues: Annual Ship and Accounts



Annual Ship



Extra clause in the
Asiento Contract which
allowed

to introduce every year an Annual Ship with 500 tons of merchandises -650 tons after the Convention Treaty of the 12th of June 1716- at fair time as compensation for expected losses in the slave trade. It was the perfect excuse for contraband. During the Asiento period the South Sea Company sent seven

Annual Ships.

After the War of the Spanish Succession (1702-1713)...

Spanish Crown needed to rely on foreigners to supply slaves to the West Indies



The Treaty of Utrecht (1713)



THE ASIENTO CONTRACT (1713-1750)

42 clauses

meant

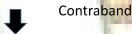
Reformed by the Convention Treaty of 1716



Crown of Spain
Felipe V
(25% + 5% of Annual
Ship + 10% Licensed
Ships and extra
benefits)

Licensed Ships

(1715-1716) Bedford, Elisabeth almost 1000 tons



Irregula<mark>rities</mark>

Crown of England
Queen Anne
George I and II (25%)

Monopoly of Slave Trade from Africa to the West Indies

144.000 piezas de India -->"[...]

referred to a prime male slave in good physical condition between 14 and 30

years of age and about 4'8" tall [...]"
(Sorsby. 1975. Page 11)



South Sea Company

(1711-1788): joint stock venture created by act of Parliament. Speculation in the company's stock led to a great economic crisis known as the South Sea Bubble in 1720

Accounts Delivery

-art. 29 -



1) Primary sources: Letters kept by

- the Archivo de Simancas and
 Archivo de Indias
- Secondary sources: SPERLING, J.G. 1962. The South Sea Company An Historical Essay and Bibliographic Finding List Cambridge. Mass. Kress Library of Business and Economics. -DONOSO ANES, R. 2007 "Un análisis sucinto del Asiento de esclavos con Inglaterra (1713-1750) y el papel desempeñado por la contabilidad en su desarrollo. Anuario de Estudios Americanos 64,2. July- December. Sevilla. Pages. 105-144. - SORSBY, V.G. 1975. British Trade with Spanish America under the Asiento, 1713 1740. Phd thesis. University of

Opening

Line London 22 April 1706 ~ 6

Closing

At the end of every first page

London, and bungarried at fir Thomas Goadling the Ho

agreed by His fatholick Majosty, That infase Flota or Salleons should not be departed from fadiz in all the Month of June the faid fompany might cause their annual Ship to

Contract His hitholick Majesty upon the

Jam Josephan Obedient of Sound of the Royal aprinte formant of the fourt of free formand of the Royal aprinte formany