



## THE ARCHIVE



Sala de Presidència amb l'armari de la Confraria dels Mestres Velers, fet l'any 1683

The *Colegio del Arte Mayor de la Seda de Barcelona*, in the context of corporate activities under the project management cultural *Siglo XXI* aimed at protecting and promoting its architectural and documentary, has undertaken a series of archival activities aimed at organizing and disseminating documentation and information contained in the documents. The planning has involved archival successive interventions between 2001 and 2004, which broadly include: **location of documentation,**

**identification of various archive collection, training a standard classification, cataloging the documents in a database file and installation of new documents in material conservation.** The description of the funds and the documentary series was carried out by the General International Standard Archival Description ISAD (G). The management information generated by the *Colegio* currently organized under a corporate document management system that feeds the future archive.

The documents are preserved, and diffuse in the guarding in the Historical Archive of the City - Casa de l'Ardiaca, street Santa Llúcia, 1 Barcelona, are the result of the vicissitudes of history and the tenacity of the silk professionals who have made this possible. The Association is **the owner of its own documentation generated since 1834**, issued by the institutions of which he is heir to: *Gremi de Velers*, *Gremi de Velluters*, and *Gremi de Perxers* of Barcelona. It also has a bibliographic and periodical specializing in historical silk activities.



Sala Arxiu restaurada l'any 2002

Since 2005, the *Colegio* offers to anyone who wants the catalogs of historical documents of the guilds *Velers*, *Velluters*, *Perxers* and the *Colegio del Arte Mayor de la Seda*, through website. On the other hand, has made the classification and cataloging of the historical library and management.

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ARCHIVE OF COLEGIO DEL ARTE MAYOR DE LA SEDA

The disappearance of the guilds was the main cause of the concentration of many documentary on public and private archives of the city. The Municipal Historical Archive of Barcelona is the leading public institution in the city that guards union documentation. Other entities retain such funds as the Historical Archive of Protocols in Barcelona, the Archive of the Crown of Aragon, Catalonia National Archive, the Archive of the Church of San Justo and Pastor, among others.



Actas Comisión Ejecutiva.  
Libro 1. Comité Industrial  
Sedero  
13.11.1934 - 15.07.1936

Document: 850  
Col·legi de l'Art Major  
de la Seda de Barcelona

The durability of some union entities under different legal requirements for corporations in traditional craft that has made its archive collection to remain in their institutions legacies of the old corporations. Perhaps for this reason the files are complete and best preserved, as its leaders have historically taken the responsibility to guard, preserve and organize. On example is the *Colegio del Arte Mayor de la Seda*, the College of Attorneys of Barcelona, Barcelona *Bastaixos* Guild ...

The documentation guild has characteristics common to identify and define, since it is the result of textual activity historically issued by corporations trade. It includes several components: the care and mutual benefit that results in aid to members for reasons of illness, old age, widowhood and death, the religious society that gives a strong sense of protocol and these organizations, the professional who explains the organization of work of each trade and is known for defending a concept of monopolistic labor, and economic, through which they often defend protectionist attitudes. All these are common features of the silk guild documentation Barcelona a leading resource for analyzing the economic history, political and social city.

The development of the daily activities of silk corporations favors the assumption of duties and responsibilities that make it possible to achieve the objectives of the regulation and meet commitments to its partners. The exercise of these powers results in an abundant production of documentation for each field of activity: standardization of the profession, government, financial resources, mutuality, labor organization, legal affairs, property, protocol, communication.

### VALUES OF DOCUMENTATION

Historians and researchers have a new resource on the characteristics, accessibility of funds and instruments description file. A description reveals new historiographical sources serving academic institutions and researchers. The set of documents arranged under a classification standard adapted to each archive collection. The sections which include the most important quantitative and qualitative information are:

Seccions	Documentary Series
<b>Constitutive documents</b>	Marc establishing the organization, processing juridicolegal, rules and regulations
<b>Governing bodies</b>	Governing Board, standing committees and delegates, participation in related organizations, elections and appointment of charges
<b>Legal Affairs. Promotion and protection of the profession</b>	Legislation, lawsuits and litigation, advocacy of the profession, agreements and contracts
<b>Professional activity</b>	Statistics associated entity incorporation, organization of professional activity, prices and statistics, studies and reports
<b>Services to members</b>	Training, mutuality
<b>Economic resources</b>	Plan accounting, general accounting, treasury, finance, treasury and taxation
<b>Communication and External Relations</b>	Protocol events, conferences and seminars, competitions and exhibitions, professional relationships with other corporations, relations with government agencies, grants and subscriptions, history

In this regard and by way of example, emphasizes the classified information in section 'Legal Affairs. It is of great interest to analyze the major concerns and obstacles that were silk corporate organizations to organize their work from their own perspective, which contrasts with the views of official bodies, the aspirations of other organizations with similar objectives and with own interests of partners and individuals.

The documents of the documentary series '**promotion and defense of professional guilds charter, *Velluters, Perxers* and the *Colegio del Arte Mayor de la Seda***' shown daily problems of corporations: the pioneering spirit of early employers often associated with unions, exemplifies the new ways of organizing work that began to emerge in the early XVIII centuries-old struggles to establish professional monopolies and defense against intrusion practiced at all costs from other professional groups . It is still abundant writings of the applicant unions silk taffeta ban foreign adoption of protectionist laws. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is the tariff issue and his attempt to get favorable legislation of the state, causing numerous applications and instances of the *Colegio*.

The activities of lawyers and board members, expressed in endless exhibitions in defense of corporate interests, provides comprehensive relations constitutive documents of each guild. The writings of jurists discharge act as a true documented history of the institution they represent.

The series '**lawsuits and litigation**' represented by shipments of litigation and legal documentation provides first hand information about the litigation brought

against corporations that often the courts: the internal disputes of the unions with their own members, either for reasons of control of production or by the manner of manufacture, give very precise information on how to carry out the work organization and its characteristics. Other disputes are caused by internal disagreements over membership of the corporation, or to social differences and conditions that are often insurmountable obstacles to the inclusion of candidates with no family history. They are also sources of conflict relations between teachers and young fellows or the struggle for the rights of widows of guild. It retains a lawsuit dated 1647, where several widows of master sailing against pledegen Guild Sailboats successful, the lawsuit known as women. Other times it is not observing the regulations, by unionized, which are derived from the injustices that affected reported to authorities. Each guild used to maintain the proprietary disputes that were appropriate: the Association of Ships kept disputes with unions and *Velluters Passamaners*.

Outputs to resolve conflicts were different: processes of assimilation or fusion intercorporatives is the case of the *Perxers* Association and *Passamaners* (1582-1589), by modifying ordinances, through judicial decisions; but also with the preparation of agreements that demonstrate the spirit of concord and pineapple to make economic and political adversity when they looked doomed. It keeps the lawsuit jointly presented the unions of *Velers*, *Velluters*, *Perxers*, *Passamaners*, *Barraters d'Agulla* and Hosiery Manufacturers, in 1788 the Royal Agreement asking not to allow the constitution of the Silk Carders guild.



Precios de las sedas y tejidos que se fabrican en esta ciudad de Granada fechados por el señor don Francisco Melchor de Luzón y Guzmán [...] maestro del campo de la nobleza de la villa de Madrid y corregidor desta ciudad de Granada. 05.07.1655 Gremi de Velers de Barcelona