

ISAD OF THE FONDS OF SOTA Y AZNAR

Identification area

Reference code	ES 48020 AHFB/BFHA EMP SOT
Title	Sota y Aznar
Date(s)	1788 - 1987
Level of description	Fonds
Extent and medium of the unit of description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Linear metres: 308,80 l.m. – Number of document units: 15.000 Paper.

Context area

Name of creator	Sota y Aznar Naviera Sota y Aznar Naviera Aznar
Institutional history	<p>The Naviera Aznar shipping company was founded in Bilbao in 1906, under the name of Sota y Aznar, as a result of the merger of 25 companies with one single ship, founded by the cousins Eduardo de Aznar de la Sota and Ramón de la Sota y Llano between 1889 and 1899. The company was not only Spain's leading shipping line in terms of the size of its fleet (maintained up until 1950s), but was also one of the cornerstones of a larger corporate grouping, which included mining companies throughout Spain, the insurance company La Polar, the shipyards Compañía Euskalduna de Construcción y Reparación de Buques and Compañía de Remolcadores Ibaizábal, as well as a holding in Banco de Comercio, which subsequently merged with Banco de Bilbao.</p> <p>In 1938, the company was split up and renamed Naviera Aznar, S.A., under the management of the family, following acquisition of the shareholding of Sir Ramón de la Sota, seized by the State following an investigation by the National Court of Political Liabilities.</p>



Institutional history	<p>From 1939 to 1951, Naviera Aznar embarked on a strategy of growth in the maritime business, acquiring stakes in the founding of new shipping companies (Naviera Bilbaína and Naviera de Exportación Agrícola in 1942), insurance companies (Nacional Hispánica Aseguradora) and maritime services, underpinning its role in the shipbuilding and ancillary industry, while also acquiring stakes in many other businesses.</p> <p>The Aznar group pursued its growth strategy in traditional sectors and other new areas, although the substantial investments made to renew and modernise the fleet during the 1960s and the first half of the 1970s placed the company in a delicate financial position, worsened by the economic crisis of 1974.</p> <p>In 1983, Naviera Aznar was declared bankrupt, its administrators proceeding to sell off the fleet, share portfolio and corporate headquarters.</p>
Archival history	<p>Following the bankruptcy of the company, its archive was deposited at the Ethnographic Museum of Bilbao, from where it was transferred to the premises of the Provincial Council of Biscay. It accrued to the Provincial Historical Archive of Biscay in 1985, and was catalogued in 2013.</p>
Source of acquisition	<p>Acquisition through bankruptcy and donation.</p>

Content area and structure

Scope and content	<p>It comprises the documentation of the shipping line Sota y Aznar, the mining company of the same name, and after the Civil War, Aznar business activities. It contains 15,001 document units from the period between 1788 (a book of sermons) and 1986.</p> <p>Its particular riches include the plans, more than 3,078 entries (each may contain more than one plan) from shipbuilding and mining operations.</p>
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Organisation	<p>covers the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Management: 1002 documents from 1808 to 1986.– Secretariat: 5654 documents from 1805 to 1985.– Personnel: 1354 documents from 1788 to 1987.– Company activity: 5084 documents from 1860 to 1985.– Commercial services: 20 documents from 1906 to 1985.– Accounts: 3219 documents from 1879 to 1980.– Private documentation: 511 documents from 1788 to 1980.– Documentation from outside the company: 14 documents from 1868 to 1985.– Special materials: 5 documents from 1906 to 1985.
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Associated documentation area

Related units of description	<p>There are sources of documentation related to the Sota y Aznar Archive in the different sections of the Provincial Archive, in particular the Municipal, Administrative, Families, Institutions and Judicial sections. Documentation was found in the National Historical Archive and the Historical Memory Documentation Centre.</p>
Publication note	<p>Estornés Lasa, Bernardo. Enciclopedia Auñamendi</p>

Control area

Archivist's Note	<p>Description produced by the company Actuaciones Culturales Estratégicas 4, S.L. for the Companies Section of the Biscay Historical Archive.</p>
Date of description	<p>20/01/2020</p>