

Telephone Wiring in Spain in the 1920s

by Jan Verhelst

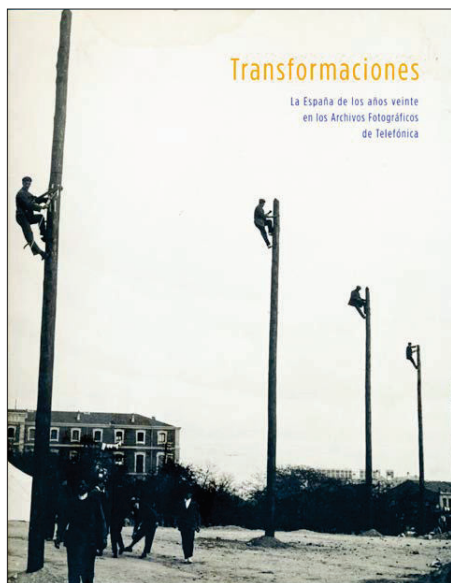


Fig. 1 - Spanish book made using archive pictures from the National Telephone Company "Telefonica"



Anónimo, 1928
Torre metálica, Bilbao
Archivo de Telefónica

Fig. 4 - Iron distribution pole in Bilbao, Spain (1928)

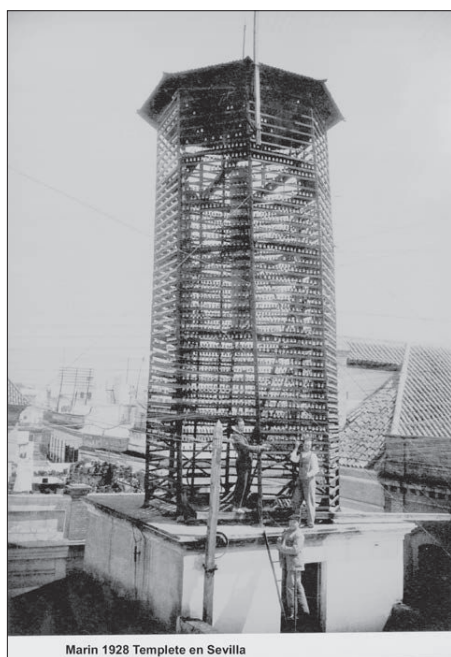


Fig. 3 - Derrick in the city of Sevilla, Spain (1928)



Fig. 2 - Destruction of an iron distribution pole in Madrid, Spain (1925)

In the November 2021 issue of *Singing Wires*, I wrote the article "History of Telephony and Wiring Through Old Postcards." It described a method of bringing telephone wiring from the exchange to the subscribers' homes by using derricks and tall distribution poles. To our knowledge, this system was only used in Belgium and the Netherlands in the early decades of the 20th century.

Arnold Abels of the Houweling Telecommuseum in Rotterdam (the Netherlands) provided us with 1920s photos taken from the Spanish book with the title *Transformaciones, La España de los años veinte en los Archivos Fotográficos de Telefónica* which translates to *Transformations, Spain in the 1920s from the Telefonica Photographic Archives*. The 2005 book was made by researching the archives of the Spanish telephone company Telefonica. The book shows that the system of derricks and high iron distribution poles was also used in important Spanish cities such as Bilbao, Seville, and Madrid.

The book can be [downloaded in PDF format](#) from the Telefonica website. The book is in Spanish but it has an English translation at the end of the book. (Click on the "Descargar" button to download the PDF)

You can also Google "transformaciones la espana desgargar" to find the website with the download link.



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