

The Basque Question*

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Euskaldunak ezagunagoak dira Floridan New Yorke baino, eta hori logikoa da estatu hartako gaztelaniadunen kopuru garrantzitsua kontuan hartzerak. Bestalde, euskal pelota eta frontoia -Jai Alai-, bai eta gerra zibila ere, euskal komunitateak duen izen onaren eragile izan dira.

Los vascos son más conocidos en Florida que en Nueva York, cosa lógica dada la importante presencia de hispanohablantes en aquel Estado. A ello contribuye además la pelota vasca y su Jai Alai, al igual que la Guerra Civil ha contribuido al prestigio de la comunidad vasca.

Les Basques sont plus connus en Floride qu'à New-York, du fait de la forte proportion d'hispanophones dans cet Etat. La pelote basque et son Jai Alai y sont pour beaucoup, mais la guerre civile espagnole est aussi pour beaucoup dans la bonne réputation des Basques.

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Wherever I go I am asked of the origin of my name, principally because it is unlike most names, and also because it is rather difficult to pronounce at first sight. (My name, "Zarraonandia" means old, good, and big). Therefore, whomever I come in contact with is immediately made aware of the fact that I am a Basque, and above all, a proud one.

I have lived in both New York and Miami, Florida; I have discovered that we Basques and the problems confronting us are more widely discussed in Miami than in New York. The reason being that there is a larger percentage of Spanish speaking people in Miami, and as a result, they are in closer contact with the "Spanish question".

Jai-Alai (or Pelota) has done much to make known the existence of the Basque people. Miami, Florida is mainly a winter resort. Consequently, it is in the winter months that the sport is played. Jai-Alai is thoroughly advertised through all mediums available, above all through radio and newspaper. In

this vast advertising campaign, the History of Jai-Alai is repeatedly told, and in its story is also related the fact that the Basque Race is a proud, intelligent one, steadfast in its democratic beliefs and principles. Thusly, a keen interest has been developed in the minds of the millions of vacationists in Miami. As these vacationists constitute a large cross-section of the country, the entire nation is made aware that a Proud Basque Race is fighting for liberty.

Basque prestige has steadily increased here in Miami because of Jai-Alai. Nevertheless, we must not for one moment believe that Jai-Alai was alone responsible for this factor. The enlightenment of facts concerning the Spanish War is the element responsible for a large part of this well deserved prestige. The gallantry and forthright struggle of the Basque population has been brought to light, and it may now be said that never before has courage been more valiantly displayed.