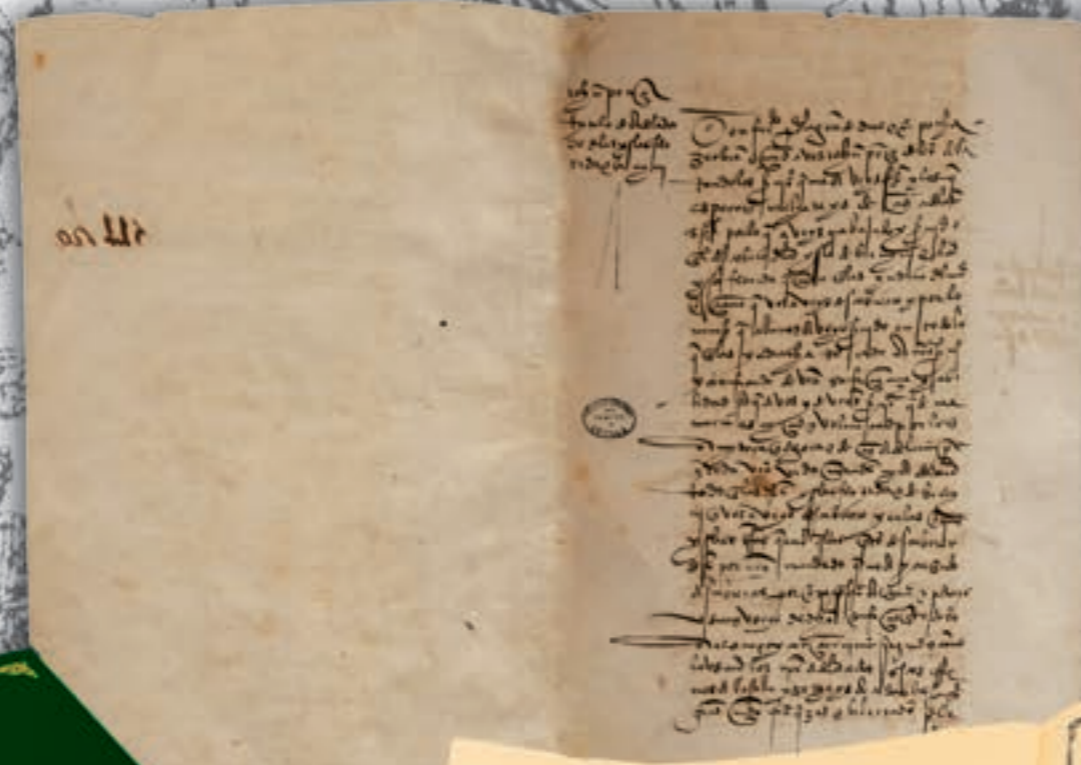


JUAN PONCE DE LEÓN

El Adelantado, Descubridor de la Florida



COMMEMORATIVE EDITION OF THE V CENTENNIAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF
JUAN PONCE DE LEÓN AS ADELANTADO OF FLORIDA

1514 – 2014

JUAN PONCE DE LEÓN embodies the characteristic type of the Spanish conqueror. He went to the Indies with the intention of remaining there, in the company of his wife and children, without any plans of returning to Spain as a wealthy man. He fought the Native Americans when the circumstances so required, but he also tried by all means to carry out a peaceful colonization of Puerto Rico, attracting the chieftains with his affable treatment. He discovered a new, lush land which he called Florida, where he yearned to find the fountain of eternal youth, the maximum aspiration of humankind, more valuable than gold and pearls. His life was a constant toil; a continuous struggle spent traveling, settling lands, fighting, attending the needs of his children and defending his rights before the Spanish Crown, without a moment's respite. And just like all conquerors, luck turned its back on him in the final, decisive moment.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EDITION

Faithful facsimile reproduction of the appointment (8 pages, folio), signed at Valladolid on September 27th, 1514, where King Ferdinand the Catholic appoints him as Adelantado (Governor) of Florida.

Kept at the General Archive of the Indies, Seville.

Preceded by a study (60 pages) of Ponce de León and a transcript of the document by Mr. Juan Gil, Professor of Latin Philology and Member of the Royal Spanish Academy.

Preface by Mr. Miguel de la Quadra-Salcedo,
de facto Ambassador of Marca España.

The sworn translation and transcription into English of this first legal and political document of the territory of the United States has been possible thanks to the patronage of Julio Iglesias, who has been appointed *Honorary* Ambassador of the Marca España.



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