

The Traditional Tunes of the Gibraltar *Romances*

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The following fifteen tunes, transcribed from the field tapes of Prof. Oro Anahory-Librowicz, attest to the diversity of formal, modal, and metrical structures within the Gibraltar Judeo-Spanish ballad tradition. The transcriptions, in fact, will prove useful for future comparative studies, particularly for those seeking out melodic links between the Peninsular and Moroccan traditions. All were sung by Mrs. Flora Ohana de Roublev. The tunes from her ballad repertoire are, nonetheless, a representative sampling of those which achieved wide popularity among the Gibraltar Sephardi Community.

The majority of tunes subscribe to the quatrain strophe: ABCD (predominating), ABAC (Nos. 10 and 13), ABCC (No. 11), and AABB (Nos. 14 and 15). Only No. 8 comprises a tripartite (ABC) structure, whereas No. 5 is ABCDEF'D'.

Major (8 examples) and Minor (5 examples) modes predominate. Among the Major, the following can be found:

- 1) an authentic scale structure (No. 14), consisting of an upper pentachord (*g-a-b-c'-d'*) for phrase A, and a lower hexachord (*c-d-e-f-g-a*) for phrase B;
- 2) five plagal scale structures (Nos. 2, 3, 4, 8, and 11);
- 3) a hexachordal scale (No. 15); and
- 4) a hexachordal scale, exhibiting with the lower *c*, a plagal-like structure (No. 12).

The Minor mode can be seen:

- 1) in the authentic form (Nos. 6 and 7);
- 2) in the plagal form (No. 5);
- 3) as a hexachordal scale (*d-e-f-g-a-b-flat*) (No. 13); and as a pentachordal scale (*d-e-f-g-a*) (No. 10).

Mixed modal structures can be found in Nos. 1 (Minor with Major coloration) and 9 (which vacillates between F Major and F Minor). The final cadence of No. 2 contains the flattened seventh *subtonium* (*e-flat*).

Only six tunes span an octave (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 11); four exceed the octave by a Major 2nd (Nos. 4, 9, 12, and 14); among the remaining five, one comprises a Minor 7th (No. 6), two a Major 6th (Nos. 8, and 15), one a Minor 6th (No. 13), and the last a Perfect 5th (No. 10).

The majority of tunes are in duple meter (7 examples). Two are in triple meter (Nos. 4, and 11). The remaining examples bear mixed meters. The mean tempo designation has been calculated as $\text{♩} = 103$.

1 *Abenámar* (vv. 1-2)

$\text{♩} = 102$

A - be - na - mar, A - be - na - mar.
 mo - ro - de - la mo - re - rí - a,
 el dí - a que tú na - cis - te
 gran - des se - ná - les ha bí - a.

2 *Virgiliос* (vv. 1-2)

$\text{♩} = 124$

Pre - so lle - va - nal Vel - gó - co
yel rey le man-dó a pren - der
po - ru - na trai - ción quecha he - cho
yen- los pa - lá - cios del re - .

3 *La vuelta del marido* (vv. 3-4)

$\text{♩} = 120$

Su ma - ri - do es - tá muer - to,
muer-toes- tá, que yo lo sé,
yen su tes - ta - men - to di - ce
que me ca - se co - nus - ted.

4 *El conde Niño* (vv. 1-2)

$\text{♩} = 94$

Se pa-sea - ba con-deO-li - nos

ma-ña - ni - ta de San Juan

a da - ra - guaa su ca - ba - llo

a lao - ri - ili - ta - del mar,

a lao - ri - ili - ta - del mar,

a lao - ri - ili - ta - del mar.

5 *¿Por qué no cantáis la bella?* (vv. 1-2)

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$

U - nahi - ja tien el re _____,
u - nahi - ja re - ga - la - da _____,
su pa - dre por más va - lo-[o] - r
un ca - sti - llo le fra - gua - re _____.

6 *Diego León* (vv. 3-4)

$\text{♩} = 82$

E - ra ba - ji - to de cuer - po,
mo-re - ni - to de - su ca - ra,
del - ga - di - to de cin - tu - ra
mo-zo cri - a - do en - tre da - mas.

7 *La novia del conde de Alba* (vv. 5-6)

$\text{♩} = 116$

vio ve - ni - ral con - de deAl - ba

con to - da su com - pa - ñi - a.

Con - de deAl - ba con de deAl - ba

con - deAl - ba ba de mi vi - da.

8 *La mujer engañada* (v. 1)

$\text{♩} = 120$

Me ca - só mi ma - dre, me ca - so mi ma - dre

chi - qui - tay bo - ni - ta a ya yay

chi - qui-tay bo - ni - ta.

9 *Las bodas en París* (vv. 3-4)

$\text{♩} = 78$

la que lle - va - ba la dan - za
ye - ra do - ña Be - a - triz
Mi - ran - do laes - tâe - se con - de
ye - se con - de de Pa - rís

10 *La envenenadora* (vv. 5-6)

$\text{♩} = 128$

De - ba - jo deun ro - sal ver - de
pu - sic - ron la me - sa;
ya - co - mie - ron, ya be - bie - ron,
dor - mi - dos se que - dan.

11 *Delgadina* (v. 6)

$\text{J} = 160$

(p) cuan-do pi - das de co - mer,
cuan-do pi - das de co - mer,
car - nc de__ pe - rro sa - la - da,
car - ne de__ pe - rro sa - la - da.

12 *El sueño de la hija* (vv. 1-2)

$\text{J} = 66$

Yes-te rey de Fran - ci - a
tres hi- jas te - ní - a,
la_ u - na la - va- ba,
la o - tra co - sí - a_____.

13 *El pretendiente burlado* (vv. 1-2)14 *Santa Irene* (vv. 1-2)

15 *Las hijas del merino* (v. 1)

$\text{♩} = 132$

Ma-má ¿quie-reus-té que va-ya, va-ya
yun ra-ti-to a l'a-la-me-da, me-da?

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RESUMEN

Las quince melodías, transcritas directamente de las grabaciones de campo realizadas por la profesora Oro Anahory-Librowicz, representan una mera muestra de la tradición romancística judeoespañola de Gibraltar, escasamente escuchada. Todas las cantó una sola informante, la señora Flora Ohana de Roublev. Así pues, estas melodías servirán como documentación fidedigna para las investigaciones musicológicas comparativas en curso sobre las baladas tradicionales de la Península y de Marruecos.

SUMMARY

The fifteen tunes transcribed directly from the field tapes of Prof. Oro Anahory-Librowicz, represent but a sampling of the rarely heard Judeo-Spanish ballad tradition from Gibraltar. All were sung by a single informant, Mrs. Flora Ohana de Roublev. Thus the tunes will serve as valuable comparative documentation for the on-going musicological researches concerning traditional Peninsula and Moroccan balladry.