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## ***Contributions to Spanish Hagiotoponyms***

From all the studies of Hispanic hagiotponymy published to date it is, in our opinion, that published by LUIS LÓPEZ SANTOS in the “Enciclopedia Lingüística Hispánica” (Hispanic Linguistic Encyclopedia), with the heading *Hagiotponimia*<sup>1</sup> (*Hagiotponymy*) which stands out (I, 579–614). Although this essay is already fifty years old, it is still current due to the large number of place names it contains which are related to hagionomy in the widest sense of the term. Therefore, our contribution will consist in the input of more examples<sup>2</sup> to those already included by LÓPEZ SANTOS with the sole end of ascertaining which Christian inspired hagionomy has given its name to cities, towns and villages of the Spanish geography.

To this end we have structured our research proposal in three parts. First, we make reference to hagiotponymy<sup>3</sup> derived from the name of the Virgin Mary and that of the twelve apostles; next, those of martyrs, and finally by considering the names of holy bishops, confessors and preachers in general, who have left their mark on some Hispanic cities, towns and villages. Due to the fact that our essay is also of a lexical nature, we are going to make some linguistic commentaries that will aid in our explanation of the current forms of the hagiotponyms to which we refer. However, as we have already pointed out, our greatest interest is in determining which Hispanic macrotoponyms are represented by the different hagionomy of the Christian tradition.<sup>4</sup>

### **1. The Virgin**

From the beginnings of Christianity, which was a religion set up by the Roman Empire throughout the Iberian Peninsula, the Virgin Mary has, due to her enormous virtue, been revered by Christians as being the divine, chosen one, and for her assistance to those in need. The glorification of the Virgin Mary began when the Archangel Gabriel greeted her with the words: “Hail, Mary

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<sup>1</sup> In fact, we cite hagiotponyms extracted from this study.

<sup>2</sup> We must point out that we have selected those hagiotponyms which we believe to be the most representative because they have given names to places in Spain which represent a religious tradition seated in this country for many centuries.

<sup>3</sup> In all cases we refer to macrotoponyms understood as a concept which encompasses the names of cities, towns, villages, places and geographic accidents which represent a large territorial unity.

<sup>4</sup> We must advise the reader that we will offer a sufficient list of Spanish hagiotponyms, although this will not be necessarily complete as our object of study is the representativeness of each studied name.



full of grace, the Lord is with you! Blessed art thou among women!” With which he informed her of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. In the Christian Church, the pious veneration of the Holy Virgin Mary can be seen in the number of festivities by which the Church commemorates different events from her life and in the great quantity of toponyms bearing her name: *Santa María de Cayón* (Cantabria); *Santa María de Dulcis* (Huelva); *Santa María de Guía* (Gran Canarias); *Santa María de Huerta* (Soria); *Santa María de la Alameda* (Madrid); *Santa María de la Vega* (Zamora); *Santa María de las Hoyas* (Soria); *Santa María de los Caballeros*, *Santa María de Berrocal* and *Santa María de Tiétar* (Ávila); *Santa María de los Llanos* (Cuenca); *Santa María del Campo* (Burgos); *Santa María del Camí* (Balearic Islands and Barcelona); *Santa María de Palautordera*, *Santa Maria de Merlès*, *Santa Maria de Corcó* and *Santa Maria de Martorelles* (Barcelona) and *Santa María de las Hoyas* and *Santa María del Pãramos* (León) and the Basque toponym *Andramari* (San Sebastian).

## 2. The Twelve Apostles

Undoubtedly, the names of the twelve apostles have left their mark in Spain, although this is not entirely uniform, as we will see in the cases of Saint Philip and Saint Jude.

**San Andrés (Saint Andrew).** Andrew, who was born in Bethsaida, was initially a disciple of John the Baptist, who later followed Christ, to whom he also introduced his brother Peter. According to tradition, after the Pentecost, he predicted Evangelism in many regions and was crucified in an ‘X’ shape in Achaia, a province of the Roman Empire. The name, ‘Saint Andrew’, appears in Spanish hagiotoponyms such as *San Andrés* (Gran Canarias), *San Andrés del Congosto* (Guadalajara), *San Andrés del Rabanado* (León), *San Andrés del Rey* (Guadalajara), *Santo André de Paradela* and *Sant André de Boimente* (both in Lugo), *Son Santandreu* (Palma de Majorca), *San Andrés de Teixido* (La Coruña), *Sant Aadreu de Calbinyà* and *Sant Abdreu de Castellbó* (Gerona) and *Sant Andreu de la Barca* (Barcelona), amongst many other examples.

**San Bartolomé (Saint Bartholomew).** This apostle, according to tradition, preached Evangelism in India, after the ascension of Jesus, where he received the crown of martyrdom. There are various municipalities and villages in Spain where we find the invocation of the saint: *San Bartolomé*, a parish from the Asturian council of Belmonte de Miranda; *Aldeanueva de San Bartolomé*, a town in Toledo; *Cumbres de San Bartolomé*, a town in Huelva; *Riaguas de San Bartolomé*, a town in Segovia; *San Bartolomé*, a town in Las Palmas; *San Bartolomé de Tirajana*, a town in Las Palmas; *San Bartolomé de Béjar*, a town in Ávila; *San Bartolomé de la Corneja*, a town in Ávila; *San Bartolomé de la Torre*, a town in Huelva; *San Bartolomé de las Abiertas*, a town in



Toledo; *San Bartolomé de Pinares*, a town in Ávila; *Sant Bartomeu del Grau* and *Sant Bartomeu de la Quadra*, which are two municipalities in Barcelona; *San Bartolomé*, a depopulated village in the municipality of Valle de Mena, which belongs to the province of Burgos; *San Bartolomé*, a barrio in Murcia; *San Bartolomé*, a hamlet in Orihuela.

**San Felipe (Saint Philip).** Philip was amongst the followers of John the Baptist and was to be found with him when he first pointed out Jesus as the Lamb of God. The day after Peter had been called Jesus came across Philip, and beckoned him to also follow him. He was the fifth apostle to be called. Philip obeyed the calling and preached in Hierapolis, which is now Turkey, where he died in old age. The few macrotoponyms to be found in Spain that bear this saint's name suggest that his invocation did not root strongly: *Castillo de San Felipe* in Ferrol, in Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife) and on the island of Menorca.

**San Juan (Saint John).** John was a disciple of Jesus Christ to the point of being one of his closest friends. A native of Galilee, he was the brother of James the Great and the son of Zebedee. By trade a fisherman in the Sea of Galilee, like other apostles, he was the youngest of the Twelve. The invocation of the apostle saint is present in various villages and cities such as *Sant Joan Despí*, *Sant Joan de Vilatorrada* and *Sant Joan de Mediona* in the province of Barcelona, and *Sant Joan de les Abadesses* and *Sant Joan de les Fonts* in the province of Gerona. On the island of Menorca we find *Sant Joan de Binissaida* and on Ibiza, *Sant Joan de Labritja*. Outside the Catalan linguistic domain we should mention places such as *San Chuan* in the province of Huesca, *Alcázar de San Juan* in that of Ciudad Real, *Seoanedo do Courel* and *Sanxilleo* in that of Lugo and *San Juan* de Alicante which are examples of the most representative municipalities that contain the apostle's name.

**San Judas (Saint Jude).** He was one of Jesus Christ's twelve apostles, and Jesus' first cousin. He was also known as Jude of James or just Thaddeus. We do not find a tradition of the saint's name in Spanish toponymy, although his invocation is strong in some South American countries such as Panama, Peru, Mexico and Guatemala.

**San Mateo (Saint Mathew).** He was an apostle and presumed to be the author of one of the four gospels. His invocation has given names to various places such as *San Mateo* in Santander, *Sant Mateu* in Castellón de la Plana, *San Mateo de Gallego* in Huesca, *Sant Mateu de Bages* in Barcelona and *Sant Mateu de Quart* in Gerona.

**San Pablo (Saint Paul).** Paul of Tarsus, originally Saulos, was also known as Saint Paul Apostle, the Apostle of the Gentiles and Saint Paul of Tarsus. He did not belong to Jesus' circle of apostles, although he is considered to be the



greatest apostle of Christianity. He died in Rome in the year 67. His invocation can be found in the Spanish macrotoponyms such as *San Pablo de los Montes* in Toledo, *San Pablo de Buceite* in Cadis, *San Pablo de la Moraleja* in Valladolid, *Sant Pau de Segúries* in Gerona, *Sant Pau de la Guàrdia*, *Sant Pau de Pinos*, *Sant Pau del Ordell* and *Sant Pol de Mar* in Barcelona and the aggregate of *Sant Pol* in the province of Gerona.

**San Pedro (Saint Peter).** He was also known as Cephas or Simon Peter, a fisherman, who was called the prince of the Apostles. According to Christian tradition he was the first Pope of the Catholic Church. The diffusion of the hagionymy in Spain can be found in *San Pedro del Pinatar* in the province of Murcia, *San Pedro de Alcántara* in that of Cáceres, *San Pedro de Cardeña* in that of Burgos, *San Pedro del Arroyo* in that of Ávila, *Sant Pere de Ribes*, *Sant Pere de Vilamajor*, *Sant Pere de Riudebitlles* and *Sant Pere de Torelló* in the province of Barcelona, *Sant Pere de Rodes* in that of Gerona, *Samper de Salz*, a locality of Saragossa, on the left of the river Almonacid, close to the confluence with the Aguas, on level ground. It derives from the Latin *Sanctu Petru de illo salice* 'San Pedro del sauce' (Saint Peter of the willow). This same phonetic evolution of *Samper* can also be found in *Samper de Calanda* (Teruel) and in the Valencian surname *Sempere*.

**San Simón (Saint Simon).** The Apostle Simon, also called Simon the Zealot, is one of the twelve apostles who preached in Egypt, Libya and possibly Persia. He died a martyr on the coast of the Black Sea, close to the Caucasus. There are not many Hispanic hagiotoponyms which bear the saint's name, although we can mention that of *Sant Simó* on the island of Menorca, *San Simones* in the province of Ávila, that of the island of *San Simón* in the Galician estuary of Vigo and the places *San Simón* in the provinces of Lugo, Orense and Pontevedra.

**Santiago apóstol (Saint James Apostle).** He is the patron Apostle of Spain, who is known as James the Greater. His remains were transferred to Spain from Palestine, which is where he found martyrdom. Without doubt, the hagionymy has given the name to an extremely important city of medieval pilgrimage: *Santiago de Compostela*, capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. Other Spanish toponyms which bear the name of the saint are *Santiago del Teide*, a municipality of Tenerife island; *Santiago de la Ribera*, main nucleus of San Javier, in Murcia; *Santiago*, a parish of the Asturian council of Valdés; *Santiago*, a parish of the Asturian council of Sariego; *Santiago de la Barca*, a parish of the Asturian council of Salas; *Santiago-Pontones*, a municipality of the province of Jaén; *Santiago de la Espada*, a locality of the province of Jaén; *Santiago de la Puebla*, a municipality of the province of Salamanca; *Santiago de Medio Cudeyo*, a locality of Cantabria; *Santiago del Molinillo*, a locality of the province of León; *Santiago del Tormes*, a municipality located



in the province of Ávila; *Santiago del Collado*, a municipality located in the province of Ávila; *Santiago de Alcántara* and *Santiago del Campo*, which are both municipalities located in the province of Cáceres; *Santiago de Mondoñedo*, a parish of the Town Hall of Mondoñedo; *Santiago de Tudela*, a minor local entity in the province of Burgos which belongs to the Town Hall of Valle de Mena and *Horcajo de Santiago*, a municipality of Cuenca. We must also remember that *Santiago* is also *Jaime* in Spanish and *Jaume* in Catalan. We must mention at least two Catalan municipalities with these names: *Sant Jaume d'Enveja* in Tarragona and *Sant Jaume de Frontanyà* in Barcelona.

**San Tomás (Saint Thomas).** This was an apostle who was characterized by his questions of faith and who, according to the Christian tradition, was martyred in India in the year 72. In Galicia, there are two *Santomé*, which are both in the province of Lugo in the councils of Cospeito and Cervo, which have an agglutination of the name. In the province of Jaén we find the municipality of *Santo Tomé*, in that of Segovia, we find *Santo Tomé del Puerto* and in Lleida, a place called *Sant Domí*, where *-nt-* is devoiced (*saindu* > *santí*) (LÓPEZ SANTOS 1960: 614).

### 3. The martyrs

**San Adrián (Saint Adrian).** Although there were three martyrs who bore the name Adrianus, the Hispanic toponyms refer mostly or entirely to Saint Adrian of Nicomedia (Bithynia), who was a soldier, a Hispanic saint of eastern origin and martyr who died on March 4<sup>th</sup> in the year 304. In his honour Pope Honorius I (7<sup>th</sup> century) turned a room of the Roman Senate into a church. Some Hispanic toponyms which contain the martyr's name are, for example, *Sant Adrià de Besòs*, a Barcelonan locality on the Banks of the Besòs river, next to its mouth; *San Adrián* (Navarra), *San Adrián del Valle* (León), *Santradao* (Pontevedra), *Santadrao* (Lugo) and *Santandrán* in Villaboa, a locality of Pontevedra.

**San Acisclo (Saint Acisclus).** He was the first martyr of the city of Cordoba, who died a martyr in the year 313. We find his invocation in places such as *San Acisclo* in the province of Lugo, *Sant Iscle* in that of Barcelona and in *Santocildes* in that of Burgos.

**San Baudilio (Saint Baudilus).** From a relatively old date (NIETO BALLESTER 1997: 310) we find the cult of Saint Baudilus or Saint Baudiliom, martyr of the French city of Nimes (3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> centuries) documented in Spain. Perhaps the most representative Spanish toponym which alludes to this martyr is that of *Sant Boi de Llobregat*, an industrial locality of the Baix Llobregat in the province of Barcelona, which is a part of the metropolitan area of Barcelona. The form *Boi* can be explained without problems from *Baudii*, a genitive derived from the expression *ecclesia sancti Baidilii*, with monophthongization of *au*, loss of inter-vocalic *d* and of the remaining *l*.



**San Celedonio (Saint Celedonius).** He was a Spanish Saint and soldier, martyred in Calahorra (Logroño), who has given his name to the Barcelonan municipality of *Sant Celoni*, a district of Vallès Oriental, to the north of the city of Barcelona, between the Montnegre and Montseny sierras.

**San Cosme (Saint Cosmas).** He was a martyr and doctor decapitated around the year 300 by order of Diocletian. In Galicia we find the toponym *San Cosmede* which suggests the name has been declined in *-atis* or *-adus*.

**San Claudio (Saint Claudius).** Due to geographical proximity, it seems that *San Cloyo* in Asturias could refer to the martyr Saint Claudius of Leon who was martyred in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

**San Cristóbal (Saint Christopher).** Also known as Saint Christopher of Lycea, was a Christian martyr from the first era of Christianity. His invocation is maintained in names such as *San Cristóbal de La Laguna* (Tenerife), *San Cristóbal de Segovia* (Segovia), *San Cristóbal* (Asturias), *Sancristobalejo* (Salamanca), *Sant Cristòfol* (Gerona) and *Sant Cristòfol de la Donzell* and *Sant de la Vall* (Lérida).

**San Cucufate (Saint Cucuphas).** Saint Cucuphas, Latin Cucuphate, is a Barcelonan martyr who died during the persecution of Diocletian in the year 306, supposedly in the city of Sant Cugat del Vallès, an industrial municipality in the district of Barcelona. *Sant Cugat Sasgarrigas* is another Catalan toponym which gives name to a municipality of the Alto Penedès in the province of Barcelona. In Galicia we find *Sancobade* (Lugo) and in Asturias *San Cucao*.

**San Emeterio (Saint Emeterio).** He was a soldier of the seventh Roman legion who died, martyred, at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century due to the cleansing measures ordered by Diocletian and Maximian. He received special worship in Spain, as is demonstrated in the toponym *Santander*, which is an important city in Northern Spain and the capital of Cantabria, and appears in medieval documents as *Santemder* (NIETO BALLESTER 1997: 315) which in turn comes from the Latin *ecclesia Sancti Emeterii*. Other toponyms derived from this Latin base which present phonetic evolutions of special difficulty are: *San Mederi* in the province of Álava, *San Medel* in those of Burgos, Salamanca and Segovia, *San Madero* in that of Orense and *Samitier* in that of Huesca.

**San Esteban (Saint Stephen).** He was a deacon and proto-martyr from the 1<sup>st</sup> century. The invocation of this saint in Spain can be found in *Santisteban*, a place in Santander, Jaén and Lugo; *Sant Esteban de Gormaz* in Soria, *San Esteban del Valle* in Ávila, *San Esteban de Pravia* and *San Esteban de Cuñaba* in Asturias, *San Esteban de Litera* in Huesca, *San Esteban de la Sierra* in Salamanca, *Sant Esteve de Sesrovires* and *Sant Esteve de Palautordera* in



Barcelona, *Sant Esteve d'en Bas*, *Sant Esteve de Guialbes* and *Sant Esteve de Llémèna* in Gerona and *Sant Esteve de la Sarga* in Lérida.

**San Facundo (Saint Facundus).** This martyr died on the banks of the river Cea in 304 where it passes through Sahagún, which is undoubtedly derived from *Sanctus Facundus*. Other towns in Spain that remit to this Latin base are *San Facundo* in León and Asturias and *San Facundo de Ribas de Miño* in Lugo.

**San Félix (Saint Felix).** The considerable extension of Saint Felix (Feliu in Catalan) in Catalan hagiotponymy seems to indicate that it is a case of *Sanctus Felix*, a martyr of Gerona from around about the year 300, more than San Félix de Nola, who was an African martyr. The evolution of *Felicem*, a Latin accusative, into *Feliu* is regular in Catalan. Within the Principality we find the following cities and towns with the name of the martyr: *Sant Feliu de Llobregat* and *Sant Feliu de Codines* in the province of Barcelona and *Sant Feliu de Guíxols*, *Sant Feliu de Pallarols*, *Sant Feliu de Boada* and *Sant Feliu de Buixalleu* in the province of Gerona. In other Hispanic regions, especially those of the north of the Iberian Peninsula, *Felicem* has given *Fiz*, which is a hagiotponym present in places such as *San Fiz do Seo* in the province of León, *San Fiz de Cangas*, *San Fiz de Asma* and *San Fiz de Vilapedre* in Lugo and *San Fiz de Monfero* in the province of La Coruña. Also derived from *Felicem* are the forms *Santelices* in Burgos, *Selices* in Cuenca and Guadalajara and *Sanfelismo* in León.

**San Fructuoso (Saint Fructuosus).** He was Bishop of Tarragona and martyr of Christian Spain who died in 259. The worship of this saint is to be found in localities such as *Sant Fruitós de Bages* in Barcelona and *San Frechoso* in Asturias. *San Frutos* in Segovia probably refers to *San Frutos*, a hermit monk from Sepúlveda in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

**San Genesio (Saint Genesius).** Saint Genesius is a martyr who, in Arles (Pronenza), while still a catechumen and undertaking the trade of scribe, sought his salvation by fleeing, after having refused to act against the Christians. However, he was detained by soldiers and baptised with his own blood in the year 304. The worship of this French martyr appears documented in a series of Spanish toponyms which can all be explained by *sanctu Genesiu*: *Sanxenxo* is a municipality of the province of Pontevedra formed through the union of many parishes and nuclei of population (Santa María de Adigna, San Pedro de Bordones, San Estebán de Noallas, amongst others), *Ginzo* (Pontevedra), *Sangés* (Valladolid and Lugo), *San Ginés* (Orense), *Sant Genís* in Amer (Gerona), *Sant Genís de Palafoles*, *Sants Genís dels Agudells* and *Sant Genís de Dalt*, all of which are in the province of Barcelona, and the Asturian surname *Genicio*.



**San Gervasio (Saint Gervasius).** He was a martyr in the times of the persecution of Antoninus (161–168) who died alongside Protasius, who was possibly his brother. Some Spanish toponyms which bear the name of the saint are *Hervás* in the province of Cáceres, *Santervás de la Vega* in that of Palencia, *Santervás de la Sierra* in that of Soria, *Santervás de Campos* in that of Valladolid and *Sant Gervasi*, which is a well-known barrio of the city of Barcelona.

**San Jorge (Saint George).** He was a Saint of Cappadocia who was martyred in the year 303 by Diocletian because he professed his Christian religion against the emperor's wishes. The veneration of this saint had great importance and antiquity in the Peninsula, as can be seen by the great number of place names which present many variations derived from the Latin *ecclesia Sancti Georgi*: *San Xurxo* in Orense, *Santiurjo* in Asturias, *Santiurde de Reinosa* in Santander, *San Jorde* in Palencia, *Santurdejo* in Logroño, *Santurce* in Vizcaya, *San Jorge de Alor* in Badajoz, *Sant Jordi Desvalls* in Gerona and *Sant Jordi* in Castellón and Palma de Majorca, among other examples.

**San Julián (Saint Julian).** He was a martyr alongside his wife Basilissa in Egypt at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Various toponyms remind us of the worshipping of the saint: *Illán de Vacas* (Toledo), *Illano* (Asturias), *Santillán de la Vega* (Palencia), *Santillán* (Burgos, Santander), *Santullán* (Santander), and *Santullano* in Asturias. *Barruelo de Santullán* (Palencia), *San Xiao* in Orense and *San Julián*, which is a hamlet in the province of León.

**San Lorenzo (Saint Lawrence).** Saint Lawrence was one of the seven deacons of the city of Rome, where he was martyred on a grill in 258. A monastery of world fame was erected in Madrid with the name *San Lorenzo del Escorial*. In Lugo the invocation of the martyr is remembered in the place *San Lourenço*, in Burgos in that of *San Llorente de la Vega* and in the Catalan linguistic domain we must refer to toponyms such as *Sant Llorenç de Morunys* in Lérida, *Sant Llorenç de Savall* and *Sant Llorenç d'Hortons* in Barcelona, *Sant Llorenç de la Muga* in Gerona and *Sant Llorenç des Cardessar* in the Balearic Islands.

**San Mamés (Saint Mammes).** He was a western Christian martyr from the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Some variants of the saint's name are *San Mamed* (Lugo), *San Mamede* (La Coruña) and *San Mamede de Hedrado* (Orense).

**San Mancio (Saint Mancio).** He was a martyr from the 6<sup>th</sup> century who has given his name to at least two toponyms: *Villanueva de San Mancio* (Valladolid) and *Sanmances* (Orense).

**San Mauricio (Saint Maurice).** Saint Maurice was an official of the Theban legion of the army of Emperor Maximilian Hercules, which was comprised of Christians from Higher Egypt. Maurice, like his fellow men, refused to follow



the Emperor's orders to make sacrifices to the gods to guarantee one of their victories. Maximilian ordered that the entire legion of more than six thousand men be murdered. The legionnaires were encouraged by their faith in Maurice. The name of Maurice has evolved in Catalan towards forms such as *Mori* in *Sant Mori*, which is a place of barely a hundred inhabitants in the province of Gerona, and *Maurici* in the well-known natural park in the Lérida region called *Aigüestortes and estany de Sant Maurici* and in the Barcelonan town of *Sant Maurici de la Quar*.

**San Pantaleón (Saint Pantaleon).** He was a martyr of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Place names which refer to the name of the saint are *San Pantaleón de Aras* (Santander), *Sant Pantaleón de Losa* (Burgos) and *San Pantayon* (La Cortuña).

**San Quirico (Saint Quiricus).** This is a Saint who, at an early age, was a victim of the anti-Christian edicts of Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. In Catalonia, the saint's name appears in hagiotoponyms such as the following, which originated in the Latin *Quirici*, nominative *Quiricus*: *Sant Quirze Safaja* and *Sant Quirze del Vallès* in the province of Barcelona and *Sant Quirze de Besora* and *Sant Quirze de Colera* in the province of Gerona. In contrast, for the rest of the forms of the name we use the accusative *Quiricum* until we reach the form *Quíles/Quílez*, *Quiricio* and *Quirce*: *San Quiles* and *San Quílez*, which are both places in Logroño, *San Quiricio* in the province of Burgos, *San Quirce de Riopisuerga* in Palencia, from many examples.

**San Román (Saint Romanus).** He was deacon of Caesarea, and a Christian martyr of the 4<sup>th</sup> century who hailed from Antioch. The saint's name appears in toponyms such as *Sant Romà de Tavernoles* (Lérida), *San Román* (Huesca), *Sant Romà de Sau* and *Sant Romà de la Clusa* (Barcelona).

**San Saturnino (Saint Saturninus).** It seems that the Spanish toponyms refer to Saint Saturnino of Alexandria, a martyr from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, although we cannot rule out the option of Saint Saturnino of Alexandria, a martyr in times of Decius, around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The invocation of the saint is maintained in *Sant Sadurní d'Anoia* and *Sant Sadurní d'Osormort* (Barcelona), *Sant Sadurní de l'Heura* (Gerona), *Saornil de Voltoya* (Ávila), *Valsadornín* (Palencia) and *Zadornil* (Burgos) and *Valsadornín* (Palencia).

**San Sebastián (Saint Sebastian).** He was a Christian martyr from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. One of the best known cities bearing the name of this saint is *San Sebastián*, a locality of the Basque Country. Its origin is probably due to a monastery consecrated to Saint Sebastian which was founded at the current location of the 'Palacio de Miramar' (Miramar Palace), next to the El Antiguo barrio. As we have already said, the medieval town was founded by the Navarre King Sancho el Sabio (Sancho the Wise) around 1180 in the vicinity of the monastery and he, in turn, in a population charter, established that the



town should, for this reason, be called *San Sebastián*. Due to the fact that the document was redacted in Latin, the name that appears mentioned is that of *Sanctus Sebastianus*, which in Romance evolved into the name *San Sebastián*. We must remember that the normative form of *San Sebastián* in Basque is *Donostia*, which is a derived form of the old Basque denomination of the patron saint, *\*Done Sebastiane*, and that the current form came about through the following steps, as KOLDO MITXELENA, a notable linguist, explained more than half a century ago in his book “Apellidos vascos” (Basque surnames) from 1953: “the Basque name of San Sebastián, whose approximate evolution would have been »Donasa (b) astiai, Donasastia, Donastia, Donostia«” (MITXELENA 1955: 96). We must not forget that in Basque *Donosti* is used twice more in reference to this saint: the hermit of San Sebastian (in Basque *Jaun Donosti*) in Orendain, and another half in ruins, in Arano, which shares the same name. The name of San Sebastián reappears, amongst other examples, in *San Sebastián de los Reyes* (Madrid), *Sant Sebastià dels Gorgs* (Barcelona) and *San Sebastián de la Gomera* and *San Sebastián de Ballesteros* which are both in the province of Córdoba.

**San Tirso (Saint Thyrsus).** He originated from Toledo and was a martyr during the persecution of Decius (249–251). The extension of the hagionym throughout the Iberian Peninsula has given rise to different phonetic evolutions: *San Tirso* and *San Tirso de Abres* in Asturias, *Santiso* in Lugo and Pontevedra, *Santotis* in Burgos, *Pla de Sant Tirs* (Lleida) in Guadalajara and Santander, and *Santiz* in Salamanca.

**San Torcuato (Saint Torquatus).** He was the first bishop of Guadix (Granada), a martyr and evangelist from the south of Andalusia alongside the so-called Seven Apostolic Men sent to Hispania as disciples of the apostles. His name remains represented in place names such as *Santorcaz del Jarama* in Guadalajara, *San Torcuato* in Zamora and Logroño and maybe in *San Trocate* (Pontevedra) and *San Trocado* (Orense).

**Sant Ponç (Saint Pons).** He was the bishop of Gerona martyred at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. In Catalonia there are at least a couple of places that bear the martyr’s name: *Sant Ponç*, a place in the municipality of Gerona, and *Sant Ponç*, a place in the municipality of Clariana de Cardener (Lérida). In the province of Seville, in Andalusia, there is a town to the north-east of the capital with the name of *Santiponce*, which is an agglutination of the Latin *ecclesia Sancti Pontii*.

**San Verísimo (Saint Verisimo).** He was a martyr in the time of Tarquinius of Rome. His name appears in the toponyms *Samblismo* in Asturias and *Sambreixo* in the province of Lugo.



**San Víctor (Saint Victor).** He was a martyr who, under the mandate of Diocletian, suffered martyrdom in Braga at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The

Spanish toponyms which remit to the saint's name all originated from the base *Sancti Vitores*: *San Vitores* in Santander, *San Vitero* in Zamora and *Sahechores* in the province of León with a complex phonetic evolution.

**San Zoilo (Saint Zoilo).** Saint Zoilo of Córdoba was the first of twenty Cordoban martyrs who perished at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century under the persecution of Diocletian. At the present time Saint Zoilo is the patron of the city Carrión de los Condes (Palencia). Some Spanish toponyms which derive from the form *ecclesia Sancti Zoili* 'church of Saint Zoilo' are *Sansol*, a Navarre town in rugged terrain watered by the Melgar River, *Sanzoles* (Zamora) and *Sonsoles* (Ávila), with the addition of the phoneme [s] to the form of the Latin genitive.

**Santa Águeda (Saint Agatha).** This is the famous saint of Catania who died a martyr during Decius' persecution in the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The name of the martyr presents the following variants: *Santa Gadea del Cid* and *Santa Gadea del Alfoz* in the province of Burgos, *Santa Gadía* in Asturias. Other toponyms which contain the saint's name are *Santa Águeda* in Santander and in the province of Alicante.

**Santa Bárbara (Saint Barbara).** She was a virgin and Christian martyr from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, whose real existence has been placed in doubt by some authors. However, she is a part of the official list of worshipped martyrs of the Catholic Church and, according to the Catholic calendar or calendar of saints, her celebration is held on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Places in Spain with the name of the saint are *Santa Bárbara de Casa* in the province of Huelva, *Santa Bàrbara de Pruneres* in that of Gerona and the well-known castle of *Santa Bárbara* in Alicante.

**Santa Cecilia (Saint Cecilia).** It appears that the Spanish hagiotoponyms refer to Saint Cecile of Rome, a virgin and martyr, noble Roman, converted to Christianity, who was martyred due to her faith towards the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Therefore we are referring to places such as *Santa Cecília de Voltegrà* in the province of Barcelona, *Santa Cecília del Alcor* in that of Palencia, *Santa Cilia de Jaca* with the loss of -ly- in the province of Huesca, *Santecilla* in that of Burgos and *Santa Icíá* in that of La Coruña and Lugo.

**Santa Claudia (Saint Claudia).** She was a martyr of Rome from the 1<sup>st</sup> century who seems to have left a mark on the place name of *Santa Croya de Tera* in the province of Zamora.

**Santa Coloma (Saint Columba).** She was a Gaul-Roman virgin martyred at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, especially worshipped in Galicia and Portugal. The places which present this hagianym are many. In some cases the Latinism has been kept the same while in others different phonetic evolutions have occurred which are characteristic of the Romance vernacular of each area



(NIETO BALLESTER 1997: 314): *Santa Columna de Veigue* and *Santa Comba* in the province of La Coruña, *Santa Columba de Ribadelouro* in that of Pontevedra, *Santa Columba de Órrea* and *Santa Coloma de Villapún* in that of Lugo, *Santa Colomba de las Carabias* in that of León, *Santa Coloma de Gramenet* and *Santa Coloma de Cervelló* in that of Barcelona and *Santa Coloma de Farners* in that of Gerona.

**Santa Eufemia (Saint Euphemia).** She was a saint from Chalcedon, martyr of Emperor Diocletian in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, and patron of some Galician localities such as Orense and Tuy. Her worship spread throughout the West after the fourth ecumenical council in Chalcedon in 451. Some Spanish hagiotoponyms which bear the name of the saint are *Santa Eufemia*, a town in Córdoba; *Sant Eufemia del Barco* in Zamora, *Santa Eufemia del Arroyo* in Valladolid and *Santa Eufemia de Oscos* in Asturias. Other names which derive from the Latin *sancta Eufemia* and present a greater phonetic complexity are *Santoña* in Santander, *Santovenia* in the province of León, *Santoveña* and *Santueña* in Asturias.

**Santa Eugenia (Saint Eugenia).** She was a Christian martyr from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Toponyms which bear her name are *Santa Eugènia de Berga* (Gerona), *Santa Eugènia* (Palma de Majorca), *Santa Eugea de Ribeira* (La Coruña) and probably *Santimina* which seems to be identified with a “monasterium Sanctae Eugenia” (LÓPEZ SANTOS 1960: 610).

**Santa Eulalia (Saint Eulalia).** Saint Eulalia of Mérida was martyred during the persecution of Maximian at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> when she was twelve years old, according to the testimony of Prudentius. Her worship had an enormous devotion in Spain as can be seen in the hagiotoponyms that bear her name. *Eulalia* is of Greek origin and composed of *eu* ‘good’ and *labeo* ‘speak’. In Catalan, the *l* has occasionally dissimilated in *r* with which the form *Eulària* is frequent, although in toponymy the form *Eulàlia* is maintained in *Santa Eulàlia de Ronçana* in the province of Barcelona and *Santa Eulàlia del Río* on the island of Ibiza. Outside the Catalan linguistic domain, the hagianym appears with relative frequency in the Spanish dominion under the patrimonial form *Santa Olaja* (NIETO BALLESTER 1997: 315), which is the result of the Spanish evolution *-li-* to *-j-*. Therefore we can mention *Santa Olaja* in the province of Burgos, *Santa Olaja de Eslonza*, *Santa Olaja de Porma* and *Santa Olaja de la Acción* in that of León, *Santa Olaja de la Vega* in that of Palencia. In spite of this, in the same historic Castile we find the name *Olalla* in names like *Santa Olalla de Aguayo* (Santander), *Santa Olalla de Bureba* (Burgos) and *Santa Olalla de Yeltes* (Salamanca) and in the province of Huelva *Santa Olalla del cala*. Other evolutions of the hagianym are *Santa Olaria de Ara* (Huesca).



**Santa Juliana (Saint Juliana).** She was a martyred victim of the persecution of Maximian. The antiquity of the toponyms derived from the name of this saint evidence the importance of her worship in the Iberian Peninsula: *Santillana del Mar*, an important town located in rugged land close to the sea; *Santayana* also in Cantabria, *Santillana de Campos*, a hamlet of Osorno la Mayor, Palencia; *Illana* in the province of Guadalajara.

**Santa Leocadia (Saint Leocadia).** She was a Toledo martyr from the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Her invocation is maintained in the Asturian toponym *Santa Llocaya*.

**Santa Lucía (Saint Lucia).** She was a virgin and Christian martyr in the times of Diocletian. *Santa Lucía de Tirajana* (Gran Canarias), *Santa Lucía de Gordón* (León) and *Santa Lucía de Ocón* (Ciudad Real) are toponyms which refer to the saint's name.

**Santa Marina (Saint Marina).** She was a virgin and martyr from Western Europe. *Santa Marina de la Torre*, *Santa Marina del Rey* and *Santa Marina de Valdeón* are three Leon municipalities with the name of the saint. In Lugo, we also find the municipality of *Santa Mariña*.

**Santa Susana (Saint Susan).** She was a martyr in the persecution of Diocletian in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. We find the hagionym in *Santa Susanna*, a locality of Barcelona.

#### 4. Saints in general: Confessors, bishops and preachers

**San Agustín (Saint Augustine).** He was the bishop of Hippo and one of the great fathers of the Church. His worship can be found in the following place names: *San Agustín de Guadaliz* in the province of Madrid, *San Agustín* in that of Teruel, *Sant Agustí de Lluçanès* in that of Gerona and *Sant Agustí des Vedrà* on the island of Ibiza.

**San Antonino (Saint Antoninus).** He was a Florentine bishop who lived during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In the north of Spain we find at least two places with the name of the saint: *Santueña* in Asturias and *Santantuiño* and *Santuño* in Lugo.

**San Antonio (Saint Anthony).** The Spanish hagiotoponyms which contain the name of the saint must be on the whole related to Saint Anthony abbot, an Egyptian hermit of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century AD., and Saint Anthony of Padua, a Portuguese preacher from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It would be very difficult to mention all the cities and places under the invocation of Saint Anthony, although we will mention some of them which illustrate the worship of the saint in Spain: *Sant Antoni de Portmany*, a town on the island of Ibiza; *San Antonio de Benagéber* in Valencia; *San Antonio de Requena*, a hamlet of the Valencian municipality of Requena; *Sant Antoni de Calonge* in Gerona. What seems to



be clear is that the toponyms having the name of *San Antón* are linked to the worshipping of the hermit: *Isla de San Antón* in La Coruña and Pontevedra and *San Antón* in Málaga, Almería, Burgos and Seville, amongst other places in Spain.

**San Ataúlfo (Saint Ataulf).** He was the bishop of Santiago de Compostela who, in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, wished to fight against the relaxation of the clergy's customs. In northern Spain we find two toponyms which remind us of the name of the saint, *Santo Dolfo* in Asturias and *Sandolfe* in Lugo, and in Catalonia *San Tou*, in the Tordera neighbourhood (Barcelona).

**San Carlos (Saint Charles).** This is the name of a famous Milanese archbishop (1538–1584) and nephew of Pope Pius IV. From this name originates the well-known name of *Sant Carles de la Ràpita*, a city on the coast at the entrance to the Alfaques, in the province of Tarragona. After the Re-conquest it was ceded by Count Ramon Berenguer IV to the monastery of Sant Cugat who, in turn, gave it to the knights of the Temple. It was practically uninhabited until Charles IV decided to turn it into an enormous Mediterranean port which turned into a city with the name of *San Carles* (Saint Charles). Other toponyms of the Iberian Peninsula with the name of this saint are *Villanueva de San Carlos* and *San Carlos del Valle* which are both in Ciudad Real, *San Carlos* on the island of Ibiza (Balearic Islands), *Villarreal de San Carlos* in Cáceres (Extremadura) and *San Carlos Minas* in Córdoba.

**San Cipriano (Saint Cyprian).** He was a bishop of Carthage in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Some toponyms with the name of the saint are *San Cibrao de Viña* (Lugo), *Sant Ciprià dels Alls* (Gerona), *Sant Cebrià de Vallalta* (Barcelona), *San Cibrián* (Pontevedra) and *San Cibrao de Las* (Orense).

**San Clemente (Saint Clement).** He was the Pope of Rome at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Some places in Spain that bear this saint's name are *San Clemente* (Cuenca), *San Clemente de Valdueza* (León), *San Clemente del Valle* (Lugo), *Sant Climent de Taull* in the Lérida region Pyrenees, *Sant Climent Sasebas* (Lérida) and *San Climent de Llobregat* (Barcelona).

**San Dalmacio (Saint Dalmacio).** He was an abbot who lived during the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. It is very probable that the toponym of *Sant Dalmay* (Gerona) alludes to this saint.

**San Fausto (Saint Faustus).** Although it is not clear in which period he lived, it seems that around the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century he dedicated his life to evangelising Saracen regions. In the province of Barcelona we find *Sant Fost de Campsentelles* which remits to the saint's name.



**San Isidro (Saint Isidore).** He was a labouring saint, patron of the city and community of Madrid, who lived during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. *San Isidro* (Tenerife)

and *Sant Isidre de Albaterra* (Alicante) are two names which remind us of the worshipping of the saint.

**San Justo (Saint Justus).** It is not at all clear if the Hispanic hagiotoponyms with the name of this saint refer to Saint Justus of Lyon, a French bishop who died at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, to Justus the child or to another saint Justus, such as Saint Justus of Alcalá in the 4<sup>th</sup> century or Saint Justus of Beauvais from the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, of many. In any case it is a representative toponym of the Hispanic linguistic domain: *Sant Just Desvern* in the province of Barcelona, *San Justo de Doriga* in Asturias; *San Justo de Cabanillas*, *San Justo de la Vega*, *Sant Justo de las Regueras* and *San Justo de los Oteros* in the province of León; *San Justo de Valmuza* in Salamanca; *San Justo*, a municipality of Zamora; *Santiuste* in Guadalajara and Segovia and in the four provinces of Galicia we have various places and parishes with the name of *San Xusto*, as well as *San Xusto da Repostería* a parish of the council of Palas de Rei in the province of Lugo and *San Xusto de Cabarcos* a parish in the council of Barreiros which is also in the same province of Lugo.

**San Marcial (Saint Martial).** He was a bishop from the 1<sup>st</sup> century. His worship is conserved in toponyms such as *Sant Marçal* (Barcelona), *Samartiño* (Orense), *Sant Martivell* (Gerona) and *Samartiños* (La Coruña).

**San Martín (Saint Martin).** Martin de Tours is one of the saints to whom the greatest number of places of worship are dedicated on the whole planet. In the dioceses of Gerona alone, there are already 50 churches and parishes which have him as their patron. However, this number is insignificant when compared with the more than 3 500 parishes which are dedicated to him in France. The devotion to Saint Martin of Tours extends all over the world: France and Germany head the list, although we also find examples in Catalonia (*Sant Martí Sarroca*, *Sant Martí de Tous*, *Sant Martí de Centelles*, *Sant Martí Sarroca*; see also MARSÁ 1995), in Spain (*San Martín de la Vega*, *San Martín de Montalbán*, *San Martín de Trevejo*, *San Martín de Valdeiglesias*, *San Martín del Rey Aurelio*) and in other countries in general, his life has marked a period.

**San Millán (Saint Emilian).** He is a saint from the 6<sup>th</sup> century who lived in what are now the surroundings of the monastery of *San Millán de la Cogolla* (Logroño). Some toponyms with the name of the saint, other than the aforementioned, are *San Millán de Juarros* (Burgos), *Saminao* (Burgos) and *San Millán* (Álava).

**San Miguel (Saint Michael).** The name of the Archangel has allowed this hagionym to be worshipped in places where he is the patron. Some examples are *Sant Miquel de Fluvià* and *Sant Miquel de Cruïlles* in Gerona, *Sant Miquel*



*de Balansat* (Balearic Islands) *San Miguel de Arbona* (Tenerife), *San Miguel de Salmas* (Alicante), *San Miguel de Valero* and *San Miqueles* (Salamanca).

**San Orencio (Saint Orentius).** He was a bishop of Aquitaine who lived in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Places with the name of this saint are *Sandrenzo* and *San Orente* (La Coruña) and *Santorens* (Huesca).

**San Roberto (Saint Robert).** It seems that *San Robredín* (Lugo) refers to Saint Robert of Molesmes, one of the founders of the Cistercian order who lived in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. It would not be preposterous to think of him as being Saint Robert Melarmino who lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, although we are more inclined towards the first option.

**San Urbano (Saint Urban).** He was a Pope of the Church who died in the year 230. His invocation appears in the toponym *San Urbez*, a place in the locality of Huesca.

**San Vicente (Saint Vincent).** Saint Vincent Ferrer is the patron of the Valencian Community (Spain). He was born and died in Valencia (1350–1419). He was a Valencian Dominican, miracle worker, preacher, logician and philosopher. His worship extends over most the parts he travelled through during his pilgrimage. His elevation to the altars in the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century infused enormous vitality into the recollection of his acts and fame. Spanish places bearing the name of the saint are *San Vicente del Raspeig* (Alicante), *San Vicente de la Barquera* (Santander), *San Vicente do Mar* (Pontevedra), *San Vicente de Alcántara* (Badajoz), *San Vicencio* (Orense) and *San Vicente de la Sonsierra* (Logroño).

**Santa Ana (Saint Anne).** An old tradition, which began in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, attributes the names of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne to the parents of the Virgin Mary. The worship of Saint Anne had already been introduced into the Eastern Orthodox Church in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, and from there it passed to that of the West in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. In Spain we find hagiotoponyms with the name of the saint such as *Santana* in Palencia, *Santa Ana de Pusa* in Toledo, *Santa Ana de Bolueta* in Bilbado, *Santa Ana la Real* in Huelva and *Santa Ana* in Albacete, Cáceres and León.

**Santa Brígida (Saint Brigitta).** Saint Brigitte of Kildare or Brigitte of Ireland (5<sup>th</sup> century) was a nun, abbess, and Irish Christian founder of various convents who was worshipped as though a saint. Although her worship spread through northern Europe, it is in the island of Gran Canarias where we find the municipality of *Santa Brígida*.

**Santa Magdalena (Saint Magdalene).** It seems that the toponym of *Santa Magdalena de Pulpis* (Castellón) refers the name of *Maria Magdalena* (Mary Magdalene), who was one of the first women who met and followed Jesus.



**Santa Marta (Saint Martha).** She was a saint who welcomed Jesus in her home in Bethsaida. Her name appears in the following places: *Santa Marta de Tormes* (Salamanca), *Santa Marta de Magasca* (Cáceres), *Santa Marta de los Barros* (Badajoz) and *Santas Martas* (León).

**Santa Paula (Saint Paula).** She was a Roman saint from the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It seems entirely probable that the *Santa Pola* in Alicante remits to the name of this saint.

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