

They prove that Mallorcan came to the Canary Islands before the Conquest

After restoration of a coin of Jaime II of Aragon, the Cabildo of Gran Canaria makes the study public

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The coin, photo of the Cabildo de Gran Canaria



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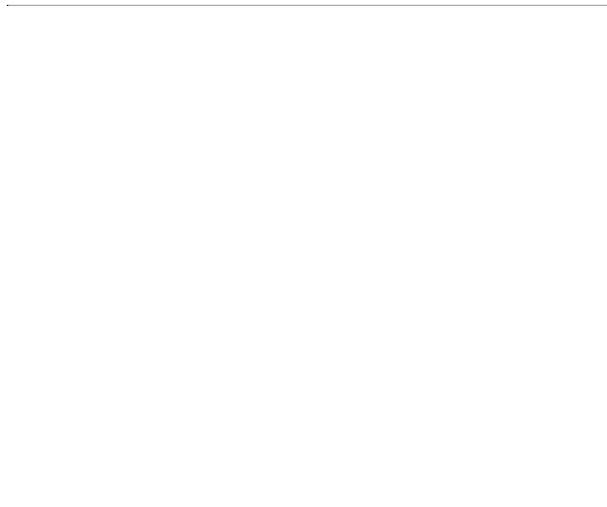
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The [archeology](#) has come to attest to what they tell ancient chronicles the history of the Fortunate Islands, through the study of one of the pieces recovered in archaeological excavations that have taken place in recent years in prehispanic site of the Cave Pintada de Gáldar, in the north of the island of **Gran Canaria** . The coin, one of the 70 that have been found, had been considered until now as coined during the reign of **Ferdinand II** of Aragon, that is, Ferdinand the Catholic, husband of Isabella the Catholic, and therefore framed chronologically at the time of the Castilian conquest of the archipelago, in the XV century, like the rest of the found coins (real Castilian and Portuguese ceutís).





The surprise has been to discover that the currency in question, after the restoration to which it has been subjected, belongs to the reign of **James II** of Aragon, who reigned between 1291 and 1327. The filiation of the currency to that period has been possible by the iconographic study of it, in one of whose faces is the characteristic patriarchal cross, double crossbeam, and above all by the analysis of its alloy, which have determined that it was struck a century before the beginning of the conquest of the islands.

The archaeologists María del Cristo González Marrero and **Javier Velasco** have ruled out that the coin could reach the islands by the hand of a soldier or a Castilian settler, since little could be served by an old coin from another kingdom, and that It was legal.

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As they have pointed out, there are historical texts that speak of the presence of Mallorcan navigators in the 14th century in the archipelago, but so far no archaeological vestige to corroborate these testimonies had been documented.

These written sources speak of several Mallorcan expeditions between 1340 and 1350, in which several merchants and families of settlers arrived in **the Canary Islands** , along with a group of Augustinian friars. The best known is that of 1342, headed by the merchants Francesc des Valer and Domingo Gual. According to these chronicles, when seeing the canaries that came in peace, they gave them land, cattle and women, and lived with them for about 40 years.

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During this period several conversions to Christianity of the aboriginal population took



of Fortune, by papal bull, in Telde, in the south of the island. There is talk of the construction of two churches and several warehouses, in addition to a small hermitage in a cave dedicated to Sta. Águeda, also in the south of the island. At the end of the 14th century, concretely in 1393, coexistence was broken by unknown causes, and some sources included the so-called "martyrdom of the thirteen brothers", in which the friars were murdered. There is speculation about a possible slave expedition arriving from abroad, or a clash between both cultures. Shortly after, in 1402, the definitive Spanish conquest of the archipelago will begin, which will end in 1496 on the island of Tenerife.

Exciting [history](#) and passionate [Archeology](#) , no doubt, that continues to provide us with new information about those who preceded us. In fact, as a result of the discovery of this coin, the researchers of **the Cueva Pintada** Museum will review other pieces attributed to the moment of the conquest, to confirm if they are all Castilian or refer us to a different origin.



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