Carlos Coloma, a member of the Valencian branch of the family of the Counts of Elda, and himself Marquis de la Espina, was born in 1566 at Alicante. From the age of fifteen onwards he pursued a military career, being sent in 1588 to the Spanish Netherlands. His promotion was rapid, and from 1611 to 1617 he was Viceroy of Majorca, during which period he wrote a great part of his history of the wars of the Spanish Low Countries from 1588 to 1599, the book which is the subject of this article. In December 1617 he again went north to become Warden or military governor of Cambrai, a post which he held for at least fifteen years, although he was more often than not absent on other missions. Early in 1621 he was on a mission to Madrid, sent by Archduke Albert, Governor of the Low Countries; and while in Madrid he stayed in the house of his friend Don Diego Ibarra, to whom he was shortly to dedicate his book. Returning to Flanders during the winter of 1621-22, he was sent as ambassador to England on 7 May 1622, and it is to be supposed that he had just finished writing his long book and had decided in a hurry to have it printed before he left the Continent for England. Coloma published a translation of Tacitus at Douai in 1629 and died in Madrid in 1637.

The licence for publishing his history of the wars of the Low Countries officially was not granted at Brussels until 19 August 1623, and the first authorised edition appeared at Antwerp in 1624. Even this 1624 edition (of which the British Museum has a copy) is so rare that the bibliographers do not mention it, believing the 1625 Antwerp reissue to be the first edition. But in fact an unauthorised first edition had already been printed without imprint in 1622. This is now a very rare book, and indeed has been unknown to almost all scholars until Miss Turner wrote her thesis in 1950. Palau calls the edition of

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1 I have not been able to see A. Llorente y Lannas, Don Carlos Coloma, historiador militar y político, Madrid, 1876. (Discursos leídos ante la Academia de la Historia... 21 Junio de 1876.) I have consulted instead the unpublished Ph.D. thesis by Miss Olga Turner (London University, 1950) entitled 'Some aspects of the life and works of Carlos Coloma, 1566-1637'. Miss Turner published at least two articles extracted from her thesis, one being 'Las obras de don Carlos Coloma', Idealidad, año VI, No. 36, June-July 1957, Alicante. She knew of the Brussels and Amsterdam copies of the 1622 edition, but did not discuss possible places of printing. She merely implies that she did not think the book had been printed in Spain.

2 The British Museum has the first authorised edition printed by 'Pedro & Juan Bellero', Antwerp, 1624, and the same printers' reissue of 1625. The bibliographers have all ignored the 1624 edition.
1625 the first, when in reality it is the third. Antonio mentions only the Barcelona edition of 1627 and Foppens that of Antwerp, 1625. Graesse knows the Antwerp 1625 edition and that of Barcelona, 1627; while Brunet also knows only those of 1625 and 1627. Sánchez Alonso, however, has heard of the 1622 edition, but gives no details.

The catalogue of the Biblioteca Casanatense in Rome is the only source in which I can find the 1622 edition listed: it is here given as ‘impresso en el anno 1622, sine loco & Typogr. (d) X VIII. 71’.

The four copies of the 1622 edition now known to me are: Biblioteca Casanatense, Rome; University Library, Amsterdam; Royal Library, Brussels; and the fourth copy recently bought by the British Museum from a private owner in Germany. Miss Turner significantly noted in her thesis that she had been unable to locate a copy in either England or Spain.

The bibliographical description of the book is as follows: Titlepage: (black) DE // (red) LAS GUERRAS // (black) DE LOS // (red) ESTADOS BAXOS, // (black) DESDE EL ANO // (red) DE. M.D.LXXXVIII. // (black) HASTA EL // DE M.D.XC.IX. // (red) HISTORIA DEL MAESTRE DE CAMPO DON CARLOS // COLOMA... // A DON DIEGO IBARRA CAVALLEIRO... // [woodcut, 50 × 67 mm., containing a crude version of the coat of arms of the Valencian branch of the Coloma family] (red) IMPRESO EN EL ANNO // (black) DE M.DC.XXII.

Quarto. 428 leaves.* A-Z Aa-Zz Aaa-Zzz Aaaa-Gggg; a-z aa-gg. The text is divided into twelve books, each separately paginated thus:

2. F4r-M1v. pp. 44.
3. M2r-T4r, pp. 61.
4. T4v-Z4v, AaIr-CCIV, pp. 31.
5. Cc2r-Mm3r, pp. 75.

1 Antonio Palau y Dulcet, Manual del librero hispanoamericano, tom. 3, 1950, p. 569: No. 56928 is the Antwerp edition of 1625, which he calls the first: and the second he says is Barcelona, Manescal, a costa de Juan Simón, 1627; No. 56929 = Antwerp, Juan Bellero, 1635.
5 J. C. Brunet, Manuel du libraire, tom. 6, Paris 1865, col. 1406, No. 25037: Antwerp 1625 and 1635; Barcelona 1627.