

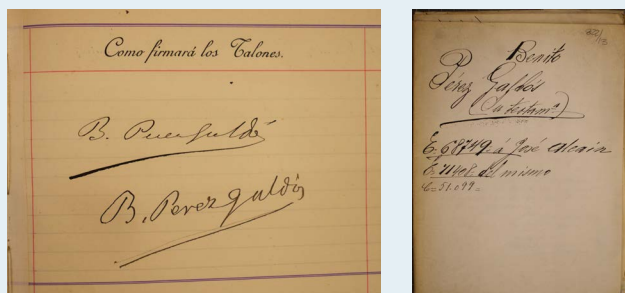
**BENITO PÉREZ GALDÓS AT THE BANCO DE ESPAÑA**

The Banco de España’s Historical Archive is a valuable resource for the study of history, both economic history and that of many other specialisations and branches of the humanities and social sciences.

In 2020, to mark the **centenary of the death of Benito Pérez Galdós (1843-1920)**, the Historical Archive searched its records for any trace of the illustrious writer at this institution. The investigation discovered that Galdós was a customer of the Banco de España; he opened a current account on 20 July 1898 with account number 14,893. Among the archives is a ledger of authorised signatures for account holders which is signed by Galdós himself. There is also a file in his name containing a copy of his will, signed in March 1919 in Madrid, which names his daughter, María Pérez y Cobián, as sole heir to his property.

Many of us remember Galdós’ face, thanks in part to the popular 1,000 peseta banknote in his honour, which

was issued on 23 October 1979. That note was part of a new series that satisfactorily covered banknote and coin circulation needs with fewer denominations. Further, the quality and format of the banknotes made them more durable and provided safeguards against counterfeiting. Their design, which modernised the image of the banknotes, was the work of José María Cruz Novillo, the designer responsible for some of Spain’s most iconic logos, including those of Correos (public postal service), Renfe (national railway company), the Treasury, the region of Madrid, the National Police and the PSOE (political party).



Detail of the Banco de España’s authorised signature ledger for 1897 and 1898, bearing the signature of Benito Pérez Galdós for account number 14,893 (left). File in the name of Benito Pérez Galdós containing the copy of his will (right).



The 1,000 peseta banknote from 1979 features the head of Benito Pérez Galdós, based on a portrait by Sorolla, on the obverse side (left) and a landscape of the Canary Islands, the writer’s homeland, on the reverse side.