

## CAN LLANAS STORIES





The earliest historic accounts that refer to the Can Llanas building date back to the mid-16th century. That is when the Vic Bishopric by means of Manlleu's archpriesthood -when prior Tarafa was archpriest and probably Vic's bishop was Joan de Tormo (who would later become the 62nd President of the Government of Catalonia) -granted the exclusivity to grind the wheat of Manlleu and its farmhouses to the family Regàs from La Cavalleria.

Such exclusivity mainly involved two mills, one of them being further up by the Ter River and the other on the prevailing Can Llanas site. In fact, some of the latter old stone stairs and entry archway still exist today.

It is from the aforementioned entrance archway that Mimcord took the old Tarafa coat of arms to turn it into the company's present logo.

The Tarafa coat of arms can be found on the first ex-libris that ever existed in Southern Europe. This being so because Francesc Tarafa i Savall, who was born in 1495, also became canon of the Barcelona Cathedral as well as its library's administrator.



EX-LIBRIS from Prior Francesc Tarafa i Savall (Llerona, ~1495 - Rome 1556)

Out of his various remarkable merits, it is worth mentioning Tarafa owning the first known Ex-Libris in the Iberian Peninsula.



Detail of Gothic-Renaissance cloister promoted by Francesc Tarafa's nephew, Marc Antoni, where one can find the Tarafa coat of arms.



Can Llanas.

As a renowned heraldist, Tarafa himself described the family emblem to be "On a vair of argent (i.e. silver) and azure (i.e. blue) with a golden fess and a Tau cross of sable (i.e. black)".





In 1705, at the Saint Sebastian chapel (in the village of Sta. Eulàlia de Riuprimer) the Pact of Vigatans was signed, which was favourable to the House of Austria. This event would become the embryo of the Succession War leading to the fall of Barcelona in 1714. One of the signatories of this pact was Carles Regàs i Cavalleria, owner of the Can Llanas mill at the time. He and Antoni de Cortada were the two citizens of Manlleu participating in the signing.

The mills owner supporting the House of Austria resulted in the so-called “Comú de Manlleu” (the “Common people of Manlleu”) being in favour of Phillip V; thus becoming one of the three towns in Catalonia (alongside Centelles and Cervera) to be considered “botiflers”(collaborationists) as opposed to the followers of the House of Austria or “vigatans”.



In fact, some years earlier, when the Comú wanted to build another public property mill probably next to the bridge, where one can find the Muntadas mill Regàs called for the “vigatans” at the Bac de Roda, attacked Manlleu and pulled down the new mill. They also besieged the Comú, whose people had to take refuge in the church by resorting to the “Pau i Treva” (Peace and Truce) pact. Only when the Vic's bishop commanded him to do so did Regàs move back. For years, the Comú hired an “optician” from Barcelona who, from the top of the bell tower and with a handheld telescope would watch for troop moves around La Cavalleria area to give notice of possible attacks.

These events led to the people of Manlleu coming out against the “vigatans”, which was viewed as the former taking Phillip V's side, which would later result in the town being given the title of “Fidelísima Villa” (i.e. extremely loyal town). This meant its citizens would be free from the obligations all the other villages had to meet; namely, to shelter and feed the King's troops whenever they were around, having the bread knife tied up on the kitchen table, or the obligation to go serve the King during war. In addition, Manlleu was allowed to organize “La Fira del Rei” (The King's Fair), which would inaccurately derive into “La Fira de Reis” (The Kings' Fair) as though the event had to do with the Three Wise Men, celebrated on 6 January.





In the course of the Carlist Wars by mid-19th century-, the mills were destroyed during the various attacks the Carlists inflicted on Manlleu, as it was a well-known liberal town. By the time the wars ended, one of the Llanas family descendants tried to revive the place. He purchased the waters concession from the Regàs family and a new water wheel was installed to operate some looms.

In order for him to start running the factory, however, the Comú required that the wheel be used to grind wheat on Saturdays and Sundays, because for many years there weren't any other mills besides that one in the area. Furthermore, the community did not see the point in setting up semi-automatic looms that would “take many people's jobs away” if the wheel could be used to grind wheat instead.



Note that contrary to popular belief, the building's name “Can Llanas” originates from the Llanas family name; it has nothing to do with wool (i.e. “llana” is the word for wool in Catalan) as wool was not worked there but cotton, and synthetic fibres in more modern times.



Toward the year 1900, a new society led by family Girona (Bank of Barcelona) bought the building, installing a Francis turbine that would use the force of water to run an incipient spinning mill.





Autumn of 1919 was very rainy. There were heavy floods that destroyed the dam -by then a wood one -making the turbine inoperative. The dam was rebuilt and next came the settlement of a new Francis turbine, which toward year 1930 started running, generating electric energy for the first time and obviously feeding the existing electric engines of the factory machines.

In 1952, the (currently working) Kaplan turbine is introduced, which is able to produce up to 240 Kw/h of power with the river water flow. This turbine is of Swiss origin and it is rather particular because the generator is mounted on the turbine's shaft itself.



During the second half of the 20th century, the number of people working at Can Llanas is at its peak, at times reaching the quantity of 250 employees. It is the so-called period of “La Hilandera”, a well-known cotton yarn brand at the time. The firm was owned by the Jové family, who was better known by the bank holding the same name, and which kept its ownership until year 1999, when present-day owner MIMCORD, S.A. purchased it.

From that period, people remember the explosion of a steam boiler feeding the dye system; the unfortunate event occurred on June 12th 1969, causing the death of a worker and the collapse of part of the factory's lodgings. Even though there were people living in the Can Llanas premises, one cannot consider the site as an industrial colony, as those apartments were there as payment in kind of the main executives.





As a curious fact, note the three statues on the factory wall. They represent Saint James (Manlleu's patron saint), Saint Anthony Mary Claret (patron of the spinning industry) and the Virgin Mary of Montserrat, at the center. The latter is not in her usual position, which would be sitting on a throne; instead, she is standing up, because according to family Jové's policy, “En aquesta casa no s'asseu ni Déu” (meaning “In here no one gets to sit down” using the expression “ni Déu” that means “not even God”).



Besides, it is worth having a look at the old sign marking the meeting point where the militia would gather during the times of Primo de Rivera. Back then the “camí ral” (or old highroad path) connecting the towns of Manlleu and Roda went well across the centre of the Can Llanas premises. It is from 1940 onwards that this road was blocked and an alternative detour pathway over the factory was opened instead.



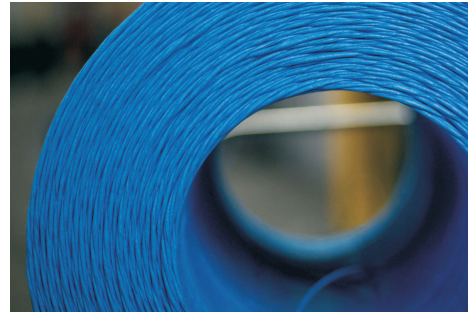
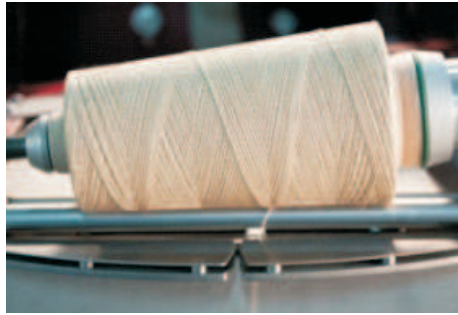
In August 2009, the plant became a location for the shooting of a factory scene for the film “Pa Negre” (Black Bread), which is based on Emili Teixidor's novels “Pa Negre” and “Un assassí d'ocells” (Portrait of a Bird Killer). The Ter Industrial Museum collaborated by providing old spinning machines, which were properly installed and started, even.



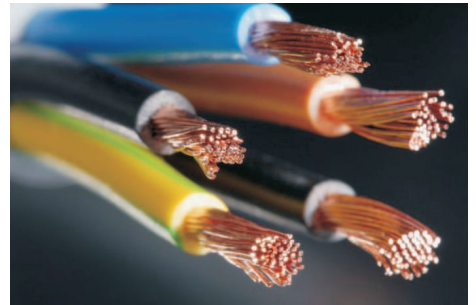




Nowadays, Can Llanas is headquarters to MIMCORD, mainly manufacturing paper yarn and cord and operating paper and cardboard for various uses.



Our customers produce the following:





Paper Cord & Yarn Manufacturer



The mark of  
responsible forestry



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