Cabanyal Market

The current Dr. Lorenzo de la Flor square, which housed the old Cabanyal Market, is today one of the most important squares in the neighbourhood.

Before it was built, there were street markets, one in each section. Specifically, there were three stalls: those of Canyamelar in the old shipyards, those of Cabanyal in the wide street of San Andrés and those of Cap de França in the square of the bridge of the Angels. Each Market was integrated in four guilds: the meat sellers; of wine, vinegar and spirits; of oil and soap and of snow (that they brought from the area of Requena or Utiel). The guilds were in charge of dealing with the Town Hall for the annual payment for the right to occupy a stall.

In 1837, the town "Poble Nou de la Mar" was constituted, formed by Canyamelar, Cabanyal and Cap de França, with full autonomy for 60 years. The new municipality did not have a Market in good condition, having to develop the activity of buying and selling in some traveling Markets, outdoors and with removable facilities.

In 1855, in view of the need for a stable market to supply the population, the Town Council began to plan its construction. It was in that same year when the first licenses to build and urbanize the new neighbourhood began to be granted.

In order to carry out the project of the Market, the Provincial Council was counted on, since its construction would be very beneficial for the population as a whole. In addition, the Town Councils had "the duty to take care of the supply of foodstuffs for their citizens and consequently to provide them with a suitable site for the establishment of the Markets".
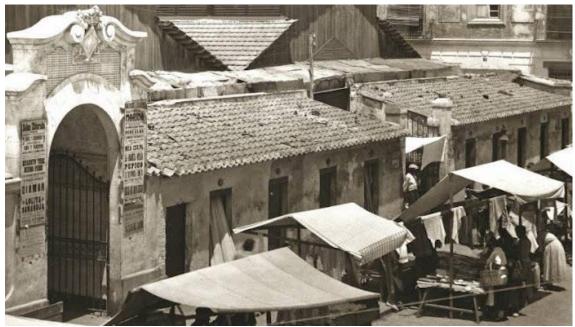
The price of the construction was 11,995 escudos and 400 thousandths (=29,988 pesetas). The City Council would be paying the contractor of the work Pedro Llorca, based on the rent that was charged to sellers, this was finally canceled in 1876.

The current Market, set its first stone in July 1958, after the flood. It occupies more than 3500 m^2 with stalls that have belonged to several generations. This Market, which would be the neuralgic point of the Cabanyal for 89 years, had access from its four facades, the main one being the one facing San Andrés street, today Escalante street, in honor of the playwright who was born in that street.
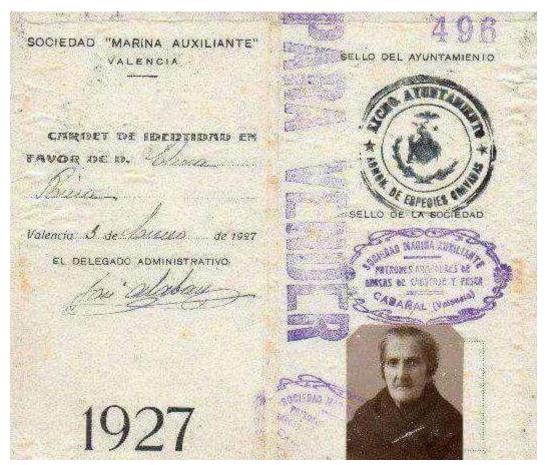
On the outside we find the "Tira de Contar", where the products are sold directly from the farmer to the consumer. Its origin dates back to the times of the Taifa of Balansiya: the magistrate who governed the trade (who received the name of Muhtasib, and was in charge of controlling the weights and measures, the price policy and the supply of products) arranged the farmers in a row, one next to the other, and the sale was made by counting the pieces that were offered. The "Tira de Contar" is a foral institution unique

in the world. Its name comes from the way in which the products of the orchard were marketed from the foral era. The unit set the standard, and it was one, two, three, four or more tomatoes or any other vegetable offered to the public on the ground, demanded by the customer. It was just a matter of "counting" the pieces that were displayed in a row in a certain place in the market.

The specialty of the Cabanyal Market was always the fish that was sold separately from the rest of the stalls. Its quality was one of the most highly regarded, together with the fish sold in the Central Market, normally also served by fisherwomen from the Cabanyal who have known its quality since their childhood. It has always been said that the people of the neighbourhood know, just by looking into the eyes of a fish, how to guarantee its quality and freshness.

The old Market Square. Source: https://valenciaplaza.com/escalante-el-seu-carrer-i-el-vell-mercat-del-cabanyal.

License for the sale of fish. Source: https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-mNdnQw_4OQw/XFVLRGDHg1I/AAAAAAAANmQ/FFaWvc4PDl83LcO6uS_1g09sbXN7EWG2ACLcBGAs/s1600/11350623_1587195068210065_5258253675127777736_n.jpg.

El Pueblo Nuevo del Mar en 1883. Aparece dividido en los tres barrios tradicionales de Cabañal, Cañamelar y Punta de Francia. Fuente: https://es.wikipedia.org/