



Left to right Isabel Balsinde and Pilar Benito of FUE and Simon Martínez of BCA37UK
 .14.04.2023 meeting at Fundacion Universitario de España, Calle de Alcalá 93, 2809 Madrid.



Both this painting and the bust between Pilar and Simon came to the archive from Paris in 1977.

Meeting at Fundacion Universitario de España 14.04.2023

The long relationship between FUE and the BCA37UK was first established by Natalia Benjamin over twenty years ago and this has been developed and strengthened firstly by Carmen Kilner and now for the last eight years by Simon Martínez. Amongst the leather bound books of the seventeenth and eighteenth century archives of the Golden Age are to be found the records held by the Basque Children Committee of the children in its care until 1950. These include photographs and ID cards of the *Maestras and Auxilares* and the record cards of the children who came to Britain 85 years ago on the *Vapor Habana*.

Isabel the director and Pilar the archivist at FUE have catalogued the papers of the the Archive of the Government in Exile of the Second Republic (1945 – 1977) which include the surviving papers, documents and photos of the Basque Children Committee which were considered then and are now considered confidential and private to the individual until their death or until 100 years after the birth of the person about whom the record is about. The meeting between Simon, Isabel, and Pilar was in Spanish and very very friendly. The life stories of the children who stayed in Britain after their evacuation are partial but the information contained in this Archive which also includes a typed list of all those who came to England on 23 May 1937 completed by the *Asistencia Social* is the evidence needed to satisfy the Law of Democratic Memory 2022 by which descendants can become Spanish again.

As the 85 anniversary year ends the Association thanks FUE for its service to all the descendants it has helped

Simon Martínez 27.04.2023