

García Cubas in his *Geographical Dictionary* describes Bronces as having large silver deposits, and mentions that with the name of Bronces, there is a population, a mineral and it is a municipality; he reports 537 inhabitants in the **municipality**. (Fig.2)



Fig. 2
Seal used on Civil Registry documents
of the municipality of Bronces
(Source: Juan Portela's archive)

From Don Juan Portela, we obtained the following data: While the San Javier Mine (southwest of Bronces) was founded in 1706, **Bronces was founded in 1767** (Fig. 3) and became the most important mine in the region, it had a lot of extraction activity, even during the years of the French intervention; at the end of the 19th century, one of the members of the wealthy Couret family of French origin, most of them based in Sinaloa, lived in the mine, it was Maximiliano Couret and his family.



Fig. 3

The area highlighted with a red circle is where the town of Bronces and its mine were located, according to information from the Chronicler of San Javier

Geographic location:: 28°36'27"N 109°43'30" W

The light brown rectangle on the left of the image is where Google incorrectly indicates that Bronces is located.
(Source: Google Maps, current era)

In **1901**, a National Compendium of Mining Zones mentions that the Bronces mine, like the nearby **San Javier** and **La Barranca** mines, has veins of silver in sedimentary rocks, which contain, to a lesser extent, other minerals, such as chalcocite, tetrahedrite, pyrite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite and multiple silver sulfides (Fig. 4).



Fig.4

Map showing the mines of: Bronces (red dot), and circled in red the mines of San Javier and La Barranca (Source: Google Maps, current era)

Mining activity declined in the area, and the only town that survived was San Javier, which achieved municipality status in 1934. **Bronces disappeared** (Fig. 5). The main economic activity in the area today is agriculture, and traditionally mining, but it is an unprofitable activity.



Fig.5
Bronze Ruins

(Source: Juan Portela's archive)

In **philately**, Bronces is mentioned by Shatzkes and also by Heath & Stout as a sub-office of the **Ures postal district**, but without providing an example of any postmark or cancel. They mention its use in the 1868 Hidalgo series. (1868 – 1872).

Notes.-

(1) The political division in the state of Sonora in the 19th century consisted of 9 Districts, subdivided into municipalities and 2 Partidos (Parties).

(2) 1 league = 4.82803 kilometers.

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