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*Ritmomaquia*

## Biófilo Panclasta Timeline

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2013

Seven Years Buried Alive and Other Writings  
by Biófilo Panclasta. Ritmomaquia, 2013.

2013



**1879** October 26: Vicente R. Lizcano, better known as Biófilo Panclasta (BP) is born in Chinácota, in the northern part of the Santander Department, Colombia. Santander is the traditional home of the Colombian liberals, as opposed to the centralist conservatives.

**1882** Magón brothers found *Regeneración* in Mexico

**1883** Anniversary of Paris Commune celebrated by anarchist group in Montevideo, Uruguay. Anonymous anarchist pamphlets circulate in Chile.

**1885** Malatesta visits Buenos Aires. Elisée Reclus visits Nueva Granada in the north of Colombia and publishes his geographical work, *Colombia*.

**1884–1886, 1892–1898** Joaquín Crespo is president of Venezuela.

**1886** Malatesta looks for gold in Patagonia to fund the revolution.

**1886** BP begins elementary school.

**1889** Nietzsche's collapse, followed by madness. Malatesta returns to Europe.

**1890** Birth of Renzo Novatore.

**1890** BP wins an award in History in a school in Pamplona. About this he later commented: "It was like an intuition of the eternal exile of my life"

**1892** Death of Ravachol in France, by guillotine. First worker's congress in Brazil, with anarchists in the majority. Alexander Berkman attempts to assassinate Henry Clay Frick. He spends fourteen years in prison as a result.

**1893** Craftsmen riot in Bogotá followed by a crackdown on press freedoms and incarceration of opposition leaders by President Miguel Antonio Caro. The French governments' report refers to this as an anarchist movement practicing by propaganda by the deed.

**1897- 1898** BP studies in the Escuela Normal in Bucaramanga. He composes a small handwritten newspaper in which he fought the re-election of Miguel Antonio Caro. For this reason, and for "serious faults in discipline", he is expelled by the principal.

**1899** Libertarian periodical *El pabellón rojo* appears in Ecuador, defending Ravachol.

**1899** With Eléazar López Contreras BP founds the first public school in Capacho Nuevo (Venezuela). He participates in Cipriano Castro's overthrow of Ignacio Andrade's government.

**1900** Death of Nietzsche. *El Acrata*, anarchist journal, appears in Chile.

**190?** Jacinto Albarracín, a Colombian anarchist of indigenous descent, founds a commune in the jungle of Magdalena, Department of Boyaca. It was called “Otanche, a society without authority, concepts of property, or judicial powers.” Panclasta was later to meet him.

**1900** BP is in Valencia, Carabobo State, Venezuela.

**1899–1908** Cipriano Castro is President of Venezuela after overthrowing Ignacio Andrade, whose allegedly fraudulent presidency lasted only a year.

**1899–1902** Thousand Days’ War, civil war between right- and left-wing parties in Colombia.

**1901** Founding of Argentine Worker’s Federation. Flores Magón, now openly anarchist, in jail in Belén.

**1901** Birth of Severino Di Giovanni in Italy.

**1901** BP arrives in Cúcuta as a protest against neutrality in the War. An attempt is made to execute him.

**1902–1903** Because of the non-payment of debts by Castro’s regime, Germany and England, and subsequently many other nations, blockade Venezuela.

**1903** US activity (especially construction of canal) leads to a military uprising in the province of Panama, eventually leading to independence.

**1904** BP takes on the pseudonym Biófilo Panclasta.

As colonel under Cipriano Castro, he arrives in Barranquilla and offers his services in favor of Colombian territorial integrity against US backed separatists.

In Bogotá he is made First Assistant General of the Fourth “Expedition to Panama.”

**1904** Ecuador-Peru boundary dispute, which had been ongoing for decades, threatens to erupt into war after a series of confrontations in the Napo River basin.

**1904** Argentine Worker’s Federation renames itself to Argentine Regional Worker’s Federation (FORA) to reflect internationalism. The next year it would formally declare itself anarchist. Flores Magón begins republication of *Regeneración* in San Antonio, Texas.

**1939** J.A. Osorio Lizarazo publishes his article about Biófilo in *El Tiempo*.

In Bogotá, BP’s companion Julia Ruiz dies.

**1940** Death of Emma Goldman.

**1940** BP attempts suicide in Barranquilla, electrocuting himself with electrical cables and slitting his throat with a straight razor.

BP participates in the 5000<sup>th</sup> issue of *El Deber* with the article “Remembering the past.” *El Deber* had just published a note on his suicide attempt a few months before!

The Bucaramanga police orders BP’s expulsion from their city. He is charged with loitering and drunkenness.

**1942** March: Biófilo Panclasta dies in the Old People’s Home in Pamplona at 10:00 a.m. of a massive heart attack.

In compiling this timeline we relied heavily on the section “Biófilo Panclasta: Itinerario de lucha y sufrimiento” in *Biófilo Panclasta, el eterno prisionero*. We also found the Spanish-language Wikipedia page useful, as well as a “Cronograma del anarquismo en América Latina” we found on the Internet. This is also a good place to note that there were hundreds, maybe even thousands, of anarchist periodicals in Latin America during this period, and we have only enumerated a few representative examples.

**1928** In Bogotá BP founds the Center for Revolutionary Action and Unity. Their motto is: "Revolutionaries of all ideals, unite!" It was his only attempt to create an organization. It published a Manifesto directed to workers, peasants, and students. It was censured by the government and its signatories were investigated judicially.

In *El Socialista* BP publishes "I don't rectify, I ratify". In various issues of the newspaper *Claridad*, he publishes his "Psychological sketches of criollo revolutionaries."

**1929** "The Voice of the Peasant" anarchist-indigenist manifesto published in La Paz, Bolivia, by Luis Cusicanqui.

**1930** Beginning of overall decline of anarchism in Latin America due to State repression and growing influence of Marxism.

**1929** BP's book *Mis prisioneros, mis destierros, y mi vida* is published by Aguila Negra Editorial.

**1930–1934** Enrique Olaya Herrera is president of Colombia.

**1930** BP writes an open letter to Enrique Olaya Herrera entitled "Pariahs of the Desert: Voices of the Desert?"

**1931** Death of Severino Di Giovanni.

**1932** Death of Malatesta

**1932** Publication BP's *Seven Years Buried Alive* by Tipografía La Libertad.

**1934** BP begins a relationship with Julia Ruiz, an ex-nun who works as a fortune teller in Bogotá. A period of his life dedicated to writing begins

**1935** In the newspaper *La Democracia*, BP publishes "What Colombia Is Like" and "Rebirth".

**1934–1938** Alfonso López Pumarejo is president of Colombia.

**1935–1941** Eléazar López Contreras, Panclasta's old companion, is president of Venezuela.

**1936** The *Diario Nacional* newspaper publishes BP's open letter to President Eléazar López Contreras.

BP sends two letters to president Alfonso López Pumarejo requesting his intervention in expediting a passport to travel to Venezuela, and one thanking him for the help.

Rafael Gómez Picón interviews him in Bogotá.

**1936–1939** Spanish Revolution and Civil War.

**1904** Accused of conspiracy, BP travels to Ecuador and offers his service in the projected war with Peru.

**1904–1909** Rafael Reyes is dictator of Colombia.

**1906** BP travels to Argentina. He forms relationships with anarchist and socialist youth, going to their meetings and writing in their newspapers.

BP is invited to the Congress of the World Union of Free-Thinkers. It turns out to be a Conference of liberal thought. He does not go, and leaves for Europe.

**1907** International Anarchist Congress in Amsterdam.

**1907** BP arrives in Europe as delegate of the Federación Obrera Nacional Argentina [National Argentine Workers' Federation] to the Amsterdam Worker's Congress. He acquaints himself with all its countries, if only superficially: France, Spain, England, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, and Holland.

In Holland he debates Bestraud at a session of the "Social Studies" group.

He is confused with the Colombian delegate to the World Congress for Peace, Mr. Santiago Pérez Triana.

**1908** BP is exiled from Spain at the request of Rafael Reyes. He arrives at Puerto Colombia with the intention of continuing to Bogotá, but he must go to Panama. Reyes has him thrown out of Panama where he had taken refuge, and he is turned over as a prisoner to the authorities of the Department of Chocó, in the northeast of Colombia. In and out of jail for the next three years.

**1908–1935** Juan Vicente Gómez is dictator of Venezuela.

**1909** From Central America BP announces the new periodical *The Antichrist* to be published in Bogotá.

He heads to Cartagena, in the Bolívar Department, and he is detained by its governor, De la Vega; he is sent in a German boat to Colón, in the Putumayo Department, where he is once again taken prisoner.

BP appears before the Supreme Court of Panama and the police places him on a boat and abandons him in Colombian territory.

**1910** Mexican Revolution.

**1910** Juan Francisco Moncaleano's newspaper *Ravachol* published in Bogotá. Strongly anticlerical, it evolved from socialism to anarchism, also advocating equality of the sexes.

**1910** BP is jailed in the police barracks in Barranquilla, Atlántico Department and writes his "Datos Autobiográficos" for the newspaper *El Pueblo*, edited by Aurelio de Castro.

Thrown out of the country, he travels to Curacao, where he is expelled again. He heads for the Dominican Republic; he is expelled once more. He writes various letters about this.

**1911** *El Único*, individualist anarchist periodical, begins publication in Colón, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina. Magonists enter Baja California to make revolution. Flores Magon ends up in jail again.

**1911–1912** Bonnot Gang active in France.

**1911** In the newspaper *Maquetas*, someone writing as "Juan el Cruzado" demands the death sentence for Biófilo Panclasta for "disturbing social order with his revolutionary ideas"

BP is interviewed by journalists working for *El Gráfico* and *El Republicano* in the Bogotá jail where he is held.

**1912** A news item states that Biófilo Panclasta has bombed Monsignor Brioschi, Archbishop of Cartagena.

In the Santa Teresa jail in Cartagena BP writes "Y sueños de ambición". Soon after he publishes the poem "Efímeras."

**1913** Trial of Bonnot Gang, followed by prison and executions.

**1914–1918** First World War

**1917** Russian Revolution

**1918** Strong anarchist influence (direct action, sabotage) in strikes in Colombian coastal cities.

**1917–1920** Massive wave of anarchist strikes in Brazil.

**1914** BP returns to Valencia, Venezuela. Jailed, supposedly for a speech given in praise of France a few days after the beginning of the war. More likely it was due to those close to Juan Vicente Gómez, hostile to Biófilo for his friendship with the now deposed Cipriano Castro.

**1914–1921** Seven years of prison for BP in Venezuelan jails.

**1919** "Tragic Week" in Buenos Aires: wave of strikes and then riots led by anarchists followed by brutal police repression.

**1920–1921** Peasant uprising in Patagonia led by anarchists. They are massacred by the army.

**1922** Death of Renzo Novatore

**1923** Kurt Wilckens kills General Hector Varela, responsible for the suppression of the Patagonia strike, in a bomb attack and shooting in the streets of Buenos Aires. He is murdered in a hospital later that year.

**1923** BP is named delegate of the Mexican Anarchist Association to an anarchist congress in Barcelona. He proposes "the formation of an international committee tasked with organizing, planning, and carrying out, in one day, the assassination of the Czar of Bulgaria, the king of England, the king of Italy, the king of Egypt, the Archbishop of Mexico, the president of France, the cardinal archbishop of Toledo, and Léon Daudel", which he referred to as "Operation Europe."

**1924** First Worker's Congress in Colombia. Strong anarcho-syndicalist presence. Strike against the Tropical Oil Company, a division of Standard Oil, in Barrancabermeja, organized by anarcho-syndicalists. Anarchist workers' movements in Bogotá.

**1924–1929** Publication of *La Voz Popular*, anarchist newspaper, by the syndicalist group "Antorcha Libertaria" in Colombia.

**1924** In Sao Paulo BP helps to organize a coffee-growers' strike. The government deports him to Oyapok, in the far north of Brazil. He escapes. From Cayenne, French Guiana, the "League of the Rights of Man" sends him to Martinique. He returns to Colombia after visiting fifty-two countries.

**1925** Severino Di Giovanni founds *Culmine*, an Italian-language periodical, in Buenos Aires. New anarchist newspapers in Bogotá: *La Antorcha*, *El Sindicalista*, *Pensamiento y Voluntad*. In Barranquilla: *Via Libre*. In Santa Marta: *Organización*.

**1926–1927** Second strike, more combative, in Barrancabermeja.

**1927** Execution of Sacco and Vanzetti in U.S. Massive demonstrations all over Latin America.

**1927** BP imprisoned in the San Gil jail with the syndicalist Raúl E. Mahecha and other comrades.

**1928** Anarchist-led banana-grower's strike in Colombia against United Fruit leads to declaration of martial law and massacre of 1,500 workers by the army.