Abstract
This article examines labor relations in the nitrate mines of El Toco canton, II Region, from 1947 to 1960. These relations were conditioned by two variables that influenced the appreciation of a different reality in the mining area. One factor was the continuity of spontaneous and popular social and cultural expressions, being the street bands their most representative manifestation; another was a communications policy fostered by nitrate companies, giving rise to other social spaces. This policy was focused on actions that favored the artistic manifestations more liable to institutionalized canons such as Fine Arts in general, in a period of strong national and international tension, where world bipolarity was reflected in the behavior of the unions and the nitrate companies.

Keywords
Labor relations - Comunication - Nitrate mines.