

NOTICIAS

THE FIRST SPANISH SYMPOSIUM ON ARMS
AND THE HISTORY IN THE LOW MIDDLE AGES

LAS armas en la historia en la baja Edad Media was the title of the first Spanish symposium on «arms and the history.» It took place in the *University of Extremadura*, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, with domicile in the medieval «old town» of Cáceres, the capital of the province of the same name. It started on the 17th of march and terminated on the 19th of march 1983.

The initiative on this event had been taken by the *professor dr. Bonifacio Palacios Martín*, director of the Department of Medieval History of this University. It was sponsored by the rectorate and vice-rectorate, the vice-chancellors, of the University in union with the cultural institution «El Brocense» of the Diputación Provincial de Cáceres. It had been excellently organized by the professor dr. Bonifacio Palacios into all details, and it had the honour to be attended by several high authorities of the province, amongst others His Excellency the general and military governor of the province of Cáceres, don Gonzalo Navarro Figueroa.

The purpose and object of this symposium was to stimulate a type of investigations which at most universities are neglected, but which as a matter of fact are of the greatest importance to all epoches of history, not least to the epoches of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance for its multiple intervention in almost all branches of cultural life. Scholars had come to the symposium from various corners of the Peninsula, from Galicia in the north to Granada in the south, and as a matter of fact Extremadura was well represented by investigators with much and important material. The very few days were filled with much work to all the participants, and much discussion and Round Table colloquies arose during the many hours.

Participated in the first day *professor dr. Cristóbal Torres Delgado*, director of the Department of Medieval History at the University of Granada, with the following theme: «Ejército y fortificaciones del Reino Nazarí de Granada,» with important details taken from Arab sources of the time, dealing with both army and navy and the equipment for the

two arms. Information, hitherto almost unknown even to Spanish investigators, and taken from the Arab sources, threw new light upon military matters in the Moorish part of the Peninsula, about archers and crossbow-men, about cavalry and infantry in the Granadine armies, armament for both army and navy. The navy was well equipped in order to combat the pirates of the Mediterranean. Very interesting was the information about the fortifications, and not least about the wellknown «atalayas» to be seen at almost all parts of the Granadine coast and in the interior of the country. This form for Moorish telecommunications was very effective and very quick.

On the same day the director of the Instituto de Estudios sobre Armas Antiguas, *dr. Ada Bruhn de Hoffmeyer from C. S. I. C.* held a long lecture about «Armas ofensivas y defensivas en España en los siglos XII-XV; tipología, funcionamiento y efectividad.» The lectures were followed by discussion and Round Table colloquies. The next day *professor dr. Bonifacio Palacios Martín* gave two lectures, the first one in the morning: «La Caballería en la España bajo-medieval: De la noción de servicio a la de valor social y símbolo político,» with much new, till now unknown material. His lecture was followed by a lecture from *professor A. Navareño Mateos* from the University of Extremadura: «El castillo bajo-medieval, arquitectura y táctica militar,» with reference to sieges, to poliorcetics with engines of war, highly in use on the Iberian peninsula. Here too was much discussion and Round Table colloquies. The lecture by *professor dr. M. A. Ladero Quesada* from the University Complutense of Madrid, expert in medieval history had to be omitted on account of illness. But several of the present participants and professors from Extremadura, from Santiago, Orense, etc., contributed with lectures about medieval military matters treating military legislation of the epoch concerned, military equipment of royal and noble castles and towns, military duties, nobility, feudality, taxes and economics for equipping armies and man in case of war - offensive as well as defensive. Much material is still preserved and unpublished in municipal, ducal and ecclesiastical archives as well as in other categories of archives. Highly interesting was another lecture by *dr. Bonifacio Palacios* about the special ceremonies of the *Investiture of kings, princes and vassals*, ceremonies of a specific character and highly different to the same category of ceremonies in other European countries: *Investidura y vasallaje en España medieval*. Noteworthy in this connexion is the famous, carved and polychrome statue of Santiago «Matamoros» in the Monasterio de Las Huelgas outside Burgos, with the movable arm and a sword in the hand, used for giving the king the «Espaldarazo» which a Spanish king of those days could not receive from any mortal person.

Much new and important material in regard to arms history and political history was revealed during these very few days of the symposium, — topics which have till now not been taken into consideration, neither by arms investigators, nor by investigators of medieval history. The medieval sources from the Peninsula are extremely rich.

The symposium was instructive and informative. It is to be hoped that similar symposia will be held in future not only in Cáceres, but in other universities of Spain. The lectures from the Extremenian symposium will be published soon in a one-volume book.

A. BR. H.

FASCICULI Archaeologiae Historicae is a new review for arms and medieval history born in the Department of Medieval History at the University of Łódź in Poland, under the auspices of the professor dr. Andrzej Nadolski, director of this Institute. Apropos the Spanish symposium in Cáceres it is worth mentioning the initiative taken by the Polish archaeologists and specialists in medieval history at the University of Łódź. The director, profesor A. Nadolski, is internationally well-known from his many articles and books about medieval arms and armour. As a leader of a team of collaborators and experts from his Institute he has founded a new review for arms and history of the Middle Ages as well as for the Renaissance and even for later periods. Its name is: *Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae*, which has its home in the same building as the Institute in the street of Tylna, No. 1 in Łódź. It is planned to be published once a year. The editor tries in this way to open a forum for the archaeological material of arms and armour, equestrian equipment and military topics as a whole as they are known from archaeological excavations, in museums and in Fine Arts, not only in Poland, but from other parts of Europe too. Military architecture, poliorcetics and war engines belong to the themes to be treated in this new review. The intention is to lay out as much material as possible, make comparisons, break new grounds and open new horizons in the investigation of arms and their importance in history. The editor and his team are interested in contributions not only from Poland, but even from foreign countries, and the articles will be published in one of the languages approved at the international congresses of arms and military matters. The articles written in Polish will be provided with extensive summaries in one of the acknowledged languages.

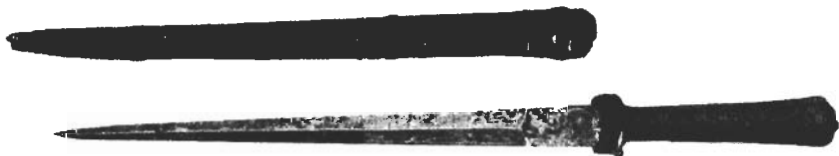
A. BR. H.

STOLEN OBJECTS FROM WORLDS FAMOUS MUSEUMS
OF ARMS AND ARMOURS

ON the following pages we bring notice about some objects stolen from the collections of the Tower of London, and from Kunsthistorisches Museum, Waffensammlung in Vienna, in the hope that these objects will appear and return to their respective museums.

Missing From The Armouries, H. M. Tower of London

Class X, No. 214 B. Ballock Dagger and Sheath, British c. 1620.



The dagger consists of a wooden hilt of octagonal-section with two small, kidney-shaped swellings and a concave steel washer at its junction with the blade. The grip swells towards the brass button terminal. The blade is of a stiff diamond-section with a short ricasso next to the hilt and is profusely etched and gilt with foliate decorations and a mark. The sheath is of black leather with tooled decoration.

Mark on the blade:



Overall length: 12.1 inches

Length of blade: 9.2 inches

Length of the sheath: 9.7 inches

Cf. A. R. DUFTY, *European Swords and Daggers in the Tower of London*, HMSO 1974, plate 103c.

Class X, No. 270. Dagger, probably German, late 15th century.



The dagger consists of a wooden hilt with a faceted steel cone-shaped pommel and small chisel-shaped quillons sharply inclined towards the blade. The stiff blade is of diamond-section and has an inlaid brass mark.

Mark on the blade:



Overall length: 12 inches

Length of blade: 8.4 inches

Cf. A. R. DUFTY, *European Swords and Daggers in the Tower of London*, HMSO, 1974, plate 95b.

STOLEN

*From the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Waffensammlung, Vienna:
3 Wheellock Pistols, about 1560*

- 1) Garniture of a long and a short pistol (Inv. Nr. A 600 and A 596). The octagonal barrel, the lock and the steel-coated stock entirely covered by fine ornaments of inlaid gold wires. On the long barrel (A 600) makers mark, an arrow and initials H. S. On the bottom plate of the butt the coat of arms of Maximilian II of Austria (arms of Bohemia, Hungary, central shield Austria), only on A 600 surrounded by the Golden Vliece.
- 2) Short wheellock pistol (Inv. Nr. A 595). The hexagonal barrel, the lock and the stock entirely covered by fine ornaments and trophies of inlaid wire of gold and silver. On the barrel the makers mark P. (Peter Peck, Munich). On the bottom plate of the butt the coat of arms of Maximilian II (arms of Bohemia, Hungary, central shield Austria), surrounded by the Golden Vliece.

Inv. Nr. A 600	L. overall	810 mm
	L. barrel	566 mm
	bore	10,7 mm
	Wt.	2.700 g

Inv. Nr. A 596	L. overall	573 mm
	L. barrel	332 mm
	bore	12,5 mm
	Wt.	2.300 g

Inv. Nr. A 595	L. overall	530 mm
	L. barrel	297 mm
	bore	13,0 mm
	Wt.	2.000 g

HANS SCHEDELMANN, *Die Grossen Büchsenmacher*, Brunswick, 1972,
See plates II and IV.