

HISTORICAL ORIGINS

The idea of creating a naval museum in Nueva Población de San Carlos (Cádiz) should be attributed to José Mendoza y Rios who, in 1790, proposed it to Antonio Valdés y Bazán, Secretary of the Marine Office. In 1792 Valdés commissioned high-ranking Naval officers in Europe as well as in Spain, to gather and acquire maps, models of ships and nautical instruments. Martín Fernández de Navarrete, José de Vargas Ponce and José M^a Sanz y de Barutell as well as Mendoza himself, were commissioned by Valdés to gather naval related objects which would contribute to a museum. The project was never fulfilled as the latter left his naval post. As a consequence the collected works were stored at the Hydrographic Depot, which is the main source of the Museum's collection.



On the 28th of September, 1842 Sub-lieutenant Ramon Trujillo submitted a report to update Valdes's old project and moved the elected location to Madrid.

The Naval Museum was finally inaugurated on the 19th of October 1843, with its initial location being the Palacio de los Consejos and later the Casa del Platero. In 1850 it moved to the Palacio de los Ministerios where on the 27th of November a second official inauguration was held in the presence of Queen Isabel II. It was at this opening that the first Museum catalogue was published and distributed.

In 1930 the Museum moved to its current location, the first floor of the Spanish Navy Headquarters, its official opening there was held in 1932.

The Museum exhibits in chronological order the most important historical pieces owned and procured by the Navy from the period of the Catholic Monarchs to the present day. Currently on display in the Museum are nautical instruments from the 15th to the 20th century; paintings portraying vessels and historical naval battles; portraits of the most distinguished Kings, sailors and Navy generals from the 17th to the 20th century; reconstructed models of famous ships; weapons from different periods, personal objects from well-known navigators as well as Juan de la Cosa's famous map.

CONTENTS OF ROOMS

1 Main Hall

This room is dedicated to the creation of the Museum and to those personalities who, from the reign of Isabel II have been significant in its evolution through the years.



2 Catholic Monarchs (1474-1517)

This room is dedicated to the Spanish naval force of the 15th century, which discovered America in 1492 and was highly influential in Europe at that time. On display are two outstanding portraits of the monarchs along with artillery and models of vessels from that period. These models include one of a Norman vessel from the 10th century with its characteristic clinker-built. An oil painting by Garnelo commemorating "The first homage to Christopher Columbus" can also be found in this room.

3 The Habsburg Monarchs (1517-1700)

This room is dedicated to the maritime history which covers both 16th and 17th centuries.

An oil painting from the 17th century which features the premonition of Pope St Pius V relating to the battle of Lepanto, fought in 1571, is one of the room's highlights.

Other main attractions in this room are the model of the Flemish galleon which was a gift to Philip II from a Dutch delegation in 1593, and also Don Juan de Austria's sacred broadsword which was granted to him by Pope St Pius V after the battle of Lepanto. Although this was manufactured in 1568, its hilt is modern and was created by Eusebio Zuloaga. Also of interest in this room is the panoramic view of Seville engraved by Janssonius in 1617. A selected choice of artillery pieces from the 16th and 17th centuries may also be found in this room.

4 The reign of King Philip V. (First period) (1700-1724)

This room contains naval models, paintings and engravings which represent important naval events relating to the War of Spanish Succession (1700-1714). Also exhibited are portraits of the Armada's generals and Navy secretaries who were prominent figures of this period.

5 The reigns of King Philip V (Second period) and Fernando VI (1724-1759)

On display in this room are oil paintings illustrating naval battles, portraits, a collection of weapons of the period, military insignia and a series of objects belonging to Don Juan J. Navarro de Viana (1687-1772), the first Marquis of Victoria and a prominent member of the Armada noted for his operations at sea and his contributions to tactics and naval construction.

6 The reign of Kings Charles III and Charles IV until the battle of Trafalgar (1759-1805)

The contents of this room refer to the naval campaigns in the confrontation with Great Britain during the second half of the 18th century. The highlight is a map of the rock of Gibraltar. Also of interest are the models of ships finely carved and detailed in bone and ivory by French prisoners of war. This room also exhibits fine oil paintings by Antonio de Brugada and Rafael Monleón detailing naval action as well as portraits of navigators of the period such as the portrait of Jose Mazarredo by Bellier.

7 Vestibule of Honor

This room is used as a reception area for dignitaries. Here one can see portraits of the Kings Ferdinand VI, Charles III and Charles IV as well as furniture from this period. The most important piece being Manuel Godoy's desk which is made of "pierre dure" (Florentine technique). It was on this desk that on May the 2nd 1808, General Joaquín Murat signed a proclamation of repression against the people of Madrid.

Also exhibited is a magnificent collection of watercolours by Berlinguero (1799) illustrating ships from the 18th century and an extraordinary compensated - pendulum regulator by John Hellicot (1760).

8 Temporary Exhibitions

This room contains part of the pieces recovered from the wreckage of the Spanish ship San Diego, which sank in front of the coast of Manila in December 1600. The recovered pieces include arms, personal and everyday



objects that give an idea of customs of the time and life on board a ship.

The room is also decorated with six oil-paintings by Juan de la Corte (1597-1660) detailing the historic naval campaigns of General López de Hoces in Brazil and The Antilles (1633-35).

9 Shipyards and Spanish naval construction in the 18th century

This area is dedicated to 18th century naval construction using wood. On display are a magnificent collection of models of ships from that period. Amongst these notable for their beauty and historic value are the frigate "Diana" and the ships "San Genaro", "Real Borbon" and a ship with 74 cannons built following the French system established by Gautier. Similarly, models of the Peninsula's three shipyards, the gate of "La Carraca" shipyard, various models of artillery in miniature and a collection of nautical compasses from 18th and 19th centuries are all on display. Although it belongs to a different time and due to its size, this room contains a Turkish sail seized at Lepanto (1571) upon which Meneses (1625-1705), who was a student of Murillo, painted the standard of the Ducal House of Fernán Nuñez (circa 1690).

10 Nautical Sciences (16th to 18th centuries)

This room accommodates a fine collection of scientific and astronomical instruments from the period of the 16th through the 18th century. Items of further interest in this room are the nautical case constructed by Thomas Volckmer (1596), which is believed to have been made for Philip II; and a collection of astrolabes. The most important astrolabe is the one by Miguel Coignet, a 16th century Flemish mathematician and cosmographer. Only three by this author remain.

Many portraits of leading members of the Scientific Division of the Spanish Navy and a fine selection of cartographic works of the Spanish possessions in the American continent can also be found in this room.

11 The Director's Cabin

This room is a reproduction of the cabin room of a ship commander dating from the 19th century complemented by pieces of historical value.

12 The Boardroom

This room is a reproduction of wardroom of a 16th century frigate.

It exhibits an additional collection of personal belongings and portraits of famous naval figures as well as ceramic pieces, jewellery, decorations, etc., all related to the history of the Navy.

The members of the Board of the Naval Museum hold their meetings here.

13 Geographical discoveries (from the 15th century to the 18th century)

This room is mainly dedicated to the discoveries and Spanish expeditions with an emphasis on its main protagonists during the 15th to the 18th century. Outstanding exhibits here are the collection of portolan charts of the Mediterranean and the Museum's most valuable piece, the chart of Juan de la Cosa, dated in Puerto de Santa María in 1500, the first representation of the New World. Also of interest are the nautical and astronomical instruments dating from the 18th and 19th centuries along with two globes: one celestial and the other earthly, both works of Coronelli from the 17th century.

14 Trafalgar (1805-1808), Peninsular War (1808-1814) and the reign of Ferdinand VII (1814-1833)

A section of this room is dedicated to the Battle of Trafalgar, fought in 1805. The fine iconographic representation of the naval leaders involved in the action along with personal possessions belonging to Federico Gravina and Francisco Javier de Uriarte are notable attractions. Also on display as a relic is the ensign which was hoisted by Gravina during action aboard his flagship, the vessel *Principe de Asturias*.



Among the collection of memorabilia from Spain's Peninsular War (1808-1814) is the flag of the French ship *L'Atlas* along with its emblem which is the only one remaining of those presented by Napoleon to the French fleet before the Battle of Trafalgar. There is also on display an impressive French flag from the ship on the line *Héros* and a sabre of the heir to The Netherlands which was handed over to the general and sailor Van Halen (1788-1864)

The portraits in the room are also of interest; Ferdinand VII by Vicente López and Don Juan Ruiz de Apodaca, the Count of Venadito (1754-1835), by Esquivel.

15 Marine Science (19th century)

This section displays a wide range of nautical and scientific instruments which were used during the 19th century both on land and at sea. The memoirs and memorabilia from Isaac Peral are of great interest. He invented the first submarine which was electrically propelled using batteries and incorporated a torpedo launcher pipe (1888).

16 Arms and Ethnography (19th century)

In this area one can see a collection of portable firearms from different parts of the world used in the 19th century as well as cold-steel and boarding arms used by the Armada at the same period.

There is also an impressive collection of weapons, military devices, ethnographic objects and models of vessels originating from China, Southeast Asia and Pacific countries, the highlight of these being those from the Philippines.

17 The Campaigns of Cuba, Santo Domingo and Africa (19th century)

This room houses oil paintings and memorabilia of the Armada generals who distinguished themselves in the insurrection campaign of Cuba, the annexing of Santo Domingo and the African war. The sword donated by the Sultan Suleyman I of Morocco in 1817 is particularly impressive.

18 The Philippines (19th century)

This room shows objects relating to the Spanish presence in the Philippines during the 19th century until its independence in 1898. Other items here deal with the campaigns waged against the Muslims of Mindanao and the joint Franco-Hispanic campaign in Conchinchina. There are also models of boats and artillery constructed in Cavite and a model of this shipyard.



19 The reign of Queen Isabella II (1843-1868)

This area is devoted to the naval events during the reign of Isabella II which are mainly based around the first Carlist War and the campaign of the naval squadron in the Pacific which was under the command of Méndez Núñez in the war against Peru and Chile -the bombardment of Valparaíso and the battles of Abtao and El Callao (1866)-. Items of note are the model of the frigate "Numancia", the first battleship to sail around the world and a superb series of oil paintings of battles. In particular, those by Muñoz Degraín and Monleón illustrating the Battle of El Callao are outstanding. There are also many fine portraits of famous Armada personalities of the time along with their medals, uniforms and personal memoirs.

20 The reign of Amadeo I, the First Republic, the reign of Alfonso XII and the regency of María Cristina of Austria (1870-1902)

Presented here are oil paintings, artifacts and memorabilia from the second Carlist War and the revolt of La Cantonal. The painting of the defence of La Carraca shipyard by Monleón is outstanding. Items from the Spanish-American War in the Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico (1898) complete the collection in this room.

21 Spanish Naval construction in the 19th and 20th centuries (1833-1931)

This room features a collection of models of vessels which served with the Armada from 1833 until the end of Alfonso XIII's reign. Additionally there are ship figureheads and two boats used by the natives in the Caribbean and Pacific in the middle of the 19th century.

22 The reign of Alfonso XIII (1902-1931)

Alongside the magnificent model of the battleship "España", this room displays an impressive collection of oil paintings and memorabilia relating to naval events from this period. A collection of arms and uniforms belonging to the monarch, which were a gift from Kaiser Willem II of Germany, complete this room.

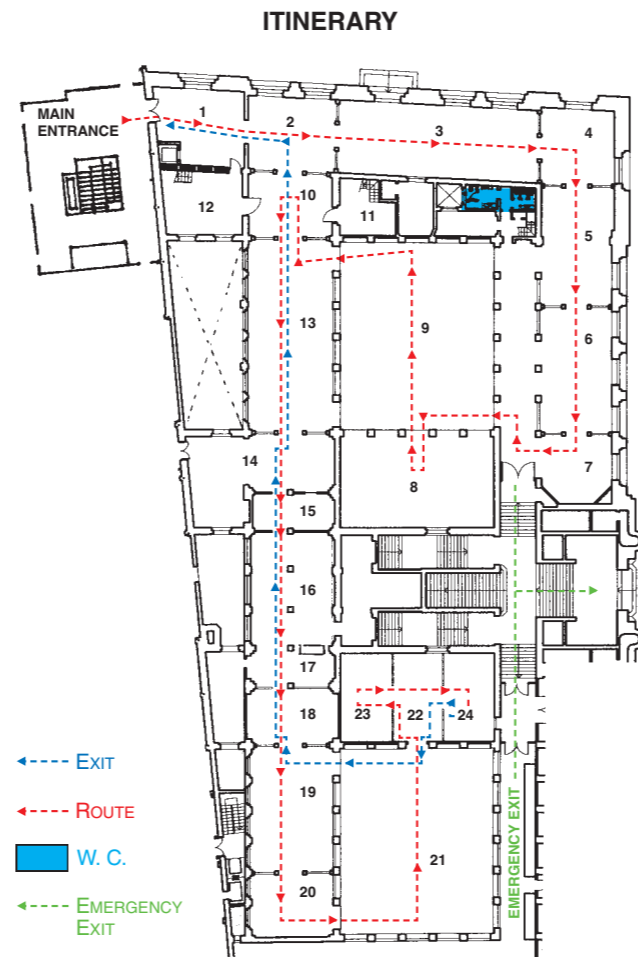


23 The Second Republic and Civil War (1931-1939)

Surrounding the model of the cruiser "Canarias" one can see flags, weapons, paintings, models and memorabilia relating to the period of the Second Republic and the Spanish Civil War at sea (1936-1939).

24 The leadership of Francisco Franco (1939-1975) and the reign of Juan Carlos the First (1975-)

This area is presided over by portraits of the Spanish Royal Family. Also on display in this room are paintings and models of ships which have served or are currently serving with the Navy since 1939 to the present day, the highlight of these is the aircraft-carrier "Príncipe de Asturias", the flagship of the Spanish Fleet.



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INFORMATION

Naval Museum of Madrid

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Opening Times

10.00 - 14.00
Monday: closed
Saturday & Sunday: Free guided tours at 11.30

Admission Free

Groups wishing to have a guided tour of the Museum are required to book in advance. Please call 91 523 87 89.
Voluntary guides are available. Please book in advance.

Getting there

Bus: 1, 2, 14, 27, 37, 51, 146, 150, 202 and 522.
Underground Station: Banco de España

Library

Library features over 24.000 books, 17.000 nautical charts and 180.000 manuscripts.

Research Centre

Research Service available from Monday to Friday: 9.00 - 14.00
Free access
Entrance: Juan de Mena, 1.

Fourth editing, 2009

