Spanish arms and armour, being a historical and descriptive account of the Royal Armoury of Madrid

Calvert Albert Frederick
Title: Spanish arms and armour, being a historical and descriptive account of the Royal Armoury of Madrid

Author: Calvert Albert Frederick

This is an exact replica of a book. The book reprint was manually improved by a team of professionals, as opposed to automatic/OCR processes used by some companies. However, the book may still have imperfections such as missing pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were a part of the original text. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections which can not be improved, and hope you will enjoy reading this book.
THE SPANISH SERIES

SPANISH ARMS
AND ARMOUR
THE SPANISH SERIES
EDITED BY ALBERT F. CALVERT
SEVILLE
MURILLO
CÓRDOBA
THE PRADO
THE ESCORIAL
SPANISH ARMS AND ARMOUR

In preparation—
GOYA
TOLEDO
MADRID
VELAZQUEZ
GRANADA AND ALHAMBRA
ROYAL PALACES OF SPAIN
LEON, BURGOS & SALAMANCA
VALLADOLID, OVIEDO, SEGOVIA,
ZAMORA, AVILA & ZARAGOZA
DEDICATED
WITH PROFOUND RESPECT AND ESTEEM
TO HER MAJESTY
QUEEN MARIA CRISTINA OF SPAIN
WHO SO WORTHILY AND FOR SO LONG
MAINTAINED THOSE GLORIOUS TRADITIONS
OF SPANISH GREATNESS
WHICH ARE SYMBOLISED IN THE TREASURES
OF THE ROYAL ARMOURY
PREFACE

In compiling this volume I believe I can claim, in a sense, to have broken new ground, for although a description of the Spanish Royal Armoury finds a place in every Guide and Handbook to Madrid, no exhaustive survey of the contents of this priceless treasure-house, apart from the official catalogue, is in existence.

The present work is based on the admirable catalogue prepared in 1898 at the instigation of Queen Maria Cristina by the Conde de Valencia de San Juan, to whom, with peculiar pleasure, I desire to make full acknowledgment of my indebtedness. To the formal descriptions of the exhibits, which the Conde de San Juan has collated with invariable accuracy, I have prefixed a brief sketch of the historical development of Spanish arms and armour, which, I venture to hope, will make the book more acceptable, both to the specialist in armour, and to those who visit the Armoury without any particular knowledge of the subject.

Though the Armeria Real remains the richest
in the world, it has enriched nearly all the collections of arms and armour in Europe and America. Mr. G. P. Laking, in a recent number of the Art Journal, has shown that after the fire of 1839, a very large number of pieces were fraudulently abstracted and sent to London for sale—ultimately finding their way to armouries and museums as far apart as Rome and New York. If the truth were known it would probably be found that there was not a collection of any importance that did not include some of the spoils of the great treasure house established by the Kings of Spain.

In furtherance of my object, I have laid under contribution a large number of authorities, and I cannot omit to acknowledge my obligations to the standard works of Meyrick, Hewitt, Demmin, Lacombe and Clephan, to the writings of Baron Davillier and Don Juan Riaño, to the Iconografía Española of Don V. Carderera, and to Dr. Wendelin Boheim, of the Imperial Armoury, Vienna. I also desire to render a special tribute of thanks to Mr. E. B. d’Auvergne, who placed his expert knowledge at my service, and has rendered me invaluable assistance in my endeavours to make this compilation both accurate and complete.