

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, 1788-1931
(15)**

**SABER OF THE BRIGADE OF “FLANQUEADORES”
OF THE ROYAL CORP OF “GUARDIAS DE LA PERSONA DEL REY”
AND SWORD OF THE BRIGADE OF ROYAL “CARABINEROS”**

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



Cavalry saber, curved 860x32 mm blade single edged and fullered up to the distal, double edged tip; Flat spine lacking any inscriptions; Ebony grip and short pommel cap of similar characteristics to the riding sword used by the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”.

By Royal Order of the 28th of October of 1816, amongst other variations prescribed in the organization of the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”, it was ordained that”it has also been the King’s pleasure to order, in view of the request by your Excellency of the 9th of this month, that the discussed Royal Corp be augmented by a complete Brigade of “Flanqueadores” (skirmishers), and that these should dress and mount the same as the cavalry “Cazadores” (Chasseurs or Jaegers); In contrast to the dispositions of the same Royal Order for the Squadrons of Grenadiers and Light Cavalry, the use of shields was not prescribed.

The dress of the Light Squadrons was specified as “the same as that of the Grenadiers” and differentiated them by the use of shields and other details; The dress of the Brigade of “Flanqueadores”, “same as that used by the Cavalry Cazadores”, was different from that of the four Squadrons, making the use of a shield unnecessary to differentiate them.

This Brigade included 66 Guards just like the four initial Squadrons, but was soon increased by 20 more Guards and in 1817 it was composed of, 2 “Exentos”, 2 “Brigadieres”, 2 “Sub-Brigadieres”, 8 Cadets, and 86 Guards, equipped with “tercerola”, a pair of pistols and a curved saber, of which they surrendered in February of 1821, 72 “tercerolas”, 60 ½ pairs of pistols and 63 sabers, all of them produced after those that equipped the initial eight Brigades.

We may speculate that the saber shown may have been the model made for the Brigade of “Flanqueadores”; Its hilt differs from that used by the Royal Corp only in a slightly more curved grip, esthetically in accordance with the curvature of the blade, which allows us to rule out a refurbished specimen where a grip of

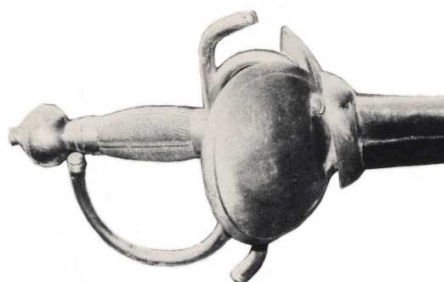
the sword model was grafted to a curved blade; This is confirmed by the lack of the orifice in the guard for attachment of a badge.

Just as with the swords made for this Royal Corp, the hilt lacks any maker's marks and lacks any reference to the Brigade or the soldier it equipped, although these may have been present in the scabbard, missing in this specimen.

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The model of riding sword used by the Brigade of Royal "Carabineros" in the reign of Fernando VII is another unknown; The 1856 and 1911 Catalogues of the "Museo de Artillería" identify it as specimen number 1743 of the Collection: "Sword for the Royal Carabineros, Model 1819, made in this same year at the Toledo Factory; Straight, double edged blade, with six tables is 93 cm in length and 2.3 cm wide; The scalloped guard and the pommel are of iron, the grip is wired and the scabbard is of leather covered wood with the top mount and end mount also of iron".

B. Barceló showed this specimen in his first edition but omitted it in the second one; It is difficult to imagine that in 1819 the construction of a sword model with the old "horse's mouth" hilt be approved.



Sword hilt number 1743 of the Collection of the Museo de Artillería, as shown in the work "Armamento Portátil Español, 1764-1939", by B. Barcelo Rubi (1976)

I have never been able to examine this sword and logically it must be an apocryphal recomposition, with a "horse's mouth" type of hilt mounted on a blade inscribed as belonging to the Royal "Carabineros", made in Toledo in 1819.(??).

If this is the case we still need to identify the hilt of the riding sword used in 1819 by the Brigade of Royal "Carabineros"; It probably had a hilt with three quillons and a scallop guard, similar to the riding sword used in 1815 by the Army's Cavalry of the Line; Its scabbard then should be the same as this one, all of iron with two rings.

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