

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, 1788-1931  
(33)  
RIDING SWORDS AND SABERS,  
ALLEGEDLY USED BY OFFICERS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL  
HOUSEHOLD IN THE PERIOD 1824-1841**

**(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)**

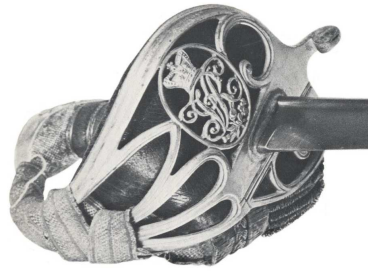


**“Commercial” cavalry saber, circa 1830, with hilt derived from the English 1822 Infantry Officers model; The hilt, with a badge bearing the Royal Arms; Grip and blade lacking any maker’s markings; Victor Krenn collection.**



**“Commercial” cavalry saber, circa 1835, with hilt derived from the English 1822 Infantry Officers model; Hilt with a badge bearing the Royal Arms surrounded by palm leaves; German made blade, slightly shortened from its original length (720x29 mm).**

In my opinion, prior to October of 1843, when the bicolor Flag bearing the Royal Arms as the National Coat of Arms was adopted as the National Ensign, all those sabers and swords bearing the Royal Arms in their hilts must be considered as having been used by Officers of the different bodies of the Royal Household.



**English saber hilt, model of 1822, for Infantry Officers as shown in “Swords of the British Army”, by Brian Robson (1975)**

Those sabers derived from the English model of 1822 for Infantry Officers bearing the Royal Arms in their hilts, were used by the Navy, which kept this type of hilt in its so-called “model of 1859” for Officers of the Marine Infantry; These may have been initially used to equip Officers of the Royal Marine Brigade, formed with battalions of Marine Infantry and the Marine Artillery Brigades, as a singular body independent of the Navy.

We may consider those riding cavalry swords and sabers bearing a badge with the Royal Arms on their hilts as having been used, in the period 1824-1841, by Chiefs and Officers of the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”, whether with a hilt derived from the French model of 1822 described in Chapter 24, or a conventional hilt with pommel cap and quillons with a spherical knob at their union with the guard; In these the Royal Arms are flanked by palms and flags, the sword hilt with a short ferrule and the saber hilt with a long one.



**“Commercial” riding sword; Straight 897x28 mm blade with rounded spine with adjoining groove in its first one third, and double edged in its remaining length; Inscribed “AÑO D 1835” / “RL. FA. D TOLEDO” on its obverse and reverse respectively; Hand guard with three quillons and plate, bearing the Royal Arms flanked by palms and flags, ribbed grip, leather wrapped and wired, with short ferrule and grip pommel; Iron scabbard; Hilt and scabbard both lacking maker’s markings; An identical specimen is dated 1837.**



**“Commercial” cavalry saber; German made blade slightly broadened at the false double edge; Ribbed, leather covered and wired, grip, and hilt with three quillons and plate, bearing the Royal Arms flanked by palms and flags; Long ferrule and pommel cap; E. Gorostiza collection.**

All of these swords and sabers bearing the Royal Arms in their hilts are “commercial” products, purchased by the Officers of the different units of the Royal Household, who, just as their counterparts in the Army, had to purchase their own equipment; Once these units were dissolved in 1841 those Officers transferred to the Army would continue to use their personal property, while at the same time, the Royal Arms, as part of the National Spanish Coat of Arms, began to be seen in the hilts of some sabers and swords, approved after 1843 as equipment of the Officers of all the Arms and Bodies of the Army.



**“Commercial” riding sword; Straight blade with rounded spine with adjoining groove in its first one third, and double edge on three tables, in the rest, inscribed “AÑO D 1833” / “RL. FA. D TOLEDO” on its obverse and reverse respectively; Hilt with three quillons on the plate which bears a badge with a crowned, flaming grenade, flanked by the initials G and R (Guardia Real); Ribbed, shagreen covered and wired, grip with a short ferrule and pommel cap; Iron scabbard with two bands and sling swivels; Juan Garcés collection.**

It is quite true that, just as much else that I have previously described is a “theory”, so is the notion that, prior to 1841, those sabers and swords bearing the Royal Arms on their hilts were limited to the Chiefs and Officers of the Royal Household; Strictly speaking, the only specimen that unquestionably was used by a Chief of the Royal Guard, perhaps a Colonel of the Regiment of Grenadiers, is the last illustrated, with its hilt lacking a badge with the Royal Arms and bearing within a sunburst a grenade inside a crowned oval flanked by the initials G and R (Guardia Real).

**Juan L. Calvó**  
**April, 2012**

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