

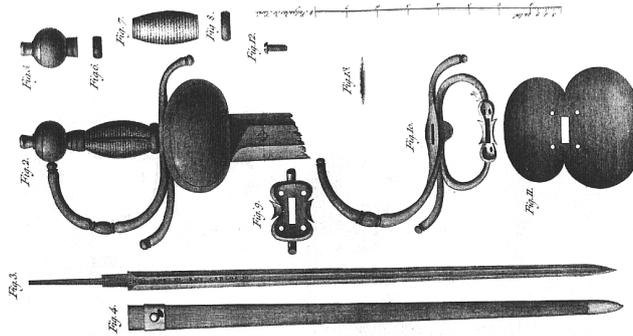
ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, 1788-1931
 (5)
 RIDING SWORDS OF THE CORP OF “GUARDIAS DE CORPS”
 AND THE BRIGADE OF ROYAL “CARABINEROS”
 DURING THE REIGN OF CARLOS IV.

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



Riding sword of the model that equipped the Royal Corp of “Guardias de Corps”; 915 x 35 mm double edged, tri-beveled blade inscribed: RL. FA. D To 1789 / Rs. Gs. D CORPS; Grip with “horse’s mouth” type guard.

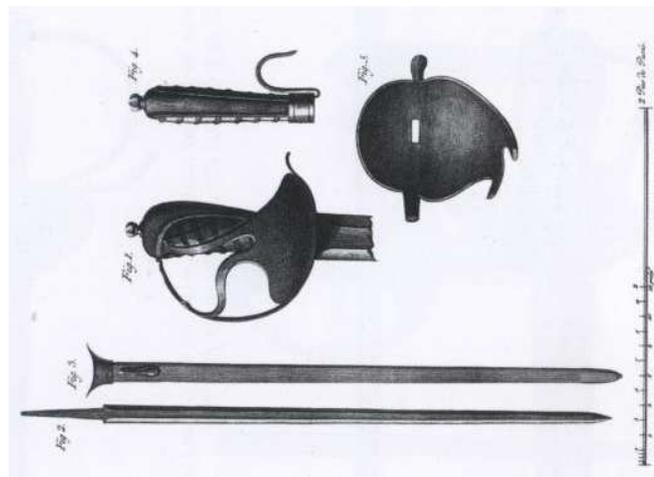
I am aware of a few riding swords with the blade inscribed: Rs. Gs. D CORPS made in the Royal Toledo Factory and dated 1789; Their grip is similar to the one illustrated in the “Tratado de Artillería” (Artillery Treatise) as that of the Army Cavalry and described as a “horse’s mouth” grip, differing from it only in small details such as the shape of the pommel, the etchings on the crossguard and the wiring.



Disassembled Cavalry riding sword with “horse’s mouth” type of grip as illustrated in the “Tratado de Artillería” (1787-93).

Regarding the Brigade of Royal “Carabineros”, I have seen a blade similar to that of the “Guardias de Corps”, inscribed: RL. FA. D TO. 1799 / CARABINES. Rs.; Its ricasso was of the type designed to be coupled to a “horse’s mouth” type of grip.

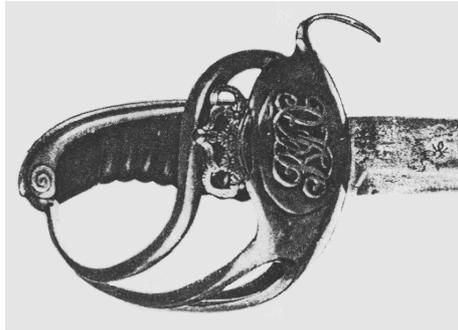
The one pictured in the Catalogue of the “Museo de Artillería” (Artillery Museum) with number 1727, double edged and tri-beveled, is the one for the “Guardias de Corps”, although dated 1799 and with a grip which is illustrated in the “Tratado de Artillería” as a Dragoon model sword and uses a blade with no ricasso.



Disassembled Dragoon riding sword as illustrated in the “Tratado de Artillería” (1787-93).

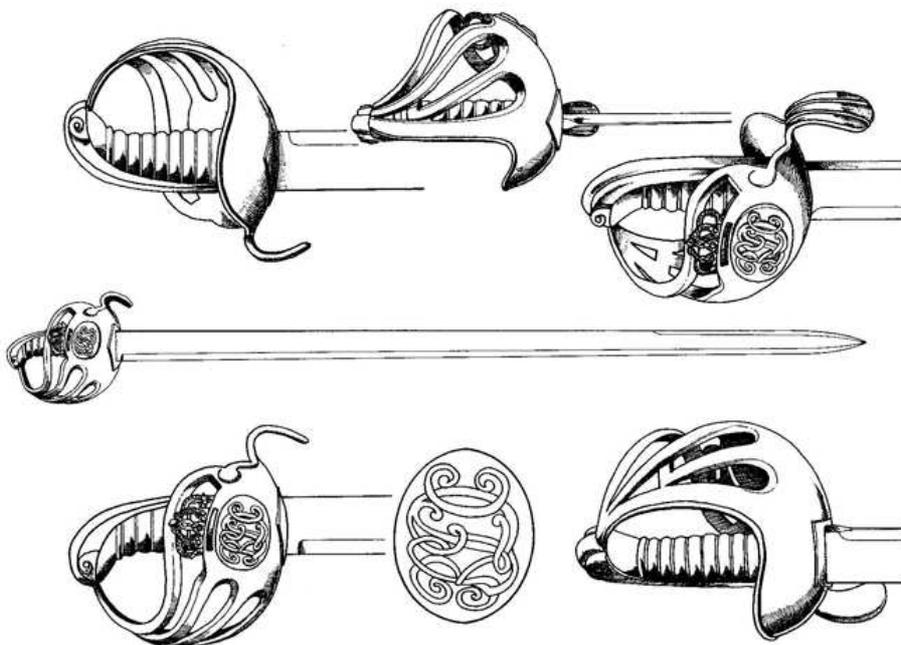
Also, in the fourth volume of the work “El Ejército de los Borbones” two swords with this type of grip and double edged and tri-beveled blades, respectively inscribed: Rs. Gs. D CORPS / RL. FA. D TO. 1799 and: CARABINES. Rs. / RL. FA. D TO. 1799 are illustrated; Judging from the specimen that I recall seeing with ricasso on the blade, those made in Toledo in 1799 for the Royal “Guardias de Corps” and for the Royal “Carabineros”, must have been designed to use the “horse’s mouth” type of grip but were assimilated to the new model adopted by the Cavalry of the Line in 1802, which included the described Dragoon sword

grip and a blade with a single edge and square back on its first two thirds, and double edge and three bevels in its distal one third.



Model of riding sword that equipped the Royal Corp of “Guardias de Corps”; Blade dated 1802. Illustration taken from an English work whose title I do not recall.

These were the same blade characteristics, dated 1802, used in the last model of riding sword used by the Royal Corp of “Guardias de Corps”, with the grip made of brass and bearing the Crowned anagram “RGDC” (Reales Guardias De Corps).



Details of the last model of riding sword used by the Royal “Guardias de Corps”. Drawing by Eduardo Jiménez Sánchez-Malo.

**Juan L. Calvo
October, 2011**

Bibliography:

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M. Gómez Ruiz and V. Alonso Juanola, "El Ejército de los Borbones", Vol. IV, 1995.

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