

# Spanish Orders at Portugal's new Royal Treasure Museum: insignias, diplomas and other curiosities<sup>1</sup>

## Órdenes españolas en el nuevo Museo del Tesoro Real de Portugal: insignias, diplomas y otras curiosidades

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**Abstract:** The new Royal Treasure Museum, in Lisbon, Portugal, includes insignia of several Spanish Orders, which are presented in this text, as well as documents and iconography related to them.

**Keywords:** Portugal; Lisbon; Royal Treasure Museum; Spanish Orders

**Resumen:** El nuevo Museo del Real Tesoro, en Lisboa, Portugal, incluye insignias de varias Órdenes españolas, que se presentan en este texto, y también otros documentos e iconografía relacionados con las mismas.

**Palabras clave:** Portugal; Lisboa; Museo del Real Tesoro; Pedidos Españoles

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, the new Royal Treasury Museum was inaugurated in Lisbon, at Ajuda National Palace, which was finally completed 227 years after the beginning of construction of this important residence of the Portuguese Royal Family in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Many projects were presented during the twentieth century to finish the construction, which was only a third of the size initially planned. The current option was, however, more modest, being limited to finishing off the incomplete construction that made up the western side of the building. A debatable architectural project, like all of them, it had the merit of concluding, more than two centuries later, the work that had begun in 1795<sup>2</sup>.

In 1989 it was considered for the first time to install the so-called Crown Jewels in the new wing of the palace to be built, a project that was not followed up. Two years later, the temporary exhibition *Tesouros Reais* (Royal Treasures), held in the same palace, showed for the first time the Crown Jewels, where jewellery, civil and religious silverware, the famous Germain tableware, coins, medals, precious stones and gold nuggets were displayed for the first time, as well as some honorific orders of the kings of Portugal, national orders and insignias of orders granted to our sovereigns. In addition to the pieces

<sup>1</sup> The text is published as it was read on XV European Conference of Phaleristic Societies, Madrid, Torre de Lujanes, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

<sup>2</sup> For the history of the palace finishing projects, vd. José Alberto RIBEIRO, "A construção de um tesouro para o Palácio Nacional da Ajuda", in *Catálogo do Museu do Tesouro Real* (a publicar).

belonging to the State, there were loans of jewellery from private collections for this exhibition, namely insignias of orders, as we shall see<sup>3</sup>.

In the previous year, 1990, the insignias of numerous orders awarded to King Dom Luís (1838-1889) and Queen Maria Pia of Savoy (1847-1911), his wife, who had lived there, had already been displayed in the same palace, in an exhibition dedicated to this Portuguese monarch<sup>4</sup>.

In the new Royal Treasure Museum, now opened, the honorific orders also deserved a specific section, the fourth of eleven in which the museum is divided. I had the opportunity to be part of the scientific commissariat and be a consultant of this section with my friend Paulo Jorge Estrela, the greatest Portuguese specialist in phaleristics and the history of the Portuguese honorific orders. The best you will hear in the next minutes is due to Paulo's knowledge, any mistake you detect is just my responsibility.



Fig. 1 - View of the Honorific Orders' section in the new Museum [photo Paulo Jorge Estrela]

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<sup>3</sup> *Tesouros Reais*, Palácio Nacional da Ajuda / Instituto Português do Património Cultural, Lisboa, 1991.

<sup>4</sup> *D. Luís I, Duque do Porto e Rei de Portugal*, Palácio Nacional da Ajuda, Lisboa, 1990.

The insignias in the Ajuda National Palace, and now integrated in the Royal Treasury Museum, were essentially those granted to King Dom João VI (1767-1826) and the aforementioned King Dom Luís and Queen Maria Pia. When we were selecting the pieces for the exhibition, bearing in mind the limited space available, we tried to ensure that they were representative of the diversity of the relationships between these Portuguese monarchs in the context of the eras in which they reigned<sup>5</sup>.

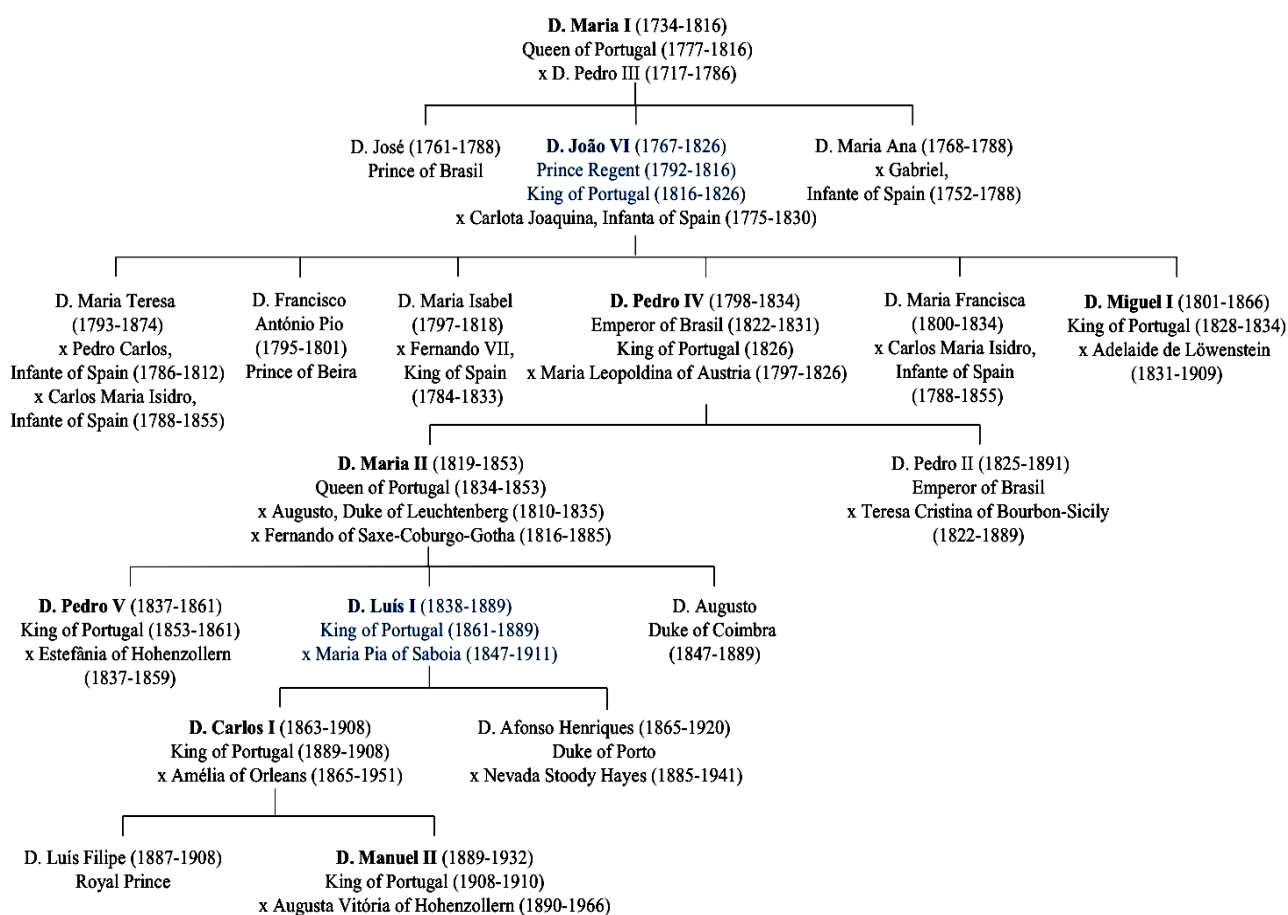


Fig. 2 - Brief genealogy of the Portuguese Royal Family, including only the persons mentioned in this text

Note that we do not know the destiny of all the orders granted to the kings mentioned, which may have had different paths to follow, although they are two very significant sets of insignias.

Outside the nucleus of honorific orders we have the Portuguese orders that the monarchs wore at acclamation - the king of Portugal had not been crowned since 1646, the date of the coronation of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa as queen of Portugal - and which are important pieces of jewellery: badge, star and a small insignia of the Riband of the Three Orders; collar and star of the Order of the Tower and Sword; and star of the Order of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Paulo Jorge ESTRELA; Lourenço Correia de MATOS, "Ordens honoríficas: honra, mérito e esplendor", *Catálogo do Museu do Tesouro Real* (in print).

<sup>6</sup> João Júlio Rumsey TEIXEIRA; Miguel Metelo de SEIXAS, "Conjunto das Três Ordens Militares"; Miguel Metelo de SEIXAS, "Placa e colar da Torre e espada"; Miguel Metelo de SEIXAS, "Placa, insígnia e banda da Ordem de Nossa Senhora da Conceição de Vila Viçosa", *Catálogo do Museu do Tesouro Real* (in print).





Fig. 3 and 4 – Badge and star of Riband of Three Orders (Cristo, Avis and Santiago) (Portugal, Lisboa, 1790, David Ambrósio Pollet) [PNA, inv. 4784, 4777, ©DGPC/ADF Luísa Oliveira]

The orders on display in the new Museum range from the most traditional European orders, such as the British Garter, the Elephant of Denmark or the collar of the Holy Spirit of France, which belonged to King Dom João VI, to modern decorations from then recent states, such as the Order of African Redemption, of Liberia, of the Liberator of Venezuela, or the collar of the Mexican Eagle instituted by the short-lived Emperor of Mexico Maximilian of Habsburg. While King Dom João's decorations were all from European nations, Dom Luís was honoured by countries as far away as Siam, Burma, Hawaii and Japan, in a total of more than 52 foreign orders - he was undoubtedly the most decorated Portuguese sovereign.

In the exchange of decorations between monarchs, it is naturally worth highlighting those that took place with Spain, Portugal's neighbour and with whom there have always been intense political and dynastic relationships over the centuries, although not always peaceful, as History teaches us. The close familiar relationship between the two dynasties led to an intense exchange of the main decorations since the end of the eighteenth century. Let's start with the Golden Fleece, the most important order awarded by Spanish monarchs. When the double marriage of the Infante Dom João - future King Dom João - with the Spanish "Infanta" Carlota Joaquina (1775-1830), and his sister, Maria Ana (1768-1788), with the "Infante" of Spain, Gabriel of Bourbon (1752-1788) - uncle of Carlota Joaquina - took place in 1785, Dom João and his first-born brother, Dom José (1761-1788), Prince of Brazil and heir to the Portuguese crown, were both appointed Knights of the Golden Fleece, and invested by their father, King Dom Pedro III, in the palace of Vila Viçosa<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> José Vicente de BRAGANÇA; Paulo Jorge ESTRELA, "Os colares das Ordens do Tosão de Ouro e do Espírito Santo. Do Rei D. João VI e do Infante D. Miguel", *Pro Phalaris. Boletim da Academia Falerística de Portugal*, ano 12, 1-2.º semestres, n.ºs 23-24, 2021, pp. 4-5. Alfonso de CEBALLOS-ESCALERA Y GILA, Marqués de la Floresta (director), *La Insigne Orden del Toisón de Oro*, Fundación Carlos III / Palafox & Pezuela, Madrid, 2000, p. 467.

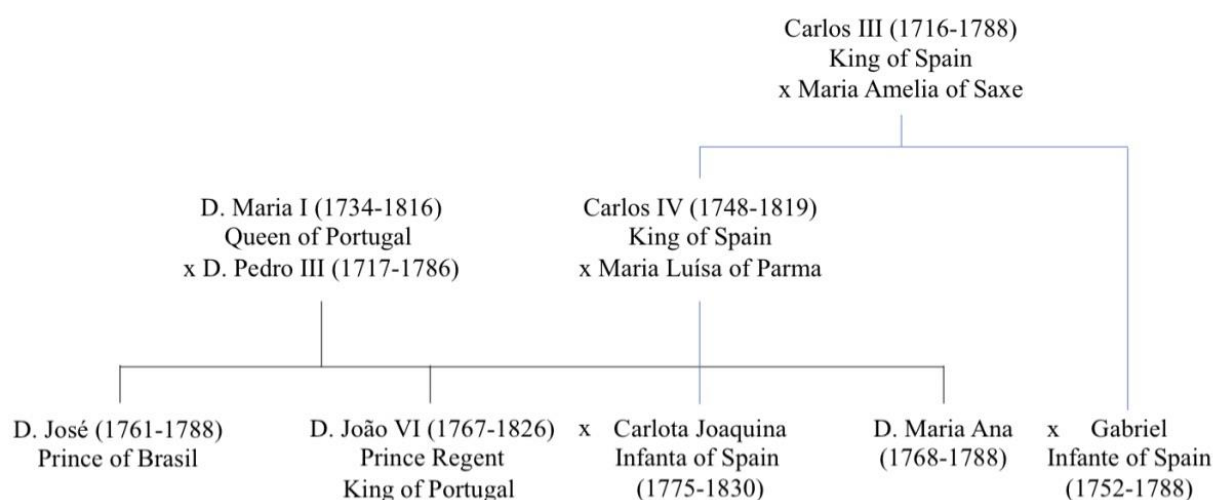


Fig. 5 - Royal marriages between Portuguese and Spanish Princes in 1785

At the time of the death of King Dom João VI, in 1826, in addition to the collar, which was returned to Spain as stipulated in the statutes, there were sixteen insignias of the Golden Fleece, described in the inventory on the death of the monarch. In addition to the “large insignia”, which we shall see in detail below, there were fifteen of various sizes.

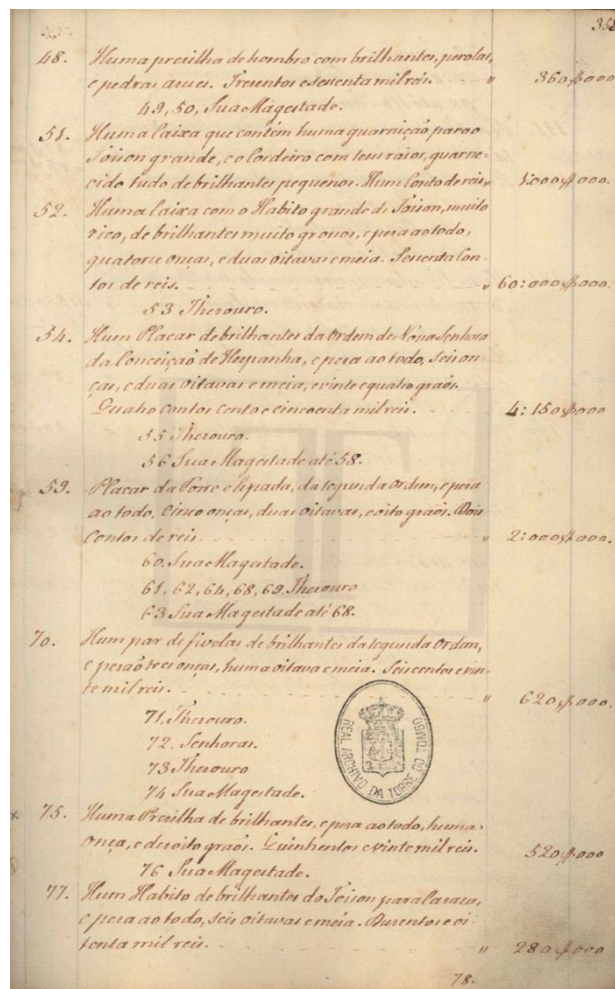


Fig. 6 - Page from the inventory on the death of King Dom João VI with insignias of the Golden Fleece [Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Gavetas, Gav. 16, mç. 3, 75, fl. 358]

In 1834, when the jewels of King Dom Miguel (1802-1866), then deposed by his brother Dom Pedro (1798-1834), were listed, there was a collar and twelve insignias of the Golden Fleece, including



the so-called “large insignia”. The whereabouts of two are known, which were the object of partition in a complex inheritance only resolved in the nineteen forties<sup>8</sup>. One is in the Spada collection, in the Legion of Honour Museum in Paris<sup>9</sup> and the other at a private collection in Lisbon.



Fig. 7 - Insignia of the Order of the Golden Fleece that belonged to the Portuguese Royal Family (Spada Collection, Museum of Legion of Honour, Paris) [*Honneur & Gloire. Les trésors de la collection Spada*, Société des amis du musée national de la Légion d'honneur et des ordres de chevalerie, 2008, p. 34]

Among King Dom Miguel's jewellery was the collar of the Golden Fleece of this monarch, which after the mentioned partition remained in a private collection in Lisbon and was displayed in the exhibition *Tesouros Reais* (Royal Treasures), held in 1991.

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<sup>8</sup> About this topic, José Vicente de BRAGANÇA; Paulo Jorge ESTRELA, “Os colares das Ordens do Tosão de Ouro e do Espírito Santo. Do Rei D. João VI e do Infante D. Miguel”, op. cit.

<sup>9</sup> *Honneur & Gloire. Les trésors de la collection Spada*, Société des amis du musée national de la Légion d'honneur et des ordres de chevalerie, 2008, p. 34. This Golden Fleece was on display at the Royal Treasures exhibition, in Lisbon, in 1991, as belonging to a private collection. vd. *Tesouros Reais*, op. cit., pp. 156-157, n.º 253.

This collar was then wrongly classified as having belonged to King Dom João when, in fact, it belonged to his son Dom Miguel. It is now in the Spada collection. Unfortunately, the error regarding the provenance remains: it is royal but does not belong to Dom João, but to his son D. Miguel<sup>10</sup>.



Fig. 8 - Collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece that belonged to King Dom Miguel (Spada Collection, Museum of Legion of Honour, Paris) [*Honneur & Gloire. Les trésors de la collection Spada*, Société des amis du musée national de la Légion d'honneur et des ordres de chevalerie, 2008, pp. 22-23]

The so-called “large insignia” is on display at the new Royal Treasury Museum and is one of the most emblematic pieces on show there. An important piece of jewellery, the insignia was commissioned by Prince Regent Dom João around 1800 and was made by a Crown jeweller, as yet undetermined. This Golden Fleece is 27 centimetres high and weighs 413,5 and is made up of 1700 brilliant cut diamonds, 190 rubies and a large sapphire<sup>11</sup>. Because of its prominence in the collection, it has its own display case in the new Museum.

<sup>10</sup> José Vicente de BRAGANÇA; Paulo Jorge ESTRELA, “Os colares das Ordens do Tosão de Ouro e do Espírito Santo. Do Rei D. João VI e do Infante D. Miguel”, op. cit., pp. 18-20.

<sup>11</sup> João José Rumsey TEIXEIRA, “O hábito  *muito rico* da Ordem do Tosão de Ouro”, *Catálogo do Museu do Tesouro Real* (a publicar).



This insignia was inherited by King Dom Miguel, who has been proven to have worn it, and was kept in a safe box in the Bank of Portugal between 1834 and 1943 - more than a hundred years - when the Portuguese State bought it from the heirs of the so-called jewels of Dom Miguel.



Fig. 9 - The so-called “large insignia” of the Golden Fleece Order (Portugal, c. 1800) [PNA, inv. 4774, ©DGPC/ADF Luísa Oliveira]

Fig. 10 - Portrait of King Dom João VI with the large insignia of the Golden Fleece (Portugal, Domingos António de Sequeira, 19th century [first quarter]) [PNA, inv. 4115, ©DGPC/ADF José Paulo Ruas]



D. Miguel had been elected a Knight of the Order by his maternal grandfather, King Carlos IV of Spain (1748-1819), in 1804, three years after his brother Dom Pedro, who reigned in Portugal as Dom Pedro IV and was later the first Emperor of Brazil<sup>12</sup>.

After Dom João, Dom Pedro and Dom Miguel, Queen Dona Maria II (1819-1853) two husbands, Augusto de Beauharnais, Duke of Leuchtenberg (1810-1835, died before being invested), and Dom

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<sup>12</sup> Alfonso de CEBALLOS-ESCALERA Y GILA, Marqués de la Floresta (director), *La Insigne Orden del Toisón de Oro*, op. cit., pp. 482-484.



Fernando II (1816-1885), born Prince of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, were awarded the Golden Fleece (1835 e 1837)<sup>13</sup>.

Another insignia belonging to King Dom Fernando, which is also on display in the new Museum, was inherited by his son King Dom Luís and later by his grandson King Dom Carlos (1863-1908), who demonstrably wore it - they were both Knights of the Fleece, like all the kings of Portugal since Dom João VI, the two husbands of Queen Dona Maria II and some princes.



Fig. 11 - Insignia of the Order of the Golden Fleece that belonged to Dom Fernando II (Portugal, 19th century [second quarter], Raimundo José Pinto, Casa Pinto & Souza [atrib.]) [PNA, inv. 47234, ©DGPC/ADF Luísa Oliveira]

Fig. 12 - Members of the Portuguese Royal Family awarded the Order of the Golden Fleece since 1785

Name	Date of granting and title at the date
D. José	1785, Prince of Brasil
King D. João VI	1785, Infante
King D. Pedro IV, I do Brasil	1801, Prince of Beira
King D. Miguel I	1804, Infante
Augusto, Duke of Leuchtenberg	1835, husband of Queen D. Maria II
Consort King D. Fernando II	1837, husband of Queen D. Maria II
King D. Pedro V	1847, Prince of Beira
King D. Luís I	1861, King
King D. Carlos I	1866, Royal Prince
D. Afonso Henriques	1884, Infante
D. Augusto	1886, Infante
D. Luís Filipe	1892, Royal Prince
King D. Manuel II	1908, King

<sup>13</sup> Alfonso de CEBALLOS-ESCALERA Y GILA, Marqués de la Floresta (director), *La Insigne Orden del Toisón de Oro*, op. cit., pp. 516 e 518.

In the Ajuda Library there is the diploma of the Order of the Golden Fleece of King Dom Luís and in National Archive Torre do Tombo there are the instructions for his father, the consort king Fernando, to receive him in the Order. There is also, in the mentioned National Archives, the diploma of the Infante Dom Augusto, Duke of Coimbra, brother of King Dom Luís.



Fig. 13 - Diploma of the Order of the Golden Fleece of King Dom Luís (Spain, 1861) [BA, inv. 5174, ©DGPC/ADF Luísa Oliveira]

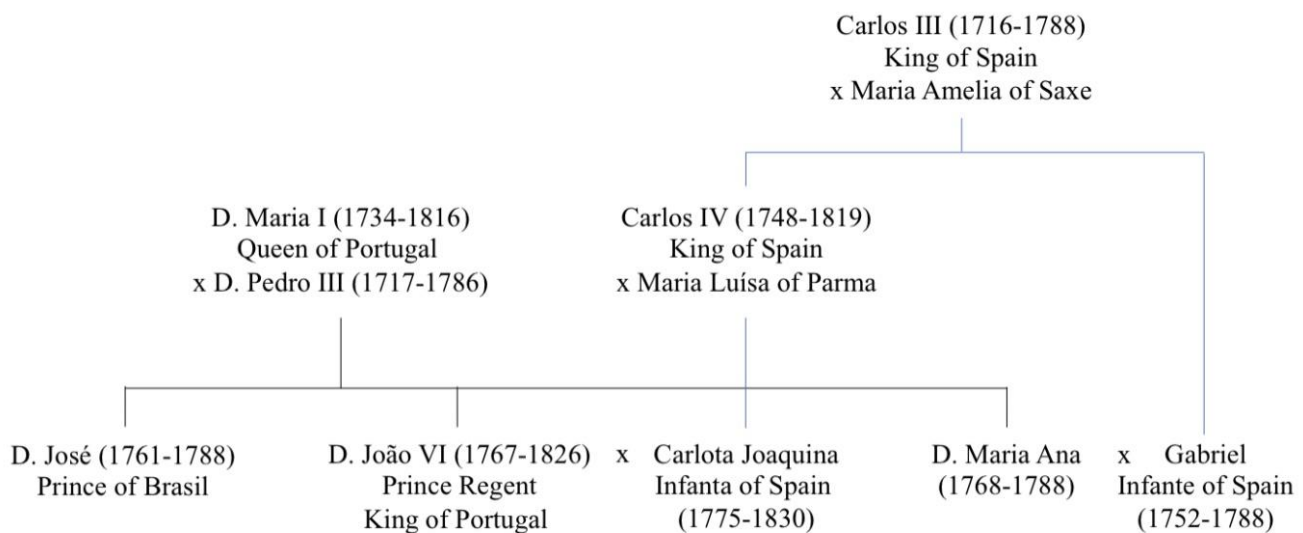


Fig. 14 - Family tree with all members of the Portuguese Royal Family awarded the Order of the Golden Fleece since 1785, marked in blue

In 1796, in the aftermath of the Peace of Basel, the meetings of Badajoz and Elvas took place and decorations were exchanged between members of both royal families. Prince Regent Dom João and his eldest son, Dom Francisco António Pio, Prince of Brazil (1795-1801), were awarded Grand Crosses of the Order of Carlos III, by King Carlos IV of Spain, their father-in-law and grandfather, respectively<sup>14</sup>. On this occasion, the Spanish King and his eldest son, Prince of Asturias - future King

<sup>14</sup> Alfonso de CEBALLOS-ESCALERA Y GILA, Vizconde de Ayala, *La Real y Distinguida Orden Española de Carlos III*, Presidencia del Gobierno / Real Casa de la Moneda / Boletín Oficial del Estado, 2016.

Fernando VII (1784-1833) - were both awarded the “Banda” (riband) of three Portuguese Military Orders (Cristo, Avis and Santiago) and the “Infantes” Carlos Maria Isidro (1788-1855) and Francisco de Paula (1794-1865) were awarded the “Banda” of Two Orders (Cristo and Avis)<sup>15</sup>.



Fig. 15 - Miniature insignia of the Order of Charles III (Portugal, 18th century, last quarter) [PNA, inv. 4794, ©DGPC/ADF Luísa Oliveira]

<sup>15</sup> José Vicente de BRAGANÇA; Paulo Jorge ESTRELA, “D. João VI e as Grã-Cruzes das Ordens Militares. Correções e esclarecimentos a trabalhos publicados”, *Pro Phalaris. Boletim da Academia Falerística de Portugal*, ano 10, 2.º semestre, n.º 20, 2019, pp. 4-5.



The miniature, which dates from the last quarter of the eighteenth century, is a gold, silver, diamond, enamel and glass jewel of only four centimetres but of great quality and beauty as a piece of jewellery. The star bears the same dating and is made of gold and enamel, in a less frequent model with the arms of the cross in white enamel, with hollow, circumferential and concentric openings<sup>16</sup>.



Fig. 16 - Star of the Order of Charles III (Portugal, 18th century, last quarter) [PNA, inv. 5172, ©DGPC/ADF Luísa Oliveira]

King Dom João's sons, the aforementioned Dom Pedro and Dom Miguel, were also awarded Grand Crosses of the Order of Carlos III in 1801 e 1802 respectively. These members of the Portuguese royal family figure with the star and the sash of this Order, and the sash coupled with others, on several portraits.

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<sup>16</sup> Alfonso de CEBALLOS-ESCALERA Y GILA, Vizconde de Ayala, *La Real y Distinguida Orden Española de Carlos III*, op. cit., p. 139, reproduces an identical star.





Fig. 17 - Portrait of King Dom Miguel with stars of Spanish Orders of Carlos III and Isabel the Catholic (Johann Nepomuk Ender, 19th century) [Cabral Moncada Leilões, leilão n.º 194, Maio de 2018]

In March eighteen fifteen Fernando VII of Spain founded the Royal and American Order of Isabel the Catholic, having as its patron Saint Isabel, Queen of Portugal, born Infanta of Aragon. This new Order aimed to reward services essentially rendered in the Spanish American colonies, so this designation was expressly included in the name.



In July of that year, the first three foreigners were honoured: Dom João, still Prince Regent - his mother, Queen Dona Maria I, would only die the following year - and the mentioned sons, Dom Pedro and Dom Miguel<sup>17</sup>.

We recall that the Portuguese royal family had been in Brazil since 1808, where the court had moved to during the invasion of the Napoleonic armies. The sash with the respective badge and the star that belonged to Dom João are on display in the new museum and are probably the oldest known insignias of this Order<sup>18</sup>.



Fig. 18 - Sash, badge and star of the Order of Isabel the Catholic (Spain, c. 1815) [PNA, inv. 5186, 5186A, ©DGPC/ADF Luísa Oliveira]

The museum also includes the badge, sash and star of the Order of San Fernando, founded by the Spanish courts in 1811 during the captivity of King Fernando, in France. The King Dom João VI and his son Dom Miguel were awarded this Order in November 1823. Months early, Infante Dom Miguel had led a counter-revolutionary military coup - the Vilafrancada - after which his father had abolished the first Portuguese constitution, approved months earlier. In Spain, King Fernando had resumed absolute government of his country that same year, which explains the expression of solidarity in the concession document.

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<sup>17</sup> Alfonso de CEBALLOS-ESCALERA Y GILA, Vizconde de Ayala, *La Real y Americana Orden de Isabel La Católica (1815-2015)*, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación Boletín Oficial del Estado, 2015, p. 77.

<sup>18</sup> Alfonso de CEBALLOS-ESCALERA Y GILA, Vizconde de Ayala, *La Real y Americana Orden de Isabel La Católica (1815-2015)*, op. cit., p. 69.





Fig. 19 - Sash, badge and star of the Order of San Fernando (Spain, 19th century, first quarter) [PNA, inv. 5186, 5186A, ©DGPC/ADF Luísa Oliveira]

The diplomas of these two Grand Crosses, dated March 1824, are documents of great splendour, designed and illuminated by Captain Don Tibúrcio de Aguirre. It can be seen in the various details, particularly the insignia represented, not only of the Order of San Fernando, but also of Carlos the third and the Golden Fleece in the royal coat of arms of Spain.





Fig. 20 - Diploma granting the Order of San Fernando to King Dom João VI  
[ANTT, Ordens Honoríficas, n.º 2]





Fig. 21 - Diploma granting the Order of San Fernando to Infante Dom Miguel  
 [ANTT, *Ordens Honoríficas*, n.º 3]



The last Spanish Order in the Portuguese Royal Treasury's exhibition is the Grand Cross, with red badge, of the Order of Naval Merit of Spain, which was awarded to King Dom Luís during his visit to Madrid in 1863. It is interesting to note that the red badge was awarded, and not white, as was usual, as the red badge was reserved for rewarding actions in military campaigns. We believe that, with this particular award, King Alfonso XII of Spain has meant to recognize the value of the Portuguese monarch as an officer of the Navy, when, as a young prince, he commanded the Naval Force sent on a military expedition to Angola in 1860.



Fig. 22 - Sash, badge and star of the Order of Spanish Naval Merit, with red badge (Spain, 19th century) [PNA, inv. 2234, 2234A, ©DGPC/ADF Luísa Oliveira]

May these brief notes about the Spanish orders displayed in the new Portuguese Royal Treasury Museum arouse curiosity and interest in a visit to Lisbon to see the entire museum, especially the insignias of the honorific orders exhibited there.