

# THE PHYSIOGNOMY OF MEDIEVAL MADRID

## *The Problem of Madrid's Medieval Physiognomy*

Scarcely a handful of information exists to enable us to reconstruct the physiognomy of Medieval Madrid—in other words, the appearance of its surroundings—. Nothing is known of the outskirts of Madrid during the period of Muslim domination, and little more during the subsequent control by Christians that began at the end of the eleventh century. There only began to be a greater number of documents associated with the town from the beginning of the fourteenth century. Basing myself on different kinds of sources, I will try to make a hypothetical reconstruction of Madrid's physiognomy since its foundation around the end of the ninth century.

The historiography of medieval Madrid has hitherto focused mainly on the city walls, the citadel (in Spanish 'Almudena' from the Arabic 'al-Mudayna') and the enclosure of the former town (Spanish 'medina' from the Arabic 'mad+nat'). Despite the evident interest this subject generates, there has been no attempt to reconstruct the surroundings of medieval Madrid.

I will try to make up for this lack by supposing that Madrid would have maintained a traditional Muslim rural setting until recent times, possibly up to the beginning of the twentieth century. On the basis, therefore, of the study of more recent testimonies—between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries—I will try to rebuild theoretically the town's previous outward appearance.

## *Madrid and the River Manzanares in the Middle Ages*

Madrid was most probably founded between 866 and 871, for Ibn Hayyaḍn mentioned in his *Kitāb al-muqtābis fi ta rīj riyāḍ al-Andalus* that the castle (hisn) of Mayḍrit was built by order of the Umayyad emir of Al-Andalus, Muhammad I. Although the town was cited by several Muslim chroniclers, their testimonies barely reveal that Mayḍrit was a town of middling importance, but very well fortified [ciudad de mediana importancia, pero muy bien fortificada] (Martínez Salvador, 1992; Viguera Molins, 1993).

Following the hypothesis proposed by Jaime Oliver Asín, and subsequently modified by Joan Corominas, the name Mayḍrit comes from the Mozarabic Matri or Matricem the name of a former stream that has since disappeared, which in Arabic would be Matriyḍ. By a process of popular etymological deviation, this changed to Mayḍrit possibly due to the influence of maḍyḍra (stream), the term cited by the Arabic chroniclers. Hence the term Maidrit, employed by the Christians, could easily have appeared, and finally the current form Madrid (Oliver Asín, 1991; Corominas, 1960).

The reason for building a castle in Madrid was most likely the need for surveillance over the Manzanares valley, which at that time was one of the main routes leading to the natural passes through the Guadarrama Mountains. Apart from this information, there is little data on the town—except for those supplied by archaeology—until the thirteenth century, and none on the surroundings. Thus, any attempt at reconstruction has necessarily to be restricted to hypothesis. Madrid was situated high above fertile plains on each side of the River Manzanares, the name of which appeared for the first time in the sixteenth century:

«The river flowing near the town is called Mançanares ... [El río que pasa junto a la villa se llama Mançanares ...]» (Domínguez Ortiz, 1969: 138)

Possibly due to its scant importance, until the seventeenth century the Manzanares was known by the name of other rivers close to Madrid, such as Guadarrama, Henarejos and even Jarama. As we will see, however, this was not an obstacle to intense exploitation of its banks.

Neither is there any information about the population of Madrid until the proclamation of the 'fuero' (municipal privileges) in 1202. It probably comprised a mixture of craftsmen, merchants and several other professions. At the end of the fifteenth century, the German traveller Hyeronimus Münzer (1494-1495) stated that Madrid still maintained a considerable population of 'Mudejares':

«The suburbs [of Madrid] are very extensive; it has many springs, cheap provisions and two Moorish neighbourhoods inhabited by numerous Saracens [Los arrabales (de Madrid) son muy extensos; tiene muchas fuentes, víveres baratos y dos morerías habitadas por numerosos sarracenos]» (Münzer, 1951)

## *Orchards around Madrid*

As happened in other towns belonging to the former Kingdom of Castile—for example, Cordoba or Toledo—, from the Middle Ages until at least the eighteenth century, Madrid was surrounded by a series of public lands, meadows, groves, vineyards, orchards and mills. This green belt to some extent mitigated the harsh Madrid climate, which verges on aridity in the southern part of the town.

Although nothing has been preserved from this former rural Madrid, a number of documents make possible a hypothetical reconstruction of the surrounding landscape—thus, of its physiognomy—.

A letter from Alfonso X dated 1277 refers to certain houses, vineyards, orchards and olive gro-

ves near the Guadalajara Gate [Puerta de Guadalajara], which was situated in the Main Street [Calle Mayor] near the site of what in recent times became the San Miguel Market <sup>1</sup>. A municipal law of 1380, wherein a number of products were cited, gives a good idea of the variety of species cultivated in the orchards around Madrid (see Table I). This law tried to prevent 'damages to cultivated fields, vineyards, orchards, fruit trees, other trees, pastures, groves and meadows [los daños de los panes (sembrados) e viñas e huertos e frutales e de los otros arboles e dehesas e sotos e prados]' by establishing a 100-maravedi penalty for cutting down trees 'when they were fruit trees [para fruta leuar]' and a 30-maravedi fine in other cases. The municipality advised that 'should any type of cattle enter or damage the orchards around Madrid, or damage cultivated fields, the owner of the cattle would have to pay the penalty for it ... and should the cattle damage trees in orchards, by gnawing or breaking them, the owner of the cattle must pay ten maravedis per head ... [sy ganado mayor o menor entrare o fizyere daño en las huertas de Madrid o de su termino, e lo fizyere en lo sembrado, que peche el dueño del ganado de la caloña ... e sy estos ganados sobre dichos fizyeren daño en los arboles de las huertas royendolos o quebrandolos, que peche su dueño del ganado diez maravedis por cada cabeça ...]' (Pérez Chozas, Millares Carlo & Varela Hervías, 1932: 144-146).

Just as the 1380 municipal law provides a key to the plants that were cultivated in the orchards around Madrid, the 1590 fruit and vegetable alcavalas (a former tax of Muslim origin) clearly evoke the richness of Madrid's larders (see Table II) (Alvar Ezquerro, 1989, p. 244).

During the sixteenth century, two places in the Manzanares valley, traditionally known as 'la Xagra' and 'el Alvega', underwent important modifications. After 1556, Philip II -who was probably thinking of transferring the Court from Toledo to Madrid- gradually began buying the plots and orchards close to the Alcazar with the intention of making them into a game park.

"... His Majesty has ordered the making with all diligence of a wood next to that town [Madrid] ... [... su mag.t ha mandado hazer con toda diligencia vn bosque junto a la dha. villa (Madrid) ...]" (Gómez Iglesias, 1971: 11)

Indeed, in the map by F. de Wit, dated 1635, it is possible to read -in the place nowadays occupied by the Royal Palace gardens, the so-called Campo del Moro- 'The Park and Woods with Deer and other Game [El Parque y monte de los Venados y otras caças]' (Wit, 1635). With the intention of supporting his commis-

Philip II disposed that neither the orchards be worked nor the trees cut, that place quickly becoming, therefore, a 'meadow [prado]'. It was permitted, however, to sow 'cabbages [berzas]' and 'pulses [legumbres]' (Gómez Iglesias, 1971: 10).

The orchards must have disappeared quickly from the area between the palace and the river since they are not visible on the map by Pedro de Texeira (1656). This document still reveals that the enclosure of the new property was formed not by a wall, but by a hedge, a proposal included by the Spanish agronomist Gabriel Alonso de Herrera in his *Obra de agricultura*, and which is, indeed, highly recommended to protect game:

"... but if it is not possible to make all [walls] with lime and stone, it is better to use brambles, in this way, the estate is not open at any point, and these natural or living barriers are more secure, cost less and last longer than others, and in case of fire, grow again [... más no las pudiendo hacer todas de cal y canto (las cerraduras), más vale de zarzales, que no que esté por toda parte la heredad abierta, y estas cerraduras naturales o vivas son más seguras, de menos costa y de más dura que otras ningunas, y si por caso se quemem, tornan a nascer]." (Herrera, 1970: 208)

Among the properties that Philip II bought in those years was an orchard between the Casa de Campo area and the bank of the Manzanares, which had 'black and white poplars [alamos prietos e blancos]', 'a well built of lime and stone with its waterwheel where the water flows [un pozo de anoria empedrado de cal y canto con su poza, donde va el agua]', as well as fifty fruit trees, twenty more poplars and a little house. It is worth pointing out that the waterwheel won a prize (18,750 maravedis), close to the third part of the value of the orchard (65,000 maravedis), which had a surface area of 6fi fanegas -approximately 2 ha- (Gómez Iglesias, 1971: 13).

In the sixteenth century there were even orchards inside the town walls, as can be seen in a drawing by the Flemish artist Anton van den Wyngaerde, which shows a patch of trees in the place later occupied by a former stream, the 'arroyo de las fuentes de San Pedro' -currently Segovia Street-. These trees most likely corresponded to an orchard known as 'huertas del Pozacho', frequently cited in medieval documents (Kagan, 1986: 110-118).

Texeira's map also shows other orchards, such as 'huerta del Marqués de Palacios', 'huerta de las Minillas', 'huertas de Leganitos', 'huerta de la Buitrera', 'huerta de la Florida', 'huerta de la Puente' and 'Molino quemado [Burnt Mill]'. According to the chronicler Gerónimo de Quintana (1570-1644), in Madrid there were

Table I.

Plants cultivated in the orchards of Madrid in the fourteenth century

açafran	Crocus sativus L.
açañorias	Daucus carota L.
agraz	Ribes uva-crispa L.
almendras	Prunus dulcis (Miller) D. A. Webb
aluarcoques	Prunus persica (L.) Batsch
arvejas	Vicia sativa L.
azeytunas	Olea europaea L.
çerezas	Prunus avium L.
çermeñas	Pyrus bourgaeana Decne
çirueltas	Prunus domestica L.
cogombros	¿Cucurbita pepo L.?
coles	Brassica oleracea L.
duraznos	Prunus armeniaca L.
granadas	Punica granatum L.
figos	Ficus carica L.
garvanços	Cicer arietinum L.
hauas	Vicia faba L.
huas	Vitis vinifera L.
lechugas	Lactuca sativa L.
mañanos	Malus domestica Borkh.
melones	Cucumis melo L.
membrillos	Cydonia oblonga Miller
nabos	Brassica napus L.
nogales	Juglans regia L.
panpanos [sarmien tos tiemos de la vid]	Vitis vinifera L.
pepinos	Cucumis sativus L.
peras	Pyrus communis L.
puerros	Allium porrum L.
rrosas	Rosa sp.
viñas	Vitis vinifera L.

Table II.

Fruits and vegetables sold in Madrid in the sixteenth century

aceite/ aceitunas	Olea europaea L.
acelgas	Beta vulgaris L.
achicorias *	Cichorium intybus L.
ajos	Allium sativum L.
albaricoques	Prunus persica (L.) Batsch
albérchigos	Prunus armeniaca L.
alcachofas	Cynara scolymus L.
algarrobas	Ceratonia siliqua L.
almendras	Prunus dulcis (Mill.) D.A. Webb
alpiste	Webb
arroz	Phalaris canariensis L.
arvejas y arvejonnes	Oryza sativa L.
avellanas	Pisum sat. L y Vicia sativa L.
azufaias	Corylus avellana L.
bellotas	Ziziphus jujuba Mill.
berros	Quercus ilex L.
	Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum (L.) Hayek

(Table II. seg.)

berzas	Brassica oleracea L.
cañamones	Cannabis sativa L.
cardos y cardillos	Cynara scolymus L. and Scolymus hispanicus L.
	Castanea sativa Mill.
castañas	Allium cepa L.
cebollas	Prunus avium L.
cerezas	Cyperus esculentus L.
chufas	¿Cucurbita pepo L.?
cohombros	Coriandrum sativum L.
culantro	Coriandrum sativum L.
duraznos	Prunus armeniaca L.
escarolas	Cichorium endivia L.
espárragos	Asparagus officinalis L.
espinacas	Spinacia oleracea L.
garbanzos	Cicer arietinum L.
guindas	Prunus cerasus L.
habas	Vicia faba L.
hierbabuena	Mentha gentilis L.
higos	Ficus carica L.
lechugas	Lactuca sativa L.
lentejas	Lens culinaris Medicus
limas	Citrus aurantifolia (Christm.) Swingle
	Citrus limon (L.) Burm. fil.
limones	Lupinus albus L.
lupino o altramuz	Arbutus unedo L.
madroños	Malus domestica Borkh.
manzanas camuesas	Prunus armeniaca L.
melocotones	Cydonia oblonga Miller
membrillos	Morus nigra L.
moras	Brassica napus L.
nabos	Citrus medica L.
naranjas cidras	Citrus maxima (Burm.) Merrill
naranjas toronjas	Mespilus germanica L.
nísperos	Juglans regia L.
nueces	Prunus armeniaca L. and Prunus persica (L.) Batsch
orejones	Vitis vinifera L.
pasas	Cucumis melo L.
pepinos	Pyrus communis L.
peras	Petroselinum crispum (Mill.) A.W. Hill
perejil	Capsicum annuum L.
	Pinus pinea L.
pimientos de Indias	Allium porrum L.
piñones	Brassica rapa L.
puerros	Brassica oleracea L.
rábanos	Daucus carota L.
repollos	Rubus ulmifolius L.
zanahorias	
zarzamoras	

\*y otras hierbas para ensaladas

Table III.

Trees and shrubs cultivated in the orchards and gardens of Madrid in the eighteenth century

Alamo blanco	Populus alba L.		Ulmus minor Miller
Alamo negro	Populus nigra L.	Romero	Passiflora caerulea L.
Alfónsigo	Pistacia vera L.	Rosa amarilla	Pyrus communis L.
Almacenas	Prunus domestica L.		Pinus pinea L.
Albaricoques	Prunus armeniaca L.	Rosa blanca	Platanus orientalis L.
Alcornoque	Quercus suber L.	Rosa castellana	Prunus persica (L.) Batsch
Aliso	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertner	Rosa purpurea	Retama monosperma (L.) Boiss.
Almendras amargas	Prunus dulcis (Mill.) D. A. Webb	Rusco	Rosmarinus officinalis L.
Alméz	Celtis australis L.	Sauce	¿Rosa hemisphaerica Herrm.?
Arbol de amor	Cercis siliquastrum L.	Salvia mayor	¿Rosa sempervirens L.?
Arbol del Paraíso	Melia azedarach L.	Spina cervina	Rosa gallica L.
Aromo	Robinia pseudacacia L.	Taray	¿Rosa damascena Miller?
Arrayán		Tilo	Ruscus aculeatus L.
Avellano	Myrtus communis L.	Vid	Salix alba L.
Azerolas	Corylus avellana L.	Yedra	Salvia officinalis L.
Bonetero	Crataegus azarolus L.	Yezgos	Rhamnus catharticus L.
Box	Euonymus europaeus L.	Zarza	Tamarix gallica L.
Cambrones			Tilia platyphyllos Scop.
Caña	Buxus sempervirens L.		Vitis vinifera L.
Casia Poetica			Hedera helix L.
Castaño de Indias	Lycium europaeum L.		Sambucus ebulus L.
	Arundo donax L.		Rubus fruticosus L. <i>The Survival of the Medieval Physiognomy of Madrid</i>
Cyprés	Osyris alba L.		
Don diegos de noche	Aesculus hippocastanum L.		
Durillo	Cupressus sempervirens L.		
Encina			
Endrinas	Mirabilis jalapa L.		
Escaramujo	Viburnum tinus L.		
Espliego	Quercus ilex L.		
	Prunus spinosa L.		
Falsa acacia	Rosa canina L.		
	Lavandula angustifolia Miller		
Fresno	L. latifolia Medicus		
Guindas	Acacia farnesiana (L.) Willd.		
Higuera			
Jazmín	Fraxinus excelsior L.		
Jazmín amarillo	Prunus cerasus L.		
Jeringuilla	Ficus carica L.		
Laurel	Jasminum officinale L.		
Lauroceraso	Jasminum humile L.		
Lila	Philadelphus coronarius L.		
Madroño			
Membrillo	Laurus nobilis L.		
Moral	Prunus laurocerasus L.		
Morera			
Mosqueta	Syringa vulgaris L.		
	Arbutus unedo L.		
Nispero	Cydonia oblonga Miller		
Nogal			
Olivo	Morus nigra L.		
Olmo	Morus alba L.		
Pasionaria	Rosa moschata J. Herrmann		
Peral			
Pino	Mespilus germanica L.		
Platano	Juglans regia L.		
Prisco			
Retama blanca	Olea europaea L.		

countless villas [quintas], orchards and private gardens, besides 'pleasant groves providing great freshness (grande frescura y amenidad de sotos)'. Quintana considered that 'although not having a large volume of water', the River Manzanares 'is gentle harmless and pleasant [si bien no es caudaloso, es apacible, sin perjuicio, y agradable]'. At that time Madrid had 'very pleasant groves, fresh and gentle fields, pleasant banks, and pastures full of sustenance and grass for cattle; almost infinite orchards and gardens with a variety of flowers and sweet-smelling roses [amenísimos sotos, frescos y apacibles prados, deleitosas riberas, y dehesas llenas de sustento y pasto para el ganado; casi infinitas huertas y jardines con variedad de flores y rosas olorosas]' (Quintana, 1980: f. 2v).

This diversity of crops was not the subjective product of a panegyrist. The famous botanist Joseph Quer (1695-1764), the first director of the Royal Botanical Garden, referred in his 'Spanish Flora' to a large number of trees and shrubs cultivated in 'the surroundings of Madrid [el circuito de Madrid]', in the former country house of Philip II just in front of the Alcazar -the Casa del Campo (meaning literally Country House)- or in 'gardens of virtuosi [jardines de curiosos]' (see Table III). Among them are some remarkable plants, such as the medlar (*Mespilus germanica* L.), the myrtle (*Myrtus communis* L.), which today have almost disappeared from Madrid's gardens, the azarole (*Crataegus azarolus* L.), which was cultivated in the orchards of the Casa del Campo (Quer, 1784, vol. V: 435, 438, 472), and, especially, the pistachio tree (*Pistacia vera* L.):

"[The pistachio tree] has already become naturalised in some parts of Spain, such as the Royal Botanical Garden, in the garden that the Duke of Infantado owns in the place known as Chamartín near this court, and in several orchards of virtuosi. In the town of Getafe, two leagues from Madrid, there are two very old pistachio trees. They have been kept since long ago within the shelter of a wall looking south, in the courtyard of a house, which is called, for this reason, the Pistachio House in the main street [Se halla ya connaturalizado en algunas partes de España, como en el Real Jardín Botánico, en el que posee el Excelentísimo Señor Duque del Infantado en el lugar de Chamartin, cerca de esta Corte, y en varias Huertas de curiosos. En la Villa de Getafe, a dos leguas de Madrid, se ven dos árboles de esta especie muy viejos, que se conservan de tiempo inmemorial al abrigo de una pared que cae al Mediodía en el patio de una casa, que llaman por eso la casa de los Alfénsigos en la calle mayor]" (Quer, 1784, 6: 364).

The Casa de Campo still maintains -although in deplorable conditions- specimens of hazelnut,

lime, pear and walnut. They represent a poor testimony to the richness of Madrid's orchards in former times. During the 19th century there still existed around the town 70 houses with orchards and houses for recreation [casas de huertas y de recreo]. They covered 506 fanegas corresponding to 79 orchards in private hands and 444 fanegas of 8 orchards belonging to the Crown -a total of 325 ha- (Madoz, 1847, 10: 985)<sup>2</sup>.

### *Waterwheels in Madrid*

The diversity of plantations in the orchards of Madrid -where the annual rains hardly amount to 400 l/m<sup>2</sup>- was possible thanks to the intensive use of an artefact of eastern origin, the waterwheel. In my opinion, the waterwheel was responsible for the layout of the physiognomy of medieval Madrid.

The waterwheel was probably used in Madrid from the time the town was founded, as was surely the case in Toledo, where this kind of device has been documented since the tenth century. We have already seen references to 'anorias' (waterwheels) in Madrid at the time of Philip II, whose ambassador at the Court of Persia saw a number of 'wheels [ruedas]' which reminded him of 'the ones used in Madrid for watering the gardens [las que usan en Madrid (para regar) en los jardines]' (Caro Baroja, 1983: 372).

The waterwheels are clearly depicted on the map by Pedro de Texeira, as well as on many other seventeenth century maps. Most noteworthy are the samples drawn by David Roberts (1796-1864), which may be seen in his beautiful publication *Picturesque Sketches in Spain* (Roberts, 1837).

Following the rules imposed by the municipality during the eighteenth century -the Ordenanzas de Madrid by Teodoro Ardemans-, when located in gardens, the waterwheels had to be roofed, it being necessary to leave a minimum distance between them and the walls of neighbouring properties in order to prevent the characteristic noise that the machine produced as it turned (Blasco & Ardemans, 1992: 164-165).

Finally, the excellent map of Madrid dated 1872-74 includes more than 100 waterwheels -represented by a special icon- inside the town or around it (Ibáñez and Ibáñez de Ibero, 1872-1874; Rodríguez Topete & Quero Castro, 1994). Waterwheels appear in orchards, mainly on the banks of the Manzanares, in the gardens of the former palace of Buen Retiro -today's Retiro Park-, in the Royal Botanical Garden, founded in 1781, as well as in tile factories, where they were used to provide the water needed to handle the clay.

WATERWHEELS IN MADRID IN 1874 ACCORDING TO THE MAP BY C. IBANEZ AND IBANEZ DE IBERO



### *The Survival of the Medieval Physiognomy of Madrid*

We may conclude that until the end of 19th century Madrid looked like a traditional Andalusian town. Unfortunately, the only remains of that former splendour is the current placename 'Cuesta de la Vega [Slope of the Fertile Plain]'. The loss of such landscape and cultural richness must be considered deplorable. However, it might still be possible to recover it in some cases, albeit partially, as happened recently in the Retiro Park, where the remains of a waterwheel and a pool were recently discovered by archaeologists.

The reconstruction of these old devices should follow the pattern observed in other better preserved examples, like the waterwheel at the Royal Botanical Garden. Despite the fact that the wooden structure disappeared as a result of a bombing raid during the Civil War (1936-1939), this device still has the trees that were originally planted around it. In a very special way, these trees provided protection, both for the device itself, preventing the harmful effects of putrefaction, and for the donkey that drew the machine. It is worth noting that these trees, the love-tree (*Cercis siliquastrum* L.), melia (*Melia azedarach* L.) and nettle-tree (*Celtis australis* L.), were all strictly linked to the Muslims. Why precisely these three trees, which would undoubtedly be recommended by the Sevillian agronomist Ibn al-'Awwam (twelfth-thirteenth centuries) in his chapter devoted to orchard arrangement?

"... close to the well and the pool, paradise-trees, melias, love-trees, elms, black poplars, willows, pomegranates and similar trees shall be planted, and from the biggest among them vines shall be hung, in the shade of which the water will stay cool, for cold water is very convenient and beneficial in summer [... cerca del pozo y del estanque (o alberca) se plantarán árboles del paraíso, acederaques, árboles del amor, olmos, álamos negros, sauces, granados y semejantes; y de los grandes de ellos se colgarán (o armarán) parrales, a cuya sombra se refresque el agua, por lo convenientes y provechosos que son los riegos de agua fría en el verano]" (Ibn al-'Awwam, 1802: 154).

The architects involved in the design of the garden might have known about the text by the Andalusian agronomist through Joseph Banqueri's contemporaneous translation, but it is more likely they had recourse to a nearly 900-year-old tradition that was still carried on in Madrid at that time.

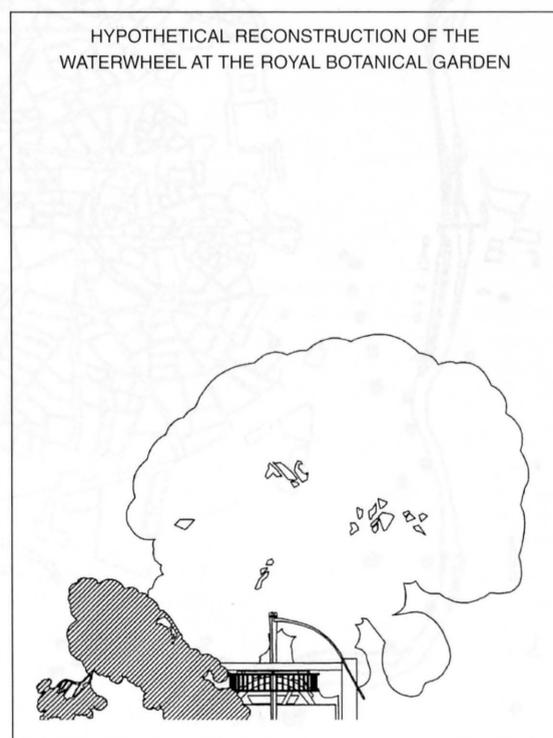
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Abstract: The Physiognomy of Medieval Madrid. On the basis of several documentary sources dated between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries, the physiognomy or surrounding landscape of Madrid in the Middle Ages is reconstructed. I describe how the contours, particularly the plain of the River Manzanares, consisted of a number of orchards, groves and vineyards. The variety of species cultivated throughout different ages is documented and related to intensive use of the waterwheel, the hydraulic device introduced by the Muslims.

Key words: Madrid, Middle Ages, physiognomy, landscape, orchards, crops.

Luis Ramón-Laca



Notes

1. Archivo Histórico Nacional, Sección de clero, carp. 1355 nº 12.
2. See the beautiful painting by Carlos de Haes (1826-1898), dated 1857, landscape on the bank of the Manzanares ['Paisaje de la ribera del Manzanares'], oil on canvas, 69 ~ 100 cm, held at the Museo de la Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando,

The original form of the structure of the tower is a simple rectangular structure in brick, slightly higher than the surrounding walls. A small tower, which was destroyed during the war, was located on the top of the tower. The tower was built in the 16th century, during the reign of Philip II. It was built by the architect Juan de Herrera, who was the chief architect of the El Escorial. The tower was built as a part of the defensive system of the city of Madrid. It was built on the site of an old tower, which was destroyed during the war. The tower was built in the 16th century, during the reign of Philip II. It was built by the architect Juan de Herrera, who was the chief architect of the El Escorial. The tower was built as a part of the defensive system of the city of Madrid. It was built on the site of an old tower, which was destroyed during the war.

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