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A Culture, a People, a Nation - Understanding of a Culture through Icons and Symbols.

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**The 2014 NAFSA
Region VII
Conference**

**October 26-29, 2014
Jackson, Mississippi**



A Culture, a People, a Nation – Understanding of a Culture through Icons & Symbols

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Definition of Icons & Symbols?

Icon –noun

1. a picture, image, or other representation.
2. Eastern Church. a representation of some sacred personage, as Christ or a saint or angel, painted usually on a wood surface and venerated itself as sacred.
3. a sign or representation that stands for its object by virtue of a resemblance or analogy to it.
4. Computers . a picture or symbol that appears on a monitor and is used to represent a command, as a file drawer to represent filing.
5. Semiotics . a sign or representation that stands for its object by virtue of a resemblance or analogy to it.

Symbol -noun

1. something used for or regarded as representing something else; a material object representing something, often something immaterial; emblem, token, or sign.
2. a letter, figure, or other character or mark or a combination of letters or the like used to designate something: the algebraic symbol x ; the chemical symbol Au.
3. a word, phrase, image, or the like having a complex of associated meanings and perceived as having inherent value separable from that which is symbolized, as being part of that which is symbolized, and as performing its normal function of standing for or representing that which is symbolized: usually conceived as deriving its meaning chiefly from the structure in which it appears, as generally distinguished from a sign.

AQUEDUCT OF SEGOVIA

Roman bridge-connects the Fuente Fría River
to the city

A.D. 1st C.



At highest point is 28.5 m. (93 ft. 6 ins.) high.
Built of unmortared brick-like granite blocks.
Inscribed on the city's coat of arms.



**Roman Theatre - Sagunto -
1st C.**

**1st Designated National
Monument in Spain - 1896
Greek influence in structure**



Alfonso X, El Sabio

Jews



TOLEDO

Center for translators
12th & 13th Centuries

Classical Greek, Classical
Hebrew, Classical Arabic

Moors



Christians

El Greco





Symphonia de Cantiga from the
Cantigas de Santa Maria



Martim Codax
Medieval Galician joglar
Cantigas d'amigo – 13th C.

7 Medieval Galician songs
with notations

A song of [Martim Codax](#) from
the [Pergaminho Vindel](#)

*El Reino de
Castilla
Castilla y León
Reign – 1474-1504
*Granted title of
Servant of God-
1974, by Catholic
Church

1451-1504

YSABEL I & FERNANDO II LOS REYES CATÓLICOS

La Reconquista – 1492

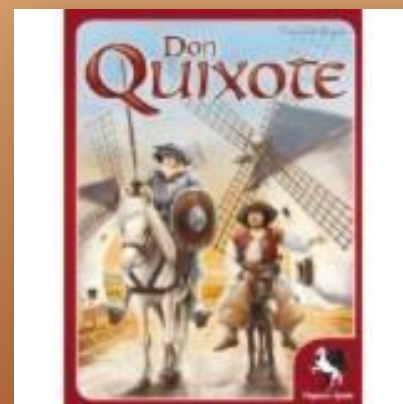
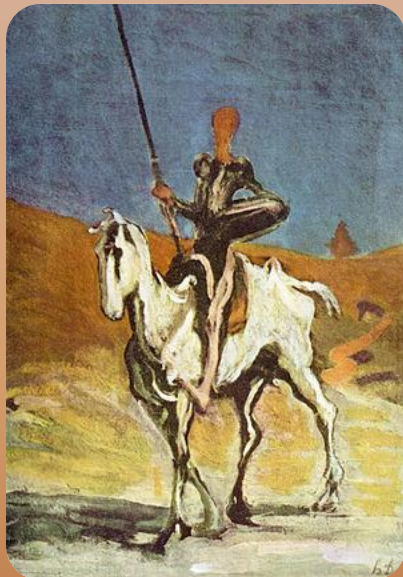
The Alhambra Decree - 1492



The return of Christopher Columbus,
following the discovery of the New World

*El Reino de Aragón
*King of Sicily, Naples,
& Navarra
*Fought the final war
with Granada
expunging Islam from
Spanish soil

1452-1516



Spanish –
Part 1 (1605)
Part 2 (1615)
English –
Part 1 (1612)
Part 2 (1620)





Arabesques -
Around a window



Court of the Lions



Tower of
Justice – 1348
(original
entrance)



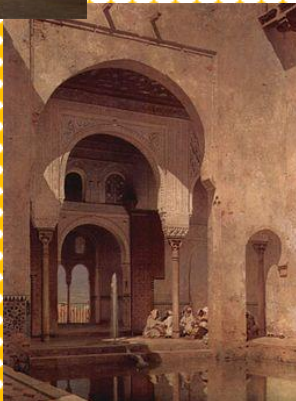
LA ALHAMBRA
GRANADA, ANDALUCIA,
SPAIN

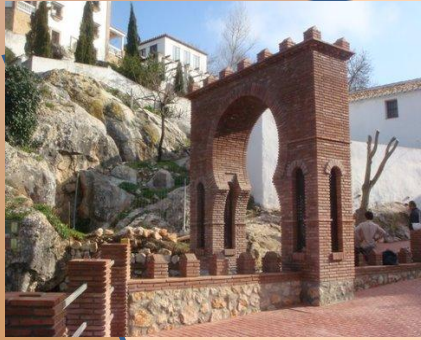


Partal – Portico and
pool of the 14th C.



Palace of Carlos V, Emperor
of the Holy Roman Empire





Poem on Comares' Gate

«I am a crown on the front of my door:

in me is the West envious of the East.

Al-Gani billah* orders me to quickly give way to the victory, as soon as it calls.

I am always waiting to see the visage of the king, dawn appearing from the horizon.

!May God make his works as beautiful as are his mettle and his figure

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Teresa de Ávila

1515-1582

Teresa Sánchez de Cepeda y Ahumada

Santa Teresa de Jesús

- *A Roman Catholic saint
- *Carmelite nun
- *Author of the Counter Reformation
- *Theologian of contemplative life through mental prayer
- *A reformer of the Carmelite Order
- *Considered to be a founder of the Discalced Carmelites along with John of the Cross



Christian Mystic

CHRIST HAS NO BODY BUT YOURS

- No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours

LAS MENINAS (Maids of Honor)

Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez

1599-1660



**Royal painter in
the court of
Felipe IV**

**Thirty-three
association with the
royal family**

**Native of Seville,
Spain**

**5-year old
Infanta Margarita**

**Painted in El Rey
Felipe's Alcázar
Palace, Madrid,
Spain, in
Velázquez's studio**

1656

Siglo de Oro (1492-1659)

ment – 1969
O World Heritage Site – 1984

ted in 2010 by
nedict XVI as a
asilica, upon
g the midpoint
truction



Construction –
1882-present

Completion
projected for
2026, upon the
centenary of the
death of Gaudí.

The Basílica i Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família
LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

A large Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, Spain

Designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926)

**The inspiration of a bookseller, Josep Maria Bocabella, founder of
Asociación Espiritual de Devotos de San José** (Spiritual Association of Devotees
of St. Joseph



A red, mixed paella with mussels (preparación barroca)



Paella valenciana – must have short-grain white rice, butter, beans, tomatoes, fresh rosemary, sweet paprika, saffron, garlic, salt, olive oil and water.¹



Modern form – 19th C. From Lake Albufera

Paella=pan, Valencian-Catalán word derived from Old French, Latin; similar to Italian word



Plate of paella with aioli

1840 – first referred to, in a local Spanish newspaper, as a recipe rather than a pan, due to popularity

FATHER OF MODERN CLASSICAL GUITAR

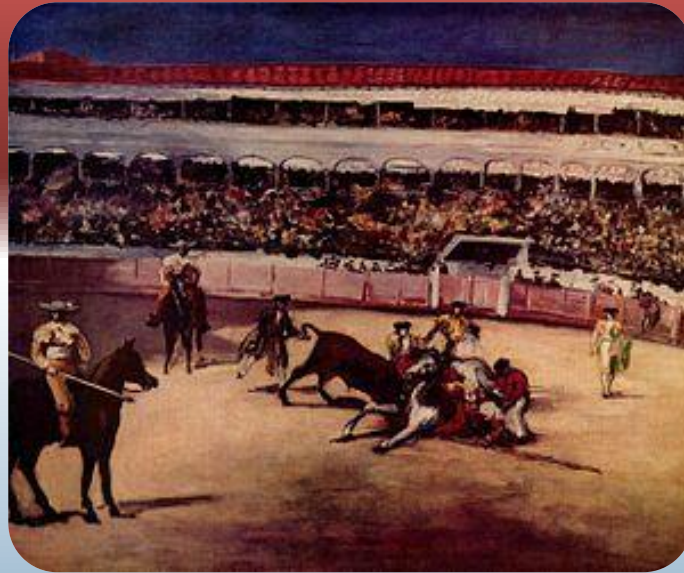


1893-1987
Linares, Spain



Tauromachia

**Pamplona –
7th month, 7th day,
7th hour**



El paso doble

Spain, Portugal, Southern France,
Spanish-America (including Mexico
& Colombia)



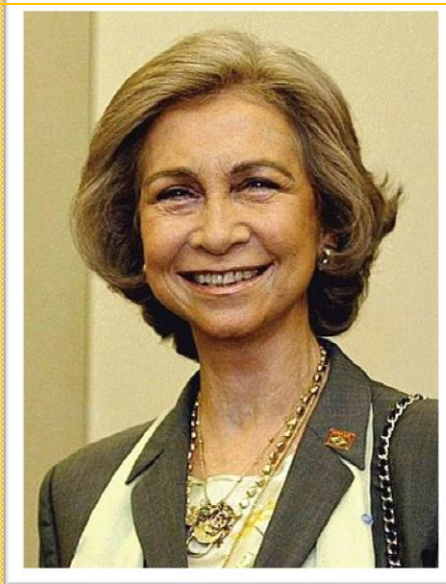
Museo Nacional Centro
de Arte de Reina Sofía

QUEEN SOFÍA OF SPAIN

1938-present

Wife of Juan Carlos I, king of Spain

Born a princess of Greece and Denmark



Reina Sofía Airport
Tenerife, Spain

Honorary doctorates from the Universities of
Rosario (Bogotá), Valladolid, Cambridge,
Oxford, Georgetown, Evora, St. Mary's
University (Texas), and New York



What other icons can you add
to the ones that we have
discussed?

