

METALWORK

Mexican monstrance

This monstrance was gifted to the cathedral by Francisco Antonio González de Echávarri (1700-1774), an important jurist of the Royal Court of Mexico. It arrived in Vitoria in 1763 and was considered by the Cathedral Chapter as *“the most precious jewel known in these provinces”*. It is a portable monstrance in the style of a sun, carved in gilded silver with a cruciform foot, stipe shaft and ostensory with bursts and rays. It is enhanced by a hundred diamonds surrounding the lunette and several mother-of-pearl plates embedded in the shaft. Although it bears no marks of authorship or provenance, it is undoubtedly a Mexican piece made around 1760. A few years after its arrival in Vitoria, in 1766, three mother-of-pearl plates came loose and had to be repaired by Antonio de Sotil, a silversmith from Vitoria.



Author: Anonymous

Date: c. 1760

Technique: Silver, gold, precious stones and mother-of-pearl

Measurements: 74,5 x 27 x 23,5 cm

Place: Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art (Vitoria-Gasteiz)



Basic bibliography:

- MARTÍN VAQUERO, Rosa. "Platería hispanoamericana en la ciudad de Vitoria". En: *Homenaje al profesor Hernández Perera*. Madrid: Universidad Complutense. 1992. pp. 687, 696-697.
- MARTÍN VAQUERO, Rosa. "Sección Plata". En: LÓPEZ LÓPEZ DE ULLIBARRI, Félix; DABOUZA SALCEDO, Arantza (coord.). *Museo Diocesano de Arte Sacro*. Vitoria-Gasteiz. Museo Diocesano de Arte Sacro. 1999. pp. 207, 218.
- MARTÍN VAQUERO, Rosa. "La colección de platería barroca del Museo de Arte Sacro de Vitoria". *Ondare. Cuadernos de Artes Plásticas y Monumentales*, n.º 19. 2000. p. 591.
- BARTOLOMÉ GARCÍA, Fernando R. "El legado de don Francisco Antonio González de Echávarri (1700-1774) a la capilla de Santiago de la Catedral de Santa María de Vitoria-Gasteiz". *Akobe. Restauración y conservación de bienes culturales*, 9. 2008. pp. 22-23.



A Living Treasure

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