

1808  
1809

Los Sitios  
de Zaragoza

# Birthplace home of Palafox

In the 17th century, the Marquis of Lazán bought the house to use it as their family home. José de Palafox was born there in 1775. Over time, the estate house was the Captaincy General of Aragon until it was transferred to the square called Plaza de Aragón. In 1890, it was owned by the Counts of Bureta who ceded the building to the “Hijas de la Caridad” (Daughters of Charity) of San Vicente de Paul.



Retrato del Excmo. S. D. José Rebolledo de Palafox y Melci (1776-1847). Marcelino de Unceta y López, 1874.

## GENERAL PALAFOX

(Zaragoza, 1775-Madrid, 1847). The people of Zaragoza put the hitherto invincible Napoleonic troops to test during the War of Independence in the two sieges suffered by the city in 1808 and 1809. The men and women who defended it have earned a permanent place in the historical story. One of them was José de Palafox y Melci. Born in Zaragoza in 1775, he was educated at the Piarist Schools by Father Basilio Boggiero. His fellow citizens made him the leader of the uprising and he was proclaimed Captain General on 27 May 1808 and he took command of the defence of Aragon and the city during the two sieges.

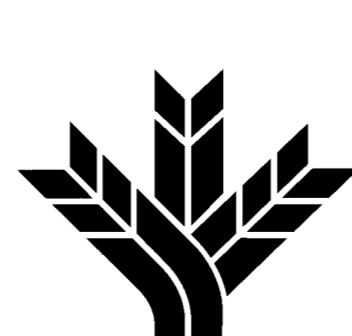
His negative reply “Guerra y cuchillo” (“War and Knife”) to the French emissaries urging him to surrender is now famous.

After two months of resistance and bloody battles, with a population decimated by a typhus epidemic, in which Palafox was also infected, he ceded his powers to a government board, which after analysing the situation, capitulated before the French Army on 20 February 1809.

Prisoner in France until 1814, when he returned to Spain, after being once more appointed Captain General of Aragon, he declined the post in favour of his brother, the Marquis of Lazán. He went to Madrid and never returned to Zaragoza until many years after his death in 1847. His corpse rests in the crypt of the El Pilar Basilica.



English  
Français  
Mapa/Map/Carte



CAJA RURAL  
DE ARAGÓN



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AYUNTAMIENTO

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# Birthplace home of Palafox

The birthplace home of Palafox, when the sieges began, was converted into the headquarters of his General Staff, until it was transferred to the Episcopal Palace in the front line. Next to the large main gate, the commemorative plaque placed by the Centennial Board, states:

To PALAFOX/ To the great Warlord defender of Zaragoza/ in the Sieges of 1808 and 1809/ THE COUNTRY AND THE CITY/ gloriously defended/ by him./ 1st. Centennial of the Sieges.



Postal de la plaza de la Seo, con Palacio episcopal y Catedral de San Salvador. Edita Cecilio Gasca, Zaragoza. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_0085

## LA SEO

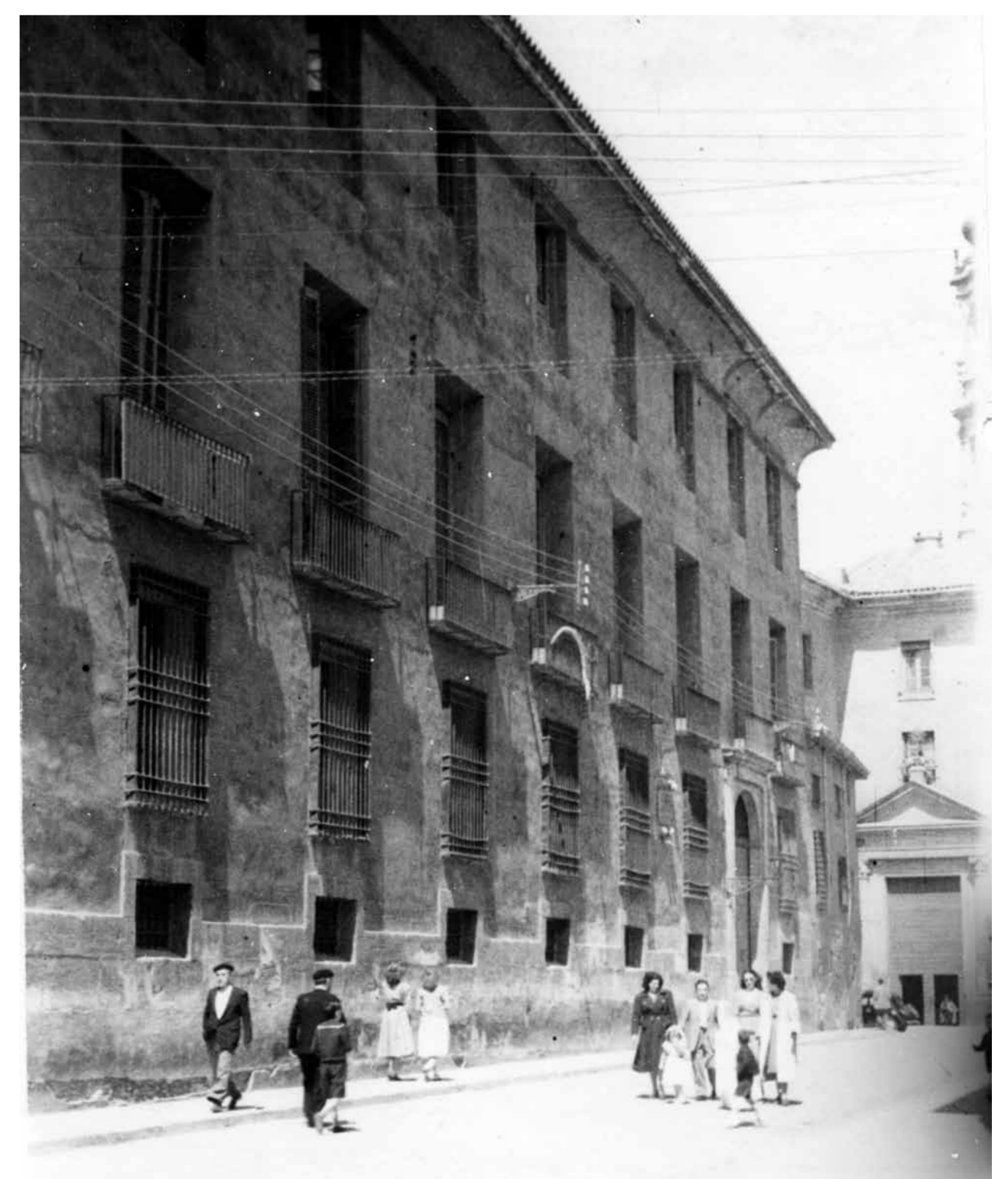
Palafox, member of La Seo parish since birth, was baptised in the nearby Cathedral of San Salvador. His birth certificate has been carefully stored in its parish archive.

## EPISCOPAL PALACE

During the Sieges, the current Episcopal Palace was Palafox's general headquarters. From the upper part of the building, he could closely follow the fortunes of his detachment positioned in the Arrabal district on the other side of the river. Its archives still conserve documents of the period destroyed by the cannon shrapnel and bullet holes.



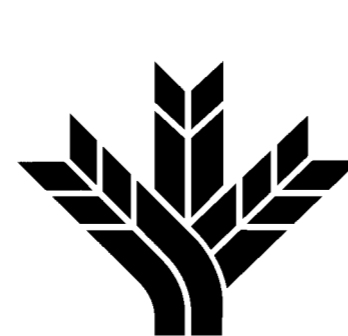
Plaza de la Seo con la fuente de la Samaritana y Palacio Arzobispal.



Birthplace home of Palafox. In the background, the San Salvador cathedral. Juan Mora Insa, 1949. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_02378.



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