

1808
1809

Los Sitios de Zaragoza

Sieges square

In this square, there is the orchard of the Convent of Santa Catalina, the Botanical Garden and the orchard called Huerta de Santa Engracia, a huge esplanade between the current streets of Calle Escar and Calle San Miguel and the Promenades: Paseo de la Mina and Paseo de la Constitución.

THE HISPANO-FRENCH EXPOSITION OF 1908

This site underwent a major transformation when it was selected to celebrate a large exposition in the commemorative acts of the First Centennial of the Sieges of Zaragoza. The Hispano-French Exposition was held from May to December 1908 with the aim to commemorate the sieges suffered and to foster brotherhood between the formerly opposed contenders.

It achieved a huge success and represented a major boost in the economic and urban development of the city.

Cartel conmemorativo de la Exposición Hispano-Francesa. 1908. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-3_0448.

Plaza de los Sitios. Fototipia Thomas. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1_0910.



MONUMENT TO THE HEROES OF THE SIEGES OF ZARAGOZA

Presiding the square, we find the Monument to the Heroes of the Sieges of Zaragoza, a group of stone and bronze sculptures by Agustín Querol, which was inaugurated in 1908 by King Alfonso XIII.

Planned as a circular square, one of its faces shows Agustina de Aragón, followed by a group of fellow countrymen and gunners with General Palafox in the background in front of the New Tower. On the other side, a group of women, led by the Countess of Bureta, haul a cannon. And in another scene, several Aragon defenders try to hold up the door of the Convent of Santa Isabel de Altabás, which the French bombarded.

Descending steps, a group of figures represent desperation, suffering, hunger and the ruin of war. And at the summit, an allegory of Zaragoza, with a defender whose feet are surrounded by laurel, thistle and passionflower, symbols of glory, patriotism and faith.



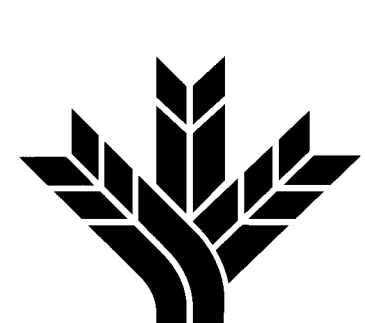
Monumento a los Sitios de 1808 y 1809. Plaza de los Sitios. Ediciones Arribas. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1_01507.



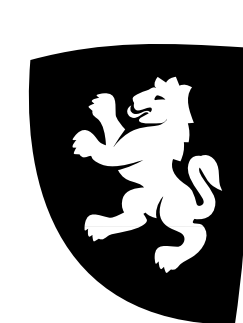
Monumento a los Sitios de Agustín Querol. Plaza de los Sitios.



English
Français
Mapa/Map/Carte



CAJA RURAL
DE ARAGÓN



Zaragoza
AYUNTAMIENTO

1808
1809

Los Sitios de Zaragoza

Sieges square

On 15 June 1808, the first day of the French assault, in the aftermath of combat that had exploded with the full force of a direct attack against adobe walls, but defended with great courage; in a moment of hesitation at Santa Engracia.



D. Felipe Sanclemente y Romeu. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1_03591.

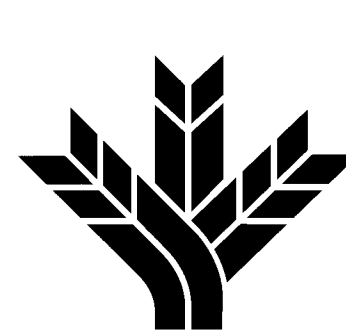
FELIPE SANCLEMENTE Y ROMEU

(Barbastro, 1758-Zaragoza, 1815) Merchant. He was a resident in Zaragoza many years before the French invasion. In 1802, he belonged the Town Council of Zaragoza as a member of the Municipal Council. On 26 June 1808, he attended the council meeting that was held on that day. Member of the Military Council. He actively participated in the battles of the first siege until 5 August 1808 when he was seriously wounded in the knee, when repulsing a violent French attack in the gardens of Count of Fuentes. In a document on 6 December 1815, Palafox wrote: “It was a bullet that pierced his knee, whose results, having suffered greatly and near death, he was forced to walk with crutches during the day; despite this, when Zaragoza surrendered on 21 February 1809, he escaped from this city with his wife and wandered through the free provinces of Spain until he could find refuge in Cadiz. In that city, he was famous for his patriotism and zeal for the cause of defending the nation”.

He depleted his wealth to help the defence. After the recovery of the city by the Spanish forces in 1813, he returned to the city and the citizens helped to provide him with a post which would permit his subsistence. “They honoured him with the Customs Office for a short time, however due to intrigue, this good patrician was left with nothing to eat. This is how Spain pays”, said the perpetually scathing critic, R. Cadena.



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