



LA GRANADA



January 2023



Order of Granaderos
y Damas de Gálvez
San Antonio Chapter

■■■■■■■■■■ www.granaderos.org ■■■■■■■■■■ editor: joe pérez ■■■■■■■■■■

Governor José (Joe) González Deputy Governor Elizabeth Pérez

With a new year comes new leadership for the San Antonio Chapter. In January, we will have a new Governor and Deputy Governor. Joe González was voted in as Governor and Elizabeth Perez was voted in as Deputy Governor. The voting was done at our November



meeting, after the Nominating Committee convened. The Nominating Committee consisted of Past Governors Jesse Benavides, Jack Cowan and Dan Gabehart.

The Governor and Deputy Governor are the only elected officers while all other officers are appointed by the Governor. So far, our new Governor has appointed Joe Weathersby as our new Chaplain and Joe

Pérez as our new Membership Chair. Other appointments may be coming as well. Governor González will also have Joe Pérez serve as his Aide de Camp and be a liaison between him and the living history component of our chapter.

Governor Joe González will be appointing a new Chair of the Education Committee and Elizabeth will continue to chair the Scholarship Committee.

Our new officers will be sworn in at our January meeting. At that time, our new Governor will share his vision for our chapter going forward. While the swearing-in is the official transfer of officership, the handing over of the gavel is the ceremonial transfer of Governorship. Congratulations Joe & Elizabeth!

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Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 4

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

Dinner: 6:30 Meeting 7:30

Speaker:

Janie & Manny Rodriguez

Joe Pérez

Presentation:

Slide Show of Trip to Spain

The presenters for our January meeting are Janie Rodriguez, Manny Rodriguez and Joe Pérez. They will be giving a slide show presentation of the Annual Meeting, which was conducted in Spain this year.

The Macharaviaya Chapter hosted the Annual Meeting and all of the events surrounding it. While there, we traveled to a different city each day and visited important historical sites in the southern part of the country.

Our presenters will take us on a virtual tour and explain the importance of why we visited certain cities such as Macharaviaya, Málaga, Córdoba, Seville, Antequera, Granada and others.

January Birthdays

Jan 2

John Rodriguez

Jan 4

Cindy Flores

Jan 8

Briana Perez
Susan Thonhoff Rodriguez
Kate Bolcar

Jan 9

Olga Lizcano

Jan 14

Jesse Guerra

Jan 19

Mario Martinez

Jan 20

Delia Rodriguez

Jan 23

Reyna Araiza

Jan 25

Mike Aguayo

Jan 28

Melissa Zamora

Jan 30

Stan Bradford

Governor

Joe González

Deputy Governor

Elizabeth Pérez

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain

Joe Weathersby

Drum Major

Ricardo Rodriguez

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez



Membership dues for 2023 are currently due by the end of this calendar year. After the grace period of January 31, 2023, anyone who hasn't paid membership dues will be dropped from membership and will not have our monthly newsletter sent to them.

We don't want to lose you and your support is necessary to help us continue our mission of educating the public about an important part of our history.

Dues may be paid by way of a check made out to Granaderos and can be mailed to Granaderos, P.O. Box 34691, San Antonio TX 78265.

Dues are only \$30 for Full Membership, which comes with automatic National Membership, holding office, voting privileges and discounts on books sold by the chapter. Associate Membership is \$15 and comes with the same benefits except those of holding office and voting. If you haven't already paid your membership dues, please do so today.

GOVERNORS OF THE SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER

1975 – 1981	Charles Barrerra
1981 – 1984	Roland Solis
1985 – 1988	Willie Rodriguez
1989 – 1992	Robert Benavides
1993 – 1996	Dan Gabehart
1997 – 2000	Joe Pérez
2001 – 2002	Tito Fernandez
2003 – 2004	Jesse Benavides
2005 – 2008	Joel Escamilla
2009 – 2011	Jack Cowan
2012 – 2022	Joe Pérez
2023 – Present	José (Joe) González

Recent Articles on the Internet

Spain's Role in the American Revolution

The Museum of the American Revolution has a video series titled AmRev360 and this episode has a video interview with Dr. Gonzalo M. Quintero Saravia, where he speaks about his book *Bernardo de Gálvez Spanish Hero of the American Revolution*. The video can be seen at the link below.

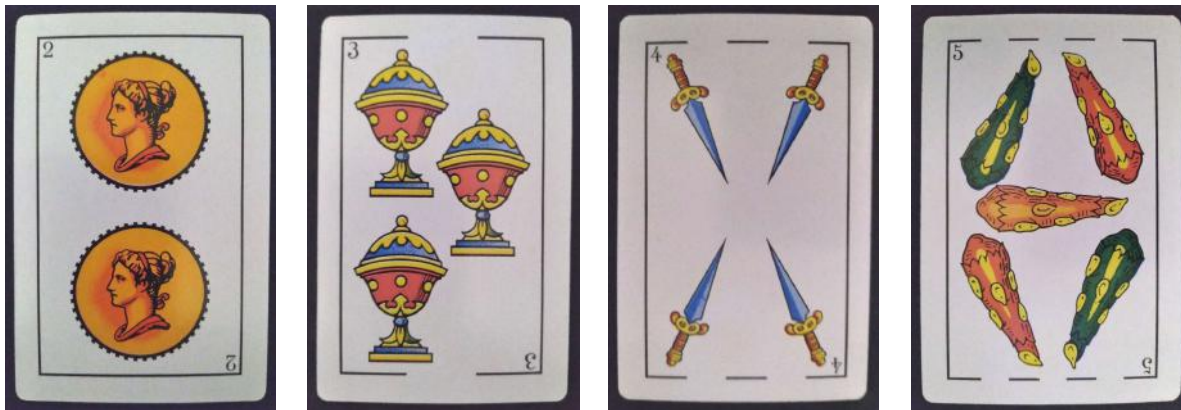
<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/amrev360-spain-s-role-in-the-american-revolution-with-gonzalo-m-quintero-saravia>

BARAJA ESPAÑOLA

BY JOE PÉREZ

A soldier of the 18th century carried many items in his haversack, such as his food rations, eating utensils and various personal items. A Granadero in the Spanish army may have also carried a deck of playing cards to pass the time.

The Spanish deck (baraja Española) consists of 40 cards but there are other versions of 48 or 50 cards. The 40-card deck omits the 8s and 9s, leaving ten cards to each of the four suits. The 48-card version includes the 8s and 9s, leaving twelve cards to a suit. The 50-card deck also adds two wild cards, borrowed from the French version.



The four suits are Coins (Oros), Cups (Copas), Swords (Espadas), and Clubs (Bastos). The suits are thought to represent the four social classes of the Middle Ages with the Coins representing the merchants, the Cups representing the church, the Swords representing the military and the Clubs representing the peasants.

In a 48-card deck, cards numbered 1 through 9 are numbered cards while the last three cards are face cards. The face cards are also called Court cards with the 10 card being a Knave, the 11 card a Knight and the 12 card a King. A Knave card would also be referred to as a Jack and the Knight card was also referred to as the Horse card, similar to a knight in the game of Chess being referred to as a horse. Below, you can see cards for a Knave of Cups, a Knight of Swords and a King of Clubs.

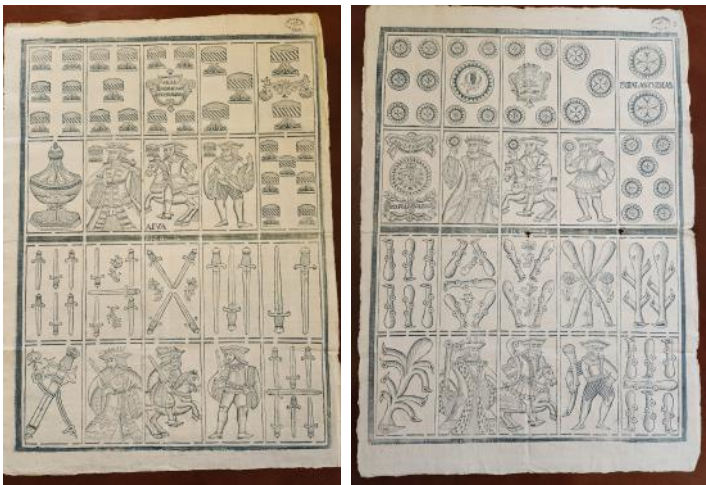
A close look at the cards reveals borders around the images. The vertical lines remain solid but the horizontal (top and bottom) borders of each card represent its suit. You can see in pictures above that the suit of Coins has no interruption in its horizontal lines. In the pictures above and at right, you can see that the suit of Cups has a single interruption in its horizontal lines, the suit of Swords has two interruptions and the suit of Clubs has three interruptions in its horizontal lines.



In addition to these cards serving as regular playing cards, they are also used as Tarot cards to tell fortunes and horoscopes. However, it is far more likely that a Granadero serving under General Gálvez simply used the cards to play various card games during his down time.

In the late 1700s, about the time of the American Revolution, a prominent Spaniard had the idea of establishing a playing card factory, with the cards to be distributed only in Spain's American provinces. The enterprising gentleman felt that if he could sell his idea to the king and get a monopoly on Spanish playing cards, the enterprise could benefit Spain's royal treasury while also benefiting his hometown.

It worked. His prominent position in the government helped his cause. On August 12, 1776, a Royal Decree approved the establishment of the Royal Playing Card Factory (Real Fábrica de Naipes), with the factory being in his hometown. Of course, this helped the local citizens by providing jobs. It was the only company in all of Spain allowed to print playing cards.



The cards would be printed on large sheets then cut and painted by hand. At left are two such sheets currently housed in the General Archives of the Indies located in Seville, Spain. While in Spain recently for our organization's Annual Meeting, the chapter governors were honored with a private, guided tour of the archives and viewed actual sheets of the cards from the 1700s. These actual sheets are shown here.

Years later, changes to the distribution of playing cards and the loss of many Spanish provinces in America led to the closure of the factory. In 1815, the factory closed and was sold at auction for 60,000 reales. The factory building is still standing, however, it has been divided up and is used as private residences. The picture below is of the building as it stands today.

That enterprising gentleman was none other than José de Gálvez and, at the time, his prominent government position was Minister of the Indies, second in power to the king. The town where the Royal Playing Card Factory was built is Macharaviaya, his birthplace as well as the birthplace of his nephew, Bernardo de Gálvez

All of the photos in this article were taken by the author while in Spain for our Annual Meeting in November 2022. The cards on page four were purchased in Córdoba, Spain. The original sheets, shown on page five, were viewed in person at the Archivo General de las Indias en Sevilla (General Archives of the Indies in Seville). The photo of the factory building was taken while the group was visiting Macharaviaya for the Annual Meeting trip.

