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Chinese porcelain and other orientalia and exotica in Spain during the Habsburg dynasty

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6. GLOSSARY¹

Most of the terms have been translated from the *Tesoro de la lengua Castellana o Española* (*Thesaurus of the Castilian or Spanish Language*) compiled by Don Sebastian de Covarrubias in 1611 (COV), the *Diccionario de Autoridades* published in 1726 (AUT), and very few from the modern *Summa Artis* (SA), the *Diccionario de la Real Academia de la lengua Española* (RAE), and *Collins Spanish dictionary* (CS). Sources are included in brackets after each definition; occasional comments by the author appear at the end of a definition to further clarify meanings. An asterisk after a Spanish term indicates that it is defined in the appropriate place in this alphabetical glossary. Alternative spellings and plural and diminutive forms as they appear in the Spanish Transcriptions are included in brackets after the main entry.

ABAHADERA (Avahadera): Container used to inhale steam. (COV) In Philip II's inventory: 'Twelve porcelain *escudillas** of different sizes that are *abahaderas*'. This object must have been similar in shape to a bowl.

ABRAZADERA: A type of ring made of iron, silver or any other metal, used to hold an object together. It is used to join and unite one thing with another. Derived from the verb *abrazar* [embrace], because it 'embraces' the objects on which it is applied. (AUT)

AGALLONADO (sing. Gallón; pl. Gallones): 1. Work that decorates the *bocel**; in some schools of architecture a convex moulding with a section of a quarter of a circle. Each *gallón* consists of a quarter of an oval placed between two leaves, which, repeating the same shape gradually becomes narrower until joining at the bottom. 2. Decoration that in former times used to be placed on the ends of silver. (AUT) In English: gadroon; ornament carved on the edges of either a flat or curved surface that resemble short convex or concave flutes or ruffles. It is common in Elizabethan work, Italian Renaissance work and all styles influenced by Italy.²

AGNUS DEI (Agnusdei): Holy relic, which is blessed by the Pope and consecrates the first year of his pontificate. The *Agnus* is the lamb that symbolises God. *Agni* were made of wax in moulds of different sizes and were presented to the Pope to be blessed. (COV)

AGUAMANIL (pl. Aguamaniles, Aguamanyles, Aguamanos; dim. Aguamanilete): Elongated ewer of Islamic origin with a handle and spout. (COV)

ALABASTRO: A type of stone that naturalists include among the white marbles, but consisting of a softer substance. Apparently, when the stone is extracted from the mines, it can be cut with a knife like half-finished [unpolished] marble. When exposed to air this material acquires its solidity and perfection. (AUT) Alabaster.

¹ Many thanks to Casto Castellanos for some of his art terms in his unpublished essay *Antología de términos de platería, joyas, metales, peltre, piedras preciosas, porcelana, barro, vajilla, vidrios, varios*, Madrid, 1984; and to Amaya Morera for some of the terms used in her Ph.D. dissertation *El escaparate. Un mueble para una dinastía*, Madrid 2010. Their terms were also taken from the Covarrubias and the Autoridades dictionaries.

² Joseph Aronson, *The Encyclopaedia of Furniture*, London, 1965, p. 235.

ALACENA (Alhacena): A built-in cupboard with doors and shelves to keep and store things inside. Wooden portable *alhacenas* are also made and are called *escaparates** or *armarios* (wardrobes). According to Father Alcalá, the word comes from the Arabic term *hacina*, with the addition of the article *al* and the *e* substituted with an *i*. In Córdoba it is called a *taca*, from the verb *tacar*, which means ‘to close’ [...]. (AUT) A food cupboard.

ALBAHAQUERO (Albaquero): A plant or flowerpot generally used to grow basil (*albahaca*) (COV/AUT)

ALBORNÍA (Albornyas): Rough, round and large bowl (*escudilla**) made of clay on a potter's wheel. In some inventories *albornía* is used to describe a plate without a rim (*trincheo**) (COV)

ALCARRAZA (Alcarrosa; dim. Alcarracilla): Jug with one or two handles, made of white clay that contains some salt residue. There is a great amount of this type of clay around the city of Toledo. This kind of jug is decorated with ‘pinches’ of clay. In Arabic they are called *carrasetum*, derived from the verb *carese*, which means to pinch. (COV) Porous and fired for a short period of time, these containers have the property of allowing a certain amount of water to seep into the clay. This evaporation cools the greater quantity of the same liquid that stays inside. (AUT)

ALCARROSA: See ALCARRAZA.

ALCUZA: Ordinary container used to transport oil from the larder to the kitchen, where it is used for cooking and to make candles. Also known as *azeytera**. (COV)

ALECHUGUINADO (Alechugado): Arranged in the shape of lettuce leaves, similar to the *valonas* [ruffs] that were used before the *golillas* [also a ruff] were introduced, so they were called *alechugados* or ‘shaped as a lettuce’. (AUT) Any material arranged in the shape of lettuce leaves, resembling ruffs.

ALGALIA: Sweat of an *algalia* cat. According to Father Guadix the word comes from the Arabic term *galietum* that translates as ‘a pricey thing’. An unctuous substance with a consistency similar to honey that is used in perfumery. (AUT) Civet: a substance with a strong smell, obtained from a civet or a cat that lives in Central Africa or Asia, and is used in perfume.

ALHAJA: In a household the *alhajas* were the valuables that made up a woman's dowry such as tapestries, furniture, silver, jewellery and so forth. (COV) A generic term that is given to anything of some value, and more specifically to all things used to adorn households or people. (AUT)

ALJOFAINAS (Aljofaynas, Aljufanyllas): Generic term for dish from Arabia that are shaped as a half-sphere with a rim. Used for washing hands. (COV and AUT) A shallow dish, of large diameter that is used to wash the face and the hands. (RAE)

ALMOFÍA: Clay or metal container, wider at the mouth, used to wash hands. It has the same shape as the *aljofaina**. According to Father Guadix, the word comes from the Arabic term *mufeide*, which means ‘to spill’ or ‘to open’, adding the article *al* and thus becoming *almufeide* or *almofia*. (AUT)

ALMONEDA: A public sale of objects carried out at the orders of the judiciary and before a scribe, with a public minister who calls aloud the name of the object that is put up for sale and the starting price, so that people can bid against each other, raising the price. It is also called an ‘auction’ because the public minister shouts out the prices in a loud voice, but in Valencia it is called *encante*. The *almonedas** of the Treasury or of public funds, such as war booty, were sold in the town square by thrusting a stake into the ground and placing the objects for sale around it. (COV) In Spain *almonedas* or auctions were frequently conducted to pay off debts by all members of society, including kings.

ANACARADA (Anacardo): Fruit of a tree that grows in East India, having a shape and colour similar to that of a bird's heart. When it is fresh the juice looks like blood. There is a white pip in the middle of the fruit that is shaped like an almond, which if eaten fortifies the memory. (AUT)

ANTECÁMARA: Anteroom, a room where people wait before entering the main chamber. (COV)

ANAQUEL: Shelves made of plaster or wood on which glasses, plates or other objects are placed. (AUT)

AOVADO (Aobado): In the shape of an egg, oval. (AUT)

APARADOR: Sideboard, cupboard or table in which dishes or other objects are stored. The gold and silver dishes are also referred to as *aparador*. The King of France gave the *Gran Capitan* (Great Captain) an *aparador* of gold and silver dishes. (COV) Cupboard, *dressoir* or buffet.

ARCHIVO DE PROTOCOLOS: The place where documents, such as wills, notary deeds, or other certificates issued by the notaries or scribes are kept safe.

ARROBA: *Arroba* comes from *rub*, an Arabic term that means 'a fourth part'. The weight of an *arroba* is equivalent to 11,502 kg. (RAE)

ARRODILLADOS: Ceramic figures.

ARTESA: Kneading trough. A long narrow open container that animals eat or drink from. (CS)

AZAFATE: Tray for serving tea. (COV)

AZEYTERA: Clay or tin containers of different shapes and sizes, with narrow mouths, in which the oil is poured for daily use. Also called *alcuza*. (AUT)

AZUFAIFAS (Axufaynas): Open and shallow glazed clay container or bowl, used to wash hands. *Axufaynas* have a thick round rim. Also called *almofia**. (COV)

AZUMBRE: A unit of volume to measure liquids such as water, wine, vinegar or milk, equal to an eighth of an *arroba**. *Zumbre* is the Arabic term, but in Spanish the prefix 'a' was added. (AUT)

BACÍA (Vacía, Bacín, Bazía; dim. Bacínica): Round deep container or dish with a wide mouth in which other dishes were washed. Also used by the barber and called a *bacía de barbero*. (COV) A barber's bowl, a shaving bowl.

BACIADERO: Not in the historic dictionaries consulted. Nowadays it has the meaning of a small pot.

BADANA (Vadana): The soft hide of a ram or a sheep. (AUT)

BANASTO: Large wicker basket, also made using fine, twisted wooden sticks. *Banastos* can be of different sizes and shapes. (COV)

BAQUERO: See **VAQUERO**.

BAQUETA (Vaqueta): The hide of an ox or a cow. The hide of a calf was used to upholster seats and seat backs. (AUT)

BARA: see **VARA**.

BARREÑUELO (Barreño): Coarse clay bowl used to hold liquids and for other purposes such as washing, bleeding, etc. The terms come from the *barro** or clay that is used to make this type of bowl. (AUT)

BARRIL (pl. Barriles): A clay container with a large lower part and a narrow neck. The term may derive from the material of which it is made, clay, although those made of wood in various sizes and shapes are also so named. They were used to transport or store different liquors and goods such as olives, marinades, gunpowder, wine, water and oil (AUT) Jar.

BARRO: Mud made from earth or clay mixed with rainwater that is specifically blended for different uses such as making walls, bricks, iron bars, pots, adobe and other things. Covarrubias states that this term comes from Arabic *barr*, which means 'uneducated countryside'. (AUT)

BASO or BASSO (Vaso): Generic term for any container or cup used to hold liquids. Some *vasos* are used in *aparadores** and on tables, and these are called *vasos de honor*, ‘honour glasses or goblets’. (COV) (From Lat. *vasum*). Large or small size concave piece, made to hold something. Vessel made of metal, glass or any other material, of cylindrical shape, which is used to drink. (RAE)

BAXILLA (Vaxilla): Dishes and cups stored in an *aparador**. The tableware of princes and gentlemen were made of gold and silver, and many individuals ostentatiously displayed their wealth at weddings and other occasions. In Rome, according to Fenestela, the censor Cayo Fabricio insulted the senator Publio Cornelio Rufino by ostentatiously using silver tableware weighing more than ten pounds at a dinner party, which was the standard reserved for serving the nobility. A *baxilla de camino* was a portable porcelain set. (COV)

BEJUCO: Climbing plant characteristic of the tropical regions. (RAE)

BENERGAL (Bernegal, Vernegal): Wide-mouthed vessel for drinking water. This name is frequently used in Toledo. The word comes from the Arabic word *berr* that translates as ‘earth’, thus meaning ‘a vase made of earth’, but they were also made from silver. (COV) A jar that holds filtered water. (RAE)

BERNEGAL DE BOCADOS: A *bernegal** with indentations. This word is not in the historic dictionaries consulted.

BESTIÓN: Beast.

BENTTURINA: See **VENTURINA**

BICHA: See **VICHA**.

BIOMBO: A type of furniture that consists of several articulated panels arranged alternatively at two levels. (SA)

BOCADOS: Bites. (CS) Indentations.

BOLLÓN (Bollones): Spherical or oval projections on silver objects achieved by the *repoussé* or embossing techniques. (RAE)

BOTE: Round vase or jar made of glazed clay, with identical [parallel?] sides, the name of which is derived from the apothecaries (*boticarios*) where they were used to store different ointments, spices or drugs. The Italians in the Classical period called this type of vase an *alabastrum*. (COV)

BOTIJOS (Botijones, Botijillas, Botijas, Botijón): Drinking jug with a spout. (COV)

BOQUILLA: Diminutive of mouth; small mouth. (AUT)

BRAHON (Brahones): A ring-shaped fold, which, in ancient apparel, surrounded the upper part of the arm. (AUT)

BRINCOS (Brinquiños, Brinquinos): 1. A small jewel used by women as headgear. *Brincos* were also silver or gold necklaces that moved and jumped around as a result of a person’s movement. (AUT) 2. Also a Portuguese term for small ceramic toys such as animals shaped as lions, dogs or other figures, which were later called *bibelots*, from the French. These objects were registered under the generic name *regalos* or ‘presents’ in the galleons cargo lists.³ *Brincar* in Spanish means ‘to jump’. In Philip II’s inventory: ‘a *brinco* in the shape of a heart’.

BRUTESCO: Term used in art and architecture, derived from the imitation of coarse and uncultivated things, such as heaths and caves (grottos, in Spanish *grutas*). A modification, *grutesco*, is the proper spelling of the term. (AUT)

³ Alfonso Pleguezuelo, ‘Regalos del Galeón. Las Porcelanas y las Lozas Ibéricas de la Edad Moderna’, in *Filipinas: Puerta de Oriente: de Legazpi a Malaspina*, exh. cat., Madrid, 2003, p. 140.

BÚCARO: A type of container *baso** made of red clay that comes from Portugal. The shape has a belly and for that reason people call it *búccaro* or *bucca* (swollen cheek); can also have a Greek origin in the word *bouxepos*, *buqueros*, which translates as ‘in the form of an ox horn’. (COV) A fine and scented vase from which water is drunk. There are *búcaros* of different types and shapes. Some come from the Indies and are highly appreciated and very precious. (AUT)

BUCHE: Small bottle used to preserve musk. (AUT)

BUFETE: A portable table with a fixed top and legs and hinges that can be transported by folding the legs beneath the top. It was invented in Germany. These large or medium-size tables were made of wood or precious stones and consisted of a table top with two legs that are made of the same or other material. (AUT)

BUREO: Board formed by High Court dignitaries and presided over by the Chief Major-domo who was responsible for the administrative files of the Royal House and also exercised legal authority over the people within its jurisdiction. (RAE)

BUXERÍAS (Bujerías): This term is generally used in the plural form. Things of low price or value, albeit of good taste and made with care and grace that are usually given to ladies and children. Comes from the Latin *buxum* or Castilian *box*, because such objects were usually carved from its wood. (AUT)

CABALLERO: Knight, member of the low nobility. (RAE)

CAÇUELAS (Cazuela): Round cooking container or bowl, wider than it is tall, of different sizes, used for cooking. (AUT) A bowl with two small handles.

CALCEDONIA: Precious stone with a sapphire blue colour. Agate of chalcedony. (AUT)

CALDERA (Caldero): Large container or pot for boiling water and cooking meat. *A calderilla* is a small *caldera* or *caldero*. (COV) A container with a round wide mouth, the bottom shaped as half a sphere. It has an arched handle attached to two rings that are fastened to the container. In the middle of the handle is a ring to which a rope is attached so that it can be lowered down a well to draw water. (AUT)

CALDO: Clear soup or bouillon. (RAE)

CAMARERA MAYOR: The ‘*camarera mayor*’ [wardrobe mistress] was the head of the Queen’s female household, and was responsible for the rest of the service in the palace. (RAE) Because her duties were very private, being in physical contact with the Queen, the post of *camarera mayor* acquired a symbolic value that resulted in all kinds of privileges, both material and honorific.

ÇAMORANO: ‘From the city of Zamora’.

CÁNTARO: A type of jug with one handle. When used for wine in Castile it is known as a *cántara*; when used for water it is known as a *cántaro*. A person who makes these clay *cántaros* is called a *cantarero*. Those for the kitchen service in a gentleman’s household are made from copper and are used to carry water from the river. A great number of these survive because this material rarely breaks. A *cantarilla* is a small jug. (COV and AUT)

CARACOL (Caracola): Snail or conch. (CS) Nautilus shell.

CASTELLANO: A type of gold coin valued at 480 *maravedies**. Also one-fiftieth of a gold *marco** which is eight *onzas**. Each *castellano** equals eight *tomines**. (AUT)

CAZUELA see **CAÇUELAS**

CÉDULA: Royal order, decree or warrant; a legal document issued by the King that authorises the holder to do something. (AUT)

CHICARA: see **JÍCARA**

CHINA: Small stone. The silversmith said: ‘He brought “chinas” instead of diamonds’. The name is also used for any type of fine pottery that comes from the realm of China. (AUT)

COMPOTERAS: Glass jar with a lid, in which compote is preserved. (RAE)

CONSEJO REAL: Royal Council or Council of Castile. (CS)

CONSERVERAS: Preserving containers.

CONTADOR: A type of cabinet with six or eight drawers, without doors or ornamentation on the top, used to store papers. (AUT)

CONTADOR MAYOR: Head Treasurer in charge of the Royal treasury. (AUT)

CONTRAHECHA: To imitate something in the natural or artificial world. Another meaning could be ‘something badly made, warped or crippled’. (COV)

CONTRALOR: Honorific trade in the Royal Household, according to Burgundy etiquette, equivalent to the *veedor**. The person in charge of overseeing the accounts of expenses, bills, charges of jewellery and furniture, in addition to other important functions. (RAE)

COPA: A glass or cup made of crystal, glass, silver or gold and/or other materials, the shape being similar to a chalice, except that the bottom is narrower and it has a foot. The word derives from the Latin *cuppa*, the barrels (*cuba*) in a cellar in which wine is stored. (AUT)

CORDOBÁN: The hide, usually of a ram, that was used to make shoes or decorative objects. The name derives from the city of Cordoba that was famous for this type of skin. (AUT)

CORNERINA (Cornalina): A precious stone, called onyx in Latin. They were set into rings, and people attributed certain virtues and properties to them. (COV)

DEDO: A unit of measure, a finger. An inch. (CS)

DESASIDO (Desasir): To release or detach [part of something from a greater whole]. (AUT)

DESCONFORMES (Desconformar): Not of a similar or the same opinion. It can also mean unequal or disagreement. (AUT)

DOBLÓN: A gold coin used in Spain that had different values over time, the standard equivalent being four *escudos** to one *doblón*. (AUT)

DOSEL: Sumptuous and majestic adornment that consists of a canopy on a frame, with hangings on the front and sides and a back curtain that covers the wall. Made of velvet, damask or any other fabric, edged with braids and fringes and sometimes embroidered with silk and gold. (AUT)

DUCADO: Castilian unit of account (prior to 1537, a gold coin), worth 375 *maravedíes** [1 ducado = 375 *maravedíes*] or eleven silver *reales**. Other monetary units used in the sixteenth century included: 1 *real* = 34 *maravedíes* (*mrv.*); 1 *escudo** = 400 *maravedíes*. The unit of account was the *maravedí*. It can be translated as ducat or ducats. (RAE)

DUERNO: A long, narrow and open container similar to an *artesa** that is carved from wood and has different uses, the main one being to knead dough; the Spanish term comes from the Greek word *artos*, which means ‘bread’. (AUT)

ENSOGADA: Tied up with a rope. (AUT)

ESCAPARATE: Display window cabinet made in Spain during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

ESCRIBANÍA (Escrivanyas): The box in which writing materials are kept. Some are portable and others fixed. (COV)

ESCRIBANO: A scrivener or municipal clerk. (RAE)

ESCRITORIO: Cabinet. A wooden cabinet with different divisions and sections, used to store papers or deeds, also called a *papelera*. (AUT)

ESCUILLA: Round deep container or bowl used for bouillon. The word comes from *escudo* (shield). Another term found in the inventories is *escudillas de falda* probably referring to a bowl with an everted rim. (COV) The old Spanish word was also used to refer to a small plate like a 'goblet of gilded silver on a small porcelain plate or *escudilla*'.

ESCUILLAS SALSERAS: Sauce bowls.

ESCUDO (Escudos): A coin engraved with the King or Prince's coat of arms (*escudo*). It can be made of gold and is worth half a *doblon**. In Castile and Leon there are silver and copper *escudos*. A silver *escudo* is worth eight *reales* [*real de a ocho*, see *real*] and the *vellón** (copper) is worth ten *reales de vellón**. (AUT) During the reign of King Phillip II of Spain one gold *escudo* equalled to 16 silver *reales* and 1 silver *real* to 34 *maravedies*.

ESTORAQUE: A tree native to Peru from which a very fragrant balm (storax) is obtained that is primarily used in cosmetics and medicine.

ESTRADO: A chamber or room with rugs and furniture where women socialise and receive visitors. Also the items that adorn a room such as this, including rugs, cushions, small chairs and stools. (AUT) Dais.

FACTOR: A person assigned to a different city who is in charge of purchases or deals made in the name of a certain merchant or dealer. (AUT)

FALDILLA: Diminutive of *faldas* (skirts). The folds of cloth that hang from the waist of a jacket or doublet. (AUT)

FLAMENQUILLA: Small plate, smaller than a serving plate (*trincheo**). (COV)

FRASCO: A barrel-shaped jar with round sides and a narrow neck, made of gold, silver, copper or tin. These jars were mainly used to cool beverages. They were stored in a box called a *frasqueta* or *frasquera*. In some inventories this word is used to refer to a clay container as well. (COV)

FRASQUERA (Frasqueta): A box for storing bottles or jars, with several internal divisions. Objects are packed tightly inside the container so that they can be carried from one place to another without damage. (AUT)

FRISA: A type of cloth; coarse woollen fabric. (COV)

FUENTE: A large dish of silver, pewter or pottery, so called because in the old days kings and princes were offered water to wash their hands in two *fuentes*, one of which held the water for washing their hands, which drained into the other through tubes. (AUT)

FURRIERÍA (Ayuda de): Steward in the office in charge of supervising the furnishings in the Alcázar. Officer of the Royal Palace in charge of the key of the Palace; the *apostador mayor*, his superior, also has a copy of the key. (AUT)

FUSTAN: A type of fabric made from cotton that is used to line dresses. It so named because it resembles a 'frustum' [of a column] of fabric made of silk or any other material. Father Guadix said it is Arabic in origin. In Latin it is called *pannus gossipinus*. (COV)

GARRAFA (pl. Garrafas): A type of bottle with a rounded belly and a long narrow neck, made of different materials such as glass, copper and other metals. They were used to cool liquors or beverages. (AUT)

GENTILESHOMBRES DE LA BOCA: Gentleman who waited at the King's table. (AUT)

GRANDES DE ESPAÑA: The elite among the titled aristocracy of Spain; initially, twenty-five titles were granted the status of *grandeza* (grandeeship) by Charles V.

GREFIER: According to the Burgundy etiquette this was an honorary trade in the Royal House, the *grefier* was auxiliary and complementary to the *contralor**. Also the secretary in the *bureo**. (RAE)

GROSERO: Coarse.

GUARDAJOYAS: The Officer or Keeper of the Crown Jewels. (AUT)

GUARNECER: To adorn dresses, clothes, hangings or any other things, on the sides or in the middle, so they are further enhanced. Also used to mount any object in gold, silver or any other metal. (AUT) To decorate.

GUIJAS: Stones from rivers or streams. (AUT)

HECHURA: Shape or form. (AUT)

HENDIDA: Something divided in the middle. (COV)

HIDALGO: Member of the minor nobility. (RAE)

HIDALGUÍA: Noble status. (RAE)

JARRO (Jarra): Earthenware, porcelain, or glass ewer with a wide neck and mouth and one or two handles. (RAE)

JASPE: Opaque silica stone with a fine grain, of homogeneous texture, and found in different colours, depending on the quantities of alumina, iron oxide and carbon it contains. (RAE) Jasper

JÍCARA (Xícara, Chicara): A bell-shaped cup made of tin-glazed pottery (*loza**) that was mainly used to serve drinking chocolate. The term comes from America [probably Mexico]. (AUT)

JOFAINA: Wide and shallow circular container, used particularly for washing. (COV)

JUNCIERA (Junziera): A ceramic vase with a pierced lid in which herbs and aromatic roots are infused in vinegar to perfume a room. (COV) In the inventories this shape is also used to describe a large plate or dish.

LABRADO/A (Labrar): To order the construction of buildings, factories or any other thing. Also to use a needle to create works on white linen. (AUT) In the documents this word is used in the context of 'to decorate or craft', or 'carved or incised' into a surface.

LEGAJO: A bundle or set of papers tied together. It comes from the Spanish verb *ligar* ('to bind'), derived from the cord that is used to tie them up. (AUT)

LEONADA: Blond or fair-haired, similar to a lion's fur. (AUT)

LIBRA: A unit of weight equivalent of 460 grams. (RAE)

LIMETA: A glass container shaped as a *redoma**, to hold wine or any other liquid. (AUT)

LINALOE: A succulent that grows in areas of the West Indies and particularly in *Conchinchina* [Cochin China, in French Cochinchine, the southern part of Vietnam, south of Cambodia]. It is very similar to the olive tree but sturdier and bears a fruit similar to cherries. The trunk is dark and knotty. The wood, very fragrant when burnt, is extremely hard and at least as acrid as the *acíbar* (aloe), and for that reason is called *aloe* but better known in the Castilian language as *linaloe*. (AUT) An aromatic plant known for producing oil with a pleasing fragrance similar to a mixture of lemon and jasmine. The term *linalo* is also used in some of the lists.

LOÇA (Loza): Everything made of fine and lustrous ceramic, such as plates, dishes and bowls.

(AUT) Earthenware covered in a tin glaze.

MAESTRESALAS: Main servant in the dining room who served the meals and tasted the food to make sure that it was not poisoned. (AUT)

MACERINA: see **MAZERINA**

MARAVEDÍ (*Maravedies or morabeties*): Could be translated as ‘coin’ or ‘currency’ in the Arabic language, which started to be used in Spain during the reign of Fernando II of Leon (1137–88) for gold coins that weighed 3.8 grams each. These terms were especially used from 1214 to 1255 to facilitate trade with the Muslims in Castile. (RAE) One real equalled to 34 *maravedíes* and one *ducado* to 11 silver *reales*.

MATIZ (*Matices*): A type of embroidery done during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries consisting of ‘long and short stitches’. In the eighteenth century some fabrics were described with expressions such as ‘*guarnecido con hojuela brillante y matices*’ or ‘*con matices azules de felpilla*’. However, in such cases it does not refer to the type of stitch but to the different colours or tones of the silks.⁴

MAYORAZGO: The *mayorazgo* was a regulation in old Castilian law, enforced from 1505 (*Leyes de Toro*) to 1820, which gave the first-born son the right to inherit the entire estate to prevent its subdivision among the members of the family. Usually, one-third of the assets were transferred to these perpetual trusts or *mayorazgos* to ensure that a large block of assets would pass intact from one generation to the next. The holder of the *mayorazgo* could not sell, mortgage, or give away any portion of the *mayorazgo*’s principal, but was obliged to invest its annual income to provide for his siblings and their descendants, as well as his own children. (RAE) *Seigniorial system*.

MAYORDOMO: Majordomo, a senior servant of the King who manages the Royal household and is usually a member of the upper aristocracy. (RAE) Also Chief Major-domo.

MAZERINA (*Manzerina; Mancerina*): According to the *Diccionario de Autoridades* of 1726, it is described as ‘a type of plate with a recess in the middle in which a *xícara** (see *jícara* above) is placed so the chocolate is not spilt’. (AUT) A saucer for the *jícara* or *xícara*, used in Spain for drinking chocolate and the sweets that were eaten as well. The introduction of chocolate during the seventeenth century to Spain resulted in the invention of silver or ceramic ware for that purpose. The name comes from the Viceroy of Peru, the Duke of Mancera, in the seventeenth century. Most *mancerinas* were made of silver or tin-glazed pottery.

MORRION: A morion is a type of open metal helmet worn by ordinary soldiers that could be adorned with feathers on the top. (AUT)

MORTERO: A hollow bowl used when grinding ingredients for the different sauces and other condiments, from the Latin *mortarium*. (COV) Mortar.

MOSCADOR: Not in the historic dictionaries consulted.

MRS: Maravedí or maravedies.

NOTARIO: Notary, a person empowered to draft contracts and judicial acts. (AUT)

OFICIO DE BOCA: Any of the positions in the palace related to the King and Queen’s meals. (AUT)

OLLA: A kitchen cauldron (or pan) in which meat and other ingredients such as vegetables are cooked. In some homes a stew (*olla*) is made for lunch, and salad and fruit are served at dinnertime. (COV)

ONZA: Ounce (measure of weight).

⁴ I am grateful to Amalia Descalzo for helping to clarify this term.

ORZA: Tall, glazed clay container without handles that is generally used to keep preserves. Comes from the Latin *orca*. (AUT)

PABELLÓN: Folding hangings that shelter and adorn a bed, a throne or an altar. (RAE)

PALANGANA: Container of different shapes, the most widespread being long and deep, with a rim approximately four inches (*dedos**) wide, with a recess at either end to fit around the neck for the barber to shave or wash the beard. It is also used to wash hands and has other uses as well. They were made of silver, brass, tin or clay. (AUT)

PALMO: Measurement that is used in two ways: the first is from the thumb to the little finger with the hand extended; the other is the distance between the index finger and the little finger. Comes from the Latin *palmus*. It is the fourth of a *vara**. (AUT)

PALO BLANCO: A type of white wood of poor or ordinary quality. (AUT) Mentioned in the inventories as the material used to make boxes for objects.

PAPELINA: A type of slender vase on a foot with a wide trumpet-shaped mouth. It was invented by an unknown Pope. (COV)

PAPELÓN: Paper glued together using *engrudo*, a paste consisting of flour and water, to produce a type of board that is used for multiple purposes. One of the inventories includes a '*salva de papelon dorada*', a small plate gilded made of *papelón*. (AUT) Papier-mâché.

PEBETE: Wick laced with gunpowder and other ingredients that is used to light fireworks. (AUT)

PEBETERO: A candlestick or similar object in which *pebetes** are used. (AUT)

PESO: Castilian silver coin of one ounce in weight. It is worth eight silver *reales**. Others are called '*pesos gruesos*,' thick pesos' that according to the new pragmatic are worth ten silver *reales*. (AUT)

PICHEL: Container that comes from England, is made of tin and is used for wine. (COV) Pitcher or jug, a large container with a small opening and one or two handles, used to hold liquids.

PICO: Point. Normally used to refer to foliated or indented rims on dishes, similar to the top of a pointed hat. (AUT)

PIE: Foot or pedestal.

PIE CASTELLANO: A Castilian foot, an old measurement equal to 28 centimetres.

PIEDRA DE IJADA: Jade.

PIEZA: Term used in the old inventories to refer to the rooms in a house or a palace. (AUT)

PIMPINELA: Herbaceous plant, of the rose family, with red stems measuring four to six centimetres tall. (RAE)

PLATO: Plate.

POCILLO (Pozuela, dim. Poçuelas): From the Latin word *pocillum*. It has two meanings: one is a container inserted to the ground for oil or wine in mills or presses, the other is a small cup, such as those used to serve drinking chocolate. (RAE).

POMA: Metal container with a pierced lid in which different fragrant preparations are placed and, when put on a fire, serves to perfume rooms. (AUT)

POMICOS: See **POMO**.

POMO (Pomito, Pomillo; dim. Pomicos): A container in the shape of an apple that is used to preserve liquors and scented waters. (AUT) '*Mas un pomillo de alabastro que tuvo algalia*' 'An alabaster *pomillo* that contained *algalia** [civet]'. (AUT)

PORCELANA (Porçelana, Porzelana, Borcelana):⁵ In his dictionary of 1611, Covarrubias provides the following explanation for the term *porcelana*: 'A transparent clay used to make vessels of different shapes. It comes from China and the material it is made of is said to take a long time to mature. In Italy there is a type of clay that some call *puscelana*, because it can be found in Puçol [referring to the town of Pozzuoli and the vessels made of volcanic ash from the Vesuvius]; some people have corrupted the word and call it *porcelana*'. (COV)

The *Diccionario de Autoridades* of 1726 lists four definitions which includes Covarrubia's definition: 1. 'A certain type of fine, transparent, clear and lustrous ceramic that is extensively made in China or Japan. Covarrubias mentions that porcelain was applied to a certain type of clay from Puçol [Pozzuoli], a city of the kingdom of Naples, from which the term derives, but it seems likely that the term comes from the French term *porcelaine*, a type of white shell from which the ancient people shaped containers very similar to our present porcelain'. 2. 'A type of wide deep cup made of fine clay that is used to serve sweets, clear soups, milk and other things.'⁶ 'What should taste better, tell me: to drink poisoned sweet milk from a porcelain cup or to know it in advance and spill it?'. 'In the countryside, friends, sisters and women with bunches of flowers attended, holding porcelains full of aromatic beverages'. 3. 'White enamel, mixed with a little blue that is used by silversmiths to decorate jewellery and pieces of gold'. 4. 'White colour mixed with blue. Latin: *Color porcellaneus*'. (AUT) In Mexico the term *borcelana* was used to refer to a piece of porcelain.

POTE: A type of tall clay container used to drink or to store liqueurs. This term is also used for the pots in which flowers and herbs are planted, made in the shape of a jug. (AUT)

PROTOCOLO: Register.

PUCHERO: Glazed or unglazed clay container, smaller than an *olla** but with the same functions. Covarrubias mentions that it was so named because the *puches* that are *gachas* [both words mean 'porridge'] was cooked in it. (AUT) A pot.

QUINTAL (pl. Quintales): The weight of 100 pounds or four *arrobas**, although it can vary depending on the area. Can also mean the fifth part of one hundred. (AUT)

RAMILLETERO: A type of adornment that is placed on altars, consisting of a flowerpot or pedestal with various artificial flower sprays inside it. (AUT)

REAL (pl. Reales): Silver coin that had different values over time, the most common being 2 *reales de vellón*, which corresponded to 68 *maravedíes**. One *real* equalled 34 *maravedíes*, or 3,43 grams of silver [see *ducado* above]. (RAE) A *peso fuerte* of 8 *reales* (silver) was called a *real de a ocho*.

REBOTAN (Rebotín): A light silk.⁷

RECADO ('Recado de chocolate'): All the utensils needed to perform an activity such as *recado de escribir* or *recado* ('to write') would mean all the objects needed to perform the writing task. '*Recado del chocolate*' would therefore be all that is required for drinking chocolate as an afternoon treat. (AUT) Beverages and pottery for the table.

RECÁMARA: Room adjoining the *camara* (chamber) that was normally used to keep clothes and jewellery. (AUT) The *recámara* is normally identified as the treasury where precious objects were kept.

REDOMA: Thick glass vessel or container with a wide belly and a narrow mouth. Apothecaries used these jars for liquids and syrups. (AUT)

⁵ The word *pourcelaine*, which originally meant 'sea-shell' or 'mother-of-pearl', was first given its current meaning by Marco Polo in his *Travels*, written while imprisoned by the Genoese.

⁶ Hortens. Mar. p. 240.

⁷ Esteban Terreros y Pando, *Diccionario Castellano con las voces de ciencias y artes*, vol. 3, p. 295.

REPOSTERO DE CAMAS: Servant of the Queen who guarded the door to the *antecámara*^{*} and plumped up the mattress.

RS: See real.

RUCIADERA: Jug used to serve oil and the vinegar at the table. (RAE)

SALSIER (Sausería, Salsería): In the palace, the holders of this trade provided the vinegar used in salads and when cooking different meats, and supplied the valuable spices to the kitchen. (AUT)

SALVA (Salvilla): Gold, silver or clay object such as a small plate, on which the gentleman's goblet was served. The term comes for the expression: '*Hacer la salva*' ('To perform the *salva*'), the ceremony in which the main servant (*maestresalas*^{*}) tasted his lord's wine and food to prevent him from being poisoned, thus 'saving' him from betrayal. (COV)

SECRETARIO DE CORTE: Equerry, a male officer who acts as an assistant to a member of a Royal family. (RAE)

SERVIDOR: Dish. (AUT)

SERVILLA: A type of *cordovan* (leather slippers) with thin soles that are made in Cordoba. Covarrubias mentions that the name comes from the fact that servants used these shoes. (AUT) *Servilla* could also derive from the previous entry *servidor* (dish).

SESMA: Measurement that is the sixth part of a *vara*^{*}. Some use the distance from the tip of the thumb to the index finger, almost 14 centimetres. (RAE)

SIERPE: Large serpent. (CS)

SOBRECOPA: Lid or cover of a goblet, cup or container. (RAE)

SOBREPUESTOS: Something that is put on top of another. (AUT) Additions such as appliqué or relief work.

SOGA: Rope made from *esparto* grass or any other material. (AUT)

SUMILLER: Generic term for the different trades in the king's household. *Sumiller de pantería:* person in charge of the bread and table linen in the palace. *Sumiller de corps:* First Gentleman of the King's Bedchamber in the Castilian Royal Household. (AUT) The Officer of the Royal Household in charge of the more intimate and inner rooms of the Spanish king, responsible for the most immediate service to the Monarch.

SYNABAFO (Colcha, Coicha): A type of transparent, thin cotton cloth-gauze imported from India. Sold in Goa and exported in large quantities to Portugal and perhaps Seville, especially after 1580.⁸

TAÇA, see **TAZA**

TAPADOR: A lid (see **SOBRECOPA** above).

TAPICERO MAYOR: Head of the trade responsible for tapestries, hangings, carpets, and other textiles that adorned the Royal Household. (AUT)

TARRO: Tall glazed clay jar with a wide mouth that is generally used for preserves. Covarrubias believes that it comes from *quasi terra* ['nearly earth']. (AUT)

TASACIÓN: An appraisal, a valuation. (CS)

TASADOR: Appraiser. (CS)

TAZA (Taça): Wide-mouthed wine cup. According to Father Guadix the name derives from the Arabic, *de tecq* ('to give to drink') A Romanist might have said *quasi tassa* [?], as that was the measure

⁸ Special thanks to Annemarie Jordan for providing the definition of this word.

of one drink. (COV) However, the word *taza* could have another meaning, as some of the objects in the inventories are described in the following way: 'Five porcelains on a low foot (*taça*)'. This shape is related to the Italian *tazza* ('cup', plural *tazze*), a shallow saucer-like bowl either mounted on a stem and foot, or only on a foot.

TAZÓN: Large cup, bowl or dish. (AUT)

TECOMATE: Pottery vessel shaped as a deep cup. (RAE)

TENDIDA: Unfolded, opened, spread out. (AUT)

TIBOR: Large vase or jar made of clay from China or Japan shaped as a *tinaja* and decorated on the outside. (AUT)

TINAJA (Tinaxa; dim. Tinajuela): An oval clay container or jar with a great capacity; *tinajuela* and *tinajilla* are the diminutives. *Tinajón* is a large *tinaja*. (COV)

TOMÍN (pl. Tomines): The eighth part of a gold *castellano*. (AUT)

TOSTTAZERAS: Not in the historic dictionaries consulted.

TOTUMA: Container made from the fruit of the *totumo*, a type of gourd from South America with a thick peel. (AUT)

TRINCHEO: A small plate, one for each guest at a table. Comes from the French *trincer* that means 'to cut'. The plate was referred to by this name because the food on it was already cut. (COV)

VACÍA: see **BACÍA**

VADANA: see **BADANA**

VALIDO (Privado): King's favourite; in the seventeenth century, *valido* status (*valimiento*) included a more or less explicit royal grant of ministerial powers. (RAE)

VAQUERO: Garment of Turkish origin. Tight-fitting around the torso and with skirts, it is open at the front and buttoned with braid trimmings. Its most elaborate feature is the long, tubular flattened sleeves that hung from the shoulders. Boys and girls wore them in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. There was also a *vaquero* for men to wear at the *fiestas* with bulls and canes as well as one for women.⁹

VARA: Measurement that equals approximately one yard or 83 centimetres. 'The *vara* was originally three Roman feet and is usually translated as "yard", but it varied in different parts of Spain and the Spanish colonial empire'.¹⁰

VASO: See **BASSO**.

VASERA: Large plate with handles on which cups were carried. (AUT) A tray.

VEEDOR DE VIANDA. Palace employee in charge of the accounts of the food who ensured that dishes were served at the table in the correct order after informing the Chief Major-domo. (RAE)

VELLÓN: Blend of silver and copper from which coins were minted during the seventeenth century; they were made of copper only from the reign of Philip V of Spain (1683–1746). (RAE)

VENERA: Shell of a particular kind of mollusc found along the Galician coastline that is often brought back by pilgrims returning from the city of Santiago as an emblem of having been on this pilgrimage. Covarrubias relates this word to the vein-like stripes or spots on the shell. (AUT) Scallop shells, often found along the shores of Galicia, have long been the symbol of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage.

⁹ I am grateful to Amalia Descalzo for providing the meaning of this word.

¹⁰ Boxer, 2004, p. 253.

VENTURINA: Dun yellowish quartz with sheets of mica gold in its mass. (AUT)

VERNEGAL: see **BERNEGAL**

VICHA (Bicha): Imaginary figure, the upper part shaped as a woman, the lower part as a fish or other animal, surrounded by fruit and foliage, used for decorative purposes. (RAE)

VOTIJILLAS: See **BOTIJOS**

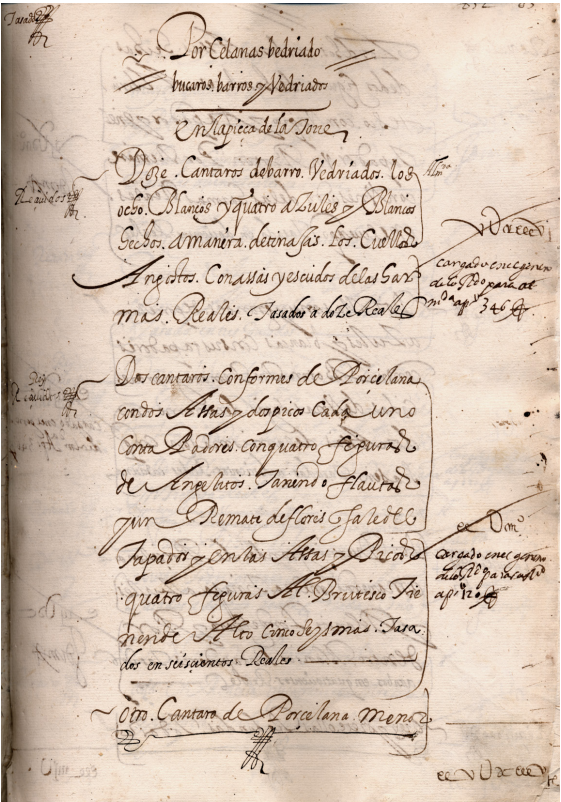


Fig. 241 Inventory of Philip II. Palacio Real, Madrid



Fig. 242 Lucas de Heere, portrait of Philip II of Spain, oil on canvas, 88 x 72 cm. c. 1560. Private collection, Toledo.