

TORRIJOS AND THE OBELISK OF THE PLAZA DE LA MERCED

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INTRODUCTION

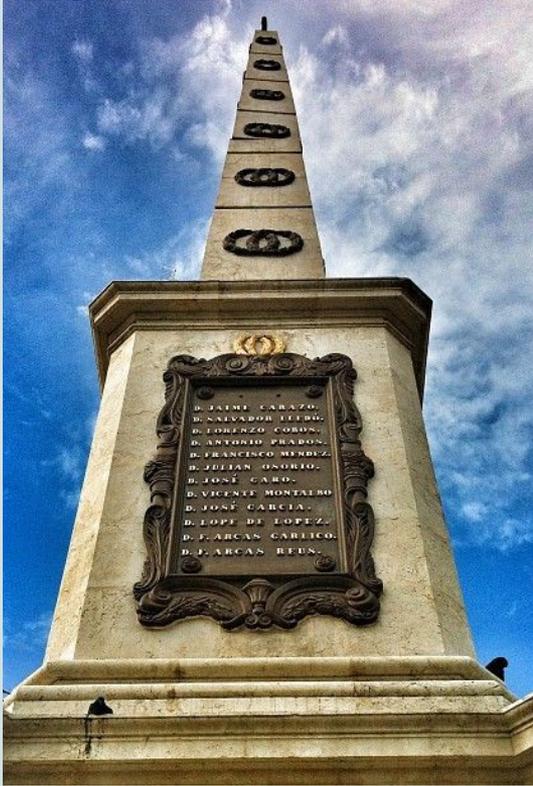
The Torrijos monument is an **obelisk** erected in honor of **José María de Torrijos y Uriarte** in Málaga, Spain. It is a funerary monument built 11 years after Torrijos and his 48 companions were shot between the beach of San Andrés and the neighborhood of El Bulto on December 11, 1831. **The remains of Torrijos and his companions were introduced underneath it.**





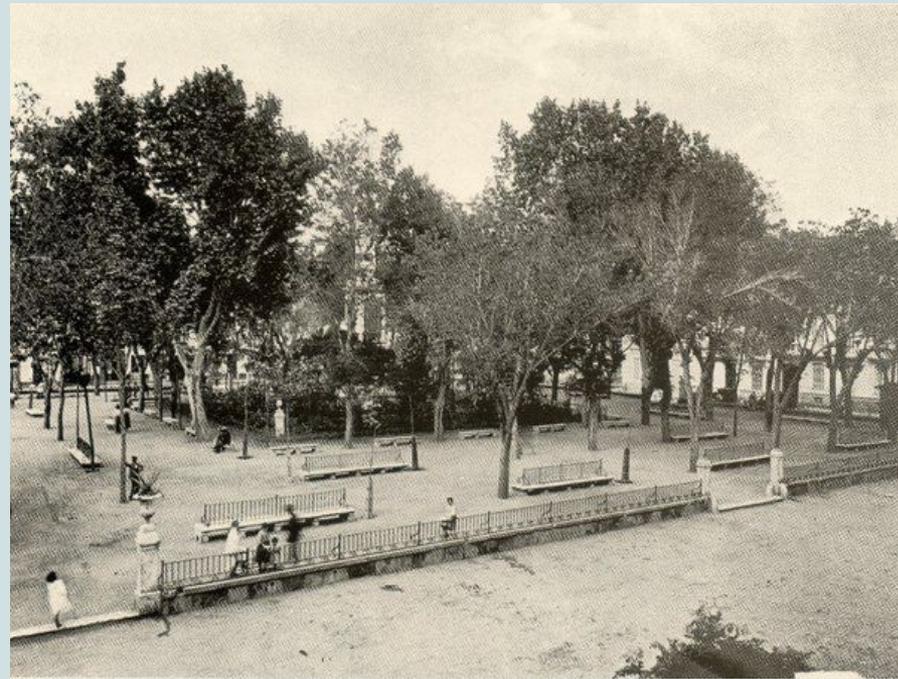
A. Rubens
T. 837

LOCATION



The obelisk is located in the **Plaza de la Merced**, in Malaga, Spain, whose origin dates back to **before the modern age**, when it was used as a public market.





AUTHOR



The obelisk, which is considered the most important and characteristic urban civil monument in Malaga in the 19th century, was designed by the municipal architect **Rafael Mitjana y Ardison**.

ART STYLE

The presence of the **obelisk** and the **laurel wreaths** are decorative elements typical of the classicism of the time (**neoclassicism**). The symbolism seems clear: the choice of the obelisk, of **Egyptian** origin, seeks to symbolize **eternity**, while laurel wreaths are an element that the **Romans** gave to **heroes**.





STATE OF CONSERVATION

In 1884, the **Andalusian earthquake**, which caused lots of damage in the city, moved a piece of the monument, leaving it slightly displaced. It was never repaired because it wasn't necessary, since the structure remained stable.

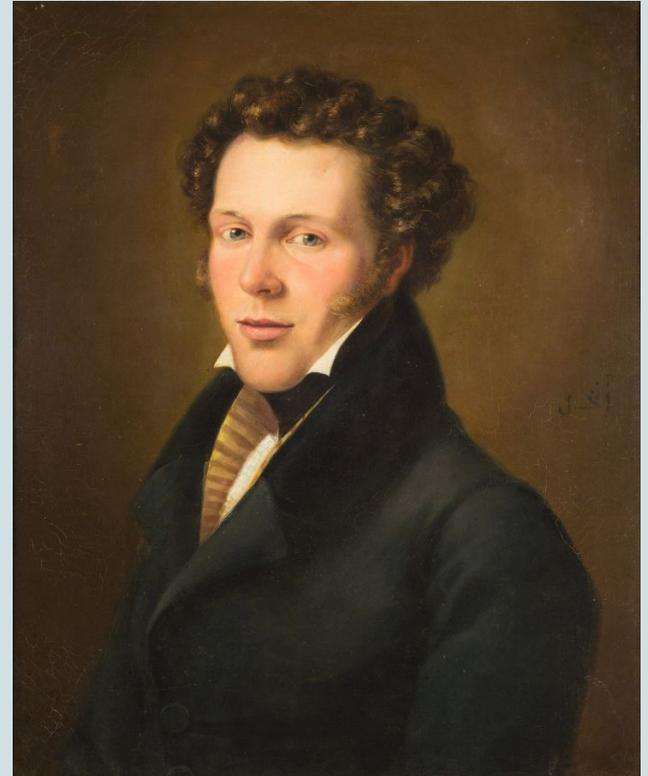


HISTORICAL CHARACTERS ATTACHED TO THE SITE

From the age of 17 to 23, Torrijos fought against **Napoleon Bonaparte**. He fought in the War of Independence after the restoration of the absolutism of **Fernando VII**.

There were 49 reprisals, but under the monolith in La Merced square only the remains of 48 rest. The one who is missing, the Irishman **Robert Boyd**, rests in the English Cemetery because he was Anglican.

As a curiosity, the territory was given to France so that it wouldn't be destroyed during **Jose Bonaparte's** conquest





Robert Boyd

Napoleon Bonaparte

Jose Bonaparte

CHRONOLOGY

As previously said, the obelisk was built in 1842, 11 years after Torrijos and his companions were shot, because of the Pronunciamiento de Torrijos, in which he tried to end absolutism and to restore the 1812 Constitution.



CURRENT USES

In the present, the obelisk is still a **funerary monument**, as the remainings of Torrijos and his companions rest underneath it.

It is also very important for **tourism**, because of its history and its location.



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