



CHURCH OF THE SALESIANS (Madrid)
(Parish of Santa Barbara)

The monastery of the Royal Salesians, converted since the middle of the XIX century into the Palace of Justice and rebuilt as such after the fire of 1915, was magnificently endowed by the queen Doña Bárbara de Braganza, wife of Fernando VI. The nuns for whom it was built came from Chambery, capital of Saboya and took possession in 1857. The building was a combination of royal palace, since the donor reserved a suite of rooms for her retirement, and convent and school for the orphans of noblemen.

Until recently the church had a beautiful garden before its main entrance, but this was partially destroyed to build an ornamental perron. The main facade is built of granite, with carvings by Domingo Olivieri, who did the statues of San Francisco de Sales, Santa Juana, the relief sculpture of the Visitation, the patron Saint of the Convent, and the Sagrada Familia which are in a niche in the West wall of the old convent. The interior is very sumptuous with marble pillars and bronze capitels. The paintings on the dome are by the Velazquez Brothers, decorators of the Royal Palace. On the right side is the monumental tomb of Fernando VI by Sabatini. The Queen's tomb is in the Choir and General O'Donnell, Duke of Tetuan is buried on the left side.

Postcard

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