

FASCISM DESTROYS
SPAIN'S ART-TREASURES

THE
NATIONAL PALACE
(MADRID)

TOURING resorts in Spain have undergone, in part, a painful transformation and in order to make this known and lamented, showing, at the same time, the line of preservation and care taken by the Government of the Popular Front, of our Artistic Treasures, in saving and redeeming valuable objects of Art and culture from the fascist fire and metal, the Spanish State Tourist Department continues these publications which, in a brief and documental manner, inform the civilized and art-loving world, of all the damage occasioned by the military revolt in Spain.



WHEN the Republic was proclaimed in Spain in the year 1931, all the historical monuments which united art and beauty to tradition, were spared and placed under the protection of the Republican Government.

Everything which, in sculpture or painting, carving or writing, represented the history of our civilization, all that was considered a document of our culture, was taken charge of by the Republic which, ever intent on augmenting the artistic wealth of Spain, took good care of their preservation and the purity of their surroundings, restoring any of those which were deteriorated and very often having to repair the damage wrought by previous restaurations done by people who placed a political or religious conception above artistic style.

One of the Republican Government's first cares was to see that Art and all elements of culture and knowledge of our historical monuments should be made known to the public at large.

The old Royal Palace which was a symbol of all that which, by the will of the people, disappeared in a bloodless revolution, on changing its name into National Palace, was spontaneously converted, by the united desire of the people and Government, into a museum of history and tradition.

On ceasing to be a living element in the political life of the country it remained as a living witness to its history.

No one, not even in the critical and decisive hours of April 14th, ever attempted the least outrage against its artistic beauty, nor was it despoiled of any of its valuable contents. Its historical and artistic value was realized and respected by all.

The priceless collections of tapestries, pictures, furniture, books and arms were duly catalogued, classed and selectioned according to schools, styles, periods and value, until an ensemble of unusual purity and unity was attained such as had never before been the case in the times of its former Royal inhabitants, owing, most likely, to lack of taste and interest in their surroundings.

The Republic had to be proclaimed in order that these treasures should be admired and known by all. Since then the Palace has been more of a Palace.

Italian and German artillery have not, however, shown the same respect towards the historic and cultural traditions of Spain.

Their shells, impotent to conquer the town have, during 21 months, cowardly destroyed the magnificent façades of the Palace, burning its beautiful appartments and piercing its artistic ceilings.

Madrid holds itself proudly like a fortress, not like a house of cards which collapses with a breath of wind; it stands firm against Fascism which, unable to realize its plans of conquest and warriors dreams, does all it can to destroy it from a distance.

Foreign planes from on high have broken all records of crime, while the artillery of international Fascism at the service of our traitor generals, lay waste and destroy the town which has *so often been officially taken...* by the foreign armies which have their head-quarters in Salamanca.

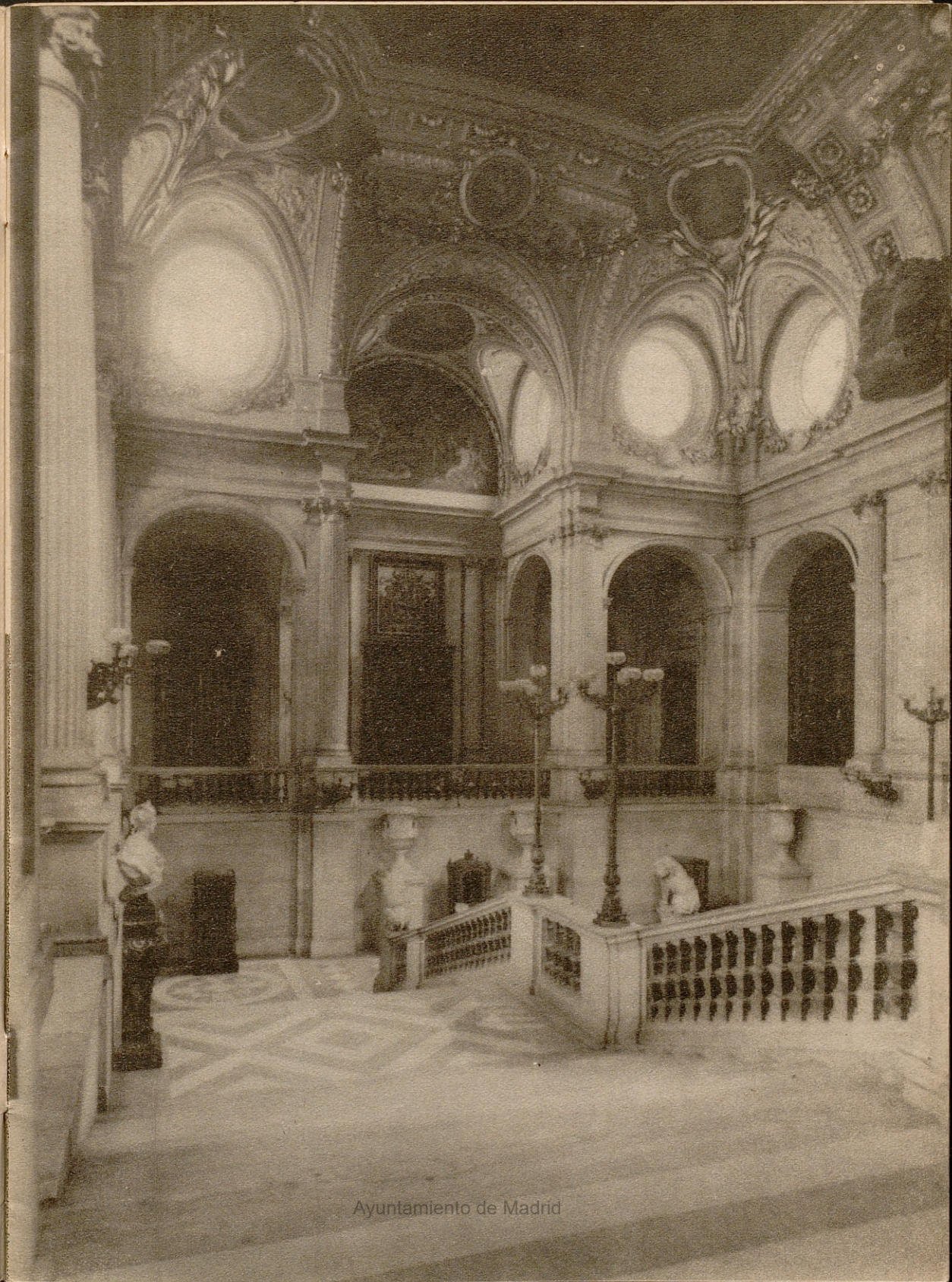
The National Palace, a victim of Fascism, is now also the symbol of a Nation which crowns its history by writing in letters of blood and heroism the finest pages of its struggle for the independence of Spain.

August 1938

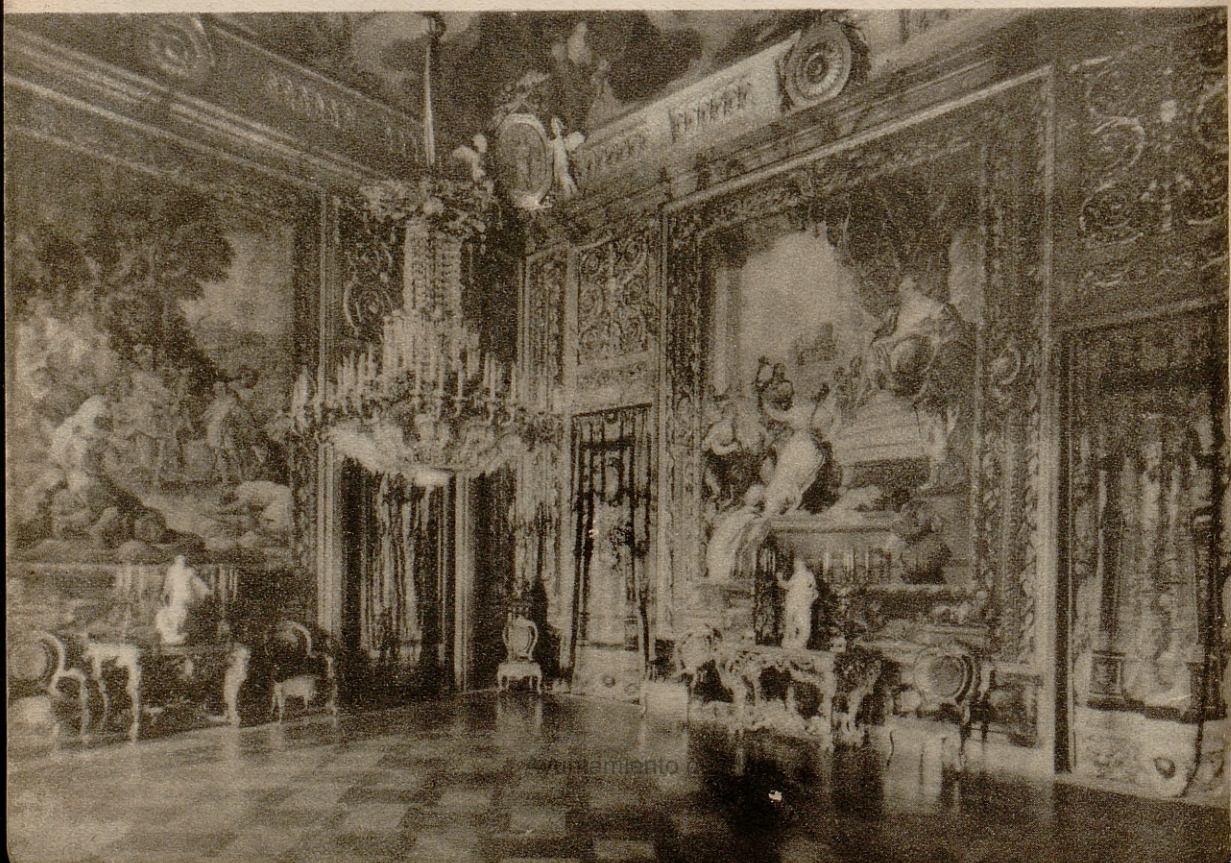
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Main staircase of the Palace.

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General view of the Tapestry.
Room.

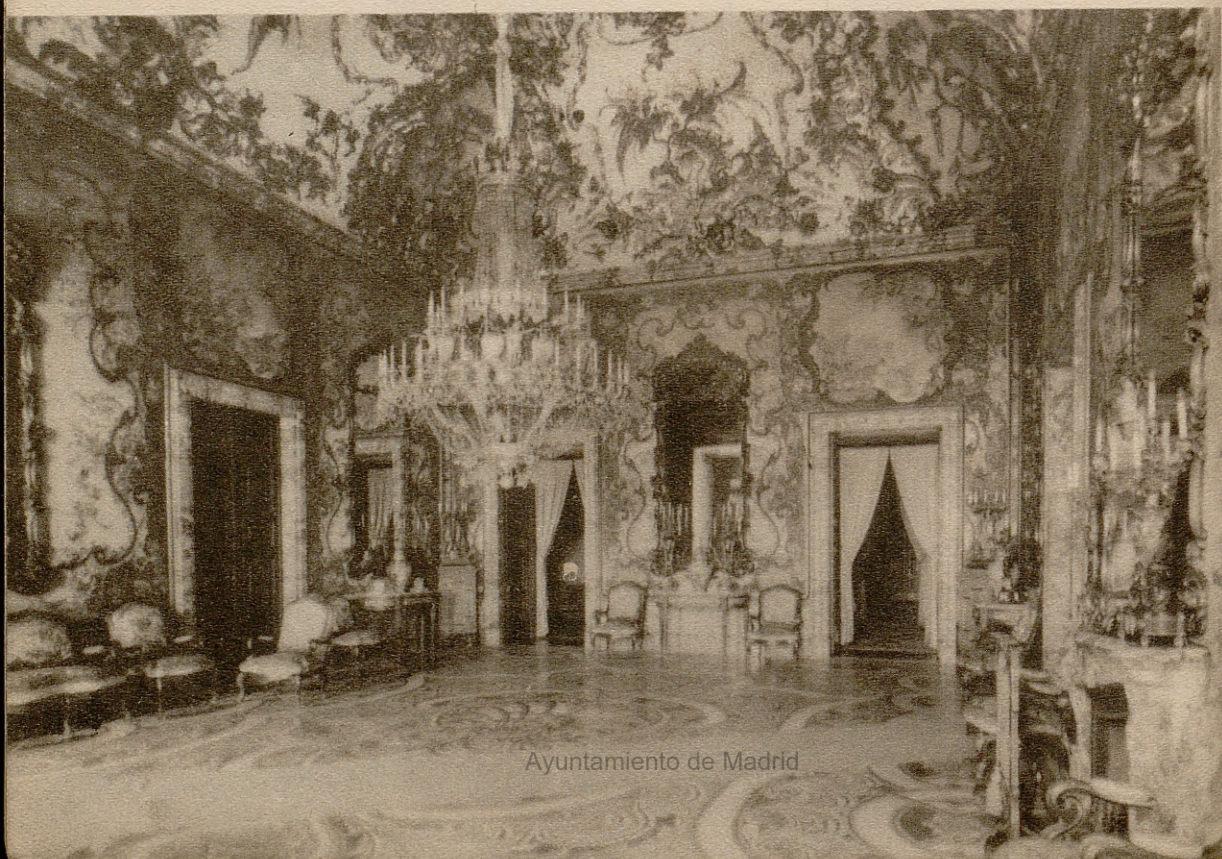




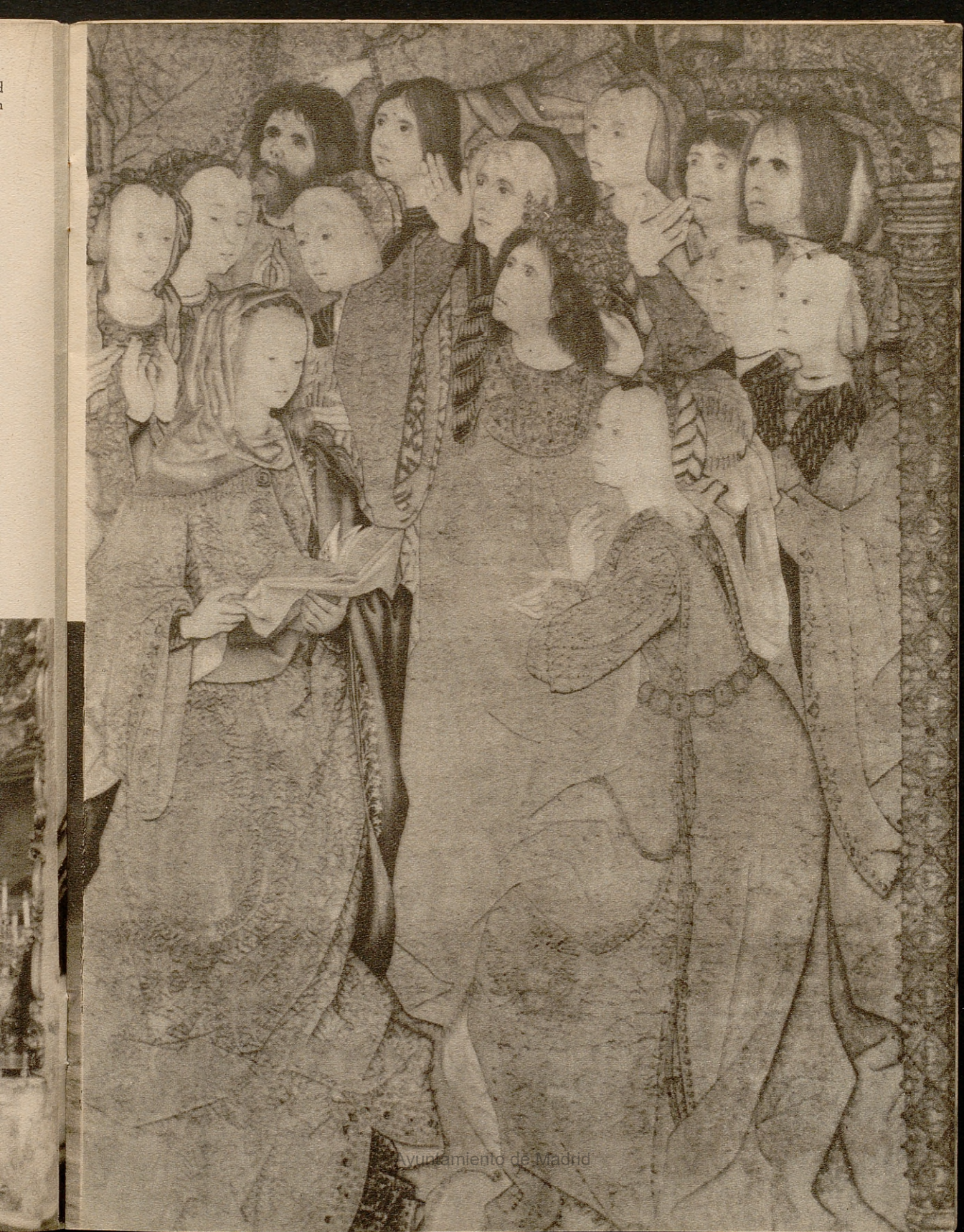
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Part of the Tapestry called
"The Annunciation". (XVth
Century.)

The Gasparini chamber.

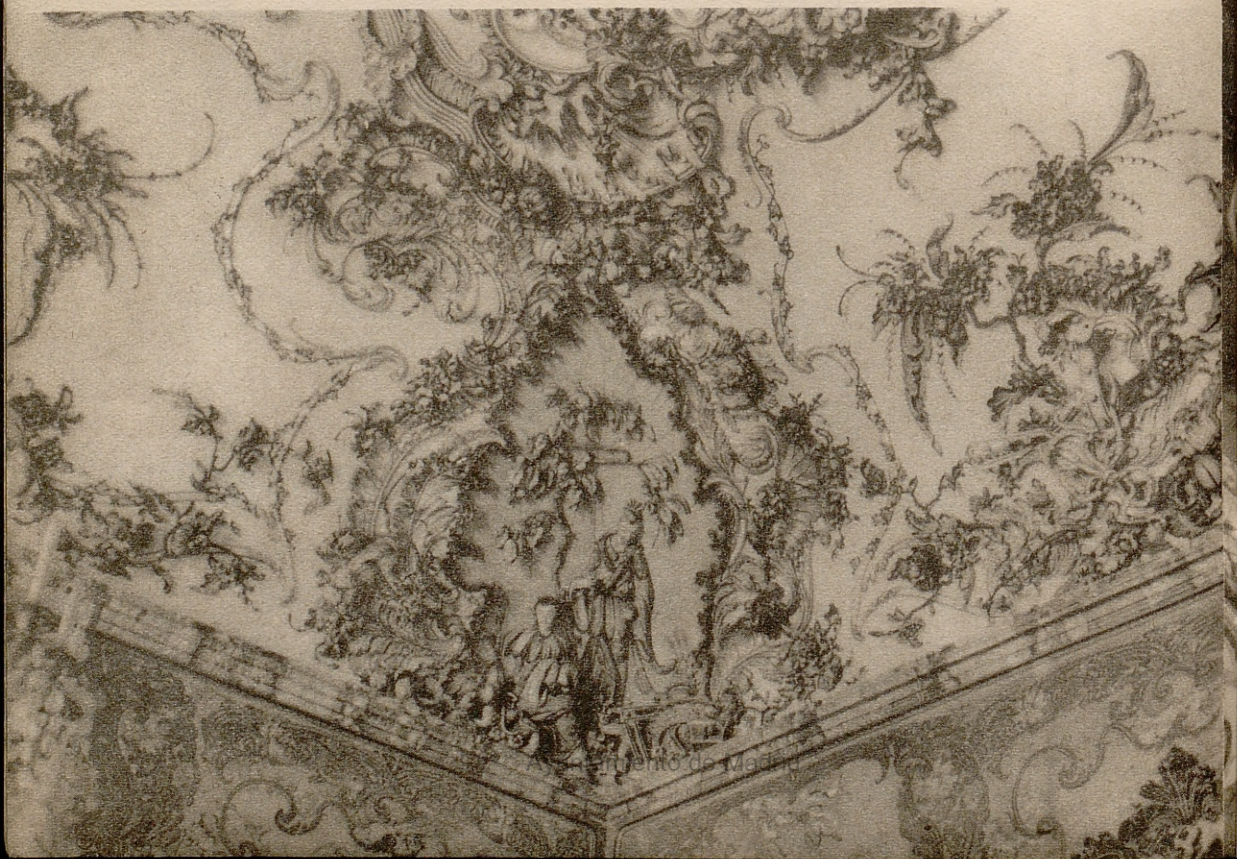


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Portrait of Isabel The Catholic
by Bartolome Bermejo (XVth
Century) proceeding from the
Miraflores Carthusian Convent.

Detail of its ceiling.





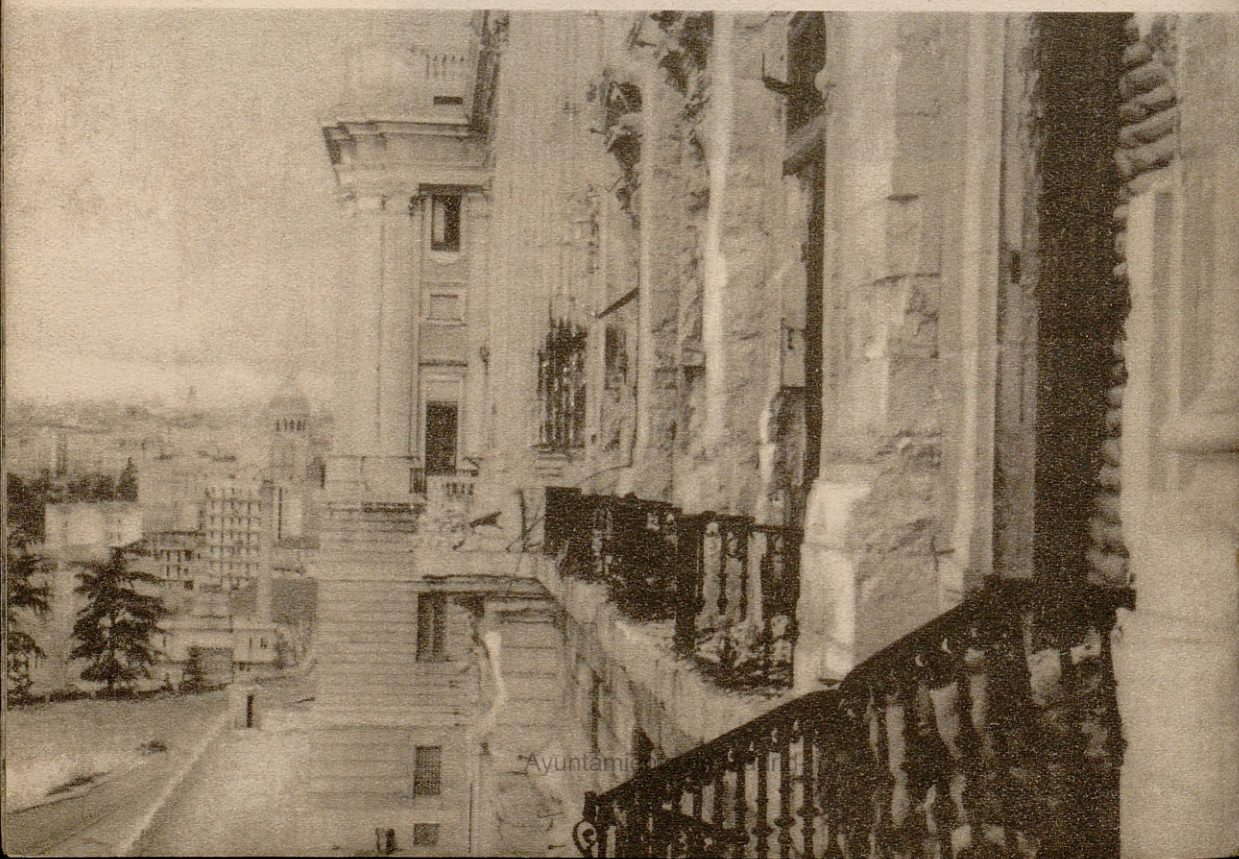
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General view of the Palace
as seen from the Casa de
Campo.

A "military objective" of
foreign artillery.

View of a façade which has
been riddled by impacts of
Italian and German guns.





All the balconies of the Palace are in the same state as this one.

Several shells have fallen in the interior Courtyard.



Arquitectura de Madrid

Pa-
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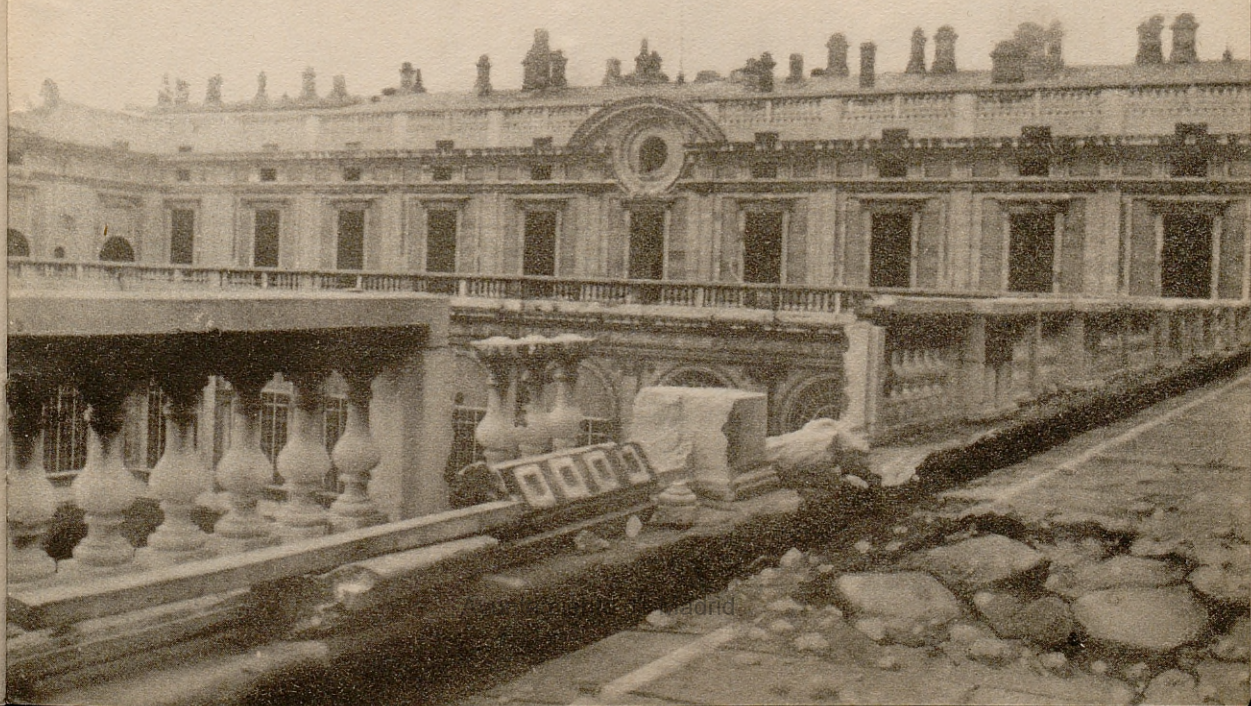


This façade is still another
accusation against fascism.

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Here a shell fell.



The International fascism's
"Kultur" has left its marks on
this ceiling of the Halbardiers
room.

Gun shell, which like many
more, have fallen inside some
of the Palace appartments
without exploding.



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s on
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This Crown which pinnacled the Palace, now broken and lying on the ground in the snow, is a symbol of all that which has disappeared for ever by the will of the people, which are fighting their way towards Liberty and Democracy.



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I.D. Ayuntamiento de Madrid 1200046659



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