



THE PRADO PROMENADE (Madrid)

Here we have a view of the old Prado Promenade as it is today. The different parts of the Paseo de Prado are still officially called the paseos de San Juan, de San Jerónimo, de San Fermin and Recoletos, and formerly stretched from the Puerta de Atocha to Recoletos.

From the time of Cervantes and the early Spanish theatre all classical authors have mentioned the famous Prado or Meadow. It used to be one immense wooded promenade through which ran a stream (the Valnegral or Abroñigal), and which was provided with a number of artistic fountains, such as the Caño Dorado mentioned in *Don Quixote*. During the reign of Carlos III, this promenade was re-designed and levelled according to plans prepared by D. José Hermosilla. The Botanical Garden was instituted and the Prado museum was commenced about the same time; the fountains called Alcachofa, Trajineros, Neptune, Apollo and Cybele were also erected during this period.

Between the plazas of Neptune and Cybele a fashionable promenade was made where the Court used to take exercise from the end of the XVIII to the middle of the XIX century. It is here that Carnival was celebrated and military reviews and parades took place.

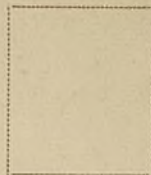
In 1905 the Promenade was converted into the garden as it is today, which certainly does not possess the grandiose beauty of its predecessor.

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