



STATUE OF MURILLO AND ENTRANCE TO THE BOTANICAL GARDEN (Madrid)

Phillip II created the first Spanish Botanical Garden in Aranjuez, before the gardens of Paris and Montpellier were formed, and about the same time as those of Pisa and Padua, usually considered the oldest in Europe.

The Botanical Garden of Madrid was formed during the reign of Fernando VI near the banks of the river Manzanares, but Carlos III ordered it to be moved to the Prado, and Count de Floridablanca devoted his whole attention to this scientific garden, which was soon one of the finest in the world.

It possesses two monumental entrances: One in the Prado on which the inscription gives the date as 1781, and the other shown in this photograph, from the plaza de Murillo. At one end there is a building to be used as a lecture hall and on both sides there are hot-houses. Along the various paths are statues of famous Spanish botanists, such as Lagasca and Cavanillas. The herbal collection is remarkable, as also the drawings of amaranth flora, obtained during scientific expeditions, such as the notable exploration of Mutro. The garden has a splendid collection of live specimens.

The statue of Murillo is in the centre of the square which bears his name, facing the South end of the Museum. This work was chiselled by Sabino Medina and unveiled by King Amadeo I and Queen Victoria in 1871.

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