



Work of the Madrid workshop

Chasuble donated by Queen

Bárbara de Braganza

1746–1759

Silk, with threads of gold, silver and other colours

124 cm (length) × 70.5 cm (maximum width)

This splendid **chasuble** is made of silk, with threads of gold, silver and other colours, in line with the fashion and **brocade technique of the eighteenth century**. The fabric is a veritable feast for the eyes, with alternating wave-like bands that run the full length of the garment, punctuated with posies of flowers in green and pink tones, which have been picked out with great care and delicacy. The lustre of the metal threads and the meticulousness of the floral details evoke the refinement that characterised the courtly textile art of the period.

Beyond its beauty, however, this chasuble stands out for its historical and religious significance: it was made from a set of liturgical garments donated by **Queen Barbara of the House of Braganza**, the wife of King **Ferdinand VI**. The donation of these garments to the Sanctuary of Covadonga underlines the importance of the *Real Sitio* as a place of worship and a symbol of the monarchy's legitimacy. The queen's gift, which exemplifies the donations that were habitually made to major Marian religious institutions, served to strengthen the link between the monarchy and popular spirituality. It also reminds us of how royal protection and patronage have helped to enrich the artistic and religious heritage of Covadonga. Although the fabric of this chasuble is somewhat deteriorated in certain areas, it remains a material testament to the generosity and piety of Queen Barbara, and the close relationship between royalty and the major religious centres in Spain.