



Set of vestments gifted by the Prince of Asturias (chasuble, two dalmatics, four copes, a humeral veil, a maniple, and a stole + cope hood with inscription)

1858

Silk and metallic threads, and silk in gold, silver, and colors

Chasuble: 124 cm (length); dalmatic

A: 104 cm (length); dalmatic B: 101 cm (length)

This set of liturgical garments is of exceptional quality and opulence. From right to left, we have a chasuble, a dalmatic, a humeral veil, a maniple and stole – which are the smallest items – and two copes. Each of these pieces has a specific function in religious ceremonies: the **chasuble** is the main garment worn by the priest during the mass; the wide-sleeved **dalmatic** is worn by the deacon; the **humeral** veil covers the priest's shoulders while he gives the blessing with the Eucharist; the **maniple** – which is no longer used nowadays – is a band that was worn over the forearm; the **stole** is worn over the shoulders and is a symbol of the priesthood; and the **cope**, or long cloak, is worn during processions and solemn acts.

This particular set stands out for its splendid brocade fabric of gold and white silk, decorated with large plant and floral motifs in line with the so-called “rose and ear of wheat” technique, which was reserved exclusively for the most luxurious liturgical vestments of the period. The garments were probably made in Valencian workshops during the nineteenth century, and are notable for the exceptional quality of both their design and manufacture, with each piece incorporating meticulous reliefs and other details.

Above the **hood** of the cope at the end of the display we can read the following words: “Pontifical given to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Covadonga by his Royal Highness the Most Serene Lord Prince of Asturias Alfonso Francisco, in the year 1858”. This text commemorates the **donation** of garments that was made to the Sanctuary of Covadonga by Prince **Alfonso of the House of Bourbon**, the future King **Alfonso XII**, when he was just a child. The donation followed the Spanish royal family's tradition of giving valuable vestments to the sanctuary, thereby strengthening the link between the monarchy and **Covadonga** as a symbol of national devotion and legitimacy. The inscription commemorates this act of generosity and highlights the important role played by **Covadonga** in the history of the Spanish monarchy. This set of garments, which are still in fine condition, is a testament to the close relationship between the royal family and the sanctuary; it also exemplifies the wealth of artistic treasures that have survived to the present day thanks to these acts of **patronage**.