



Félix Granda Buylla

Pola de Lena, Asturias, 1868 – Madrid, 1954

Crowns for the Image of Our Lady of Covadonga and for the Image of the Child Jesus

1917–1918

Our Lady of Covadonga

Gold, platinum, diamonds, pearls, rubies, sapphires, pink and blue stones, and enamel

233 mm (height) × 249 mm (width) × 135 mm (diameter)

Child Jesus

Gold, platinum, diamonds, pearls, and enamels

67 mm (height) × 71 mm (diameter)

In this display case are two spectacular objects, finely crafted from precious metals, which are of extraordinary symbolic importance to Covadonga. They are the crowns for the images of **Our Lady of Covadonga** and the **infant Jesus**. Let's start with the first, which is the largest. The crown itself consists of a number of **diamond-studded bands**, accompanied by a **strip of blue enamel** bearing a **votive text** related to the Virgin Mary. Above the bands is a **crest** comprised of floral and plant motifs in the Baroque style. The crown is completed by a large, **circular halo**, which accentuates the overall majesty of the piece. Its counterpart, the crown for the infant Jesus, was inspired by a medieval design: above a diamond-studded band there is a series of **crosses, fleur-de-lis** and **interlaced motifs**. Of particular note are the pearls and diamonds in the centre of each of these motifs, and the **large pearl** that serves as the base for the cross at the very top of the crown.

These fabulous pieces of headgear were made for the canonical coronation of Our Lady of Covadonga, which took place in the presence of King **Alfonso XIII** in **1918**, the year of the **twelfth centenary of the Battle of Covadonga**. These crowns were stolen in 1923 by a German national; fortunately, however, they were swiftly recovered, and after undergoing restoration they were displayed once again in all their splendour, as we see them today.