



2019.063
Unidentified Artist
Bogotá, Colombia
Portrait of José Henríquez de Guzmán
Ca. 1817-1819
Oil on canvas, 35 ¼ x 28 inches

Inscribed at upper left: *ARMAS DE JOSEPH ENRIQUEZ DE GUZMAN*. Inscribed on the paper he holds: *Prospecto para mejorar de sueldos a los individuos de la Real Casa de Moneda de Santafe.*

The portrait represents with considerable naturalism a man of 60 to 65 years of age. His face is mature, but unlined, except for the area around his eyes. His short grey hair, with light

bangs brushed toward his brow, suggests his age. He is identified at the upper right by his name “Josef Enriquez de Guzman,” surrounding a heraldic device referring to his family lineage. He wears the Spanish military uniform of the period, with its stiff collar and elaborate gold embroidery. A medal that hangs from his neck and an embroidered crest on his jacket reflect his service to the Spanish Monarchy. A sword hangs at his side and he holds a small paper with an inscription.

José Henríquez de Guzmán was in the service of the crown in Panama in March 1817 when King Ferdinand VII of Spain appointed him to the position of Superintendent of the royal mint (*Casa de Moneda*) in Santafé de Bogotá in what was then the Kingdom of New Granada. His selection was based “on recognition of his extensive merits and distinguished services undertaken for more than forty-six years.”ⁱ In August of that year the viceroy, Francisco de Montalvo, sent a notice of the appointment from Cartagena to the Casa de la Moneda de Santa Fe.

While Henríquez de Guzmán was working as superintendent of the royal mint at Bogotá, attending to matters such as his proposal to raise the salaries of its staff, and requesting 200 pesos for 600 beds for a new military hospital,ⁱⁱ the bloody wars for independence from Spain raged across the land. For the liberation of the Kingdom of New Granada, the determining moment was the victory of the patriotic troops under Simón Bolívar at the Battle of Boyacá on the road to Bogotá on August 7, 1819. The Spanish General Morillo, in his official report to Spain’s Ministry of War, wrote:

The rebellious Bolívar has occupied the capital of Bogotá, and the deadly outcome of this battle give him dominion over the enormous resources of a highly populated, abundantly rich nation, from which he will take whatever he needs to prolong the war. . . This unfortunate loss delivers into rebel hands—apart from the Kingdom of New Granada—many ports in the South, where he will now deploy his pirates. . . The interior of the continent, all the way to Peru, is at the mercy of whoever rules in [Bogotá]. . . In just one day, Bolívar has undone all we have accomplished in five years of this campaign, and in one single battle he has reconquered all the territory that soldiers of the king have won in the course of so many past conflagrations.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Spaniards of Bogotá fled with only shirts on their backs, abandoning houses, businesses, and the entire treasury of the viceroyalty.

On December 29, 1820 the Spanish schooner “Sacramento” arrived in Paita, Peru on its way from Panama to the port of Callao near Lima. On January 22 the ship arrived at Chorrillos, where it remained for six days, taking on passengers and receiving orders to continue to Pisco. Among the passengers on the ship were José Enrique [sic] de Guzmán, *Superintendente de la Casa de Moneda de Santa Fe*, with his servant, and Cipriano Méndez del Busto, *Oficial de Tribunal de Cuentas de Santa Fe*, with his servant.

While the cities and regions of Peru were moving to the control of the patriots, the Sacramento tried to evade capture, but was eventually taken on March 17. Henríquez de Guzmán was taken prisoner with several others and seems to have disappeared from the historical record.^{iv} However, the schooner “Sacramento” became famous as the first warship to fly the Peruvian flag.

Suzanne Stratton-Pruitt

ⁱ Antonio María Barriga Villalba, *Historia de la Casa de Moneda*, 3 vols (Bogotá: Banco de la República, 1969), vol. 2, pp. 319-322, where the original documents are transcribed.

ⁱⁱ Many thanks to José Presedo for sharing the document with me.

ⁱⁱⁱ Marie Arana, *Bolívar: American Liberator* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2018), p. 235.

^{iv} See Germán Leguía y Martínez, *Historia de la emancipación del Perú, el Protectorado* (Lima: Imp. Moderna, 1912-1914).