

Nomination form

International Memory of the World Register

1.0 Checklist

Nominees may find the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to the International Memory of the World Secretariat. The information provided in italics on the form is there for guidance only and should be deleted once the sections have been completed.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary completed (section 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner – completed (section 4.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented to support fulfilment of the criteria? (section 5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional information provided (section 6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of consultation with stakeholders completed (section 7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Assessment of risk completed (section 8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed |

Nomination form

International Memory of the World Register

The General Archive of Simancas (Spain): A document repository and an essential instrument of the Modern State for the government of the territories of the Spanish Monarchy.

ID Code [2016-32]

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

The unique importance of the documentary heritage preserved in the General Archive of Simancas derives from four converging characteristics which resulted directly from the original political and archival project conceived and implemented by Philip II in 1580. He founded a modern and innovative institution, which subsequently became a point of reference for all later archival systems:

- a) Designed and constructed by the royal architect Juan de Herrera, Simancas is the first custom-built archive in the world, following principles recognized today as those of rationality and functionality.
- b) It preserves the most valuable and coherent documentation created by the political and administrative structures of the Spanish Monarchy until the 19th century, including the Habsburg Councils, the Bourbon Secretariats and the Treasury departments.
- c) Simancas holds, after the Vatican Archives, the most important and far-reaching sources for the history of humanity, detailing five continents. This is because two thirds of the world fell under the sovereignty of the Spanish Monarchy or were closely connected with it.
- d) It provides complete, wide-ranging, in-depth and essential sources for the history of all the European and non-European territories from 16th to 19th centuries, covering their military, political, economic, social, religious and cultural evolution.

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. General Directorate of Fine Arts, Cultural Heritage and of Archives and Libraries.

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

The General Directorate is responsible for fostering preservation of Documentary Heritage and national and international promotion and dissemination (Royal Decree 1887/2011, of 30 of December, developing the basic organic structure of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport).

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Mr. Miguel Angel Recio Crespo, General Director of Fine Arts, Cultural Heritage and of Archives and Libraries.

2.4 Contact details

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
Miguel Ángel Recio Crespo	Plaza del Rey, 1. 28004 MADRID (Spain)

<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
34 91 7017271	34 91 7017403	

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

The characteristic that best defines the identity of the documentary heritage is its organization, coherence and qualitative value as a unique, singular source of documentation generated by the powerful political and administrative machine of the Spanish Monarchy between the 16th and the 19th centuries, a period in which its hegemonic position brought it into contact with almost the entire world. This was a dialogue of political and religious alliances and confrontations, cultural and economic exchanges that had an enormous impact on the continents of Europe, Africa, America and Asia.

These documentary sources have been carefully catalogued, detailing their volume and contents.

The following sources deserve to be highlighted for their qualitative and quantitative importance:

- a) Documentary sources produced by the Habsburg Council of State (16th-17th centuries) and the Bourbon Secretary of State (18th century and first third of the 19th century). The total volume of documentation amounts to 8.338 holding units, running from 1404 to 1833. The bulk of them refer to 16th to 18th centuries.

This documentation is arranged and classified by 'negotiations' or geographical zones, each one covering one of the main European countries of that time. But the Council of State reviewed documents from all the continents. The content covers all foreign affairs – diplomatic, political and religious, as well as economic relationships– in all their diversity. These documents are also crucial witnesses to the history of written culture in the period of their most complex expression.

- b) Documentary sources produced by the Provincial Councils of Portugal, Flanders and Italy, which oversaw the management, organization and government of these territories under Spanish sovereignty (16th-17th centuries). This documentation amounts to 2.796 holding units, running from 1369 to 1797, but mainly relating to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. These three series provide essential information to understand the running of the government institutions of these territories, managed by the Spanish Monarchy and, thus, are vital to understanding the history of those countries while they formed part of the Spanish Monarchy.

These series allow us to study the workings of the Treasury, the justice systems, law enforcement, charitable foundations, cultural and religious institutions, the organs of economic, commercial and industrial life of each of these territories, as well as the sharing out of the political and social power through the granting of noble titles, offices, ecclesiastical benefices, royal grace and fiefs.

The trading outposts of the Netherlands and Portugal in the East Indies extended the influence of Spain not only in Europe but across Africa and Asia, bringing together the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.

- c) Documentary holdings produced by the Habsburg Council of War (16th-17th centuries) and the Bourbon Secretariats of State and Ministry of War and Navy (18th century). They constitute a group of 13.266 holding units covering the period from 1386 to 1843. Notwithstanding this, the main bulk of documents refers to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

These ministries were in charge of designing and carrying out both defensive and offensive strategies, from forming armies and navies to transforming the strategic panorama with the building of defensive fortresses. One of the hallmarks of these holdings is their insight into both military and civil architecture, demonstrating the work of military engineers from various countries and set down in thousands of plans, drafts and designs. They also contain the history of a large part of urban development in the Atlantic and Mediterranean worlds. They also offer insights into the development of military technology and innovations in the history of science and medicine.

The series "Expeditions to the Indies" (EDI) and the first-rate information provided by the 17 series of Indies deserve a special mention, on account of their vital role in understanding American history. These documents provide an in-depth insight into both the processes of colonization and the rebellion of various indigenous populations of the Americas.

- d) Documentary holdings produced by the Council of Finances (16th-17th centuries) and by the Secretariat of State and Ministry and Superintendency of Finances (18th century) With a volume of 6.017 holding units it covers the period between 1400 and 1807. Those departments were in charge of the direction and carrying out of financial policies and the complete decision-making process on incomes and expenses. For this reason their contents far transcend the 'national' framework, although they also demonstrate the internal revenues and expenses, investments, and spending on public works, education, industry, communications and transport, ports, mines and arsenals, although they do so in a global economic framework. These series allow scholars to understand the highly sophisticated mechanisms of financial management that allowed the Spanish Monarchy to support its hegemonic position through a very high level of consolidated long-term debt. This debt involved a wide number of international commerce and banking agents – German, Genoese, Portuguese, etc. –, compelling them to maintain constants flows of money and supplies across all the European theatres of action, with the Spanish Monarchy their principal client.
- e) Documentary holdings produced by the Accounting Departments: Wages (*Sueldo*), Royal Grace (*Mercedes*), *Razón*, Incomes (*Rentas*), Lists (*Relaciones*) and Millions (a specific tax, the *millones*), all of them part of the *Contaduría Mayor de Hacienda* (Head Department of Accounts of the Treasury, 15th, 16th and 17th centuries).

These series contain 7.225 holding units covering the years from 1411 to 1718, with the main focus on the 16th and 17th centuries.

These departments were in charge of carrying out the routine accounting processes related to incomes and expenditure and they were a permanent source of information for the Council of Finances, which had general oversight of the finances of the Monarchy. The funding of the Spanish Monarchy, complex and expensive as it was, proved the efficacy of these departments; among their documents feature the wealthiest financiers of these times from across Europe.

-
- f) Documentary holdings produced by the Head Department of Accounts (15th-18th centuries).

Formed by 13.622 holding units comprising the accounts of all the civil servants in charge of public funds in the period from 1470 to 1789, these documents derive from receipts relating to nearly all government activities: military organization, civil works, loans, internal revenues, luxury goods for the Court, supplies for the navies and armies, fortification works, etc. It is an essential source for historic research because of its broad, wide-ranging and detailed content.

- g) Documentary holdings produced by the centralizing departments of Finance and the General Treasury of the Bourbon monarchy

The General Direction of Incomes was the centralizing department of revenues of the Bourbon administration. Its documentation covers the years from 1583 to 1834 –but almost all of it relates to the 18th century–, in 7.587 holding units.

The series of the General Directorate of the Treasury has 4.609 holding units, covering the years from 1553 to 1826, but mainly the 18th century.

- h) Documentary holdings produced by departments of the domestic government of the kingdom of Castille: the Royal Council, the Chamber of Castille, the *Registro General del Sello* (15th-17th centuries) and Secretary of State and Ministry of Grace and Justice (18th century).

This documentation consists of 6.195 holding units, covering the period 1323-1813, but mainly related to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

This is a very rich source of documentation that reveals the everyday life of Castilian society.

- i) Documentary holdings produced by the management of Royal Houses and royal estates. This series contains 403 holding units, covering the years from 1453 to 1700, but mainly focused on the 17th century.

- j) The collection of Patronato Real (Royal possessions and rights), with 16.202 documents, having two unique characteristics that give it a special historical value:

- It was established by a direct order of Philip II 1568, and is closely tied to the origins of the Archive and the personal wishes of the king.
- It contains the most highly-valued documents, personally selected by the sovereigns to support their rights, titles and entitlements: royal testaments, agreements and treaties, documents granting the royal right of patronage, property deeds, royal instructions, right waivers, etc.. The king chose a chamber decorated with royal and dynastic emblems to house it, full of symbolism on account of its importance.

- k) The cartographical documentation, including maps, plans, drawings and engravings, enjoys a preferential place on account of its extraordinary value. This is the case not only because of its quantity – 7.992 units – but also for its origins in the 16th and 17th centuries. It remains fully integrated into the original holdings and details much of the known world at the time. Described as ‘exceptional and magnificent’ by specialists in historical geography, urban development and civil and military architecture, it is the result of the royal confidence in the use of graphic representation as the main tool to manage and control military and political spaces.

A good example of its extraordinary value is the participation of the Archive in the ELCONUM project (<https://elconum.com>) of urban history of Algeria, where Simancas contributes with the oldest known representations of the country: 240 maps, drawings and plans from the 16th to the 18th centuries

3.4 History/provenance

The Archivo General de Simancas (General Archive of Simancas) houses an exceptional collection of documents - comparable only to the Vatican Archive - for use in studying history from the late 15th to the 19th centuries, in other words, the whole of the modern period, also known as the Ancien Regime. This gratifying situation, which moreover we can legitimately feel proud of, has not come about by chance. It results from a carefully calculated project set in motion during the first half of the 16th century.

The building in which the documents are conserved was the first step. During the wars among the aristocracy of the last third of the 15th century, the powerful Enríquez family, Commander of Castile, took over the town of Simancas, near Valladolid, and built themselves a castle there. The Catholic Monarchs, in line with their policy of controlling the nobility and destroying their fortified houses, came to an agreement with the Enríquezes under which they handed over the town and the fortress, which thus came into the hands of the crown.

Having put down the rebel movement, and when the ministries set up by the monarchy after the revolt had generated a sufficiently large quantity of documents, Charles V, almost certainly persuaded by his influential secretary Francisco de los Cobos, keeper of the castle, issued an order from Brussels on 16th September 1540 that the first batch of papers be stored in one of the turrets or towers. Other reasons for choosing Simancas were the building's good defences and its nearness to the Court in Valladolid.

This date is rightly considered as being when the Archivo General de Simancas was set up, and Charles V is therefore its founder. However, the emperor's action went no further than bringing together one small group of documents from various parts of the Kingdom of Castile in the newly formed archive. The man who really developed the Archivo General de Simancas, fully aware of the magnitude and significance of the archive project, was Philip II, who saw very clearly that in order to administer an empire, one needed to have access to what had been written, the only way in which information could be received and orders issued.

Obviously, in order to carry out this objective, a single turret of the old fortress would not suffice. Philip II decided to devote the whole castle to the archive. He ordered his architect Juan de Herrera to reconstruct the building. In 1578, the famous architect presented the king with the plans for what was to become the first custom-built archive of modern times. Nevertheless, he left some of the previous structure (the defensive walls, the structure of some of the turrets, etc), which are what give the castle its appearance. Nevertheless, the building was adapted to the archive's needs, and not the reverse.

The Prudent King was not content with raising the building. He had to regulate the activities of the new archive too (gathering the documents, organising and safeguarding them, deciding who to put in charge, and so on). So, on 24th August 1588, Philip II signed an ordinance, divided into thirty chapters, describing the main jobs of the modern archivist: these are understood to be the world's first archive regulations. The building and the regulations, novel and unique in the whole of Europe's archive tradition, are the basis of Simancas' wealth of documents.

Given a building in which documents were to be housed, and with regulations in hand to organise it, the archive's life over the 17th and 18th centuries continued in two directions: completing the building work and organising the great many documents that arrived there periodically from the Court in Madrid.

This stage of the archive's life came to an end in 1844 when, with the arrival of the new liberal regime, Simancas was thrown open for historical research. From being an administrative

archive, it became a historical archive.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. Secretary of State of Culture (Spain)	Plaza del Rey 1, planta 0. 28071 Madrid (Spain)	34 91 7017271	34 91 7017403	archivos.estatales@mecd.es

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Archivo General de Simancas (Spain) Dir. Mrs. Julia Teresa Rodriguez de Diego	C/ Miravete 8. 47130 Simancas (Valladolid)	34 983 590003 34 983 590750		ags@mecd.es

4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport (Spain).

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

Free access.

Digital reproductions of some documents are published on the Spanish State Archives website (<http://pares.mcu.es>) and on Archives Portal Europe (<http://www.archivesportaleurope.net/en>)

The map collection of the General Archive of Simancas can be visited on the website: <http://www.mcu.es/ccbae/es/mapas/principal.cmd>

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

None.

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

All the documents are over 100 years old. Therefore they form part of the public domain. Digital copies and other types of copies (photocopies, photographs) are covered by copyright and intellectual property laws.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

The holdings have a unquestioned origin and provenance, fully guaranteed as the result of the workings of the many councils and departments of the Spanish administration, with detailed and complete proof of the archival processes.

5.2 World significance

The documentary heritage of Simancas is vital to our understanding of the entire period of European history between 16th and 18th centuries. Its loss would cast into shadow the entire early modern period in Europe, as well as a enormous part of the history of North Africa and both North and South America in the 18th century.

Simancas has been crucial to our understanding of the history of these territories since the archive was opened to researchers in 1844. It has made a decisive contribution to the formulation of the historical theory of numerous European nations. The Archive is an essential source for the study of the social, political, economic and cultural development during the early modern period, and a laboratory in which the most important historiographical currents of the 20th century were formed and tested.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)

1 Time

The General Archive of Simancas holds the historical sources which allow scholars to assess the transformations that occurred in all of the geographical areas throughout the period from the 16th to the 18th centuries, both in Europe and beyond it: social and religious movements, scientific and cultural exchanges, economic transformations and the configuration of the European states.

2 Place

One of the most evident values of the Simancas' documentary funds is the checking of the transformation of the physical spaces, coastal lines, strategic environments or cities. That is clearly shown in the maps, plans and drawings housed from the 16th to the 18th centuries, displaying the changes along the time.

3 People, subject and time.

The documentary holdings cover the social, political, cultural, economic and religious development of Europe, as well as the movements and conflicts unleashed and their protagonists. Simancas houses correspondence and information about all the leaders of these centuries: artists (Titian and Cervantes), religious leaders (Martin Luther and Ignatius de Loyola), statesmen (Charles V and Louis XIV), diplomats (Richelieu and Walpole), engineers (Turriano, Vauban), businessmen (Fugger and Welser) and social agitators (Wilberforce).

4 Form and style

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

Simancas' documentary heritage has a huge impact on historical and cultural studies and research, and serves as a testimony to the memory of Golden Age Spain and its role in the history of both Europe and the World.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

The holdings of the General Archive of Simancas are unique. There is no other group of sources with similar variety and universal scope.

6.2 Integrity

The documents have been preserved by the Spanish administration archival services since its origin as a prove of legal proceeds of the Spanish administration throughout centuries.
