



Explanations of the Chamber Pot Museum in English

The founder of this museum is José Maria del Arco Ortiz, known as "Pesetos", from Ciudad Rodrigo. He used to dress in a special way during Carnival with costumes made of pesetas, thus honouring his nickname of "Pesetos". The costumes can be seen in the Julián Sánchez el Charro Hall. He died in 2011 at the age of 69.

He started his collection in 1980 with only a dozen pieces and continued collecting until his death. Today, the collection has more than 1,300 pieces from over 29 different countries. It is a unique collection in Europe and in Spain. As a result, it is currently listed in the Guinness Book of Records. Most of the pieces in the museum are of English origin as Pesetos' wife is English.

When Pesetos had about 700 pieces, the collection was itinerant. There were exhibitions in Malaga, and even in Portugal. Camilo José Cela went to see this collection that was going on in Málaga and caught his attention, because it was indeed a very big collection. He also had a collection of chamber pots but much smaller than Pesetos. Later, Camilo José Cela wrote an article in the newspaper ABC referring to the Pesetos exhibition, but also to Ciudad Rodrigo. The article is framed in the corridor of the Mirobriga room.

Mirobriga Hall: Representative pieces

Don Pedros: They are called like this because it seems that they were widely used by the clergy and also by Pedro I the Cruel. An important model from the mid-19th century has a built-in water tank and a bone handle. This is the one that most closely looks like the present-day toilet.



a) Display cases:



Murano glass chamber pot:

It is a gift from the Counts of Montarco of Ciudad Rodrigo. 17th century, unique in the museum. It is made of gold rings, flowers and two eagles on each side.

Metal chamber pot designed by Gaudí: It belonged to the Comillas Palace. It was Gaudí who designed the palace.



French ceramic chamber pot from the late 19th century: with a gold outline on the lid with Chinese painting motifs. The lid is shaped like an umbrella.

Green chamber pot: Late 19th century, Hungarian. Around the lid it is finished with gold dust.



b) **Child seats:** All have a hole in the seat to place the urinal underneath.



c) **Toilet set:**

From the Victorian period of the mid-19th century. Called iridescent because it changes colour according to the reflection of light. One of the chamber pots is smaller than the other and is designed for men. The larger one is for women.



d) Chamber pot (brochure):

Pot de chambre canadien, en céramique bleu cobalt. Milieu du 19^{ème} siècle. La poignée du couvercle représente une pomme. Il y a aussi des motifs d'un chevalier et d'un dragon finis en argent doré.



e) American silver chamber pot:

Early 19th century. It is completely handmade in solid silver. It was a chamber pot made to order for kings and rich landlords.

f) Greek chamber pot

Made with geometric lines and the handle and grip are rectangular. This is different from the other pieces in the museum.



g) Chamber pot offered to the Prince and Princess of Asturias (current):

The one in the museum is a copy, the real one is in the king's and queen's house. It was made of Chinese ceramics dating from the end of the 19th century. There is a letter of thanks from the royal household. The handle of the chamber pot is a snake. It is shaped like a decahedron, each side having a different sound.

h) Reddish earthenware basin:

The largest in the collection is 45 cm high and comes from Ciudad Rodrigo. From the end of the 19th century.



Celso Lagar Hall:

- a) **Accessories used for knights (portatiles):** Quin Dynasty ceramics. Green: hand-cut infant jade. From 1750, from the 18th century. Widely used on the Silk Road among junkers (small boats). They were used to avoid spilling the liquid



b) Bordalou:



French. Women's mobiles. They were carried in a wooden case and were widely used in carriages and stagecoaches. They were carried by the chambermaid. They are called Bordalou, after a French priest who gave such long sermons that the ladies had to use them. The shape is adapted to the shape of the female anatomy.



Wellington Hall:

a) Islamic chamber pot (Bacín):

This is the oldest from the 12th to 13th century, cylindrical in shape and made of yellow earthenware. A bowl-shaped container used to collect human faeces.

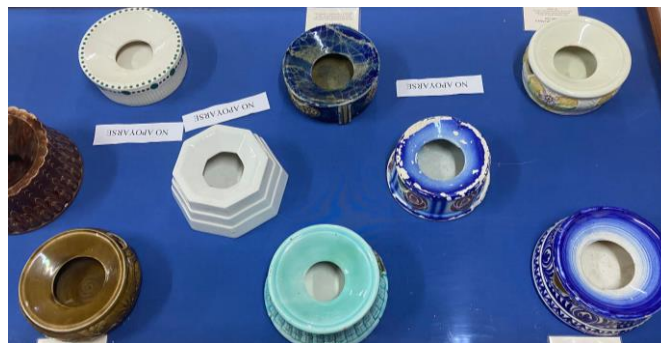


b) **The most recent, modern chamber pot:**

From 1997, it is a chamber pot carved in villamayor stone. The handle is a snake. Inside is the monument of the Three Columns and outside are the most representative monuments of Ciudad Rodrigo (El Castillo, La Muralla, La Catedral).

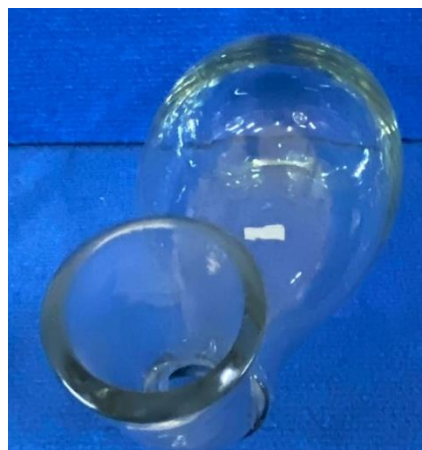
Herrasti Hall:

a) **Collection of spittoons:** These are the middle display cases, used to spit chewing tobacco and wine without dirtying the floor.



b) **Collection for hospital use:**

- **Cuñas** -> a urinal, a low container, to collect the urine and excrement of the patient who cannot get out of bed.
- **Galanga** -> Chamber pot with a hollow handle, for use on bedridden patients. Another bottle-shaped variety is available for enuresis (incontinence).



Lorenza Iglesias Hall:

a) **The first piece of the collection:**

19th century earthenware urn found in the Carboneras of the Hospital de la Pasion in 1980.



b) **Miniature collection:**



Several belong to dolls' houses, and we have the smallest one in one of the miniature showcases.

c) **The smallest one in the museum:** it is in one of the showcases dedicated to miniatures. It is the size of a lentil. Next to it is another chamber pot the size of a chickpea. Handmade by a Swedish jeweller.



Julian Sanchez el Charro Hall:

Carnival costumes belonging to the Pesetos family.

