



Military Cultural Heritage

at the General José María Córdova Military Academy

(Escuela Militar de Cadetes "General José María Córdova")



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at the **General José María Córdova Military Academy**
(**Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova**)

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY HISTORY



Bogotá, D.C., 2021

Catalogación en la publicación - Escuela Militar de Cadetes "General José María Córdova"

Martínez Celis, Diego (autor)

Military cultural heritage at the General José María Córdova Military Academy / Department of military history -- Bogotá: Escuela Militar de Cadetes "General José María Córdova", 2021.

36 pages : illustrations, photographs and charts ; 21 cm

Includes bibliographical references

ISBN 978-958-53802-5-7

E- ISBN 978-958-53802-6-4

(Colección Ciencias Militares. Miles Doctus)

1.Colombia. Army. General José María Córdova Military Academy (ESMIC) – History 2. Military education -- History -- Colombia -- XXI Century i.Díaz Cante, Andrea Katherine (author) ii.Castiblanco Medina, Cristian Camilo (author) iii.Colombia. Ejército Nacional, Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova, (ESMIC). Departamento de Historia.

U480.E86 .F3718 2021

Registro Catálogo SIBFuP 991208794307231

355.00711861-- 23

Archivo descargable en formato MARC en: <https://tinyurl.com/esmic991208794307231>



Título: Military Cultural Heritage at the General José María Córdova Military Academy
(Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova)

First edition, 2021

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Style correction - English

2021 Escuela Militar de Cadetes "General José María Córdova"

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Libro electrónico publicado a través de la plataforma

Open Monograph Press.

Tiraje de 400 ejemplares

Impreso en Colombia - *Printed in Colombia*

ISBN impreso: 978-958-53802-5-7

ISBN digital: 978-958-53802-6-4

<https://doi.org/10.21830/9789585380264>

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Introduction



One's cultural heritage, passed down from generation to generation, almost automatically defines an individual as being part of a social collective. Indeed, Art. 7 of the Colombian political constitution (1991) recognizes the Colombian nation as multi-

ethnic and multicultural; a territory where, for thousands of years, many different groups of people have been interacting and merging, founding the basis of the country's great cultural wealth.

The Colombian Army, with more than two hundred years of tradition defending the territory's sovereignty, independence and integrity, its civilian population, resources and the constitutional order of the country (Art. 217, Colombian political constitution), is recognized as being one of the most representative institutions that contributes to the national identity, through the multiple expressions of its military culture and the great heritage it possesses, safeguarded and kept alive by traditions forged with each passing day, transmitted to each and every one of the men and women who dedicate their lives to the defense of their homeland.

With that in mind, the Headquarters of the Colombian Army has drawn up and put into practice guidelines necessary for the management of existing cultural resources in the Force, in order to identify, preserve, safeguard and disseminate cultural practices, manifestations, products and services that help strengthen the identity of the Institution as a whole.

The General José María Córdova Military Academy (*Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova* in Spanish, commonly abbreviated to and henceforth known as "ESMIC" or "Military Academy" in this document) has answered the call, taking responsibility of the cultural heritage it safeguards within its facilities, carrying out a series of actions

that identify and put a value on its cultural heritage and diffusing a strategy of preventive conservation through educational dissemination activities and products.

We are acutely aware that what is not known is not valued, and that what is not valued is not protected and can be temporarily lost or even disappear. That is precisely why we decided to compile and diffuse this publication to the Colombian public, an introductory contribution to the understanding and appreciation of our military cultural heritage, defining the roles of the Colombian Army and the Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova in its management and conservation.

BG. Giovanni Valencia Hurtado

Principal, Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova (General José María Córdova Military Academy)



Portraits showing various past principals of ESMIC (since 1907).



With over one hundred years educating future officers of the Colombian Army, the *Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova* has established itself as a worthy third-level institution and flagship unit of the Colombian Army, forming

a rich set of assets and manifestations of military culture that are recognized as being part of the nation's cultural heritage.

Apart from its institutional mission of comprehensively training and educating future officers of the Colombian Army, ESMIC also enforces its commitment to Colombian society by contributing to the construction of the history and historical memory of the country, researching and managing the

multiple assets and expressions of cultural heritage that the Military Academy protects, preserves and disseminates, via the maintenance and transmission of military cultural traditions that are forged and safeguarded day by day.

This publication is one of the dissemination products of the R + D + I research project known as "ESMIC Museum Room / *ESMIC Sala de Museo*," which seeks to contribute to the management of cultural heritage and the recovery of ESMIC's institutional memory, through the creation of a small museum, a space in which it is possible to collect, protect, research, preserve, exhibit and disseminate part of our heritage.

The following thirty-six pages contain photographs, tables, maps and infographics, with clear and simple text, and were compiled by the team of the Department of Military History, which comes under the wing of the Office of Academic Education here at ESMIC. This text reflects different aspects that need to be disseminated so that both the entire community of ESMIC and the general public have access to basic knowledge about concepts in the fields of Cultural Heritage and Military Cultural Heritage, its regulations, the history of ESMIC, its types of heritage and guidelines for its management. In addition, the reader will find an interactive map on Pages 32 and 33 to navigate through the Military Academy and learn more about the diverse cultural heritage of the Colombian Army and, indeed, the entire Nation.

We hope that this initiative helps contribute to the transmission of the values that the Colombian Army represents, as an essential part of Colombian identity.

CR. Wilson Miguel Zarabanda Fuentes

Vice-Principal of Academic Affairs

General José María Córdova Military School for Cadets



Front of the Cadets' Mess Hall (*Casino de Cadetes*), declared an asset of national cultural interest. Diego Martínez Celis, 2021.



Our heritage and identity

Colombian Cultural Heritage

"Cultural heritage" refers to goods and manifestations that make up a collective legacy transmitted from generation to generation. It is a heritage that strengthens the memory and history of communities and, therefore, their identity.

According to the Colombian General Law of Culture, the cultural heritage of Colombia is made up of:

"[All] the material goods, intangible manifestations, products and representations of culture that are an expression of Colombian nationality, such as the Spanish language, the languages and dialects of indigenous, black and Creole communities, traditions, ancestral knowledge, cultural landscape, customs and habits, as well as material goods of a tangible and intangible nature to which a special interest is attributed, be it historical, artistic, scientific, aesthetic or symbolic, in areas such as visual arts, architecture, the urban, archaeology, linguistics, sound, music, audiovisual, film, records, documentary, literature, bibliography, museology or anthropology". (At. 4, Law 1185 of 2008).

In a broader sense, cultural heritage is understood as a set of cultural assets and manifestations that are in

permanent construction in the territory transformed by various social groups. The aforementioned goods and manifestations possess, represent or are attributed values that express meanings and ties of belonging, identity and memory for their community. To this extent, the preservation of cultural heritage depends on its value and appropriation by its community. (Ministry of Culture, 2010).

Cultural heritage may be split into two broad categories: tangible cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage. Tangible cultural heritage includes material expressions such as furniture and immovable heritage, whereas intangible cultural heritage denotes demonstrations, practices, uses, representations, expressions, knowledge, techniques and cultural spaces, which communities and groups recognize as an integral part of their culture. This type of cultural heritage:

"[...] generates feelings of identity and establishes links with the collective memory. It is transmitted and recreated over time based on its environment, its interaction with nature and its history and contributes to promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity". (Art 11.1, Law 397 of 1997).



Cultural heritage

Tangible Cultural Heritage

- Visual Arts • Architecture • Urban • Archaeology • Linguistics
- Sound • Music • Audiovisual • Film • Documentary • Literary
- Bibliography • Anthropology • Military • Etc.

Immovable Heritage

- Urban Buildings

Movable Heritage

- Public Monuments
- Public & Private Collections
- Individual Pieces

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Instruments, objects, artifacts, cultural and natural spaces, with their use, practice, representation, expression, knowledge and techniques
- Oral traditions, stories and expressions
- Performing arts • Social and ritual uses
- Celebratory acts • Traditional techniques
- Knowledge and uses related to nature and the universe
- Artisanal techniques



Historical property. Museo Nacional. Diego Martínez Celis, 2015.



Urban and architectural landscape in Cartagena de Indias. Wikimedia Commons. Felipe Ortega Grijalba, 2019.



Archaeological statues in San Agustín. Wikimedia Commons. Mario Carvajal, 2006.



Barranquilla Carnival. Wikimedia Commons. Jdvillalobos, 2009.



An elderly lady demonstrates the spinning tradition of the Cundi-boyacense highlands; an expression of intangible heritage. Diego Martínez Celis, 2011



Legacy and Tradition of the Nation

Military Cultural Heritage



Changing of the guard in the Presidential Palace, *Palacio de Nariño*.
Wikimedia Commons. I.D.R.J. , 2010

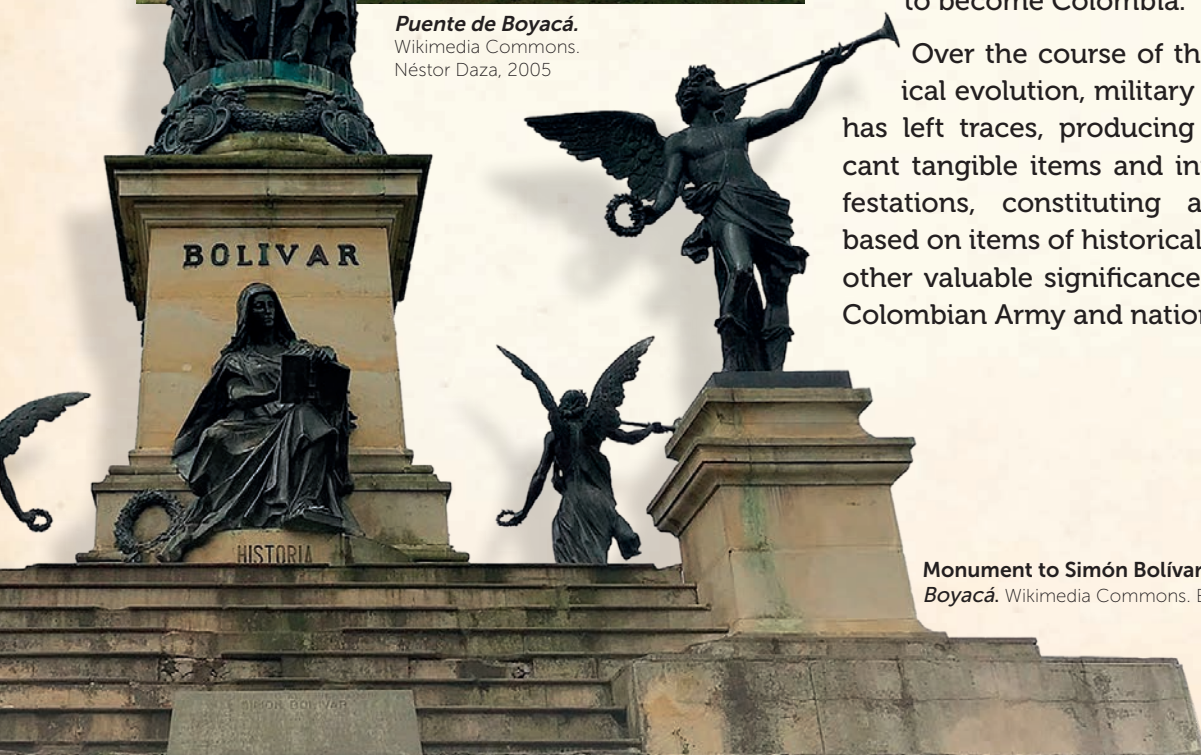


Puente de Boyacá.
Wikimedia Commons.
Néstor Daza, 2005

In the same way as the concept of cultural heritage was defined to represent the National identity (Art. 72, Political Constitution of Colombia, 1991), the Colombian Army, as a fundamental part of the Nation, is also manager and guardian of a great set of goods, manifestations and expressions, the product of its own culture and particular ways of fulfilling its social function and mission in the defense of the sovereignty, independence, resources and integrity of the nation, civilian population and constitutional order of the country (Political Constitution of Colombia, 1991, art. 217).

The Colombian Army, as a legitimate institution and symbol of the military force in Colombia, has a historical record going back more than 200 years, heir in turn to thousands of military traditions from all over the world, whose roots in Colombian territory could be traced back to pre-Columbian times, with the consolidation of indigenous groups as defenders of their territories against foreign invaders. Until the beginning of the 19th century, the Colombian Army would gradually specify its institutional character through liberation campaigns, resulting in independence from Spain and the establishment of what would go on to become Colombia.

Over the course of this long and rich historical evolution, military practice in this country has left traces, producing and collecting significant tangible items and intangible cultural manifestations, constituting an exceptional legacy based on items of historical, symbolic, aesthetic, or other valuable significance, representing both the Colombian Army and nation.



Monument to Simón Bolívar in the battlefield at *Puente de Boyacá*. Wikimedia Commons. Esdajones, 2018

On the same note as that of the Nation's cultural heritage, that which the Colombian Army safeguards and represents is made up of a great and diverse set of cultural property, both tangible and intangible, from the fortifications of the coastal areas on the Caribbean Sea; the historical sites where battles took place, such as that of the Campo de Boyacá or the *Pantano de Vargas*; buildings and architectural complexes of a military or defensive nature; monuments and works of art that commemorate the heroes of Colombian Independence or war heroes and their deeds; cemeteries and places of memory; weapons, equipment or uniforms from different eras; symbols, shields, flags and decorations; or written, photographic, audio-visual and electronic documents, amongst many other items of interest.

It is also possible to include in this great patrimonial universe intangible manifestations, through which military knowledge and traditions are expressed, such as rites, ceremonies, marches, music and hymns; oral traditions, language, gestures and military etiquette; events, celebrations and commemorations; and many other expressions that are transmitted from generation to generation, that together make up Colombian military culture and identity.



Fort of *San Felipe de Barajas*, Cartagena de Indias.
Wikimedia Commons. Orlando.deavila, 2013.



GEN Rojas Pinilla at a military ceremony in ESMIC during the 1950s. ESMIC.

An old water bottle formerly owned by GEN Alberto Ruiz Novoa, used during his command of the Colombian Battalion during the Korean War.
Diego Martinez Celis, 2020.



Military Cultural Heritage

Tangible Military Cultural Heritage

With historical, symbolic, aesthetic and other values

Immovable Heritage

- Buildings and architectural complexes
 - Places of memory • Cemeteries
 - Battlefields
 - Others

Movable Objects

- Monuments • Works of art
- Weapons and equipment
 - Uniforms • Symbols
 - Documents • Others

Intangible Military Cultural Heritage

- Rituals and Rites of Passage • Ceremonies
- Marches • Hymns • Oral Traditions • Language
- Gestures • Military etiquette • Events
- Celebrations • Commemorations
- Gastronomy
- Others



Consolidation of an Ideal

A Short History of the Military Academy

During the 19th century, eight attempts were made to found military academies in Colombia, which were forced to close due to various civil wars. In 1886, it was decreed that "The Nation will have a permanent Army for its defense" (Art. 166, Sect. XVI, Political Constitution of Colombia), laying the foundations for the creation of an army by the Colombian State. In this way, the legal framework for the creation of the *Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova* was consolidated (Decree No. 343, dated April 13th, 1907).

In the context of the liberal reform led by General Rafael Reyes Prieto, under the advice of General Rafael Uribe Uribe and Monsignor Bernardo Herrera Restrepo (Archbishop Primate of Colombia), ESMIC formally opened its doors on June 1st, 1907, under the leadership of two principals: Colonel Alejandro Posada (Colombian) and Captain Arturo Ahumada Bascuñán (Chilean), with the Chilean Captain Diego Guillén Santana as Vice-Principal.

The Military Academy was first based in the Monastery of San Agustín, in the center of Bogotá, where it remained until 1914 when, due to a lack of room for expansion, the decision was taken to move to another site.

At the same time, four Chilean officers came to Colombia on an overseas deployment, to support the

Colombian Army and learn from them. They directed the entire military reform of the Colombian Army until 1915. This team included Major Carlos H. Sáez (Principal), who coordinated and oversaw the move from San Agustín to San Diego (Bogotá), where the new campus of the Military School was installed. There they had more extensive facilities, with which the Military Academy continued to grow gradually and methodically, according to the needs of the Nation.

General Pedro Nel Ospina, President of Colombia, welcomed officers from the Swiss Army from 1924 until 1929, who were in Colombia on an overseas deployment, the results of which were great advances at both a military and professional level and the first signs of the creation of an Air Force, a project consolidated decades later.

At the end of 1942, the Military Academy moved from San Diego to the neighborhood of Rionegro, its current location. Training in secondary professions began in 1963 with the foundation of the Faculties of Economics, Engineering and International Law & Diplomacy. These majors were taught by another university, in the facilities of the Military Academy, and were to run concurrently with the study of Military Sciences and military training.

The *Universidad Militar de Nueva Granada* was founded on July 25th, 1976 in the facilities of the Military Academy with 210 students, under the stewardship of Brigadier General Gustavo Matamoros D'Costa.



San Agustín, Bogotá. First site of ESMIC (1907). Diego Guillén album, ESMIC.



San Diego, Bogotá. Second site of ESMIC (1930). ESMIC, 2007.

At the end of the 1970s, the Military Academy paid tribute to General José María Córdova, a national hero who embodied the highest military expression of Colombia during the War of Independence, dying on the battlefield while defending his democratic and republican convictions. In accordance with Presidential Decree 2537 of October 17, 1979, the Military School adopted the name of the General José María Córdova, on the 150th anniversary of his sacrifice, with the purpose of honoring his esteemed military and civic virtues and perpetuating his example before the new generations of officers of the Colombian Army.

In 1986, the *Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova* became a third-level institute, in order to encourage military professionalization throughout the country, and the creation of secondary professions related to Military Sciences was sought. 1996 beckoned in a new academic step, via the creation and consolidation of an undergraduate degree course in Military Sciences, in addition to the registration of the undergraduate degree courses in Business Administration, Law, Civil Engineering and Physical Education before the Colombian Institute for the Advancement of Third-Level Education (*Instituto Colombiano para el Fomento de la Educación Superior: ICFES*), through the agreement for completion and validation of studies related to their secondary profession in the Universidad Militar de Nueva Granada.

In 1997, Bogotá City Hall declared the facilities of the *Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova* as listed buildings (*Inmuebles de Conser-*

vación Arquitectónica). Some of these buildings were later declared as National Sites of Cultural Interest (*Bienes de Interés Cultural del ámbito Nacional - BIC*).

2009 brought change to the Military Academy: female staff were allowed to join the ranks to be trained as officers of Intelligence, Logistics and Engineering branches for the first time. Nowadays, there are female officers in Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery branches, according to the needs of the Force. Between 2010 and 2013, ESMIC was awarded a certificate of accreditation of "Outstanding Quality" by the Ministry of Education for its undergraduate programs in Military Sciences, Military Physical Education and Logistics Management.

In 2016, Resolution 21340 (dated November 15th, 2016) accredited the *Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova* as an Institution of Higher Education that meets standards of high-quality education. Its undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering was accredited by the Ministry of Education in 2017, via Resolution 05515. In 2020, the program's accreditation was renewed until 2026. All these achievements are aimed at constantly improving and encouraging the academic and military education of the future officers of the Colombian Army.



Construction of ESMIC's campus in Rionegro, Bogotá (1940). ESMIC



Current ESMIC campus Rionegro, Bogotá (2019). ESMIC.



The Road to Consolidation

The Story Behind the Foundation of the *Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova*

While the *Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova* was officially founded in 1907, it was the result of a long, complex and persistent process in search of consolidating military education in Colombia, dating back to 1810 and continuing intermittently throughout the 19th century. The following shows the leaders of various military academies in Colombia, the names of their institutions and dates of foundation.

José Ramón de Leyva



Escuela Militar
November 26th, 1810

COL José Ramón de Leyva

Tomás Cipriano de Mosquera



Colegio Militar
1845 / 1853

GEN Tomás Cipriano de Mosquera

TE Henry Lemly



Escuela de Ingeniería Civil y Militar

School of Military & Civil Engineering

August 1880-1884

US Army: Deployed to Colombia

CPT Th. Nichols
1LT Henry Lemly

Miguel Antonio Caro



Escuela Militar
1896-1899

President Miguel A. Caro
French Army: Deployed to Colombia

CPT Emil Drouhard

1810 / 1814

(Military Academy of the Professional Corps, "Military Academy of Engineers")
August de 1814

COL Francisco José de Caldas

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

1845 / 53

1861 / 66 - 67

Colegio Militar y Escuela Politécnico
1861 / 1866-1867

GEN Tomas Cipriano de Mosquera



Veterano de infantería, 1876.
Acuarela de Ramón Torres Méndez

A depiction of the Ejército del Norte (Colombian Army of the North) under the command of GEN Mosquera, 1854.
Lithograph by Celestino Martínez.

CIVIL WARS

1880 - 84

1891 - 95

Escuela Militar
1891-1895

President Carlos Holguín

US Army: Deployed to Colombia
COL Henry Lemly

1896 - 99



Officers and soldiers during the Thousand Days War

GUERRA DE LOS MIL DÍAS
(WAR OF A THOUSAND DAYS)

Carlos Holguín



Escuela Militar, 1890.
Painting by Roberto Páramo.

Relief map, used for military purposes.

CR Francisco José de Caldas



GR Rafael Reyes



GR Rafael Uribe Uribe



CT Arturo Ahumada



CT Diego Guillén



CT Hans Schueler



Street Uniform for Officer Cadets, 1971.
Watercolor Ismael Clavijo.



Cadets in class, 1940.

Military Academy

Escuela Militar de Cadetes

SAN AGUSTÍN

(1907-1914)

June 1, 1907

President GEN Rafael Reyes

GEN Rafael Uribe Uribe

MGR Bernardo Herrera

Chilean Army: Deployed to Colombia

CPT Arturo Ahumada

CPT Diego Guillén



Sede San Diego

1914 - 1942

1907 - 1914

First Head Staff, Teachers and Cadets of the Military Academy.



Military Academy

Escuela Militar de Cadetes

SAN DIEGO (1914-1942)

1924-1929 / Swiss Army:

Deployed to Colombia

LTC Hans Von Werdt

LTC Paul Gautier

1929-1934 / German Army:

Deployed to Colombia

LTC Hans Schueler

MAJ Hans Berwig

1938 / Baccalaureate

COLOMBO-PERUVIAN CONFLICT

Military ceremony at the Military Academy in St. Augustine, 1907.



1942 - El presente

2016 / Accreditation as a
Third-Level Institute of High
Quality Higher Education

2020 / Reaccreditation as a
Third-Level Institute of High
Quality Higher Education

GR Alvaro Valencia Tovar



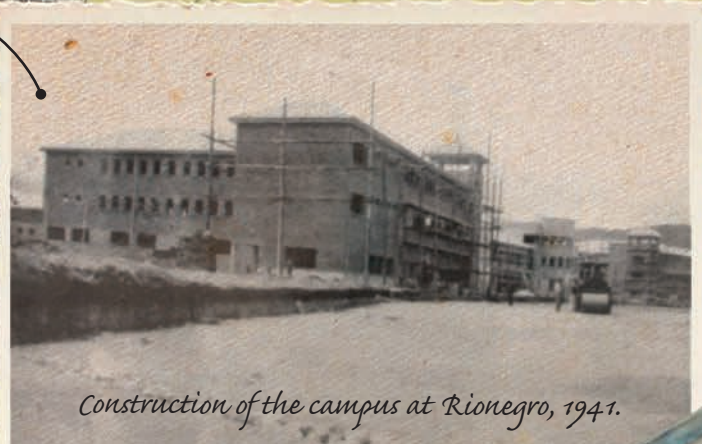
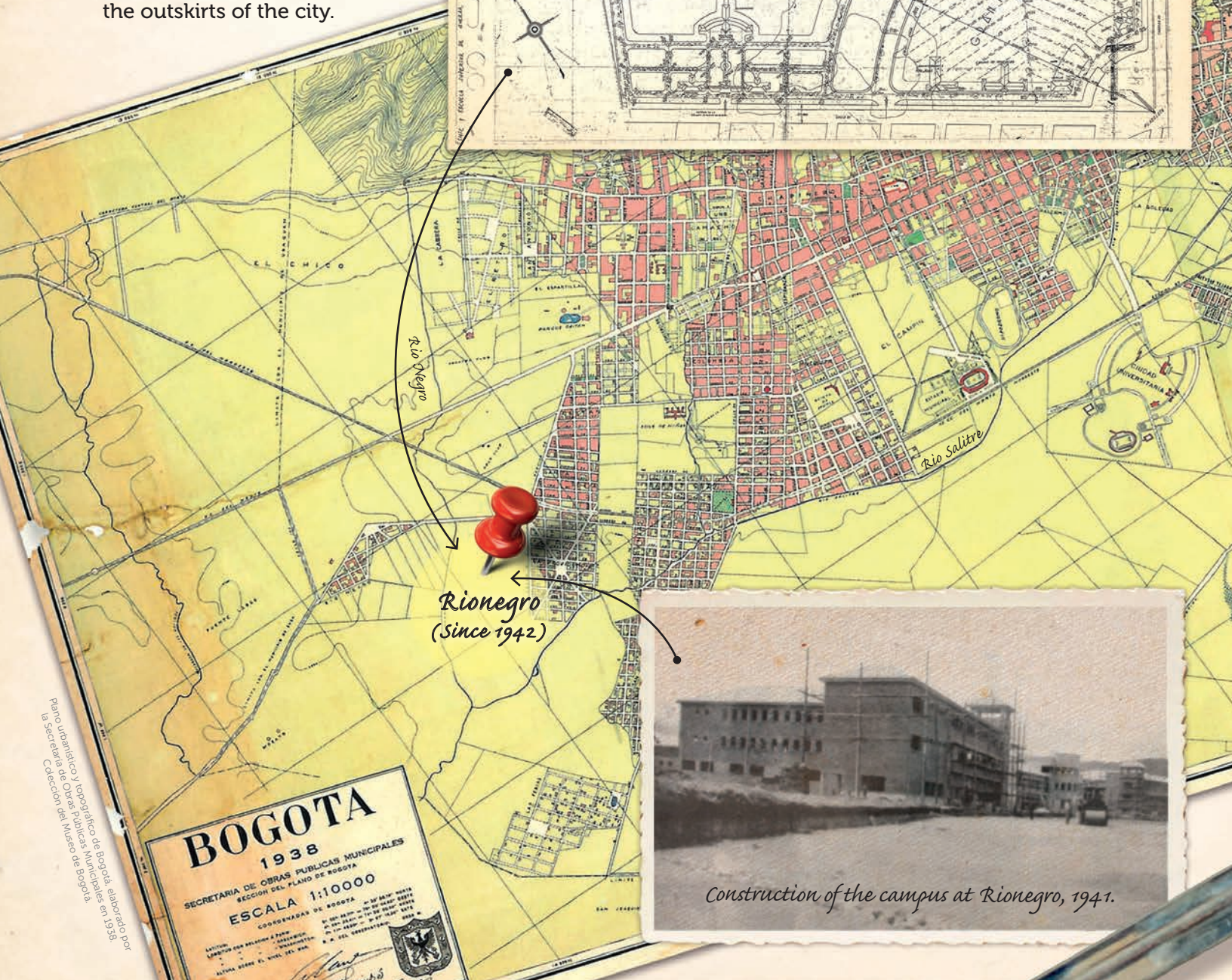
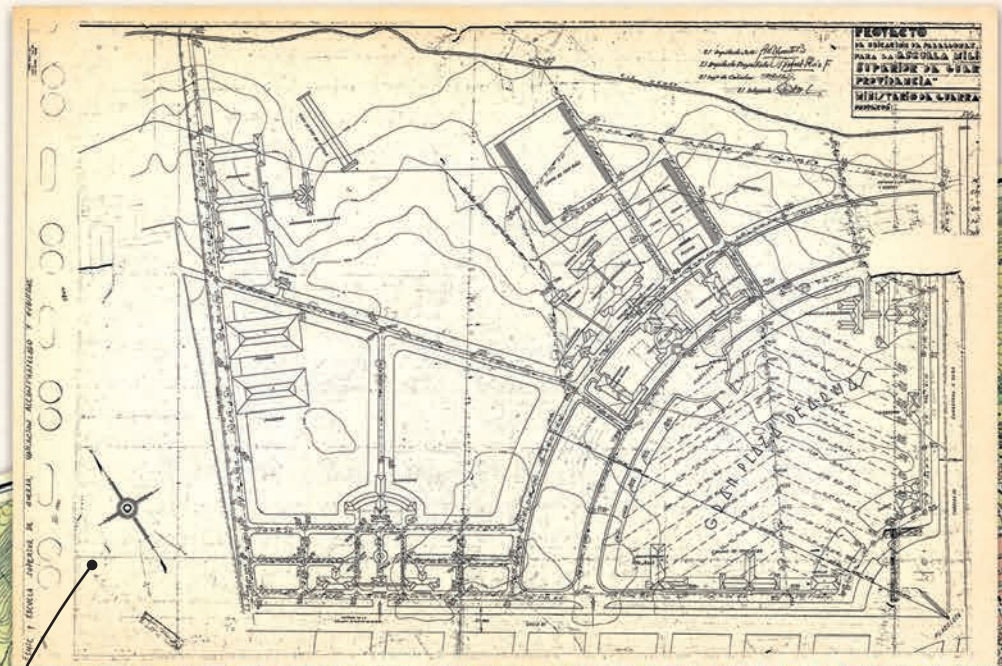
Monument to the Cadet.

Growing at the Pace of the City

Another Site for ESMIC

As the city expanded and ESMIC grew, moving its campus became more and more necessary. It occupied the old monastery of San Agustín from its foundation in 1907 until 1914, then moved to the grounds of a former Franciscan convent in San Diego. In 1942, its current campus was finally built in the Bogotan neighborhood of Rionegro, a site that, at that time, was on the outskirts of the city.

Architectural plan of the project at ESMIC's Rionegro site, 1940.





San Diego campus, 1930.

Gumersindo Cuellar, Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango



Moneda



San Diego
(1914-1942)

Saint Augustine
(1907-1914)



Saint Augustine campus, 1910



Officer's Saber, Colombian Army



Historical Documents

República de Colombia
MINISTERIO DE GUERRA
SUBSECRETARIA

De conformidad con lo
to oficio número 117 de fecha
rio autoriza a usted para que
ja en las cuentas del material de
cio de ese instituto los 3612 cartuchos Héming-
ton Lee que existen como existencia en los menciona-
dos cuarteles, y pasarlos al depósito general de Ar-
mas. Así mismo se autoriza la baja de los 386
cartuchos a fogos gastados en la instrucción.
Con el fin de que en el presente año se
haga en ese plantel una instrucción de tiro eficien-
te, puede usted solicitar el número de cartuchos
de guerra para fusil mauser, que crea necesarios
para tal fin, de acuerdo con lo prescrito en el Re-
glamento de tiro. Atentamente,

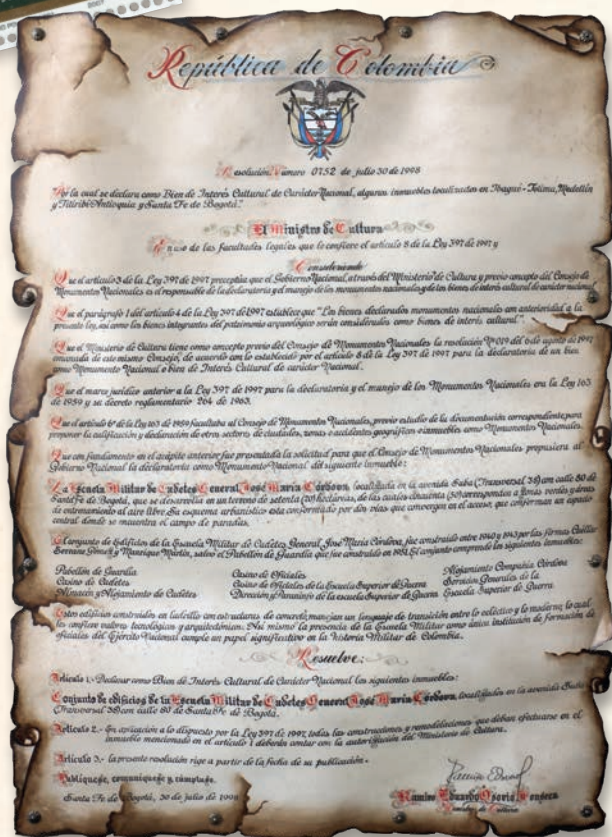
POR EL SEÑOR MINISTRO,

1910
de la Escuela
El Min
para remunerar la lección que
en la Escuela Militar.
servir el caso de origen
la educación y So-
en la Escuela, más



Patrimony of the Colombian Army, Bogotá and the Nation

Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova



Resolution 0752 of 1998 by which ESMIC was declared a National Site of Cultural Interest. Diego Martínez Celis, 2021

Panorama of the main set of buildings, ESMIC. ESMIC file.

With a history going back than 100 years since its foundation in 1907, ESMIC has built a rich tradition as a military and academic institution, where dozens of generations of officers have been trained and educated. Recognized as the *alma mater* of the Colombian Army, today it is also an accredited Institution of Higher Education in which cadets study undergraduate degrees in various disciplines. It also opens its doors to civilians via its graduate programs.

In fulfilling its institutional mission, ESMIC has learned to adapt to the times, to the various circumstances and needs of the country. The traces of this process have been reflected not only in the moving of their campus, but also in the various types of goods and cultural manifestations that constitute a rich heritage, recognized as being cultural heritage both by the Colombian Army, the city of Bogotá and the Colombian nation. As evidence, we cite the fact that the ESMIC grounds in Rionegro have been declared as listed buildings (*Inmuebles de Conservación Arquitectónica*) by Bogotá City Hall and Assets of National Cultural Interest (*Bienes de Interés Cultural del ámbito Nacional: BICN*) by the Ministry of Culture, both the highest level recognitions in their respective territorial





Officers' Mess Hall. Diego Martínez Celis, 2021



Military ceremony in the Batalla de Boyacá parade ground of ESMIC, led by GEN Gustavo Rojas Pinilla in the 1950S. ESMIC file.

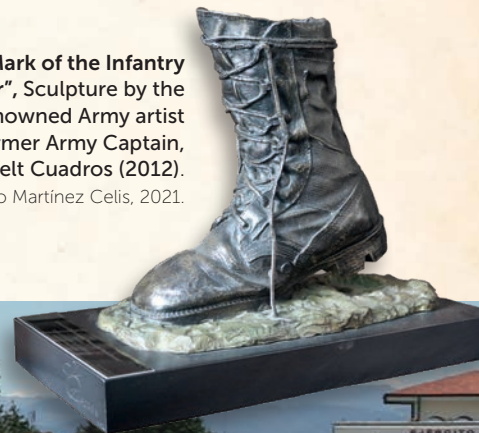
areas. Beyond its architectural values, ESMIC has also been recognized for being "the only institution for the training of officers of the [Colombian] Army that plays a significant role in the military history of Colombia" (Ministry of Culture: Resolution 752, dated July 30th, 1998).

In addition to the above, because of its rich history and as part of the cultural heritage of the Colombian Army, ESMIC has an important collection of movable heritage and a series of intangible manifestations with historical, aesthetic, symbolic or other values that, as a whole, represent the singularity of its historical trajectory that gives it a particular institutional identity of a mixed nature, between military and academic, which distinguishes it both in national and international contexts.

Based on the above, one may note that ESMIC'S military cultural heritage, in multiple layers and sectors, can be interpreted as a diverse set where each piece, building or manifestation has its own history, meaning and values, while reflecting those of the institution in general; to manage and conserve them, they must be thought of and addressed as one single unit.

"The Mark of the Infantry Soldier", Sculpture by the renowned Army artist and former Army Captain, Roosevelt Cuadros (2012).

Diego Martínez Celis, 2021.





A Modern and Eclectic Campus

ESMIC Immovable Heritage

The set of architectural structures at ESMIC's current campus in Rionegro, Bogotá has been recognized for the high quality of its cultural heritage, being declared as listed buildings (*Inmuebles de Conservación Arquitectónica*) by Bogotá City Hall (Decree 215 of March 31, 1997), and later as Assets of National Cultural Interest (*Bienes de Interés Cultural del ámbito Nacional: BICN*) by the Ministry of Culture, through Resolution 752 (dated July 30th, 1998) which includes a group of eight buildings at ESMIC built between 1940 and 1943. This includes the Guardhouse (1951), for "managing a language of transition between the eclectic and the modern, which gives it technological and architectural values." (Resolution 752 of July 30th, 1998).

Unlike the two previous campuses at San Agustín and San Diego, which were originally conceived as religious buildings or schools, the campus at Rionegro was specifically designed as a military training center and, because of this, it was built to model a university campus, similar to that of contemporary projects such as the Police Academy (*Escuela de Cadetes de Policía "General Francisco de Paula Santander"* - ECSAN; 1937) and the National University (Universidad Nacional; 1938), that is, a series of buildings that provide various

services, distributed in a wide space where green areas are privileged and are interconnected by streets and pedestrian paths, located in what then were the outskirts of Bogotá.

In general, the urban and architectural complex of ESMIC is quite original, harmonious and sober; in a way, it seems to have been inspired by the Military Academy's previous campuses, full of colonial architecture. There are many examples of this type of architecture in buildings on the current campus, such as semicircular arches on the front entrance of several buildings, topped off with clay roof tiles and white facades. However, the volumes do correspond to a more modern style, with local adaptations of a more eclectic style, inspired by Greco-Roman, Romanesque or Art-Deco elements with exposed brick or sandstone appliques.

At present, ESMIC has more than thirty buildings that have been erected on its campus since 1940 and, although some have been demolished, remodeled, restored or recently built, all maintain the same architectural language that allows them to establish a kind of intergenerational aesthetic dialogue that has been preserved for more than eighty years.

Cadets' Mess Hall. Construction of 1940; declared an Asset of National Cultural Interest (Bien de Interés Cultural del ámbito Nacional: BICN). Diego Martínez Celis, 2021.





Church of Christ the Savior. Built in 1947, the church was built in the form of a cross. ESMIC file.



The arch at the Guardhouse, ESMIC's *Arc de Triomphe*. Built in 1951; declared an Asset of National Cultural Interest (BICN). ESMIC file.



ESMIC Campus; built in the 1940s. ESMIC file.



Officers' Mess Hall, built in the 1940s; declared an Asset of National Cultural Interest (BICN). ESMIC file.



President's Meeting Room in the Officers' Mess Hall. Diego Martínez Celis, 2021.



A Portable Inheritance

Movable Heritage at ESMIC



A view of period furniture and a bust in the Cadets' Mess Hall.
Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.



Principal's office, ESMIC. Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.



Altar to National Symbols of Colombia, Cadets' Mess Hall.
Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.

Movable cultural heritage, unlike property, is characterized by its ability to be transferred from one place to another - even if not designed for that purpose - without losing its identity and cultural value. This category includes a large set of objects of a very diverse nature, scale or material, but which share historical, aesthetic, symbolic or other values related to the military field.

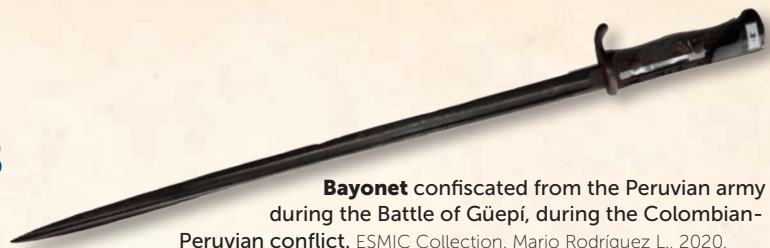
Although there are several ways to classify this type of property, those at ESMIC can be grouped into the following categories (amongst others):

- **Weapons:** bladed weapons and firearms, both long and short, and also those of the artillery type.
- **Military Equipment and Paraphernalia:** Equipment used in military operations, tools, uniforms, etc.
- **Monuments:** Commemorative plaques, sculptures, busts, etc.
- **Symbols:** Shields, flags, banners, etc.
- **Acknowledgments:** Military decorations and medals, awards, trophies, plaques, coins, diplomas, etc.
- **Artwork:** High reliefs, statuettes, murals, paintings, photographs, etc.
- **Furniture:** Desks, chairs, tables, mirrors, cabinets, etc.
- **Documents:** In paper, sound, audiovisual and electronic form; old books, photographs, recordings, etc.

These assets are distributed throughout ESMIC, both in closed and open spaces, and form sets housed in buildings such as the Officers' and Cadets' Mess Halls (*Casino de Oficiales*; *Casino de Cadetes*), ESMIC Headquarters (*Dirección*), BASPC19 and even in the mall (*known as the Bar de Cadetes*), in common areas or in rooms with more restricted access. The Museum Room stands out amongst the former, which is located on the third floor of the Bar de Cadetes and houses a collection of around 170 pieces, which represent part of ESMIC's history in its more than 100 years of existence.

Movable Heritage

Bladed Weapons



Bayonet confiscated from the Peruvian army during the Battle of Güepí, during the Colombian-Peruvian conflict. ESMIC Collection. Mario Rodríguez L., 2020.

Swords, sabers, daggers and other similar objects were first-rate weapons of the militia in Colombia from the European invasion in the 16th century to the beginning of the 20th century. For centuries, they were the basic endowment of armies that partook in hand-to-hand combat. Over the course of time and due to the transformation of war practices, bladed weapons fell largely into disuse in a military context, until they became a symbol. In the Colombian Army,

they are worn by officers and sergeants during gala ceremonies and at ESMIC they are awarded to cadets at different stages of their training and during their promotion. ESMIC has several examples of this type of distinctive weapon that once belonged to illustrious officers or have been gifts from armies in other countries, and are exhibited in exhibition cases in the Officers' Mess Hall (*Casino de Oficiales*), ESMIC Headquarters (*Dirección*) or in the Museum Room.



Japanese-type ceremonial military saber, composed of cast metal and assembled with two finishes, one gold and the other silver. In addition, it has the shape of a mythological animal on its handle, with a cord and grip made from material. ESMIC Collection. Mario Rodríguez L., 2021.



West Point-style military ceremonial saber, composed of molten metal and assembled with two finishes, one gold and the other silver in color. It has two components (saber and scabbard). The word "USMA" is engraved on the blade of the saber. ESMIC Collection. Mario Rodríguez L., 2021.



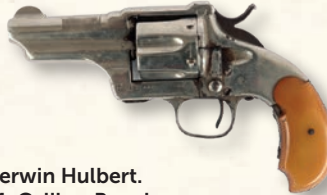
Military ceremonial saber in a supposedly Spanish style, composed of cast and assembled metal. The handle is made of synthetic and metal filigree, with two components (saber and scabbard) and chrome paint. ESMIC Collection. Mario Rodríguez L., 2021.

Movable Heritage Firearms

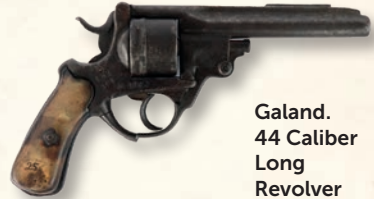
ESMIC has a collection of more than ninety firearms (short and long), dating from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Many were part of the standard, regulation equipment used by Army personnel and bear obvious signs of use, while others have been gifts from neighboring countries or even confiscated from guerrillas. The one thing they all have in common is their high historical value.



Smith & Wesson Revolver,
1880 Model.



Merwin Hulbert.
44 Caliber Revolver



Galand.
44 Caliber
Long
Revolver



Madsen Submachine
Gun, formerly owned
by GEN Rojas Pinilla.



Ingram 9mm caliber
Sub-machine Gun



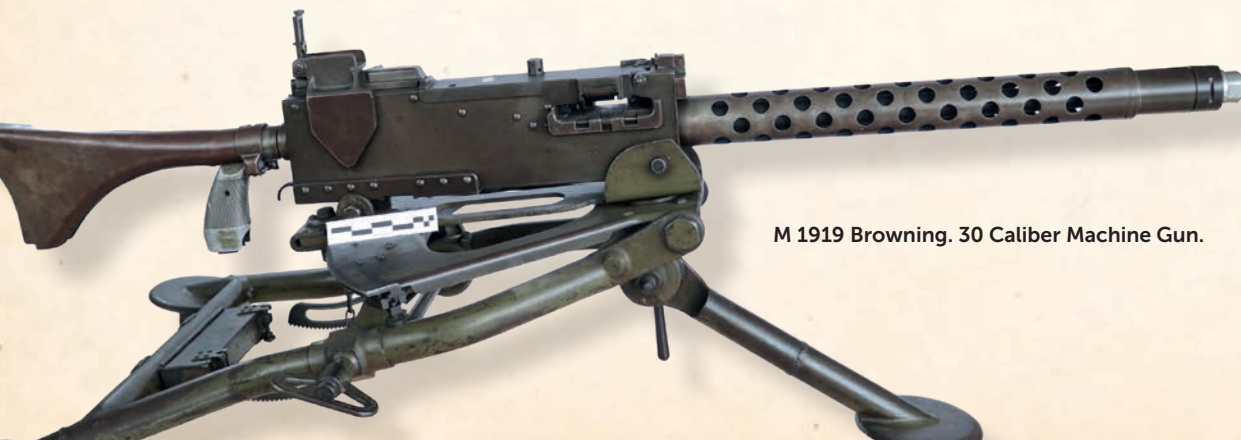
Mdl Shotgun, 1884 model.



Hotchkiss M1922 Sub-machine Gun



Md Austria Mauser Rifle, 1912 model.



M 1919 Browning. 30 Caliber Machine Gun.

Movable Heritage

Artillery

There are about twenty different types of artillery weapons scattered throughout the campus. Some are known to have been used at key moments in the history of the Colombian Army and country, such as the Colombo-Peruvian Conflict or the *Bogotazo* (The Sacking of Bogotá, in 1948). Some are still used during special ceremonies, such as for giving cannon salutes.



M3 A1 Stuart Light Tank (1943). Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.



Boffors 40 mm Gun. Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.



Brandt 120mm Mortar (1950). Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.



Vickers, Sons & Maxim Naval Canon. Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.



Skoda 75mm M28, Mountain Canon. Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.

De Bange Canyon, with wood stricker.
Mario Rodríguez L., 2020



Movable Heritage Monuments

Monuments are three-dimensional commemorative works that are usually located in open spaces which allow for the celebration of commemorative acts in tribute to significant persons or events. There are around forty such monuments at ESMIC in the form of statues, busts or plaques, which pay tribute to great figures from the military history of Colombia and neighboring countries, national symbols and the Colombian Army, or which highlight certain statements that are often remembered as part of military history and training.



Bust of Simón Bolívar on Av. de los Héroes. Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.



Monument to the Millennium Dagger.
Diego Martínez Celis, 2021.



Monument to the National Shield of Colombia.
Diego Martínez Celis, 2021.



A Mounted
José María Córdova.
Mario Rodríguez L., 2020



Monument to flags. Diego Martínez Celis, 2021.

Movable Heritage

Military Operation Equipment

Some elements of technological equipment used in military operations is preserved in ESMIC's Museum Room, such as mine detectors, rangefinders (used to measure distances), collimators (used to adjust the aim of weapons) or theodolites (used to measure angles between designated visible points in the horizontal and vertical planes); the oldest examples of these date from the Second World War.

**Rangefinder MD 1931
Type G-4.**
Mario Rodríguez L., 2021.



**Anti-Tank Mine Detector
SCR-625-H.**
Mario Rodríguez L., 2021.



**Portable Anti-tank Mine Detector
M1 Scr-625-C.** Mario Rodríguez L., 2021.



**AN/PRS-3.
Mine Detector,**
Mario Rodríguez L., 2021.



**Miller Innsbruck
Collimator.**
Mario Rodríguez L., 2021..



**Bulova Watch Company
Mine Detector.**
Mario Rodríguez L., 2021.



Movable Heritage Artworks



Statuette representing a Greek military man. Officers Casino.
Diego Martínez Celi, 2020.

High Relief in bronze of GEN Rafael Uribe Uribe, past administrator of ESMIC.

Mario Rodríguez L., 2020



Bust of Fr. Francisco "Pachito" Rengifo.
Mario Rodríguez L., 2020.

Mural painting representing the Battle of Ayacucho. Cadets' Mess Hall. Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.

ESMIC possesses a large number and diversity of works of art, such as paintings and photographs, sculptures, busts and statuettes, high reliefs and murals, which adorn multiple spaces, illustrating and paying tribute to personalities, events and aspects of military culture.



Painting of Simón Bolívar, belonging to Delio Ramírez; a copy of the original by his teacher, Ricardo Acevedo Bernal.

Mario Rodríguez L., 2020



High relief in ceramic, by Elsa de Robayo.
Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.



Movable Heritage Documents

This category of movable items of cultural heritage includes objects which conserve or communicate some type of information, whether textual, graphic, sound, audiovisual or electronic, on media such as paper, tape, cassette, disc or digital memory (USB, SD card, etc) and to which are attributed a special historical value. This category also includes publications, archive books, photographs, plans, maps, minutes of meetings, diplomas, etc. dating from the founding of ESMIC in 1907.

Graduation Certificate No. 1 from the Bolívar Class, 1936.

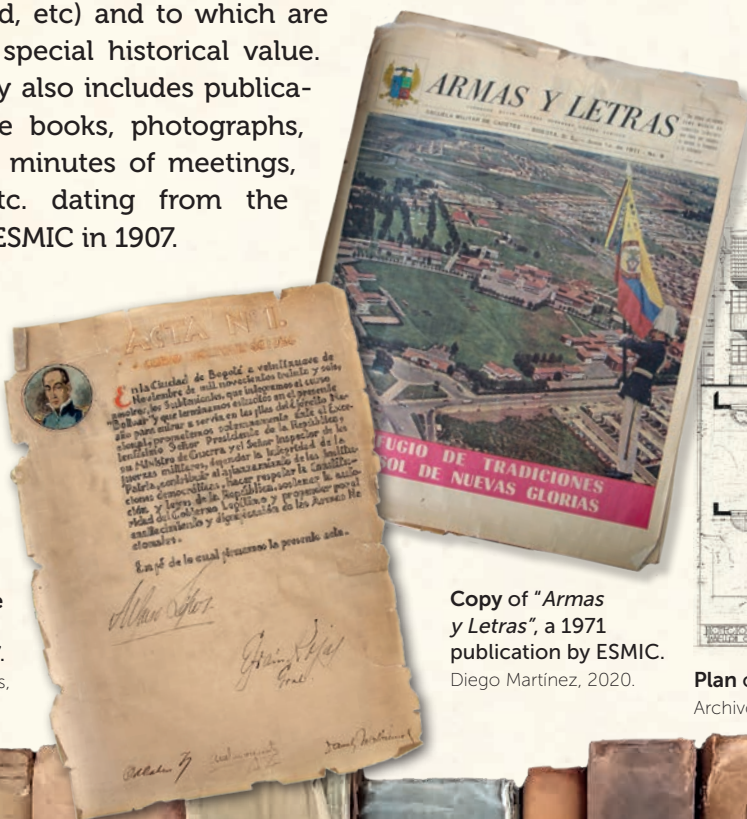
Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.

Books from the historical archive of the ESMIC, dating from 1907.

Diego Martínez Celis, 2020

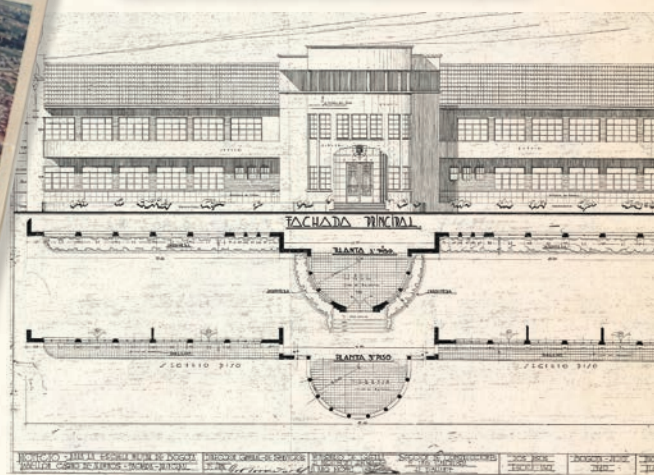
Decree No. 215 of 1997, by which ESMIC was declared a site of listed buildings (Inmuebles de Conservación Arquitectónica) by Bogotá City Hall.

Diego Martínez Celis, 2020.



Copy of "Armas y Letras", a 1971 publication by ESMIC.

Diego Martínez, 2020.



Plan of the front of the Cadets' Mess Hall, 1940.

Archivo ESMIC.



Movable Heritage

Photographic Archives

Nearly twenty photographic albums are stored or displayed in the Museum Room and ESMIC Headquarters (Dirección), containing hundreds of historical photographs capturing more than one hundred years of events at the Military Academy. These portray different scenes of daily life at ESMIC and more extravagant happenings, such as ceremonies and military parades, celebrations and social events, military training field outings and sporting events.



Artillery exercises at the ESMIC, 1907.
Album by Diego Guillén, ESMIC Headquarters.



ESMIC Cadets during a military training field outing in Garzón, 1933
Photographic archive, Museum Room, ESMIC.



Construction of the administrative tower in 1947 (since demolished).
Photographic archive, Museum Room, ESMIC.



Ceremony presided over by President López Pumarejo, in front of the Cadets' Mess Hall (circa 1942). Photographic archive, Museum Room, ESMIC.



ESMIC parading before President Laureano Gómez (circa 1950).
Photographic archive, Museum Room, ESMIC.

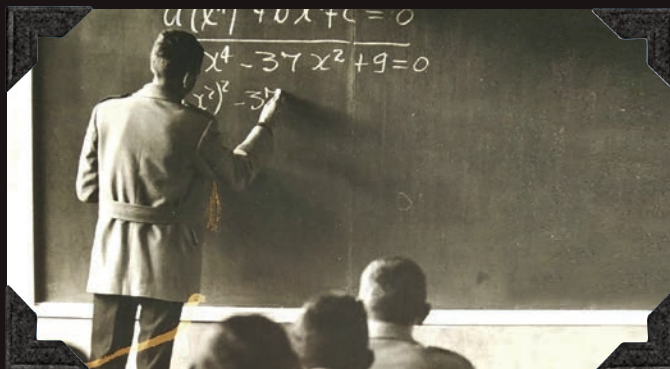


ESMIC Cadets in the library, 1944.
Photographic archive, Museum Room, ESMIC.



Military parade at ESMIC, 1940s.

Photographic archive Museum Room, ESMIC.



Cadets in Math Class, 1973.

Photographic archive Museum Room, ESMIC.



Training exercises at ESMIC during the 1950s.

Photographic archive Museum Room, ESMIC.



Cadets with the Princess of the Academy in 1972, a now defunct ESMIC tradition.

Photographic archive Museum Room, ESMIC.



Cadets' choir during a mass in the 1960s.

Photographic archive Museum Room, ESMIC.



Cadets completing an obstacle course, 1976.

Photographic archive Museum Room, ESMIC.



Incorporation during the 1960s.

Photographic archive Museum Room, ESMIC.



The end of a military parade, 1972.

Photographic archive Museum Room, ESMIC.



Living Traditions

Intangible Heritage at the *Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova*

Cultural heritage at the Military Academy is not only limited to material goods such as monuments, works of art or weapons, but also includes traditions, customs and living expressions inherited from previous generations of students, teachers and military predecessors, transmitted from one generation to the next, such as oral narratives, ceremonies, social habits, commemorative events, knowledge or practices of the military field, among others.

The following categories may be considered as being within the manifestations of the intangible heritage of the Colombian Army and, in particular, its Military Academy.

- Oral: Hymns and prayers, marching songs, myths and legends, military jargon including particular words, phrases, sayings and expressions.
- Gestural: Greetings, postures, exercises, messages and expressions made using parts of the body.
- Ritual: Military, academic or religious ceremonies and rites of passage.
- Events: Academic, sporting, ceremonial or commemorative.
- Gastronomic: Special recipes, dishes and meals, field rations (MREs), etc.

Gala Mass during the 1960s. FPhoto Archive, ESMIC Museum Room.



Gala Mass during the 2010s. ESMIC Archive.



The *Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova*, as alma mater of the Colombian Army, may be considered a rich source from which much of the intangible heritage that characterizes the entire Colombian military institution emanates. Yet, apart from military traditions, there are many elements of cultural heritage that may only be found within ESMIC.

Legends that have transcended generations, such as that of "The Headless Officer Cadet" (dating from 1958), "The Red-Eyed Boy" and the "Bewitched Watchtower," are scary stories associated with certain areas of ESMIC in which cadets must not be after certain hours of the night. Others refer to confusing events that occurred decades ago, whose oral transmission has resulted in various versions but of which material landmarks exist, such as the monument to commemorate the "Lost Bullet."

Among the most noteworthy of ceremonies held at the Military Academy is the Gala Mass, a liturgical act held periodically for more than 50 years now, in which cadets undertake special training to enter the Church of Christ the Savior and march to the beat of the War Band, solemnly carrying banners, filling the church with emotion as the band beats out their traditional military devotion to the "Lord of Armies."

One can only imagine cadets, fresh from singing their praises to the Lord, biting into a longed-for *hojaldra*: a sweet, flaky pastry filled with a guava center. This well-known, traditional gastronomic treat dates from the 1930s, enlivening ceremonies and various social events at ESMIC.

ESMIC's famous flaky pastry, the *hojaldra*. Diego Martínez Celis, 2021





Antigua
Escuela Superior
de Guerra

Campo de Golf

Caballerizas

Dispensario

←
BASPC19

Centro Común
de las Armas

Av. Bicentenario

BACAD

Casino
de Cadetes

Biblioteca
Tomás Rueda Vargas

Av. Los Héroes

Clt. Bolívar

Clt. Santander

Canchas de tenis

Campo de Paradas
Batalla de Boyacá

Casino de Oficiales

Av. 20 de julio



Scan this QR code
and browse the
interactive map

Photographic Archives,
ESMIC Museum Room.

Location of Some Types of Military Cultural Heritage at the ESMIC



Artillery Pieces
(20+)



Properties declared as Assets
of National Cultural Interest
(8)



Busts and Statues
(26+)



Monuments
(8+)



Sets Movable
Heritage
(5+)



Aerial photography of ESMIC
from the southeast. . ESMIC Archive.

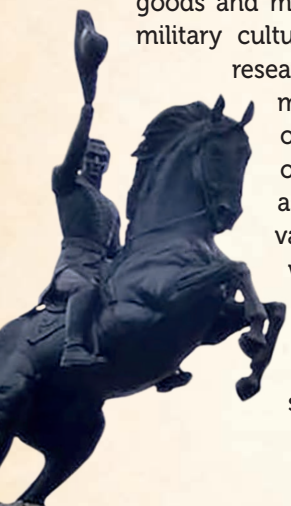


Discover and Understand, to Preserve and Enjoy

Managing ESMIC's Military Cultural Heritage

Beyond its definition as objects or traditions that must be conserved and safeguarded, cultural heritage is an exceptional resource with multiple values that can be used to encourage discoveries (personal or academic) and indeed strengthen the common identity of a group of people through the social appropriation and value of their cultural heritage. This implies conceiving and executing a series of planned and coordinated actions between the actors involved, whether institutional, community or individual and those in charge of different types of cultural heritage, those interested in preserving and those interested in actively using cultural assets and manifestations. These actions aim to manage cultural heritage via investigation, conservation, normative protection, administration and disclosure.

Indeed, what is not known is not valued, and what is not valued is not protected either and may be lost or even disappear. Taking this in mind, it can be said that the basis of cultural heritage management is the very knowledge it contains and transmits; that's why, research should firstly be carried out to know the origin, history and values of those goods and manifestations that may form part of ESMIC's military cultural heritage. Based on the results of that research, a list and inventory, or report, should be made to account for the main characteristics of an element or set of elements and its state of conservation. These actions should be classed as an instrument of measurement and conservation, in order to grant them special status within the Military Academy and Army itself, based on the importance of safeguarding, preserving and diffusing ESMIC's items of military cultural heritage, and thus ensure sufficient funds for the purpose of doing so.



Presentation of the exhibition "Campaña Libertadora" (Freedom Campaign, led by GEN Simón Bolívar during the Colombian War of Independence) before distinguished guests at ESMIC. Diego Martínez Celis, 2019.



Class of Military History, taught in the ESMIC Museum Room. Diego Martínez Celis, 2021.

While protecting and conserving elements of cultural heritage are the main objectives of its management, it would be meaningless if it was not oriented towards its use and enjoyment; that is to say, if these items weren't used as catalysts for educational or pedagogical processes, or even to further the image of the institution (e.g. the Colombian Army or Military Academy). We should strive to form spaces to better teach and learn about history, historical memory and the transmission of institutional values, aimed at the community at ESMIC, the Colombian Army and Colombian society in general.

Cadets visiting ESMIC monuments.

Diego Martínez Celis, 2021



Past, Present and Future...

Cultivating a Museum at ESMIC



ESMIC Museum during the 1950s.
Photographic archive Sala Museo ESMIC.



Temporary exhibition space at ESMIC, 2020.
Diego Martínez Celis.



Scan this QR code to explore the room.

Projection of a new Museum Room for ESMIC, 3D Render by Interfaz Ltd, based on a design by Diego Martínez Celis, 2021.

Throughout the history of ESMIC, the idea of establishing a museum has been discussed, in order to safeguard its historical and institutional memory, as an ideal space for the conservation, study, communication and exhibition of its tangible and intangible heritage.

The first record of this was in 1950, when President Mariano Ospina Pérez laid the first stone for the foundation of the Weapons Museum, opened in 1963 under the presidency of Guillermo León Valencia: At the time, it was considered the best and most complete collection of weapons in the country. Unfortunately, over the passing of time, the collection disintegrated and was transferred to other units, or was used to nourish the current Military Forces Museum in the center of Bogotá. To reverse this dynamic of gradual patrimonial dispossession, the museum reopened at the beginning of the 2000s, in the building currently occupied by the offices of Incorporation. However, it closed again in 2011 and the collection continued to undergo a noticeable reduction.

At the moment, EMSIC has approximately 170 pieces - some of them presented in this publication - which are held in the Museum Room on the fourth floor of the *Bar del Cadete* (ESMIC's mall). In the past few years, an effort has been made to reactivate the museum as a didactic space through the mounting of temporary exhibitions.

Given the importance and significance of the role that ESMIC has played in the context of the Nation's history and the institutional strengthening of the Colombian Army, it has been proposed to transform it into a new and worthy museum space, a sort of living museum through which its historical memory and cultural heritage is preserved, investigated, communicated and exhibited, representing not only the Colombian Army, but the entire Nation.



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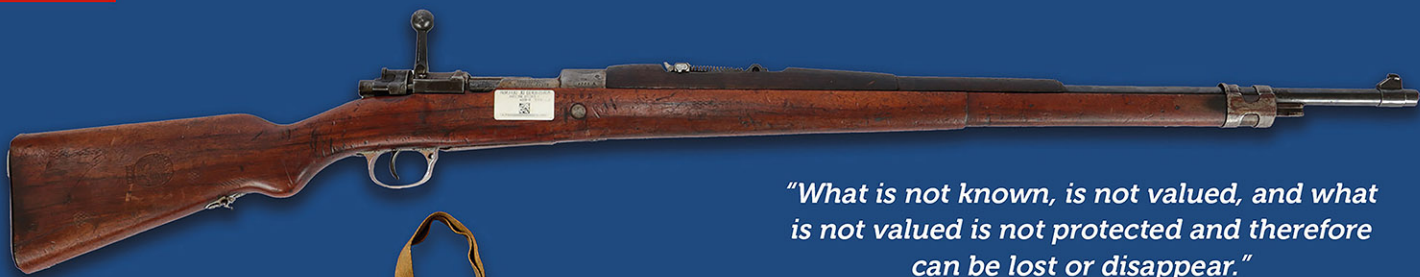
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"What is not known, is not valued, and what is not valued is not protected and therefore can be lost or disappear."



One's cultural heritage, passed down from generation to generation, almost automatically defines an individual as being part of a social collective. The Colombian Army, with over two hundred years of tradition, is recognized as one of the most representative of institutions that contribute to the national identity, through multiple expressions of its military culture and the great patrimonial heritage it possesses.

This publication presents different aspects that need to be disseminated so that the entire community of ESMIC and the general public have access to basic knowledge about concepts of Cultural Heritage and Military Cultural Heritage, its regulations, the history of the *Escuela Militar de Cadetes General José María Córdova*, the types of cultural heritage it possesses and some guidelines for their management. In addition, the reader will find an interactive map to navigate throughout ESMIC and learn more fully about the diverse cultural heritage of the Colombian Army and, indeed, the entire Nation.



ISBN 978-958-53802-5-7



9789585380257