

N E R V A L ' s D I A R Y

Le voyageur enthousiaste observe ...

Hotel Atlantico, Parque Genovés, Cádiz, Spain, June 30, 1994

Dear Reader:

... *como una taza de plata*, like a plate of silver, the city's skyline floats above the horizon before the eyes of approaching travellers. Founded by the Phenicians 1100 BC, well before Rome, it was a city of trade right from the beginnings due to its splendid natural harbor. The identity with biblical Tarshish **תַּרְשִׁישׁ** must remain speculative. Greek **Γάδειρα** became *Roman* Gades and citizenship was coveted and ranked second in the Empire, **قادي** of Islam followed till reconquista took place in 1262. Cádiz became the most important port of trade with the overseas dominions of Spain and in the mid- 1700s it rivalled London in wealth [1, 2].

What leads the travelling dermatologist to this baroque town of coastal Spain? Two facts. (i) The *Colegio de cirujanos de la Armada* of 1748, a *university* since 1979. To the author, basically a dermatologist, who resides in a former Surgical Military College (of 1785; today the home of history of medicine in Vienna), the above *colegio* is a welcome site for a visit. (ii) *Dermatology* in Cádiz. It moved from historical to modern premises in 1992, parallel to the move of the two Vienna departments into a modern complex in the same year, *pero incomparable con la belleza del hospital de aspecto colonial* (classicist in Vienna) [3].

Professor José Cabré (1947–1981) obtained the chair of dermatology in Cádiz in November 1964. A graduate of the University of Barcelona with a doctorate also of the Goethe University in Frankfurt-on-Main, he initiated a period of growth and greatness of the discipline. In 1967 he organized the Reunión Nacional de la Academia Española in this city to serve as its president in 1970. He became dean, continued his career in Barcelona, was elected rector. Eventually, he moved to Madrid but met his untimely death at age 47. In his honor, a memorial lecture was established. In 1990 Danilo Stevanovic, Belgrade; 1991 Juan Ocaña Sierra, Granada; 1992 Jordi Vidal Llitas, Barcelona; 1993 Jean Thivolet, Lyons; 1994 the writer, were the lecturers, invited by Professor Joaquin Calap Calatayud, chairman of today [3].

Across the bay of Cádiz lies Rota and the American base, 12 miles beyond Sanlúcar de Barrameda where Magellan sailed in 1519 to circumnavigate the globe. Thirty miles south is Cabo Trafalgar where Nelson won and died, 1805. Historical ground indeed.

- 1 Pauly's Realencyclopädie der class. Altertumswissenschaft, Druckenmüller Stuttgart 1958, vol VII/1, 439–462.
- 2 Encycl. Islamica, Brill, Leiden 2nd 1960 vol 4, 383–384.
- 3 Calap Calatayud J, Rodriguez Murillo JA: Aspectos históricos de la dermatologia etc. Ed. Gráficas Coll. Barcelona 1985, 7–13.

à bientôt,

K.H., Vienna