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ENG

DISCOVER INCA



a cultural trip
through the evolution
of the city



**GUIDED TOURS
TO INCA'S HERITAGE**



Ajuntament d'Inca



#10



Visit to Inca cemetery. History

Speaker: Gabriel Pieras Salom, official chronicler and honorary archivist of Inca.

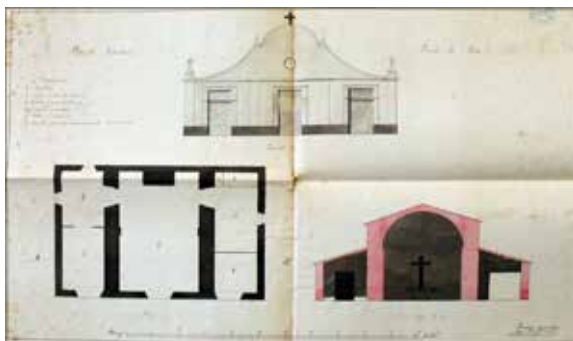
Inca cemetery³⁷

In the Christian world in particular, people's bodies were buried in parish and convent churches, or outside them, nearby, depending on their economic and social possibilities. Some people were buried at the main altar, others in the side chapels, others in the middle of the churches, and still others in the communal graves owned by the guilds. And those who did not have this economic possibility were buried in the cemetery, which was usually directly in front of the churches and was generally surrounded by walls. They were churches, parish churches and convents for the living and the dead. This created health problems that began to be reported by different authors in books and pamphlets by.

The royal order of 3rd April, Law Y, Title III of the "Novísima recopilación", a compilation of the laws of Spain, set out the obligation to build cemeteries at a certain distance from inhabited areas and prohibited burials inside churches, or just outside of them, with very special exceptions, such as for bishops, abbots and abbesses, priors, distinguished canons, etc. This legal text indicated that the construction of the new cemeteries would be paid for by the rectors, but using funds from the church factories and the public treasury. Here in Mallorca, and in Inca, this did not take place. Some years would still have to pass before it did. And it was as a result of a printed letter that was sent to all of the local councils, dated 3rd January 1814, that Guillermo de Montis (at the time the top political head of the Balearic Islands) and the secretary Rafael Manera outlawed burials inside towns, based on the decree of 1st November of the year 1813 issued by the Regency of the Kingdom, in accordance with the constitution and the Law of 11th November of 1811. Las Cortes, the national assembly, gave a month for the cemeteries to be built outside of the villages, albeit provisionally. The pamphlet that reached Inca in early January of 1814 would not be put into practice until 1820, six years later. This brief publication published at the printing press of Melchor Guasp comprises a long, well-explained preamble, 18 chapters and a conclusion ordering these constructions to take place. In Inca, before 1820,

there were three places of burial: the church of the parish of Santa Maria la Mayor with the outer cemetery and the churches of Sant Francesc and Santo Domingo. After the opening of the new cemetery, which was first rural and later municipal, no more burials would be held in the churches. Only the nuns of the Order of Saint Jerome of Sant Bartomeu would continue to be buried in their own cemetery, and this is still the case today.

The first person to be buried in the new cemetery was Jaume Ferrer, nicknamed "Borratxon", and in his will and "pious bequests", held by P. Francesc Ferrer, a religious observer, of 27th May of the same year, he stipulates he should be buried in the church of Sant Francesc dressed in the Franciscan habit (and obviously, his request was not fulfilled). In this obituary of the Sacramental book of the Historical Parish Archive, of 6th December 1820, there is a curious note which says, "I, the undersigned, blessed said cemetery (in reference to the new one) on 3rd December 1820, and the blessing was attended by the entire council, secular clergy and the communities of the Dominicans and the Franciscans of this town. To which I attest. Don Juan Amengual, Pro. and Rector of Inca". In the first books from the beginning of the Reform (Book of accounts and sale of graves) of the old cemetery from 1820, which started in 1860 (Historical Municipal Archive of Inca. Health. Provisional numbers 627, 628 and 629), there are two handwritten sheets of paper that are worth transcribing here: "The cemetery of the town of Inca, located on the Sencelles road, was made by order of the Government in the year 1820 with Don Miquel Munar, 'Xesquet' as mayor, and Dr. Don Joan Amengual as rector of the parish. This cemetery was purchased from Don Jaume Llompart, 'Catiu', and this is the reason why for many years it was called nothing other than Can Catiu. It was blessed in the month of December of 1820 and the first person to be buried there was Jaume Ferrer, 'Borratxon'. When the town and



the number of souls in the town increased, this cemetery was extended from the third transversal pathway, by almost half of what it had been before. For a period of 40 years, said cemetery was cared for little, until in 1860, when Don Joan Coll y Martorell was mayor, the entire council named a commission comprised of the Mayor himself, of Don Miquel Amer y Jaume, of the councillors Jordi Reus and Miquel Subidas, of Can Lau, and of Don Francesc Brunet, Priest and Incumbent in the parish of Inca, with the aim of repairing and tidying up said cemetery. In the year 1860 the well alone was done, and the work was outsourced for 50 pounds but many preparations were made to begin the work, having been carried out at the beginning of the month of January of 1861. The plan for the work was formed by Don Llorenç Robira (sic) and the work was carried out by master builder Jaume Llompart y Rubí, 'Verguny', with Llorenç Ramis, 'Lluch' serving as labourer the whole time and Josep Vado as gravedigger. They took 180 cartloads of cantons, mitjans^{10.1}, limestone, tiles and other materials for free in order to advance the work and said work finished on 31st December of 1864, and 2,147 pounds, 7 sous^{10.2} and 6 diners^{10.3} were spent on it. On 7th March 1865 there was a great deal of wind and it knocked down the entire profile of the façade of the cemetery, breaking 13 beams from the roof and 6 from the room, the false ceiling and over 600 roof tiles. Previously said façade was made of cantons from Muro but as it was not strong enough to withstand the mishaps, it was later made with walling and 93 pounds, 18 sous and 6 diners were spent on it. The cypresses were planted at the end of January 1861. On 17th May 1863 the Christ that is worshiped in the cemetery was blessed. In the morning there was a service and sermon in the parish church and in the evening, there was a procession with the Santo Cristo accompanying it to the cemetery, a procession attended by over five thousand people, be they from Inca, or from neighbouring villages. In 1867 the iron gates weighing seven quintals and sixteen pounds were put in which, at a rate of 3 wages the pound, were worth 507 pounds and 8 sous. They were made by the master craftsman Bartomeu Pons, a metalworker from Ciutat^{10.4} and resident of Inca. For the work to be carried out in the cemetery, the council gave 300 pounds, and the commissioners, with ten coins that they raffled, had 377 pounds for the cemetery. In 1868 it was decided to make the lower part of the cemetery façade from rough-cut stone, and the stone alone cost 81 escuts^{10.5}, that is to say, 60 pounds and 15 sous."

10.1 Traditionally sandstone blocks were cut into different sizes ('cantons', 'mitjans' and others) depending on their intended use.

10.2 Translator's note: the 'sou' was a copper coin of Mallorca from 1811.

10.3 Translator's note: possibly a local Mallorcan coin.

10.4 Translator's note: Palma.

10.5 Translator's note: another historical coin.



- 35** Santa Magdalena
- 36** Talaiot de s'Ermita
- 37** Cementeri d'Inca
- 38** Son Vivot

L'EDITA:



Ajuntament d'Inca

HI COL·LABOREN:



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DE LES JORNADES
D'ESTUDIS LOCALS D'INCA