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Cover of *Boletín de Historia y Antigüedades*, Volume 24, No. 274 (Bogotá, 1937) where Dousdebés' "Las Insignias de Colombia" was originally published. Image courtesy of the Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

PREFACE

by David F. Phillips

This work, the fifth publication in our Translation and Monograph Series, was originally written in Spanish by Brigadier General Pedro Julio Dousdebés Escallón (1883-1954). Dousdebés, a career army officer, published the work in the August 1937 issue of the *Boletín de Historia y Antigüedades* [Bulletin of History and Antiquities], the journal of the Academia Colombiana de Historia [Colombian Academy of History] in Bogotá. The Academy had been publishing the *Boletín* since 1902 and it is still publishing it today. As can be seen from Dousdebés' footnotes, the *Boletín* often published material on the historical flags and emblems of Colombia, and his work was an attempted synthesis of what was known at the time.

We selected it for translation because of its moderate length, comprehensive nature, vivid style, attractive color plates, and extensive quotations from primary sources, and because a copy was available in the Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. The Flag Heritage Foundation is grateful to the distinguished vexillologist Dr. Whitney Smith (1940-2016) for preserving this item, and to the Briscoe Center for making it available to us.

In particular we wish to thank Dr. Don Carleton, Director of the Briscoe Center, Margaret Schlankey, Head of Reference Services, Aryn Glazier, Photography Services Coordinator, and especially archivist Kate Wilson, who had special responsibility for the Whitney Smith Collection. Without their willing and expert help this translation could not have been realized. We are also grateful to the eminent vexillologist Gustavo Tracchia, who helped us decide on a text to translate. His commentary on Dousdebés' work appears on page 66.

Special thanks to Dr. Michael F. Hammer, Associate Professor of Spanish at San Francisco State University, whose skillful translation of Dousdebés' paper forms the core of this book, and to Dr. Kent Dickson, Associate Professor of Latin American Literature at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, for reviewing my historical introduction (any errors that remain are mine, not his). And special thanks also to the noted vexillologist Jaume Ollé Casals, whose expert illustrations appear with his kind permission on Plates V and VI. It should be emphasized that this is a translation and not an original work of scholarship, and no attempt has been made to update or correct Dousdebés' research beyond comments in the footnotes. All his color illustrations are reproduced on Plates II-IV. Images in the text are not from Dousdebés, and are identified in the Sources of the Illustrations beginning on page 69.¹

Footnotes signed ED. were contributed by the Editor, those signed TR. were contributed by the Translator. Those without any signature, and plain citations at the beginning of signed footnotes, are by Dousdebés. His citations were usually incomplete, and they have been filled in as far as possible using modern bibliographic tools, especially Worldcat. Enhancement of citations has not been separately noted. Thanks to Jonathan Wheeler, reference librarian at the University of New Mexico Libraries' Center for Southwest Research, Dr. Kimberly G. Smith,

¹ Many of the documents Dousdebés quotes, and other relevant ones, may be found in fuller form in Enrique Ortega Ricaurte, *Heráldica Nacional: Estudio Documental* [Heraldry of the Nation: A Documentary Study] (Bogotá, 1954).

MAPS



Map I: Spanish Colonial Empire in South America, 1800



Map II: Provinces of New Granada, 1811

FLAGS AND EMBLEMS OF COLOMBIA¹

A CRITICAL STUDY OF THEIR HISTORY AND EVOLUTION FROM THE CONQUEST TO THE PRESENT DAY

Our beloved country, from its discovery and conquest until the present day, has had a variety of names.²

- Lands of the Chibchas, the Guanes, the Caribs, the Pijaos, etc., until 1536.
- Dominion of the Conquistadors, from 1536 to 1549.
- Royal *Audiencia* of Santa Fe, from 1549 to 1564.³
- Presidency of the New Kingdom of Granada, from 1564 to 1718.
- Viceroyalty of New Granada, from 1718 to 1723.
- Once again, Presidency of the New Kingdom, from 1723 to 1739.
- Definitively, Viceroyalty of the New Kingdom [*Nuevo Reino*] of Granada, from 1739 to 1810, and even for a few years afterward (1816 to 1819).
- State of the New Kingdom, from 1810 to 1811.
- State of Cundinamarca, from 1811 to 1812.
- United Provinces of the New Kingdom of Granada, from 1812 to 1813.
- State of Cundinamarca, from that date to 1814.
- United Provinces of New Granada, from 1814 to 1816.
- Republic of Colombia, from 1819 to 1831.⁴
- Republic of New Granada, from 1832 to 1858.
- Granadine Confederation, from 1858 to 1861.
- United States of Colombia, from 1861 to 1885.

¹ The original title was *Las Insignias de Colombia*, but the literal translation *Insignia of Colombia* is awkward in English, and does not communicate the range of meanings of the Spanish phrase. ED.

² Jesús María Henao & Gerardo Arrubla, *Historia de Colombia para la enseñanza secundaria* [History of Colombia for Secondary Education] (Bogotá, 3d ed. 1930). The Spanish original of this edition is available on Google Books at <http://tinyurl.com/jhrqvoj>. An English translation by J. Fred Rippy was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1938, and has since been reprinted in various editions. ED.

³ An *Audiencia* (originally a court) was a form of colonial administration in the Spanish American colonies. The *Audiencia* of Santa Fe was part of the Viceroyalty of Peru. ED.

⁴ This was the state later called *Gran Colombia* [Greater Colombia], to distinguish it from the Republic of 1886. In this period New Granada as a constituent part of Gran Colombia was called Cundinamarca. ED.



Figure 2. Coin of Carlos and Juana (1516-1555), showing a general pattern of the Spanish royal arms of the period.¹⁸

THE PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE

1810-1820

The Viceroyalty was overthrown in Santa Fe on July 20, 1810.

Perhaps because the political action of such a transcendent event had been plotted and carried out by civilians, with total disregard for the army or military element, in the days, months and even years that followed, the patriotic authorities who replaced the royalists did not change the flag or create an official flag for the new nationality.

Nevertheless, some measures on this matter were taken by the patriots of the Supreme Junta, when, as noted in the *Annals* of July 21 [1810],

the hats of the participants in the movement were seen adorned with red and yellow cockades, on which appeared the slogan VIVA LA JUNTA SUPREMA DE SANTA FE DE BOGOTÁ [Long live the Supreme Junta of Santa Fe de Bogotá].¹⁹

[footnote continues ...]

he used a later edition. The phrase *magna guerra* [great war] meant the independence movement led by Bolívar, as described in the Introduction. ED.

¹⁸ Juana, called *la Loca* [Joanna the Mad], was nominally Queen of Castile and León from 1504 and of Aragon from 1516, but because of supposed mental illness her rights were exercised by co-rulers, notably from 1516 her son Carlos (King Charles I, later Emperor Charles V). ED.

¹⁹ Pedro María Ibáñez, *Las crónicas de Bogotá y de sus inmediaciones* [Chronicles of Bogotá and Its Surroundings], 3:355. The first edition of volume 1 of the *Crónicas* was published in Bogotá in 1891, and all four volumes were often reissued. The author does not specify the edition cited. ED.



Figure 14: National arms, 1889 pattern

It fell to the flag created by Mosquera [in 1861] to be present at the bloodbaths [matanzas] whose outline we have just drawn. It fell to the tricolor that once again carried the name *República de Colombia* (after the name had spent 56 years in obscurity) to be madly paraded through our killing fields in 1895.¹⁵³ In the War of a Thousand Days, even more madly, we set it against its revolutionary brother in Piedecuesta, Bucaramanga, La Amarilla and Palonegro; in Bolívar, Tolima, Cundinamarca, Boyacá, Cauca, Magdalena, Santander and Panamá.¹⁵⁴ When speaking of the historic life of our flag, it is impossible for us not to exclaim with a voice choked with pain: our tricolor flag was present at on November 3, 1903.¹⁵⁵

[footnote continues ...]

Article 2 of the Decree of May 17, 1924 (see page 58 below) both place the arms in an elliptical zone [zona elíptica]. ED.

¹⁵³ In yet another unsuccessful rebellion. ED.

¹⁵⁴ The War of a Thousand Days (1899-1902) was an especially savage and prolonged civil war. It was originally a struggle between the Liberal and Conservative parties, but both parties fractured and the war degenerated into guerilla warfare. At the end of a conflict that took 100,000 lives, Colombia was devastated and unable to resist the American-directed secession of Panamá. ED.

¹⁵⁵ The date of Panamá's separation from Colombia. ED.

Plate II

Historic Flags and Emblems of Colombia

Reproduced, and captions translated, from Dousdebés' original text.



1. Arms of the New Kingdom (1548-1810), and the Granadine flag supposed to have been used by patriots (1811-13)



2. Flag of Cartagena, and version adopted as naval flag of the United Provinces in 1814



3. Flag (1813-14) and arms (1813) of Cundinamarca



4. Flag supposed to have existed in 1814-16, and arms of the United Provinces (1814)

SOURCES OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS

- Sources marked **Ortega** are from Enrique Ortega Ricaurte, *Heráldica Nacional: Estudio Documental* [Heraldry of the Nation: A Documentary Study] (Bogotá, 1954).
- Sources marked **Ollé** are by Jaume Ollé Casals, reproduced with his kind permission from the Colombia pages of his *Historic Flags*. See note in the box on page 71.
- Sources marked **de Vries** are from the Nueva Granada, Colombia and Venezuela pages of Hubert de Vries, *National Arms and Emblems Past and Present*. See note in the box on page 71.

COVERS

Front cover ornament	Detail from the United States of Colombia civil ensign (1861). Adapted by Charles Whitmire from Ollé, “Estados Unidos de Colombia.”
Back cover	<i>La Muerte de Giradot en Barbuda</i> [The Death of Giradot at Barbuda], by Cristobal Rojas (1883). Image from Wikimedia Commons at http://tinyurl.com/jpe9wow , archived at https://perma.cc/6kbkf-zc9x .

COLOR PLATES

Plate I	Chart by Blas Delgado (2001), from the <i>Flags of the World</i> Colombia pages, http://tinyurl.com/hbke3us , revised and updated by Rob Raeside (2016).
Plates II-IV, Nos. 1-11	Reproduced from the color plates in Dousdebés’ original publication, in the Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. They were copied by the Center’s Photography Services Department and are reproduced here by courtesy of the Center.
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Plate VI, No. 27	Current national arms. Reproduced under general license from Wikimedia Commons; it may be seen there at http://tinyurl.com/h7y55vp , archived at https://perma.cc/83mt-na9L .
Plate VI, No. 28	Air Force flag. From French Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service, <i>Album des pavillons nationaux et des marques distinctives</i> [Album of National Flags and Distinctive Markings] (Paris, 1990), 67. The German Admiralty’s official <i>Flaggenbuch</i> (Berlin, 1939) shows the same flag in use then.
Plate VI, No. 29	Naval commission pennant. By Charles Whitmire, after the 1939 <i>Flaggenbuch</i> , 69.