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HISTORY CLASS 4 DBH

THE HISTORY TEACHER
AGUSTIN SHOWS THE
STUDENTS OF 4 DBH THE
HISTORY OF GALDAKAO.

OUR STUDENTS DO IT TO
THE GREEK STUDENTS





Altamira Ibilbidea

► Altamirara

◄ Elexaldera





Romanesque-gothic sculpture

The main characteristic of the Romanesque and Gothic sculpture is the intention of showing the Catholic social teaching to the lower class; that is, it is done with the thought of instilling the stories and passages of the Saint Scriptures.

The majority of people in the Middle Ages was illiterate.

Therefore, their only way to know the Bible was looking at the painted or sculptured images.

Most of the topics that appeared in paintings and were from the Bible. It was the priest the one who had to sculpt the scenes, obeying what the sculptors had told them to do.

Most of the sculptors of the Middle Ages were unknown, being

among them the sculptor of the gate of Andra Mari's sculptures. At that time, sculpture was not considered to be art, but a rather common job.

Sculptures on church doors and capitals

We can find the vast majority of the Romanesque and Gothic sculptures at the gate of churches, as in Andra Mari's church in Galdaako.

The door has a round arch that establishes the path to enter in the Lord's sacred house. It is also the place where neighbours arranged to meet at that time.

The sculptures were done in the archivolts and pillars of the door. As it has been mentioned before, most of them were retrieved from the Bible, as for instance: the Virgin and the angel, the resurrection of the dead in the Apocalypse.... Other times, however, they were retrieved from the Pagan mythology, such as gryphons and mermaids.



Franco's time

Developmentalism

In Franco's time, the period between the 1959's Establishment plan and the Development plan was called DEVELOPMENTALISM.

It took that name because its only goal was the economic development. Obviously, as a result that left as historical-artistic legacy. The end of this era came with the crisis of the 1970s.

In the Basque Country, the growth was noticeable in Biscay's low Ibaizabal region, in which Galdakao is located. In the era of Developmentalism, the steelmaker and the chemical industries were the ones that developed the most, leaving the first sector behind as it lost strength. Because of that, many farmers had to start making money in factories in order to have a higher salary.

Industrial cities like Galdakao showed a significant development. In fact, without any planning, it became an unsupervised sleep-in city because of the speculative and uncontrolled procedure.

However, as the growth of the industrial cities did not respect the ecology, many environmental problems appeared: the pollution of the water of the rivers and the sea, the pollution of the air, or the uncontrolled appearance of dumps in the countryside.

Shooting range

Today, this place is empty since there is only the mark of the concavity that the brook left.

In the 1950's, it was converted into Galdakao's rubbish tip. However, in 1977, the city major decided to open a shooting range. It was not until the late 1980's that that place closed. Today, as you can see, it doesn't have any utility.



THE CIVIL WAR IN GALDAKAO (1936 - 1937)

The Spanish Civil War began on July 18, 1936. Galdakao was under the mandate of the Basque government until June 1937, when several German aircrafts bombed what was known as "defentsa-gerrikoa". In fact, Alejandro Goikoetxea, the engineer of the defense system, changed sides and decided to help the Francoists giving them all kind of useful information so as to defeat the Basques. Galdakao was of the villages that came out worst as it was bombed several times on different ways. This way, the town fell under the hands of the first Navarrese.



The well-known "defentsa-gerrikoa" was the name of the Basque's defense system. It was built with the aim of avoiding Franco's troops' attacks. However, it had many shortcomings. Besides, the attacks of the German aircrafts happened when several parts of the construction were still going on. That made the damage irreparable.

THE IRON BELT

The Iron Belt had a perimeter of 70 meters, starting on Barrika and ending in Punta Luzea. This protected some important and valuable areas of Biscay, such as Bilbao.

In the thoughts of Gamir Ulibarri, this defence needed at least 70,000 soldiers. However, there were only 29,300.

The engineer of the system was, as it has been before mentioned, Alejandro Goikoetxea. However, at some time while the construction was being carried out, he changed his mind and passed all the plans on to Franco's side. This way, the Francoists could know which were the weakest areas where they should attack in order to defeat the Basques.

IRONWORKS

Ironworks were small ovens that were placed on the slopes of the mountains after having made holes in the ground. With the aim of making the fire stronger, hand-bellows and natural air flows were used. That is the reason why engineers decided to build them in windy places .

These ironworks had a huge consume of charcoal. As a result, they could not be built far from the forests and metal factories.

They did not reach high temperatures. Furthermore, as the thin iron could not be entirely melted, the remainder had to be blown with a hammer. Although many iron went to waste, it did not have any impact because there was a lot.

From the 14th and 15th centuries, onwards ironworks were built in the river banks of the Basque country. These new ironworks used the strength of the water so as to work on the iron, This way, as the process was easier and more effective, the production was expanded,

We can find an example of a real ironwork in Isasi. This was built inside a deep hole in the ground.



A close-up photograph of a pine branch with long, green needles and several small, developing cones. The background is a soft-focus view of more pine branches.

OUR FOREST

In the nineteenth century, the mountains of Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa were quite deforested. Firstly, it was the shepherds who first began to spoil the mountain, as they needed grass for animals. Later, when the population grew, mainly in the 18th and 19th centuries, it was the farmers the ones that spoiled it when they started making holes in the ground. Besides, there was a lot of demand for wood and coal. Indeed, for centuries, thousands of tons of coal have been used for the cultivation of the iron.

Today, in our forests, the kind of tree that predominates is the PINE, known as PINUS INSIGNIS, nowadays it is called PINUS RADIATA. Being of Californian origin, it is used a lot because it grows very fast.

As a matter of fact, it can reach 45 metres in eight. Even though at first it is cone-shaped, it opens over the years. In addition, it is important to mention that the pine suffers when there are gusts of wind.

Around 1850, Karlos Adan (1812-1863) planted several seeds of the PINUS INSIGNIS in Zubietta Palace's garden. From 1870, his son, seeing how his father's seeds had grown, decided to do the same but all over Biscay. That is how it all started. However, it is important to take into account that most of the plantations were done after the civil war, in the 50s and 60s.

Nevertheless, as you enter in the forest, other types of trees, which are typical in this area, can be seen; oaks, chestnuts, alders, ashes....





