

## Biography

Mrs Elisa Cendrero y de Arias del Castillo y Fernández de Sierra was a distinguished charitable lady and erudite connoisseur of the history, fun facts and anecdotes of Ciudad Real.

From her mother's lineage, she is a descendant of Francisco Antonio Fernández de Sierra Méndez Flores, professed knight of the Orders and Cavalry Regiment of Calatrava, Saint Ferdinand, and Saint Hermenegild who fought against the French. He was also an appointed political and military governor of Almagro and Campo de Calatrava by King Ferdinand VII.

Daughter of Mr José Cendrero, twice the president of the Provincial Deputation as well as senator of the Kingdom, and wife of Mr Ramón Medrano y Rosales Maldonado y Medrano, knight of the Order of Calatrava, owner of Benavente and its castle (currently in ruins).

Mrs Elisa Cendrero received various awards and recognitions throughout her life, like Honorary Chairman of the Red Cross and the posthumous title of "Cervantes de Oro" (Golden Cervantes) for her cultural work, among others.

She was born in Ciudad Real on September 17, 1888, and died in the same city on April 29, 1977.

The Municipal Museum Elisa Cendrero was created on the initiative of Mrs Elisa Cendrero who, shortly before her death, manifested her will to her daughters and granddaughter to donate the family house and patrimony to the capital's honourable City Council, in order to transform it into a museum. It was inaugurated as such on January 14, 1983.



## Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday:

Mornings: 10:00 to 13:45

Evenings: 17:00 to 19:45

Sundays:

Mornings: 10:00h to 13:45

Summer (July 1 to August 31):

Mornings: 9:00 to 14:00



**AYUNTAMIENTO DE CIUDAD REAL**

Museo-Archivo Histórico Municipal

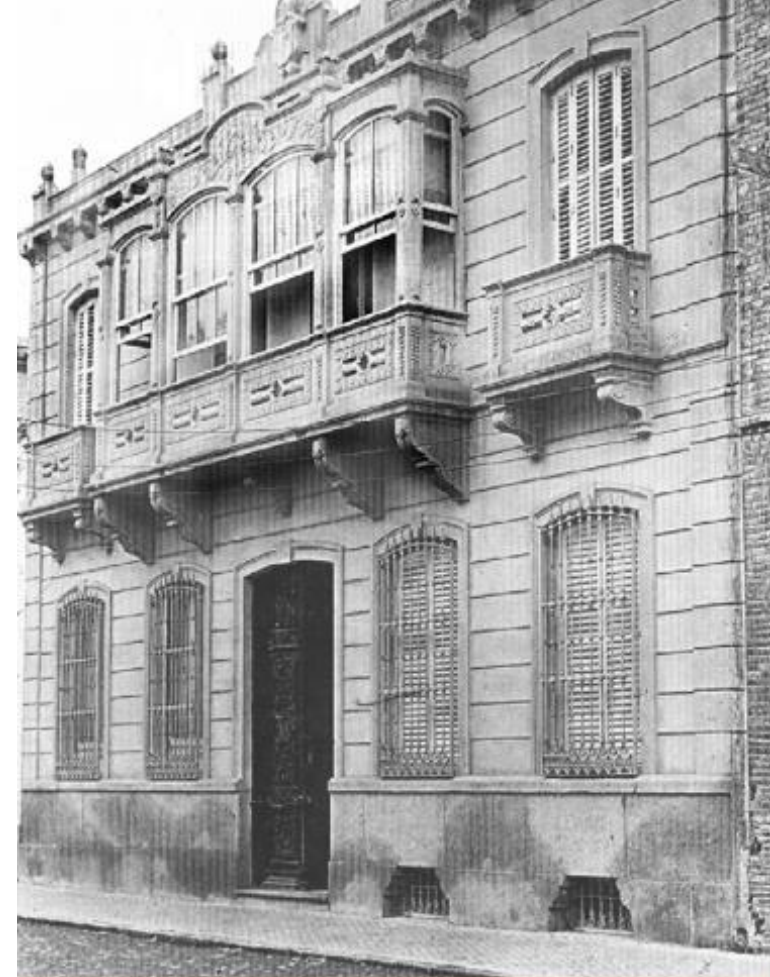
**"Elisa Cendrero"**

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13001 **CIUDAD REAL**

Design: [labanana.es](http://labanana.es)



**Elisa  
Cendrero**

**MUSEO MUNICIPAL**



## The municipal historic Museum-Archive "Elisa Cendrero"

The building dates from the beginning of the century and its construction can be set around 1917.

The two-storey building has a square floor plan with an interior central patio, which works as the distributing element of the complex in addition to providing the lighting for the interior of the house.

Both the lower and upper floors have a generally homogeneous distribution. Both have their own open hallways that access the patio, which provide not only lighting to the rooms, but also access to the various areas of the house.

The façade is structured with a strong axial symmetry established by the main door, the bay window of the upper floor, and the small cornice that crowns the upper molding.

The lower floor has a pronounced sense of verticality determined by the width-to-height ratio of the windows and the door (very high in relation to the narrow width).

The bay windows are a characteristic constructive element of the beginning of the century and can be made either of stone or glass. They are generally used as a decorative feature.

Mrs Elisa Cendrero ceded this house and its furnishing to turn it into a museum. Inside you can find period furniture, a significant painting collection, ethnographic equipment, etc. We want to highlight the wonderful fan collection from the 17th to 19th centuries and the pottery from the 17th century.

The Municipal Historic Archive deserves a special mention, which contains documents from the centuries 13th to 19th.

This archive houses the municipality's historic documents. It consists of a reading room and a repository of documents that keeps the entire documentary corpus from 1255 (year of the city's foundation) until 1900, except for the Municipal Acts, which are found in the Municipal Museum López-Villaseñor. As a singular document we can highlight the "Carta Puebla de Fundación de la Ciudad (1255)" (Town Charter of the Foundation of the City), given by Alfonso X the Wise.

## Lower Floor

In this floor we can admire a room with works by various artists, standing out: drawings by Joaquín Araujo Ruano, two posters by Ángel Andrade, a canvas by Manuel López-Villaseñor (1944), Lorenzo Aguirre and many paintings by Gloria Merino.

There are also three rooms set for the artist from Ciudad Real Carlos Vázquez Úbeda, painter, illustrator and poster artist who practiced landscape and *Costumbrismo*. In this space we can see the artist's studio, a big room with large works where *Christ of Lepanto* stands out, and a third room with an exhibition of paintings owned by the City Council and others given by the Oliver family. Landscape-themed works are displayed in the halls. Most of the works, as well as the furnishing, belong to the Barraquer Foundation, which selflessly ceded them for the exhibition.

The area adjacent to the reception is set for temporary exhibitions, which is divided into two exhibiting spaces, as well as the room annexed to the central patio.



## Upper Floor

The entire upper floor is set as a museum for the Medrano/Cendrero family, where we can highlight the pastel portrait of Mrs Elisa Cendrero, painted by Ismael Blat in 1929. There are also family goods, heirlooms, and furniture. Among them there's a *frailero* cabinet from the 17th century, walnut furniture from the 19th century, as well as many mirrors gilded with gold leaf and Isabelline chairs.

In the gallery we can appreciate a number of bladed weapons, distributed by different collections, from the 16th to the 20th centuries (swords, ceremonial swords, sabres, daggers, knives, and an Arabian dagger), made in a factory in Toledo; as well as some primitive firearms, such as a flintlock, a shotgun, a cane gun, and various muskets.

At the same time, we can contemplate a small library of the Medrano/Cendrero family with copies from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. In the adjoining rooms there is a piano, vases and ceramics from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In the chapel there is an exhibition of religious and worship objects, clerical clothing, as well as paintings from different periods (*Virgin of Llanes* from the 17th century).

In the study, we can admire paintings by Carlos Vázquez and Ángel Andrade and in the main hall a *Holy Family* by an anonymous painter from the 19th century and a baroque work from 1671 painted by C. Hornt (*Lady of Fire*).

Also of interest are the banners with the Medrano/Cendrero family coat of arms, as well as the reliefs and plasterwork on the ceilings, which are of exceptional value as they are among the few that have survived from the period.

