

Before the *trip* to the Nueva Granada

Since the Spanish sailors arrived to American territories, by the end of the 15th Century, many expeditions departed from Europe to the new world. They wanted to know the lands, determine their boundaries, and draw maps; to take advantage of their natural benefits, to know about the inhabitants, and to investigate about their customs.

José Celestino Mutis was one of those expedition members that arrived to America during the 18th century. He was born in Cádiz, Spanish port in the Atlantic Ocean, in 1732. He belonged to the delegation of Viceroy Pedro Messía de la Cerda, who had been appointed by Charles III, King of Spain, as his representative in the American territories of the Nuevo Reino de Granada.

He was both brave and ambitious. He had studied medicine in Seville, Cádiz, and Madrid, and after finishing his studies in Spain, he had the opportunity to travel to London or Bologna, both cities

well known by their prestigious medical academy centers. However, he preferred to embark towards America, as the Viceroy's doctor. With a sharp traveler's spirit and scientific training, he departed from Europe in 1760, at the age of 28, towards a new continent from where he was not to return.



Charles III
Pablo Antonio García del Campo (1744-1814)
1770
Oil painting on canvas
98 x 82cm
Museo Nacional de Colombia
Reg. 529

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Time spent by José Celestino during his trip from Cádiz to the Nueva Granada since his departure from Spain in 1732

september 7, 1760

september 20

october 17

october 24

october 31

january 8, 1761

january 11

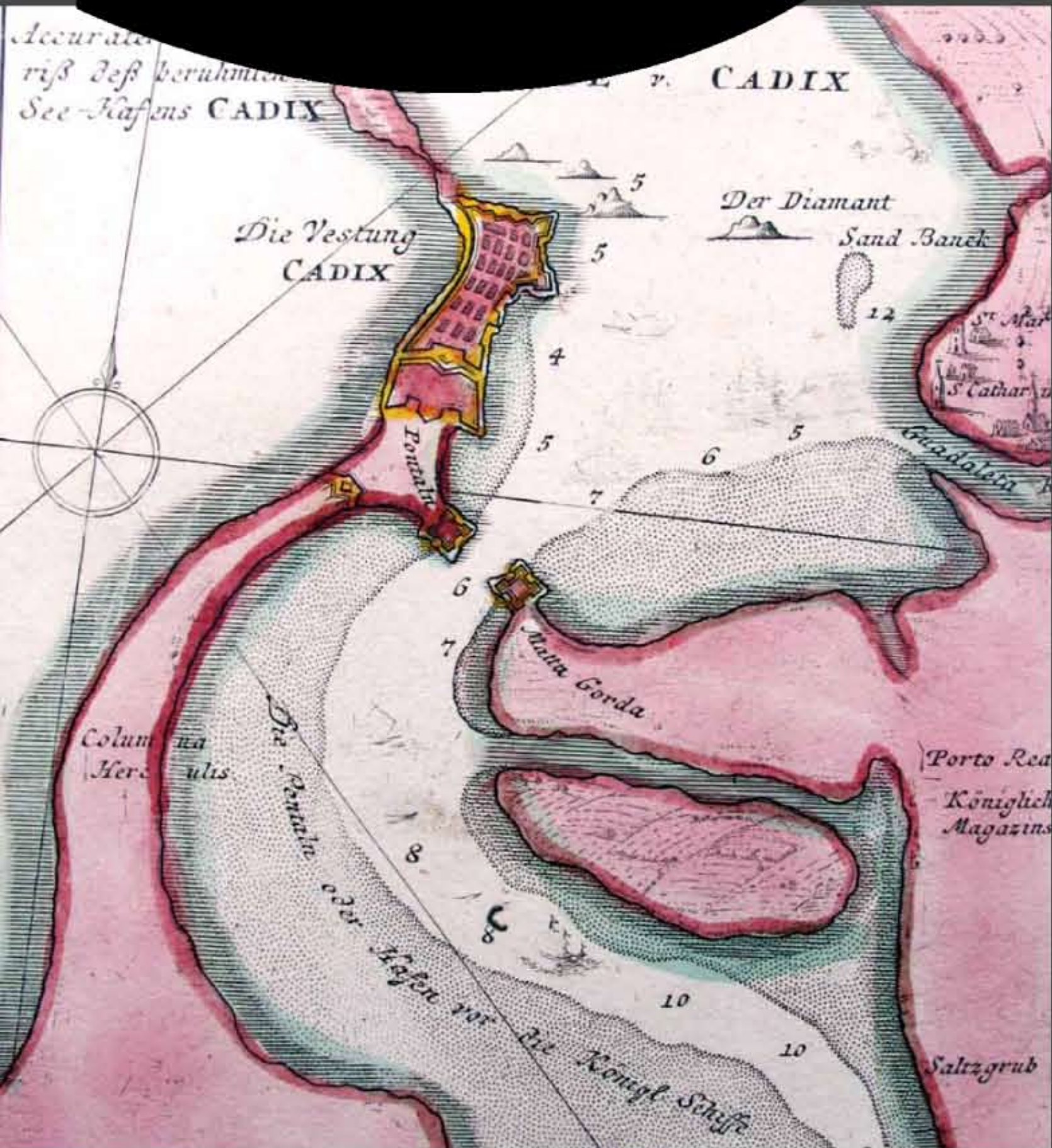
january 17

january 28/29

february 24

CÁDIZ CANARIAS TOBAGO ARUBA CARTAGENA MOMPOX TAMALAMEQUE BARRANCABERMEJA HONDA SANTA FE DE BOGOTÁ

Map of Cádiz
Taken from Atlas Novus
Terrarum Orbis Imperia
Baptistae Homanni
Nuremberg, 1725
Biblioteca Nacional de
Colombia – RG 23076



Mapa Mundi
Sebastian Cabot
National Library
Paris
1548