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Resplendence of the Spanish Monarchy: Renaissance Tapestries and Armor from the Patrimonio Nacional

Antonio Dominguez Ortiz, Concha Herrero Carretero, Jose A. Godoy
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In his introduction to this extravagantly illustrated volume, Spanish historian Ortiz describes court life in 16th-century Spain, the exquisite tapestries produced then and the militaristic mindset that increased demand for ceremonial, often purely symbolic armor. Carretero, curator of tapestries at Spain's Patrimonio Nacional, introduces seven series of lush tapestries woven in Brussels workshops, most crafted of gold, silver, silk and wool. Sacred, historical and mythological themes blend in the tapestries: the Apocalypse series is based on Revelations, the Spheres set depicts Roman gods, and the 12 Conquest of Tunis hangings commemorate an expedition against the Turks. Godoy, curator of arms and armor at Geneva's Musee d'Art et d'Histoire, presents ornate battle gear for horses and men alike, embossed parade armor and weaponry. The more than 150 color illustrations include details and distance shots, allowing as

complete an experience of each piece as readers can expect outside a museum.