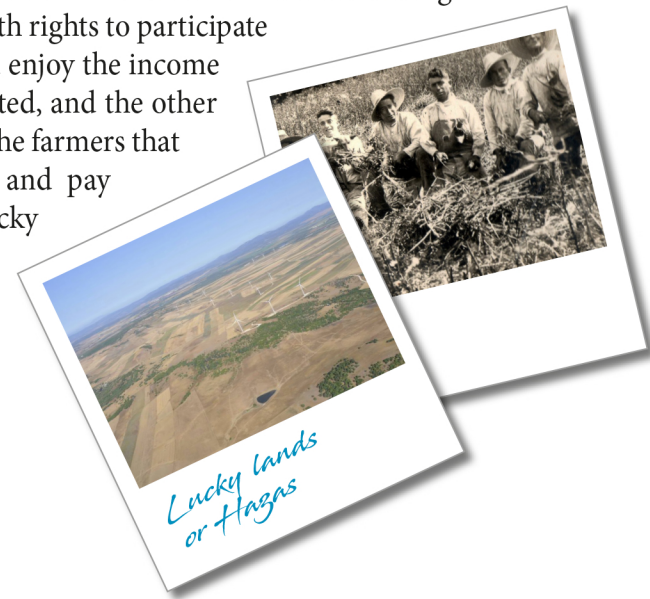




The raffle has remained almost the same until our days. Until 1868, the raffle was organized according to traditional uses and customs, but that year the first written rulebook of the Hazas was approved, containing 77 articles. A council, the Junta de Hazas, was also created. This organ manages and controls the lands and raffles. It is chaired by the Mayor, and consists of the 17 elected councilors and the same numbers of neighbors, coming from different social, economic and geographical spheres of town. These are called "Associates".

Nowadays two census lists are used: one containing the residents with rights to participate in the raffle and enjoy the income if they are selected, and the other list containing the farmers that work the land and pay rent to the lucky winners.



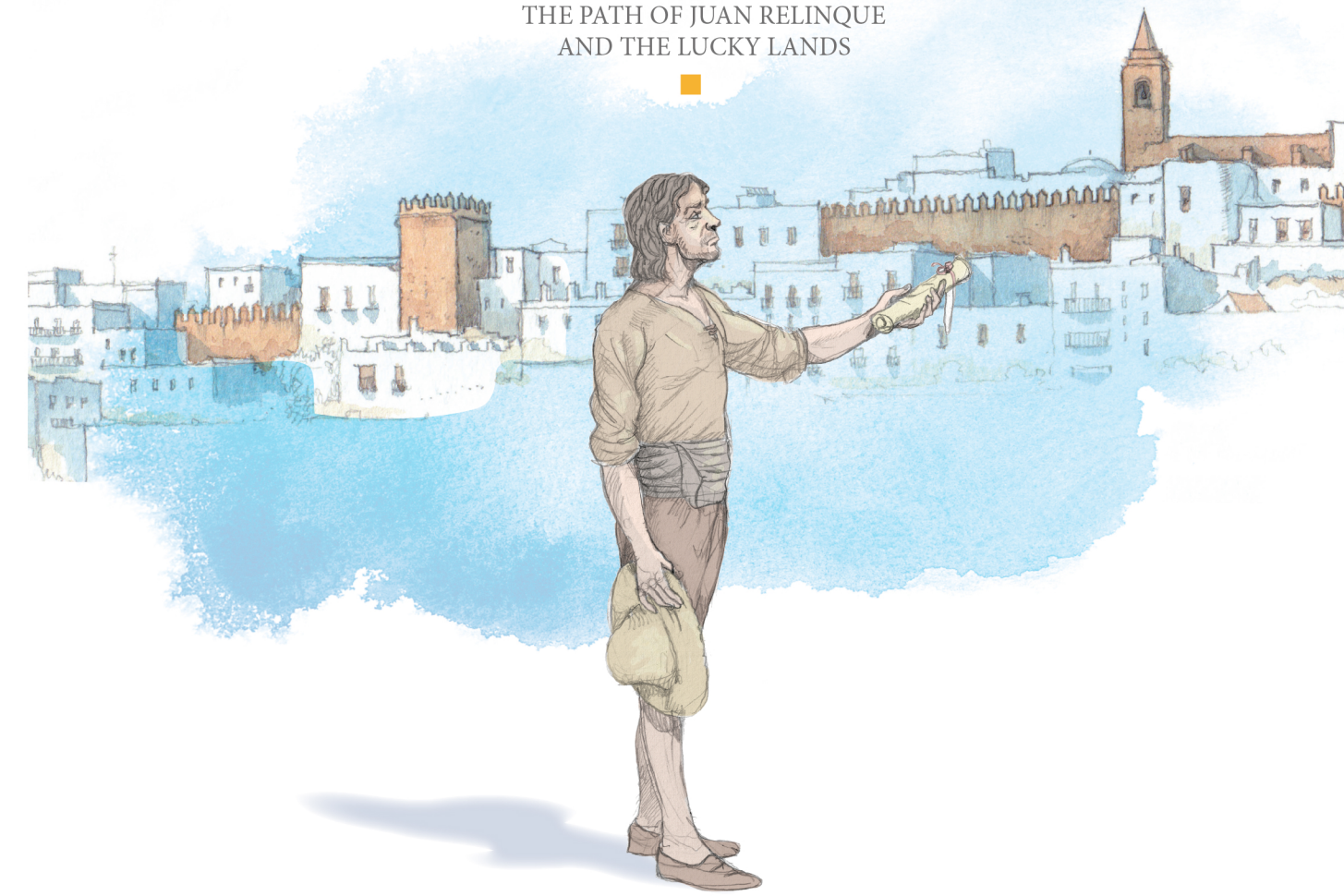
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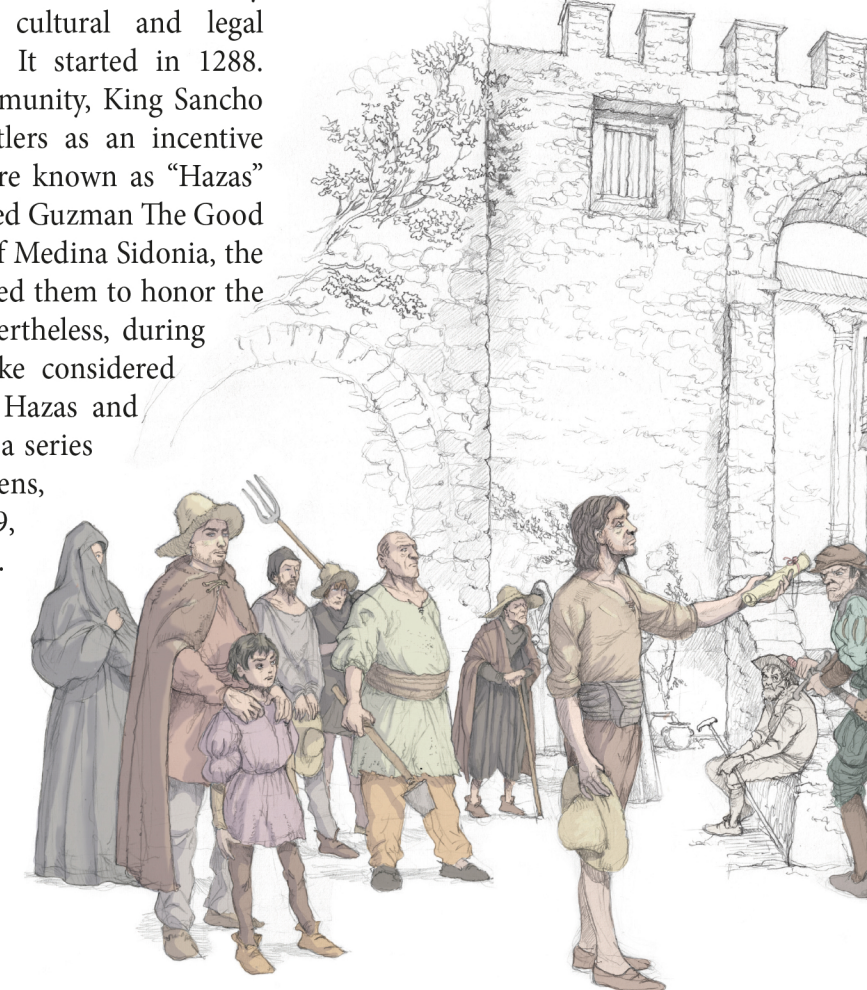
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THE PATH OF JUAN RELINQUE AND THE LUCKY LANDS



JUAN RELINQUE'S PATH

The Lucky Lands of the Resident Community of Vejer is a historical, cultural and legal tradition, unique in the world. It started in 1288. After expelling the Muslim community, King Sancho IV gave lands to Christian settlers as an incentive to move to Vejer. These lands are known as "Hazas". In 1307, King Fernando IV granted Guzman The Good and his heirs, the future Dukes of Medina Sidonia, the Dominion of Vejer. The king asked them to honor the settlers' rights to the lands. Nevertheless, during the 16th century, the then Duke considered himself lord and owner of the Hazas and started leasing them. This led to a series of protests organized by the citizens, led by Juan Relinque. In 1519, Relinque sued the Ducal house. After long litigation, in 1566 the Royal Chancellery of Granada ruled in favor of the citizens of Vejer. From that date, the lands are raffled periodically among the residents.



1 Hazas de Suerte or Lucky lands

Scattered around the whole municipality, these lands are divided into 13 areas or "districts". Nowadays Vejer counts with 232 "hazas". Farmers called Asentados practice dry farming on these 12,5 hectares lands.



2 España square

Formerly known as the Townhall square or Village square, was the original location of the old Town Hall. Originally, the Hazas' raffle took place here, till just a few decades ago. During the Corpus Christi Day of 1536, Juan Relinque started a popular revolt here. He opposed the council's aldermen, who wanted to sell stubble fields that were used by all farmers. Because of this, Juan Relinque had to serve time in the prison of Sanlúcar.



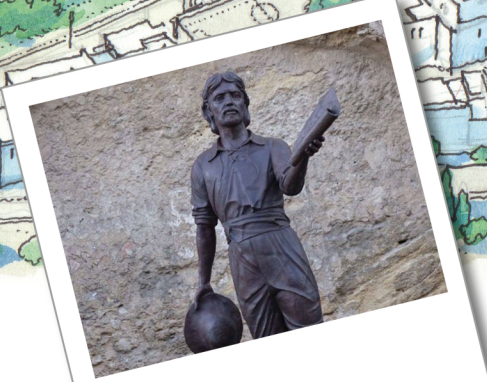
5- Juan Relinque's house

Juan Relinque and his wife, Leonor Sanchez, lived on the top floor of a building, inherited from his aunt Mencía García. The building they lived in was a typical Andalusian house, with rooms organized around a common courtyard, situated in Fuente Street, outside the town walls.



3- Juan Relinque's sculpture

Juan Relinque was a small farmer, who, during the 16th century, defended the legitimate rights of his neighbors. In 1539, he filed a lengthy claim of 15 chapters in the Chancellery of Granada. The claim was directed against the Medina Sidonia Ducal House in Vejer, for the abuses and levies imposed by them, including leasing the common Hazas to third parties. The claim was failed in favor of Vejer's people in 1566, after Relinque's death. This allowed the preservation of the hazas and started the raffles. The sculpture is the work of A. Mota.



6- Castle

The castle was the temporary residence of some of Medina Dukes that lived in Vejer since 1307. That year, King Fernando IV gave Alonso Perez de Guzman The Good, power over the dominion of Vejer, including town and surrounding lands. In 1880, the Marquis of Martorell sold the Dominion to Pedro Muñoz de Arenillas Cabeza de Vaca for 90.000 reales (the former currency).



4- Sancho IV arch

One of the entrances to the walled town of Vejer, it takes its name from Sancho IV The Brave. He was the King, that, in 1288, granted the first common lands, or hazas, to Christian settlers to incentive the repopulation of the area after the expulsion of the Muslim community.



7- Divino Salvador Church

A dramatic event took place in this church and former cemetery in 1538. Juan Relinque showed up at the end of a mass and confronted the mayor of the town, Tebedeo Velazquez. Relinque had a Royal Provision referring to the crimes of Velazquez. The mayor, holding the justice staff, said that "whoever wanted to destroy him, shall be destroyed by me!", to which Relinque answered that he only sought justice. The scene could have ended tragically if some of the present neighbors wouldn't have intervened.



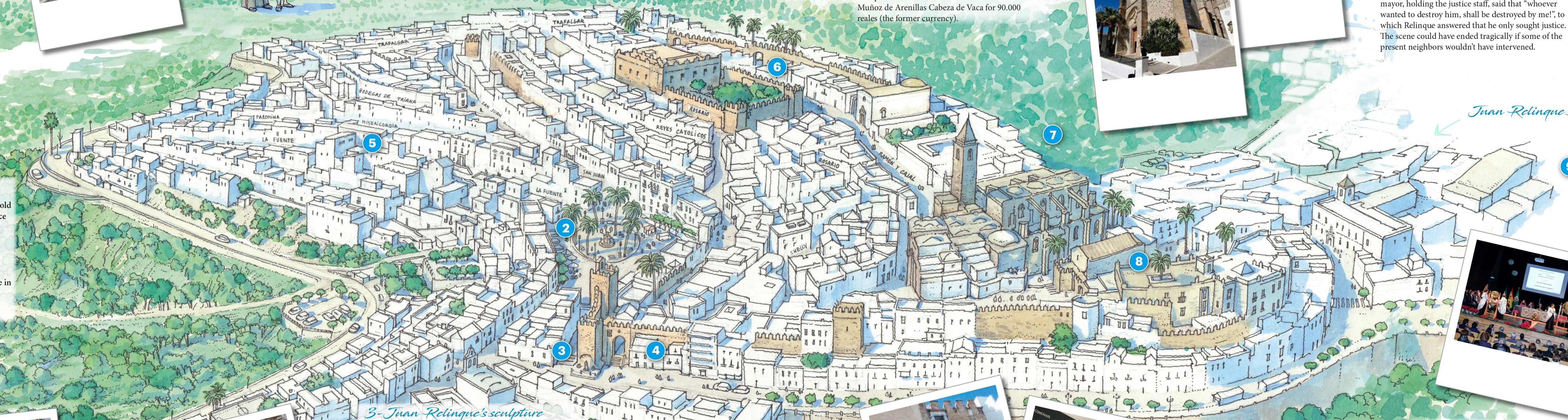
9 San Francisco municipal theatre

Located at the San Francisco square, the Hazas' raffle has taken place here every leap year since 1960. It is a shared, social space where residents meet around common heritage.



8- Museum

Located in the former house of the Marquis of Tamaron, room XI of this museum is dedicated to the Hazas exclusively. You can see two of the rotating drums used during the raffles. There's also an audiovisual projection about the story and tradition of the Hazas.



THE LUCKY LANDS RAFFLE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Since the mid-20th century, the raffle has taken place every 22nd of December in leap years. For the ceremony, two rotating drums are used. One contains the names of all residents with rights to participate, and the other contains the identification for all the 232 "hazas" or lands.

The census is not updated until all neighbors are prized, something that happens every 36-40 years. The official titles certifying the rights to the income from the lands are given during a public event on the 6th of January after every raffle. During this event, an initial bonus, called "Muertos" (the dead) is also given to the winners in cash. The amount of this bonus is previously determined by the Hazas Council.

This festive ritual is an excellent example of what the UNESCO calls Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Therefore, a file has been submitted to include this tradition in the Intangible Cultural Heritage list.