



Equestrian Portrait of Don Jose Andres Sepulveda

Date

c. 1856

Primary Maker

Henri Pénelon

Medium

Oil on canvas

Description

Don José Sepúlveda was famous for his generosity and his sizeable collection of racehorses. Sitting astride a horse on a silver-appointed saddle with one hand holding the reins and the other at his hip, Don José wears an elegant black riding outfit edged in red. The portrait is an insider's view of Californio culture at a time when boosters'

promotional literature, intended for eastern U.S. readers, more often portrayed menacing horsemen reigning in frenzied horses. After statehood in 1850, Anglo-American boosters sought to eradicate the legacy of the Spanish rancho system.

Dimensions

Framed: 51 1/2 × 44 1/2 × 1 1/2 in. (130.8 × 113 × 3.8 cm)