

# COSMOPOLITAN CHRONICLE

True tales from the annals of history, archaeology, construction, and restoration of the Casa de Bandini and Cosmopolitan Hotel.  
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## A Medallion at the Cosmopolitan Hotel

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**W**e archaeologists are the luckiest people in the world! We get directly in touch with the past; we do research, and turn other people's trash and lost items into valuable information. The things we come across can be as big as a house foundation, or as small as a bead, but they often lead to more questions than answers. The archaeology crew working at La Casa de Bandini found a small oval-shaped medallion with an inscription in French in two rows around a woman who has the palms of her hands turned upward. On the other side of the medallion we can see twelve stars framing a cross which rests on a horizontal bar and a letter M. Looking for clues about the iconography of the medallion we found that the woman is an "Immaculate Virgin Mary," specifically Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. According to the story, in 1830 a French farm girl named Catherine Labouré, had three apparitions. In the first, a child led

her to the chapel to meet the Virgin Mary.

In the second, the Virgin appeared before her standing on a globe with snakes at her feet and holding another globe in her hand. The Virgin told Catherine that the globe represented the world, and then the globe disappeared and rays of light shone from the Virgin's hands, rays that symbolized the graces the Virgin would grant to those who asked for them and the apparition of the Virgin was framed by the words "*O Marie Concue Sans Peche Priez Pour Nous Qui avons Recours a Vous.*" ("O Mary Conceived Without Sin, Pray for Us who have Recourse to Thee.")

In the third apparition, the Virgin asked Catherine to have a medal made to commemorate what she was shown. The Virgin promised that all those who wore it would receive great blessings and grace, especially if worn around the neck. The first medals were delivered to Archbishop Hyacinth de Quelen on June 30, 1832.

Catherine Labouré was canonized in 1947 and has become the patroness of architects, miners, elderly sick men and prisoners.

The medallion found at the Bandini house is not the only one found in Old Town; another one was

discovered at the Aguirre house in 2004. The two medallions are similar but have some interesting differences. The one found at the Aguirre house has the inscription in English, Mary is looking to the left, and it has the date 1830 at the bottom. The one found at the Casa the Bandini, has the inscription in French, her head is turned to the right, and has no date at the bottom.

Does the inscription in French, and the lack of date tell us that the medallion found at the Bandini house is older than the one found at the Aguirre site? Were the medallions imported or made locally? Did it belong to someone in the Bandini family? Did a guest of the Cosmopolitan Hotel bring it?

The archeologists at the Cosmopolitan Hotel project are currently working to answer these and other questions.

