

**PRESERVE AND DISSEMINATE**  
**DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE: THE SUPREME**  
**COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

The Ministry of Culture is digitising 305 files of the Supreme Court of the Philippines thanks to the sponsorship agreement with the company GREYSTONES S.L.U.

The digitisation of this documentation has required painstaking preliminary work to ensure that it is organised, described and restored.

Thanks to this move, more than 300,000 images of records of great interest for studying the politics, economy, society and culture of the Philippines in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries will soon be available on the Spanish Archives Portal.

A good example is the current document of the month on the establishment of a Comedy Theatre in the city of Manila in 1778. A resident of this town, Agustín Cabrera, took it upon himself to pay all the necessary costs to establish a theatre in his city.

Mr Cabrera sent his petition and a sketch of the layout of the theatre to the governor of Manila, who was also president of the Royal Supreme Court. It was

**discussed and decided where the theatre should be set up, on which days there would be performances and what the ticket prices would be. They left nothing to chance or improvisation.**

**Fortunately for the residents of Manila, after lengthy debates, the Royal Supreme Court was in favour of this initiative. Undoubtedly, the city needed a theatre to keep spirits up, amuse the restless minds and banish idleness.**

**Entertainment was so scarce at the time that it is hardly surprising that only a year later, in 1779, the Manila theatre was a success!**

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