



THE CORPUS CRISTI-S PARTY IN SAN ANDRES

Once again the prioste fulfills the responsibility of paying all the expenses of the party. The disguises in this occasion are different: The main characters are the Dancers whose gear consists of very high shoes type wooden clog, pant of white canvas with coarse of white fitting, in the calves take a string of bells, they use kind of a lap on the pant with the same fitting type at the bottom, the shirt is also of canvas and fittings and in the neck gets tied up a color handkerchief, to the height of the shoulder they take subject a wooden stick of which hang bands of brocade of different colors with golden edges. The chest is covered for a kind of an armor adorned with mirrors, mullos and decorations of the most diverse nature. Subject to the waist two color aprons adorned with currencies go, in the wrist they take knotted handkerchiefs of colors and by hand right sustains a sword in whose tip punctures plastic oranges, the jaw is subject for a white handkerchief and the covered head for a macana, the suit is completed with the huma (head) that puts on the head, this is a kind of a wooden helmet in his golden bottom they highlight decorations similar to the Coraza, in the front part of the face hang arrays of currencies and in the superior part of the helmet appear nine feathers of real turkey.

The development of the party. - In the previous day that is a night previous to the party town and autochthonous bands are presented, disguised as monkeys, dancers and sahumeriantes and a lot of volatería burns, in the day of eve as a rule is not seen to the prioste. The day of the party at about three in the morning the priostes begin to arrive at the square, it is important to arrive first to take the square because that will offer him social hierarchy for the whole year. To the pingullos and fives compass the dancers and sahumeriantes dance in the corners of the square making leaves and giving turns, this dance lasts until it dawns and the mass begins, after this they begin the procession getting turns to the square, the priostes throws chagrillo (petals of roses) for the one on the way to the Sacred one. Completed the procession the priostes distributes to their companions, foods, chicha and drink, this continues until hours on the afternoon, then they move to the house of the priostes to continue celebrating during several days to the sound of the band and the viandas that are distributed.

Source: Ballet de Ecuador de Luis Beltrán