AGAINST THE GENERAL GOOD

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (71/82)

DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	Ca. 1820 - 1823
DIMENSIONES	177 x 221 mm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Etching and burnisher
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Undisputed work
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	03 Jan 2011 / 02 Jun 2023
INVENTARIO	836 225

HISTORIA

See *Sad forebodings of what is to come*.

The title of the print was handwritten by Goya on the first and only series known to us at the time of its production, which the painter gave to his friend Agustín Ceán Bermúdez. Thus the title was subsequently engraved on the plate without any modification from Ceán Bermúdez's copy for the first edition of the *Disasters of War* published by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid in 1863.

A *preparatory drawing* of this engraving is in the Prado Museum

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

A scribe, possibly an ecclesiastical figure, with bat-like wings, ears, hands and feet with long nails that could symbolise greed, sits writing. His feet are resting on the top of a sphere, and in the background of the engraving a group of people can be seen with gestures that speak of their despair.

This is one of the most complex and hermetic of the *emphatic Caprices*, perhaps because of the harshness of its critical content. Various interpretations have been proposed for it, although for the most part specialists seem to agree that it is a scribe who applies himself to the drafting of laws that are "against the general good".

Nigel Glendinning emphasises the presence in this engraving of vampire wings on the scribe instead of ears, and believes that this figure may have been taken from the work *Gli animali parlanti* (1801) by Giambattista Casti (Viterbo or Acquapendente, 1724-Paris, 1803). In this text the vampire chief heads a group of greedy notaries, criminals and economists who, in time, will become the crown's advisor.

For her part, Jesusa Vega believes that this print represents the moment of crisis prior to Ferdinand VII's return to the throne, when the struggle between the servile and liberal factions took place.

It is possible that this print is related to the next one, no. 72, *The Results*. It repeats the allusion to the vampire who is sucking the chest of a lying figure, perhaps a corpse. It is probable, therefore, that the circumstance described in engraving no. 72 is the result of the measures taken in no. 71.

CONSERVACIÓN

The plate is in the National Chalcography (cat. 322).

EXPOSICIONES

Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revolucionen. Kunst um 1800 (1980 – 1981)
Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980
cat. 10

Francisco de Goya
Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996
exhibition celebrated from September 22nd to November 17th.
cat. 71

Francisco de Goya: Maleri, Tegning, Grafikk
Nasjonalgalleriet Oslo 1996
from 10th to April 14th 1996
cat. 153

Francisco Goya. Sein leben im spiegel der graphik. Fuendetodos 1746-1828 Bordeaux. 1746-1996
Galerie Kornfeld Bern 1996
from November 21st 1996 to January 1997
cat. 161

Francisco Goya. Capricci, follie e disastri della guerra
San Donato Milanese 2000
Opere grafiche della Fondazione Antonio Mazzotta
cat. 151

Goya: Prophet der Moderne
Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin 2005
from July 13th to October 3th 2005. Exhibitied also at the Kunsthistorischemuseum, Vienna, October 18th 2005 to January 8th 2006, consultant editor Manuela B. Mena Marqués
cat. 123

Goya en tiempos de guerra
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2008
consultant editor Manuela B. Mena Marqués, from April 14th to July 13th 2008
cat. 115

Goya et la modernité
Pinacothèque de Paris París 2013
from October 11st 2013 to March 16th 2014
cat. 110

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Goya, grabador
BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de
cat. 173
1918

Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.
HARRIS, Tomás
cat. 191

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
cat. 1116

Blass S.A.

1964
Bruno Cassirer

1970
Office du livre

A solution to the enigma of Goya's emphatic caprices nº 65-80 of The Disasters of War
Apollo
GLENDINNING, Nigel
pp.186-191
107
1978

Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional
SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)
cat. 290
1996
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

El Libro de los Desastres de la Guerra
BLAS BENITO, Javier and MATILLA, José Manuel
pp.139-141
2000
Museo del Prado

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA, Wilfredo
p. 155
2013
Pinacoteca de París

Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum
WILSON BAREAU, Juliet
pp. 114-151
2016
Norton Simon Museum

ENLACES EXTERNOS