

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 Revolutionen. 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. 111

Goya: Prophet der Moderne

Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin 2005
from July 13th to October 3th
2005. Exhibited 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 Paris 2013
from October 11st 2013 to March
16th 2014
cat. 110

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Goya, grabador

BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de
cat. 173

Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.

HARRIS, Tomás

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet

1918
Blass S.A.

**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

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

cat. 191
1964
Bruno Cassirer

**Catálogo de las estampas de
Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)
cat. 290
1996
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca
Nacional

**Goya. In the Norton Simon
Museum**

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

cat. 1116
1970
Office du livre

**El Libro de los Desastres de la
Guerra**

BLAS BENITO, Javier and MATILLA, José
Manuel
pp.139-141
2000
Museo del Prado

ENLACES EXTERNOS