DIEGO DE ACEDO

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: COPIES OF VELÁZQUEZ (PRINTS AND DRAWINGS, 1778-1785) (9/17)

DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1778
DIMENSIONES	215 x 155 mm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Etching
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Undisputed work
TITULAR	Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	10 Nov 2010 / 31 May 2023
INVENTARIO	836 225

INSCRIPCIONES

Sacada y gravada del Quadro original de D. Diego Velazquez en que representa al vivo un enano del S. Phelipe IV.; por D. Francisco Goya Pintor. Existe en el R.l Palacio de Madrid. Año 1778. (*"Taken and etched from the original Painting by Don Diego Velázquez in which he depicts from life a dwarf of King Philip IV; by Don Francisco Goya, Painter. In the Royal Palace of Madrid. 1778"* at the bottom of the etching).

HISTORIA

See *Philip III*.

Three copies of this etching have survived to the present day, from the first three editions. The first was made in black ink and the second in greyish-sepia ink. The third was announced in the 3rd edition of the Caprices, in 1868. In it, handwritten in the lower right-hand corner is the word *Merelo*.

After etching the drawing, two small additions were made: the name *Diego Velazquez* and the initials *FG* were added in drypoint in the lower left- and right-hand corners, respectively, in an earlier state. These were later erased when the title was added for the first edition.

The work was announced in the *Gazeta* de Madrid of the 28th July 1778.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Velázquez painted *The Buffoon Don Diego de Acedo* in Fraga, in the course of the royal sojourn in Aragón during the Catalan Revolt of 1644, when he also painted his three-quarter-length portrait of Philip IV. In actual fact, despite his name, Don Diego Acedo was a palace official who was in charge of the stamp that bore the royal seal. This is why, in the portrait by the Sevillian painter, he is shown with an enormous book in his hands. Sitting on top of another, smaller, volume whose pages are coming loose is a small pot of glue, ready to be used to stick them into place. Next to it, two more books appear, perhaps in order to show the sitter's interest in literature.

The dwarf is elegantly groomed and dressed in a black brocade outfit, with loose sleeves and closed at the neck with a starched collar, black breeches decorated with braids and bows, and black stockings and shoes. He has been placed within outdoor surroundings that Velázquez has painted in a few loose brushstrokes.

Goya accurately copies both the seated figure of the dwarf and the objects arranged around him. The whiteness of the large book that he is holding in his little hands makes it stand out dramatically, along with the intense expression on his face. However, we can see how Goya had some difficulty transferring the landscape to the metal etching plate, where it has become paler and less distinct, consisting only of some low hilltops. We can assume that Goya has rendered the background landscape in such a fleeting way because he was aware of the difficulties it involved, but it is also probable that he opted for a pale background so as to avoid drawing the viewer's attention away from Don Diego Acedo himself.

CONSERVACIÓN

The etching plate is conserved in the National Chalcography Museum (cat. 168). It came from the Fondo de Recuperación of 1948 (body created to recover works of art taken out of Spain during the Civil War).

EXPOSICIONES

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. 4

Ydioma universal: Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional
Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1996
from September 19th to December 15th 1996
cat. 82

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Goya, grabador
BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de

Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya

cat. 120
1918
Blass S.A.

HARRIS, Tomás
cat. 16
1964
Bruno Cassirer

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
cat. 105
1970
Office du livre

Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)
cat. 35
1996
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet
p. 32
2016
Norton Simon Museum

ENLACES EXTERNOS