Before Photography - Part 1
Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez
By Mario Sarra
A few facts about Velázquez:

- was born in Sevilla in 1599
- worked as an apprentice at the workshop of Francisco Pacheco
- in 1619 Married Pacheco’s daughter
- in 1623 was appointed court painter in Madrid after painting a portrait of the king
- 1629 traveled to Italy where he studied Raphael, Michelangelo, and Titian
- 1631 appointed palace superintendent
- 1652 appointed palace chamberlain
- 1659 Invested Knight of the Order of Saint James
Whom or what did Velázquez paint?

Everyday People...
El vendedor de agua de Sevilla

The Waterseller of Seville, c 1618-22, 2 of 3 versions shown

Left: Apslet House, London
Above: Walters Art Museum, Baltimore,
each 41 x 31 inches
La vieja friendo huevos

Old Women Frying Eggs, 1618,
National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh, 39 x 67 inches
El almuerzo

Peasants at the Table, c 1620, Museum Of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary, 44 x 38 inches
Everyday people...

Visited by mythological figures
Los borrachos (el triunfo de Baco)
The Drunkards (The Triumph of Bacchus), 1628, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 65 x 89 inches

Painted for King Philip IV for 100 ducats.
Las hilanderas (The Fable of Arachne)  
1697, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 66 x 99 inches  

Painted for Don Pedro de Arce as gift to Philip IV.
Apolo en la fragua de volcán
Apollo in the Forge of Vulcan, 1630,
Museo del Prado, Madrid, 88 x 144 inches
Myth by Themselves
La Venus del espejo
Venus at her Mirror (Rokeby Venus), c 1647-1651
National Gallery, London, 48 x 70 inches

Painted while in Rome. Believed to be his mistress there.
Religious Themes
La coronación de la Virgen
Coronation of the Virgin, c 1635-1648,
Museo del Prado, Madrid, 69 x 48 inches
Assorted religious figures
La cena de Emaús
The Supper at Emmaus, c 1622-1623
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 48 x 52 inches
Christ Crucified
1632, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 98 x 67 inches

Christ on the Cross
1631, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 39 x 22 inches
Adoración de los Reyes (Adoration of the Magi)
1619, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 80 x 50 inches
Famous People…
...especially members of the Habsburg Royal Family of Spain

Sine Prole - died without heir
King Philip IV on Horseback

Date?, Packwood House, Warwickshire, UK, 287 x 238 inches

attributed to Velázquez
Portrait of King Philip IV

1656, National Gallery, London, UK, 19 x 15 inches
Immediate Family of King Philip IV

Married in 1615 to Elisabeth of Bourbon (daughter of Henry IV of France, died 1644)
Children:

- Infanta Maria Margaret of Spain (14 Aug 1621 – 15 Aug 1621)
- Infanta Margaret Maria Catherine of Spain (25 Nov 1623 – 22 Dec 1623)
- Infanta Maria Eugenia of Spain (21 Nov 1625 – 21 Aug 1627)
- Infanta Isabella Maria Theresa of Spain (31 Oct 1627 – 1 Nov 1627)
- Balthasar Charles (17 Oct 1629 – 9 Mar 1646), Prince of Asturias
- Infante Francis Ferdinand (12 March 1634)
- Infanta Maria Anna "Mariana" Antonia of Spain (17 Jan 1636 – 5 Dec 1636)
- Infanta Maria Theresa of Spain (1638–1683), married Louis XIV of France

Married in 1649 to Mariana of Austria (1634–1696) – his niece
Children:

- Margaret Theresa of Spain (12 Jul 1651 – 12 Mar 1673), first wife of Leopold I, Holy Roman Emperor
- Infanta Maria Ambrosia de la Concepción (7 Dec 1655 – 21 Dec 1655)
- Philip Prospero, Prince of Asturias (28 Dec 1657 – 1 Nov 1661)
- Infante Ferdinand Thomas Charles (23 Dec 1658 – 22 Oct 1659)
- Charles II of Spain (6 Nov 1661 – 1 Nov 1700)
Elisabeth of Bourbon
1632, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, 52 x 40 inches
First wife of King Philip IV, daughter of Henry IV of France
Queen Mariana of Austria
1652, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 90 x 51 inches
Second wife of King Philip IV, daughter of Emperor Ferdinand
El príncipe Balthasar
Prince Balthasar Carlos
1635, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 82 x 68 inches

The only son of King Philip IV of Spain and his first wife Elisabeth of France. Heir to the throne. Died at age 17.
Prince Balthasar Carlos as a Hunter

1635, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 75 x 41 inches

Prince Philip Prospero

1635, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, 50 x 39 inches

Heir apparent to the Spanish throne 1657-1661
Don Fernando of Austria

Brother of King Philip IV. Became Archduke of Austria, Archbishop of Toledo (1619–41), military commander during the Thirty Years' War, and Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church.

c 1633, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 75 x 42 inches
Portrait of Maria Anna
1630, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 23 x 17 inches
Sister of Philip IV
Other People of Note

Duke of Olivares, friend and original patron of Velasquez, was painted three times by him in an equestrian portrait and two standing portraits now at the Hermitage and São Paulo, Brazil.

Giovanni Battista Pamphilj, Pope Innocent X from 1644 to 1655.
Las meninas o la familia de Felipe IV (The Maids of Honor)

1656, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 125 x 108 inches

Depicting the Spanish Court life of Philip IV
The people in the painting...

Queen Mariana and King Philip IV
José Nieto Velázquez - Queen’s Chamberlain
Marcela de Ulloa - Princess’ Chaperone
Unidentified Bodyguard

Princess Margaret Teresa
Isabel de Velasco - Lady in Waiting
María Barbola - German dwarf
Nicolas Pertusato - Italian dwarf

Maria Agustina Sarmiento de Sotomayor - Lady in Waiting
José Nieto Velázquez - Queen’s Chamberlain
Marcela de Ulloa - Princess’ Chaperone
Unidentified Bodyguard
Princess Margaret Teresa
Infanta Margarita

1656, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, 35 x 41 inches

1660, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 83 x 58 inches
An assortment of parodies...

unknown

Bottero

Picasso
... and a re-make by Picasso
Velazquez made several portraits of dwarves in the Royal Court…
Court Dwarf Don Antonio el Inglés

c 1640-1642, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 42 x 56 inches
Portrait of Sebastián de Morra

c 1645, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 42 x 32 inches
El Nino de Vallecas
The Dwarf Francisco Lezcano

c 1643-1645, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 42 x 33 inches
Historical Events
La rendición de Breda
The Surrender of Breda
1634-1635, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 121 x 144 inches
The Classical Past…
Esopo (Aesop)
1638, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 70 x 37 inches
Made for the Torre de la Parada hunting lodge in the Pardo forest.

Ancient classical fabulist

Menippos
1639-1642, Museo del Prado, Madrid, 70 x 37 inches

300 BC Greek satirist and cynic

Made for the Torre de la Parada hunting lodge in the Pardo forest.
...and a fellow painter, Alonso Cano
Portrait of a Man
C 1649, Wellington Museum, Apsley House, London, 30 x 26 inches
Now for a bit of photography…
The Royal Site of San Lorenzo de El Escorial is a historical residence of the King of Spain, about 45 km NW of Madrid.
Altar inside the Royal Pantheon of Tombs, El Escorial
Tomb of the Infants, El Escorial
Velázquez statue at the entrance of the Prado Museum, Madrid.
Where is the body of Velásquez?

• Velásquez may be a mummy. A forensic anthropologist in Spain wants to take the fingerprints of a mummy found below the altar of a church to determine if the mummy might be that of Velásquez.

To perform such a comparison, researchers have had to find Velásquez's fingerprint on one of his paintings. Although they accomplished this, they have written to art museums around the world asking them to look for other fingerprints. The more fingerprint samples the researchers have, the higher the probability that the mummy is Velásquez, if matches are made.

Once the fingerprints are gathered, the next step is to exhume the body so that the mummy's fingerprints may be taken and matched. "The results of this study will be irrefutable because fingerprint analysis is 100 percent reliable," researcher Jose Manuel Reverte said at a recent seminar, according the Spanish news agency Efe.

Velásquez was thought to be buried under the floor of the Church of St. John. In the 1800s the church was torn down and the bodies buried there moved to San Placido Church. The mummy thought to be Velasquez was discovered in 1994 at San Placido Church by a group restoring some of the church's art works.

• On the other hand, Velásquez may simply be a skeleton. He was buried with a sword, a black cape and hat in 1660. Some officials are convinced that the mummy couldn't be Velásquez, that his body must still remain in the ruins of Church of St. John, though not beneath the altar. Instead, they believe the body must have been buried in the middle nave.