Before Photography
Part 2: Goya

By

Mario Sarra
Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes
(1746–1828)
Vicente López y Portaña
(1772 - 1850)

Spanish painter, considered the best portrait painter of his time.
King Charles IV, in 1802, appointed him an honorary court painter.
His fame and reputation were well established when in 1814 Ferdinand VII appointed him official court painter. Shortly thereafter he succeeded Goya as Royal Court Painter.
In 1817 he was named President of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando.
Portaña worked on this painting in 1826. Goya was then 80 and would die two years later.
It is reported that Goya got bored posing for his colleague who was very meticulous about details. For that reason critics seem to agree that quality wise the painting does not reflect the mastery of Portaña, but subject wise, and because of the strong personality of the model, it is one of Portaña’s most lively and best-known works.

- Oil on canvas, 93 × 75 cm, Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain.

- This painting is the subject of the following stamps:
Issues of 1930, issued in connection with the Spanish-American Exposition at Sevilla

Scott 400-402

Scott 386-96

Scott E7
Stamp Day 1958 and to honor Goya (130th anniversary of death)  Scott 867-876
Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes (1746–1828)

As a way of comparing Goya to Velázquez, several things come to mind:

- Velázquez lived at a time when Spain had a very large empire, fairly stable government, and he had to deal with only one king, who was also a patron of the arts. Goya, as we will see, was a totally different story. Let’s also keep in mind that there had been a changing of the guard in Spain.

  Velázquez (Hapsburg >>>>>>>>>Bourbon) Goya
Los Borbones
The Current Royals
• Arguably the most important artist of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.
• Goya witnessed and chronicled major changes in the history of Spain.
• During his lifetime, four different rulers and forms of government ensued in Spain.
• Goya was born the same year Ferdinand VI became king of Spain.
• He was born in a small town near Zaragoza.
• Very little is known about his early years.
• Goya was about thirteen when Charles III inherited the reins of Spain.
• Charles III, brother of Ferdinand VI, became king in 1759, after the death of his brother.
• Charles III had progressive ideas and promoted several reforms. His reign was characterized by an enlightened despotism.
• He promoted science and university research, facilitated trade and commerce, modernized agriculture and, most important, avoided wars.
• He was very successful but his gains were lost after his death.

Charles III ruled from 1759 to 1788
(The Enlightened and the King-Mayor)
• By the age of 14 Goya was an apprentice with a local painter, José Lúzan y Martinez.
• At the age of 20, 1766, Goya went to Rome to study the masters.
• Late in 1771 he was informed by a friend about a possible commission to paint a fresco in the Basilica del Pilar in Madrid. He returned to Madrid, got the commission and painted *The Adoration of the Name of God*.
• Between 1774 and 1782 he had six children who all died at a very early age.
• In 1775 he married Josefa Bayeu the sister of two well-established painters.
• Around this time he was summoned to Madrid to work in the Royal Tapestry Factory.
Designing tapestries was neither prestigious nor well paid, but Goya took it as an opportunity to make himself noticed, especially by the Spanish monarchy that was to eventually appoint him court painter.
Tapestry Cartoons (1775-1792)

• There are 63 large tapestry cartoons.
• They were commissioned by Charles III and later by Charles IV between 1775 and 1791 to hang in the Monastery of el Escorial and the Pardo palaces.
• The name comes from the Italian word ‘cartone,’ which was a large sheet of paper used in preparation for a later painting or tapestry. Goya's were executed on canvas which was then woven into wool tapestry to a large mural scale. Many of the large finished works are today in the Prado Museum, but a lot of the original sketches were sold as works in their own right.
El quitasol -- the parasol (II)
1777, 104x153 cm, Museo del Prado
El cacharrero -- the pottery seller (III)
1778-79, 259x220 cm, Museo del Prado
Niños con mastines--Boys with mastiff (V)
1786-87, 112x145 cm, Museo del Prado
La pradera de San Isidro - The Meadow of San Isidro (VI) (1788) is one of the most talked about and valued works of Goya. This is a wallpaper for a series of cartoons for tapestries to decorate the bedroom of the Princess in the palace of El Pardo. With the death of Charles III, the project remained unfinished, and the picture that was to measure seven meters and a half long, was stopped at this point. It shows a view of Madrid from the Chapel of San Isidro, patron saint of the city, on the day of the pilgrimage. Goya manages to show a view of Madrid across the Manzanares. The painting presents in very small dimensions a great feeling of space.
Exposición Filatélica Nacional

MADRID - DICIEMBRE 1991
... more cartoons
... and more facts

- 1784, another child, Xavier, is born on December 2. He will survive and will give Goya a grandson, Marianito.
- Goya’s reputation as a portrait painter also grows, and so does his clientele.
Don Manuel Osorio
He is the son of the Count and Countess of Altamira. Dressed in a splendid red costume, he is shown playing with a pet magpie (which holds the painter's calling card in its beak), a cage full of finches, and three wide-eyed cats. In Christian art birds frequently symbolize the soul, and in Baroque art caged birds are symbolic of innocence. Goya may have intended this portrait as an illustration of the frail boundaries that separate the child's world from the forces of evil or as a commentary on the fleeting nature of innocence and youth.
• 1786 Goya was appointed Painter to the King. A prestigious position which also came with a steady income.
• 1792 suffered a debilitating illness, some believe it to have been cholera.
• 1795 by then he was completely deaf because of the illness he suffered in 1792.
desafortunadamente

• Charles III, died in 1788 and his son, Charles IV ascended the throne.
• Charles IV intended to maintain the policies of his father, but he never took active control of his government. He liked hunting and passed a lot of time hunting while his wife Maria Luisa and the Prime Minister handled the affairs of government.

Charles IV ruled Spain from 1788 to 1808 (The Hunter)
Godoy

- The more notorious of the prime ministers was Godoy, also believed to be the lover of Maria Luisa.

- The turn of the century was a period of intense activity for Goya. He becomes a close friend of the Duchess of Alba, and it is rumored that she is the model of the following painting.
La maja desnuda
c. 1797–1800. Museo del Prado, Madrid. 97cm x 190cm
La maja vestida

c. 1803, 97x190 cm, Museo del Prado, Madrid
The painting was first owned by Prime Minister Manuel de Godoy, who was known as an avid womanizer, and originally hung in his home in front of the *Naked Maja* in such a manner that the *Naked Maja* could be revealed at any time with the help of a pulley mechanism. It was twice in the collection of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando, also in Madrid, being "sequestered" by the Spanish Inquisition between 1814 and 1836, and has been in the Museo del Prado since 1901.
Let’s not forget his.... boss

- Painted in 1800 in Aranjuez
- Canvas, 280x336 cm
- *King Charles IV and his Family*
- Collection of Charles IV, Museo del Prado
1. María Luisa of Parma
2. Don Francisco de Paula (Fernando’s future wife)
3. María Isabel
4. Charles IV (older sister of the King)
5. Don Fernando (later Fernando VII)
6. Turned Lady
7. Doña María Josefa (older sister of the King)
8. Younger brother of #5
9. Your guess?
10. Prince Don Antonio Pascual, King’s brother
11. Doña Carlota Joaquina, king’s older daughter
12. Prince Don Luis of Parma+
13. Princess Doña María Luisa, Charles IV daughter
14. Baby of #13
... The plot thickens
• In 1806 Napoleon tricked Godoy, our friendly Prime Minister, to allow him to enter Spain.
• He claimed to be on his way to Portugal and had friendly intentions towards Spain.
• It didn’t take long for the Spaniards to realize that Napoleon had different intentions.
• On March 19, 1808 Charles IV abdicated, his son Ferdinand VII took over.
Ferdinand VII was twice King of Spain: in 1808, from April to May when he abdicated, and again from 1813 to his death. He was known "the Desired" (el Deseado) and to his detractors as the "Felon King" (el Rey Felón). He reestablished the absolutist monarchy and rejected the liberal constitution of 1812.
Riots at Puerta del Sol
(May 2)
El 3 de mayo - May 3
**Pepe Botella - The drunkard king**

- On June 6, 1808, Napoleon put his brother Joseph Bonaparte, on the throne of Spain.
- In Spain, the Courts of Cadiz convened on September 25, 1808, to form a constitutional government in opposition to the French. It was Spain’s first opportunity to be under a democratic government.

*Portrait of King Joseph I;* by Joseph Flaugier, ca. 1809, 109x96.5cm, National Art Museum, Cataluña.
Viva las cadenas - long live the chains or hurray for the chains

• In 1812 the Duke of Wellington defeated the French troops and Spain was free to continue on the democratic course set by the Courts of Cadiz, instead the people asked for Ferdinand VII.
Pinturas negras - Black Paintings

• 1819, having survived the questioning of the Inquisition because of some of his paintings, Goya bought a house which was to be known as the *Quinta del sordo, the ‘House of the Deaf Man,’* and vented his disenchantment by painting (on the walls) a series of macabre paintings based on mythological themes.
Saturn devouring his son
1821/23, mural transferred to canvas, 146x83 cm, Museo del Prado
Romería a San Isidro - Pilgrimage to San Isidro

1821/23, mural transferred to canvas, 146x483 cm, Museo del Prado
The aftermath

• In 1823 disenchanted and fearful for his life, Goya petitioned the king, Ferdinand VII, to be allowed to leave Spain and settle in Bordeaux to take advantage of the thermal baths there.

• Based on some of the latest paintings, he got a little of his old spark.
La lechera de Bordeos—The Milkmaid of Bordeaux
1827, oil on canvas, 74x68 cm, Museo del Prado
Epilog

• Goya died April 16, 1828.
• Was interred in the cemetery of the Chartreuse of Bordeaux.
• In 1901, at the request of the Spanish government, his remains were moved to a grave beneath the floor of the church of San Antonio de la Florida in Madrid, Spain.
• When he was disinterred to be moved from France to Spain, the skull was missing, and has not been located yet.
More portraits
Doña Isabel Cobos de Porcel
1805, oil on canvas, 82x54.6, National Gallery, London
... and self portraits
Religious Paintings
America’s Tribute
Don Antonio Noriega
(high treasurer under Charles III)
1801, oil on canvas, overall: 102.6 x 80.9 cm,
Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art
AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES

Universal Postal Union

The Treaty of Berne, October 9, 1874, greatly improved delivery of mail beyond national borders.

Concept of what was to become the Universal Postal Union is credited to Montgomery Blair, U.S. Postmaster General under President Abraham Lincoln, and to Blair's Deputy Postmaster General, John A. Kasson.

Uniformity of postal costs was a major feature of the treaty. For example, sea postage had been based on the route and the nationality of the ship carrying the mail. Mail from the U.S. to Australia might travel by any of six routes at costs varying from five cents to $1.02 per half ounce.

Today, 159 members of the UPU, an agency of the United Nations, cement worldwide communications.

Many UPU member nations are issuing stamps to commemorate the 100th anniversary of this vital treaty.

The United States stamp issuance is a block of eight incorporating details from masterpieces with letter reading or writing themes.

The words "Letters mingle souls" are excerpted from a verse-letter that English poet John Donne sent to Sir Henry Wotton. The sentence is: "Sir, more than kisses, letters mingle souls. For thus, friends absent speak."

The stamps were designed by Bradbury Thompson of Riverside, Connecticut. The engravings were executed by master craftsmen.
Muchas Gracias!