

# THE COURAGEOUS MOOR GAZUL IS THE FIRST ONE TO LANCE BULLS PROPERLY

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: BULLFIGHTING(PRINTS AND DRAWINGS , 1814-1816) (5/46)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1814 - 1816
DIMENSIONES	246 x 353 mm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Agua fuerte, aguatinta, punta seca y bruñidor
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	01 Oct 2021 / 22 Jun 2023
INVENTARIO	964 -

## INSCRIPCIONES

5 (print, upper right-hand corner)

## HISTORIA

See *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside*

A state proof made before the aquatint was applied is preserved. Harris mentions proofs prior to the first edition with similar characteristics to this state proof.

The plate is kept at the National Chalcography.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

See *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside*

The print is part of the subgroup, within the group of "historical" scenes of bullfighting (Nos. 1-11), dedicated to the bullfighting of the Moors (Nos. 3-8 and 17). It depicts a fight scene between the Moor Gazul, who is on horseback, and a bull that is charging him. Gazul is stabbing the bull with both hands with a spear that pierces through the bull's lower part. The horse has one of its hind legs practically bent and is turned, looking at the bull. Goya uses a marked contrast of light, with very marked light and shadow, against a totally white background.

Gazul has been depicted as a Turk or Mamluk of the Napoleonic army. There is no agreement on the historicity of this character, who some authors place at the court of the king of Seville in the years 1050-1090, and others relate to legendary Moorish romances set in Granada in the 15th-century.

Lafuente Ferrari classifies this scene among those that narrate the beginnings of bullfighting and considers that it would illustrate the famous bullfighting text by Nicolás F. de Moratín, as well as comparing the posture of the protagonist with that of *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside*.

Martínez-Novillo links this print with others of a chivalric theme, such as *Charles V lancing a bull in the bullring of Valladolid*.

Several authors, including Harris, Gassier and Lafuente Ferrari, state that there is a previous drawing of this print, also entitled *The courageous Moor Gazul is the first one to lance bulls properly*, which belonged to Yriarte and was published in the magazine L'Art (1877, volume II, p. 79), but whose whereabouts are unknown at present.

Tomlinson relates the print to Manet's painting *Victorin Meurent in Sword Costume*, in which the scene of the engraving appears in the background of the portrait.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

There are certain bald spots on the blacks, especially on the bull, which can be seen in the printings from 1855 onwards and which are probably related to some accident on the plates or to clumsily executed retouches.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Grabados y dibujos de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1946

catalogue Elena Páez Ríos

##### **Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional. Exposición de grabados y dibujos en el sesquicentenario de su muerte**

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1978

May - June 1978

##### **Grabados de Goya: colección propiedad de la Biblioteca Nacional, que se conserva en su Gabinete de**

Casa de la Amistad de Moscú Moscow 1979

exhibition displayed from January 18th to 31st 1979

1984

Madrid 1987

Madrid 1990

##### **Goya grabador**

Fundación Juan March Madrid 1994

consultant editors Alfonso E.

Pérez Sánchez and Julián

Gállego, from January 14th to

March 20th 1994

##### **Goya grabador**

Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo

Marbella 1996

from March 8th to May 5th 1996

Zaragoza 1996

**Schloß der Vernunft**

Madrid 2002

Madrid 2002

**Schma der vernunt.  
Original radierungen von  
Francisco de Goya**

Munich 2000

Bilbao 2012

Munich 2000

Zaragoza 2017

Munich 2000

**BIBLIOGRAFÍA**

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XIX (75)  
1946

HARRIS, Tomás  
vol. II, 1964, pp. 318, cat. 208  
1964  
Bruno Cassirer

**Vie et ouvre de Francisco  
de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
p. 277, cat. 1157  
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Office du livre

**Goya, toros y toreros**

GASSIER, Pierre  
p. 88, cat. 19  
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Ministerio de Cultura, Comunidad de Madrid

MARTÍNEZ-NOVILLO, Álvaro  
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Miguel  
pp. 48-50  
2001  
Museo Nacional del Prado

**Goya. In the Norton Simon  
Museum**

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet  
pp. 186-201  
2016  
Norton Simon Museum

**PALABRAS CLAVE**

**TOROS TOREO CABALLO LANZA LANCEAR MOROS MAMELUCO**

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**