

# FIVE FIGURES OF MEN.

CLASIFICACIÓN: DRAWINGS

SERIE: FLAXMAN PRINTS (DRAWINGS, CA.1802-1805)



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## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1795

UBICACIÓN

Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid, España, Madrid, Spain

DIMENSIONES

158 x 260 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

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FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

18 Aug 2021 / 25 Apr 2023

INVENTARIO

853 Inv. DIB/15/8/23

## INSCRIPCIONES

Provenance stamp of the Carderera Collection (ink stamped, lower centre)

## HISTORIA

The drawing passed by inheritance in 1828 to Javier Goya, the painter's son, and in 1854 to Mariano Goya y Goicoechea the artists grandson. It was subsequently owned by Valentín Carderera (ca. 1861). In 1867 it was acquired, along with the rest of the series and other drawings from the Carderera Collection, by the National Library of Spain.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

John Flaxman (York, 1755-1826) was an English sculptor, illustrator and cartoonist. He lived for several years in Rome, where his work became increasingly inspired by the art of ancient Greece. In addition to sculptures, he produced excellent drawings, characterised by figures

with pure lines, executed for editions of *The Iliad*, *The Divine Comedy* and the tragedies of Aeschylus. Goya, inspired by the Englishman's work, produced a series of six drawings that are difficult to date.

However, the one entitled *Three Groups of Figures and between them a Moder in bed with her baby* provides a clue to the possible dating of the series, as there is an inscription on the lower right-hand side of the paper that reads January 1795, most likely Goya's autograph. It is known that Flaxman's drawings to illustrate Dante's *Divine Comedy* were engraved in Rome by Piroli, who made a short initial print that was already finished in July 1793, and it can be affirmed that Goya was aware of Flaxman's work shortly after it was published, judging by the date on his drawing, which would correspond to its execution. If Goya had known about the second edition of the engravings, his drawings would have to be dated from 1802.

All the drawings in this series were executed on the same type of thin, beige laid paper of similar dimensions.

According to Gassier, in this drawing Goya copied the figures that appear in different engravings by Flaxman and which illustrate Dante's Inferno, confirming that the Aragonese artist did not intend to compose a coherent scene, but rather a kind of study of new forms related to the purification of lines and a rigorous stylisation of the human silhouette.

#### EXPOSICIONES

Madrid 1922  
cat. 189 B

**Grabados y dibujos de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**  
Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1946  
catalogue Elena Páez Ríos  
cat. 177

**Goya. Gemälde Zeichnungen. Graphik. Tapisserien.**  
Kunsthalle Basel Basle 1953  
from January 23th to April 12th  
1953

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

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1978

May - June 1978  
cat. 168

#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA

**Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
p. 195, cat. 760  
1970  
Office du livre

SYMMONS, Sarah  
pp. 508-512  
CXIII, 822  
1971  
The Burlington Magazine Foundation

**Dibujos de Goya, 2 vols**

GASSIER, Pierre  
p. 513, cat. 340  
1975  
Noguer

PÁEZ RÍOS, Elena  
p. 47, cat. 168  
1978  
Ministerio de Cultura

<http://catalogo.bne.es>  
18-03-2011  
Biblioteca Nacional

#### PALABRAS CLAVE

**JOHN FLAXMAN CAPA SOMBRERO DANTE LA DIVINA COMEDIA INFIERNO DE DANTE**

#### ENLACES EXTERNOS