

Date painted and provenance

**Francisco de Goya (Fuendetodos,
Zaragoza, 1746 - Bordeaux, 1828)**

Don Pantaleón Pérez de Nenin

1808

oil on canvas

206 x 124.7 cm

inv. no. 444

At the current moment it is believed that the date that appears in the inscription on the scabbard, together with the signature and name of the subject, is correct. Nevertheless, over the years it has been questioned on various occasions.

In the catalogue of works belonging to Banco Exterior in 1979, Xavier de Salas argued that the colouring —especially in the reds— was more common in later works by Goya, like the portraits he made between 1810 and 1814 of King Joseph Bonaparte, General Wellington and King Ferdinand VII. Both here and in the later catalogue in 1981, the canvas was attributed the date of between 1814 and 1815, the time when it was thought that he had reached the military rank of the uniform he is wearing in the portrait. Nevertheless, two years later, in the light of new research and thanks to the collaboration of the subject's descendents, 1776 was proposed



as the date of birth of Don Pantaleón, and it also claimed that the work was made in 1808, “when he would be 32 years old, the age in the painting”. With respect to his decommission, Glendining dated it as February 1806 and Juan J. de Luna in 1808, and Manuela Mena agreed with the latter.

In light of the existing documentation, it seems that the work was begun in Madrid in 1807, when he was still in the Queen’s regiment of hussars and accompanied the court on all its movements, and was finished around February 1808, when he received his decommission. As the uniform, of an active officer of the regiment, was fur trimmed it would seem to confirm that the work was made during the winter of that year, possibly in January 1808.

About its provenance, the painting, inherited by Pérez de Nenin’s nephews, belonging to the Labat y Sives family from Santander, has been documented since 1913 as the property of Pedro Labat y Arrizabalaga.

Banco Exterior acquired the work in 1961 from the great-great-grandchildren of Laureana, Don Pantaleón’s sister, and thus entered the collection.