

Euskadi: St. Ignatius of Loyola (The Basque)

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St. Ignatius

- Founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuit Order)
- Patron Saint of the Basques

Peter Paul Rubens, Flemish, 1577-1640. c. 1620-22. Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Place: Norton Simon Museum of Art at Pasadena, Norton Simon Art Foundation. https://library-artstor-org.dist.lib.usu.edu/asset/AWSS35953_35953_41383423.



Neglected Heritage

- Well-recognized by Basque people as one of their own
- Unknown to many outside of the Euskara thanks to Francisco Franco's anti-Basque persecution
- Can we see the influence of Ignatius' Basque heritage on his life and work?



Robert Capa. 1937. SPAIN. Spanish Civil War (1936/9). The Spanish Civil War broke out in 1936, when part of the Spanish army rebelled against the Second Republic, a democratic government elected in 1931. It gained international dimensions when Fascist Germany and Italy began supporting the military uprising, led by General Franco, with weapons and soldiers. The USSR helped the Republic, and a significant contingent of volunteers joined the International Brigades and fought for the Republic. The conflict became the symbol of a larger conflict between Fascists and Communists. The war ended in 1939 with Franco's victory over the Republicans. SPAIN. Bilbao. May 1937. Basque region. Running for shelter during the air raids.. https://library-artstor-org.dist.lib.usu.edu/asset/AMAGNUMIG_10311568354.

Cultural Clues



- Ignatius was raised speaking only Euskara (the traditional Basque language) as a young boy, resulting in a difficulty speaking and writing in other languages.
- Contemporary literary hints, including references to Basque clothing, dances, and traditions.

• Brockhurst, Gerald Leslie. 20th century. Basque Boy. Print. Place: City University of New York, Current location: NORTH ACADEMIC CENTER, Rm 5/301, New York, NY. https://library-artstor-org.dist.lib.usu.edu/asset/ACCNIG_10313166300.

A Choice of Successors

- Francis Xavier, devoted follower and fellow Basque.



MIGUEL CABRERA. SIGLO XVIII, Image: 1991. SAN FRANCISCO XAVIER/SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER. Place: COLECCION PINACOTECA VIRREINAL. https://library-artstor-org.dist.lib.usu.edu/asset/ASCHALKWIJKIG_10313990490.

A False Positive

- Jesuits often referred to themselves as the Army of God and are known in modern terms as “God’s Commandos.”
- Ignatius spent fewer than 10 days on the battlefield.
- However, his successors used the image to their advantage by accentuating the reputation of Basques as mercenary soldiers.

It is important to understand both the effect of Ignatius' Basque heritage on his life and the effect his life has had on modern Basque culture.

Significance

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