

Paul Ladd of World Christian Broadcasting interviews Mark Roglán, PhD, the Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum, Dallas, Texas.

(Music)

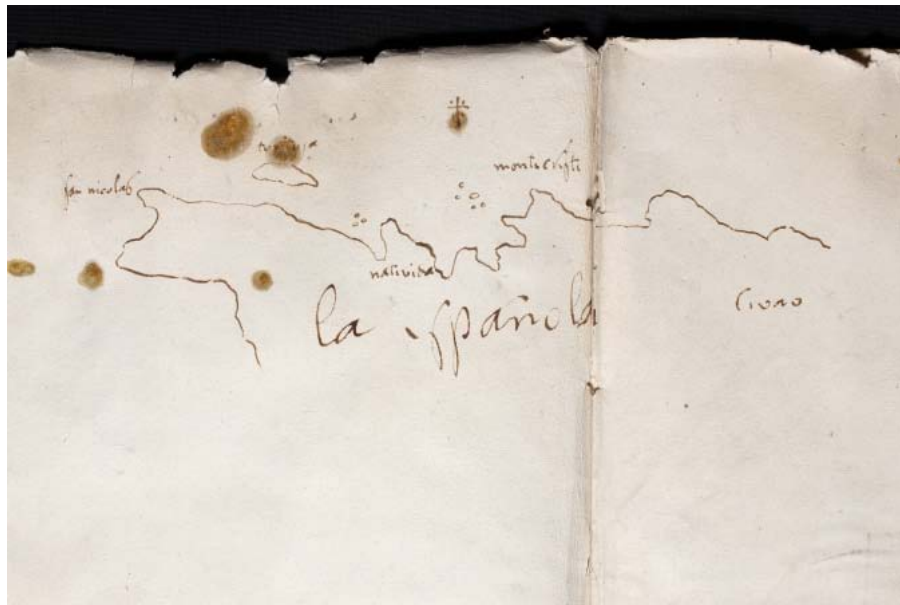
Paul Ladd: Pieces from a family art collection spanning 19 generations are being seen outside Spain for the first time. *Treasures from the House of Alba: 500 years of Art and Collecting* features more than 130 works dating from the ancient past to the 20th century. They're being shown at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville, Tennessee. Mark Roglán is director of the Meadows Museum in Dallas Texas and showed us around the exhibit. He says visitors will see a lot of art...

Mark Roglán: ...including a major works by Goya or by Rubens, or Titian and so forth, so I think that when it comes to old masters people especially love old masters and and tapestries from the 16th century or ugly furniture that was one seen in the Tuilleries (Palace) or the palace of Napoleon the third. Anyone that loves the fine art, I think, will be very surprised and very pleased with what they see.

Paul Ladd: The House of Alba has long been one of Spain's prominent noble families with close ties to the Spanish monarchy. Roglán says the family has

diverse tastes in art, and *Treasures from the House of Alba* shows *only* the highlights.

Mark Roglán: This is like the *crème de la crème*. This is the really the top art that they house, and it's really in three large palaces in Spain, so yes, it's decorating the walls of all these palaces along with the great silver collections and Sevres porcelain collections, tapestry collections and also the library all *those* documents. Christopher Columbus's documents. How many times are you able to see the hand of Christopher Columbus laid on a piece of paper? The first map that he did when he did that interesting trip in 1492.



Christopher Columbus's logbook of the Voyage of Discovery of the New World. Map of La Española (detail), 1492 (?).
Paper, covered in parchment, double folio. Dukes of Alba Collection, Columbus Vitrine, Liria Palace, Madrid

Paul Ladd: One of the pieces on display is a table once owned by Napoleon the third of France. During the Spanish Civil War the country's dictator Francisco Franco took it for his own use...

Mark Roglán: And when the Duke of Alba, who was ambassador of Spain and London came back after the war, he went to see Franco and he saw the table there and told him that the table was his. Franco said 'How can you prove that?' and basically, the Duke of Alba let him know that there was like a device in the table that I would open a secret compartment and all these Alba documents came out and basically that proved the table was his so Franco gave it back and but before doing so he made a copy which he used his entire regime.

Paul Ladd: The family is passionate about art, and Roglán tells us that's why the works in this exhibit are very well preserved. Among his favorite pieces on display is a painting...

Mark Roglán: The portrait of the Duchess of Alba in White by Goya. That full-length portrait is just one of the greatest portraits ever done by this great master. And he did over 200 portraits in his life.. but this one really stands out ... the way she's posing... how the whites and with such a short number of colors he's able to

depict all the personality of the sitter in such a beautiful way. It is just a great Goya. It is still in the family that commissioned the painting in 1795.



Francisco de Goya y Lucientes (Spanish, 1746–1828). *The Duchess of Alba in White*, 1795.
Oil on canvas, 75 5/8 x 51 3/16 in. Dukes of Alba Collection, Liria Palace, Madrid

Paul Ladd: And there's also the Alba Bible

Mark Roglan: I mean we're talking about the first Bible ever translated from Hebrew directly to Spanish, and that happened 1430. That's a very early translation. It is one of the three earliest translations of the Bible from Hebrew to any Romance language.

Paul Ladd: If you visit *Treasures from the House of Alba*, Roglán notes that you'll see works that have been collected by the same family over centuries, which in itself is unusual, and he thinks that *you'll* find something in the collection that moves *you*.

Mark Roglán: Some people love paintings, so there's plenty of Italian paintings, Flemish paintings, Netherlandish paintings and many Spanish paintings, so anyone that loves European art and (loves paintings) from all periods, I think will have something to remember when they come see this exhibition.

Paul Ladd: FristCenter.org is the place to learn all about Treasures from the House of Alba. That's Fristcenter.org, and Frist is spelled F-R-I-S-T .

Paul Ladd, Nashville.

(Music)