

COLNAGHI

Est. 1760



Pau Roig

(Premià de Mar 1879 - 1955 Barcelona)

To Mr and Mrs Segarra and Julia.

Have a nice trip

watercolour and pencil

20 x 16 cm.;

7 7/8 x 6 1/4 in.

signed and dated lower right:

P. Roig / 1901

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Pau Roig i Cisa was a Catalan painter and engraver. Although he studied business administration, he turned to art, and in 1894 enrolled at the Barcelona School of Fine Arts (Llotja). For two years he studied under the painter Francesc Torrescassana and completed his training with a trip to Madrid, where he visited the Prado Museum, attracted mainly by Velázquez.

At a very young age he won a competition for the covers of the Catalan satirical weekly *L'Esquella de la Torratxa* (1898) and painted three Art Nouveau murals for the Barcelona music shop Cassadó & Moreu (1900). He then followed the same course of most Spanish artists of the time and travelled to Paris. During his early years in Paris, he drew for magazines such as *L'Assiete au Beurre*, *Le Rire* and *Frou-Erou*. These drawings, along with others with folkish scenes, were exhibited by Roig in numerous Salons in Paris, including the Salon des Orientalistes and the Salon des Indépendants, in which he took part between 1902 and 1911.

Pau Roig was noted for his intaglio engravings and lithographs, strongly influenced by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. Between 1923 and 1932, Roig worked in etching, but he was forced to abandon engraving because of his poor eyesight and devoted himself exclusively to painting. Even so, Toulouse-Lautrec's work continued to influence him, especially the posters he made to promote cabaret shows, as well as the small drawings he made during such shows, which are crucial to our understanding of this particular work.

This splendid watercolour is dedicated to Messrs Segarra and Julia, probably friends of the artist. Painted during his stay in Paris, it may have been intended as a kind of souvenir for those friends to whom he wished a good trip. Following in Toulouse-Lautrec's footsteps, he probably painted it during a show, and it is likely that the sitter depicted is the same Julia mentioned in the dedication.