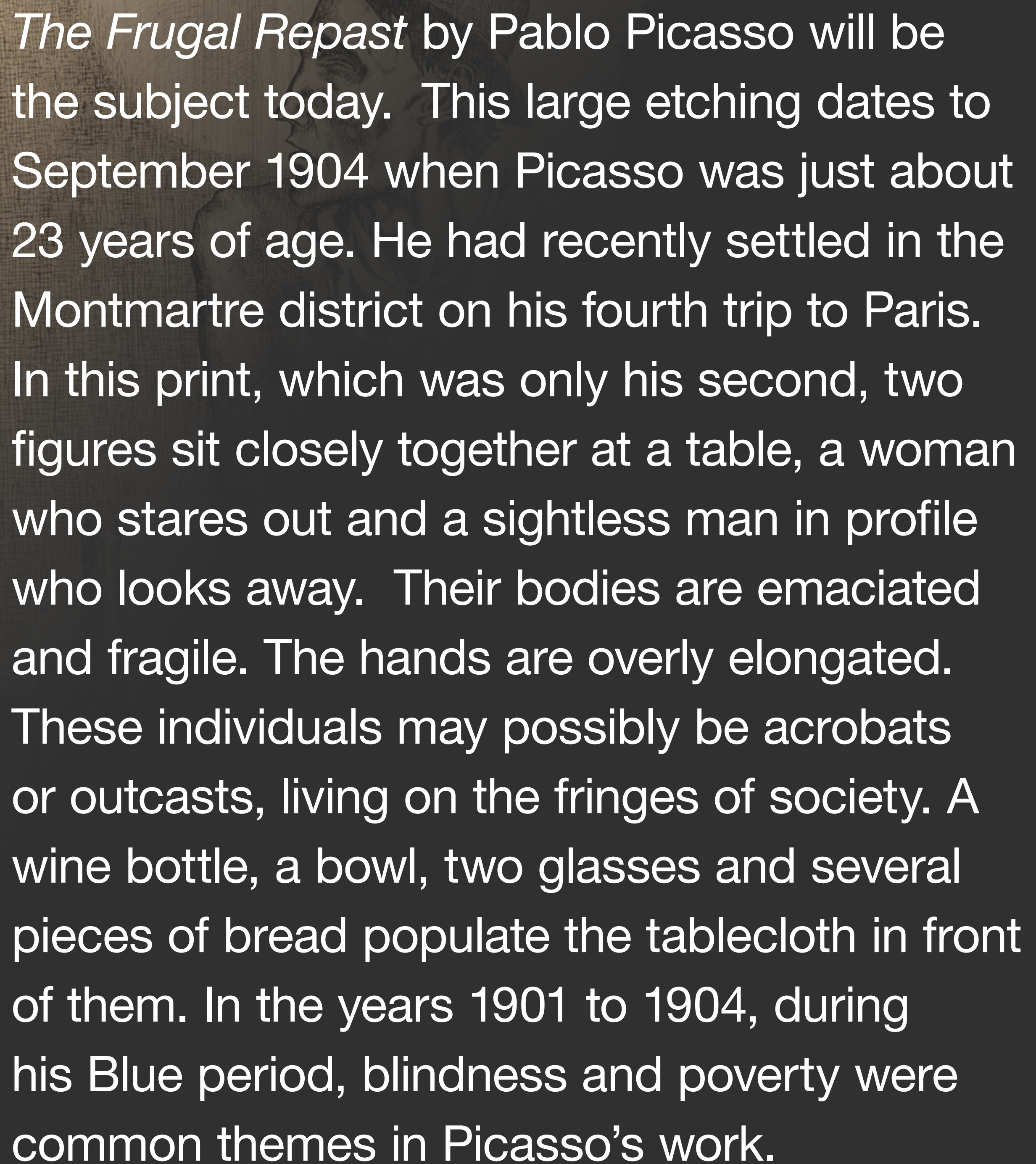
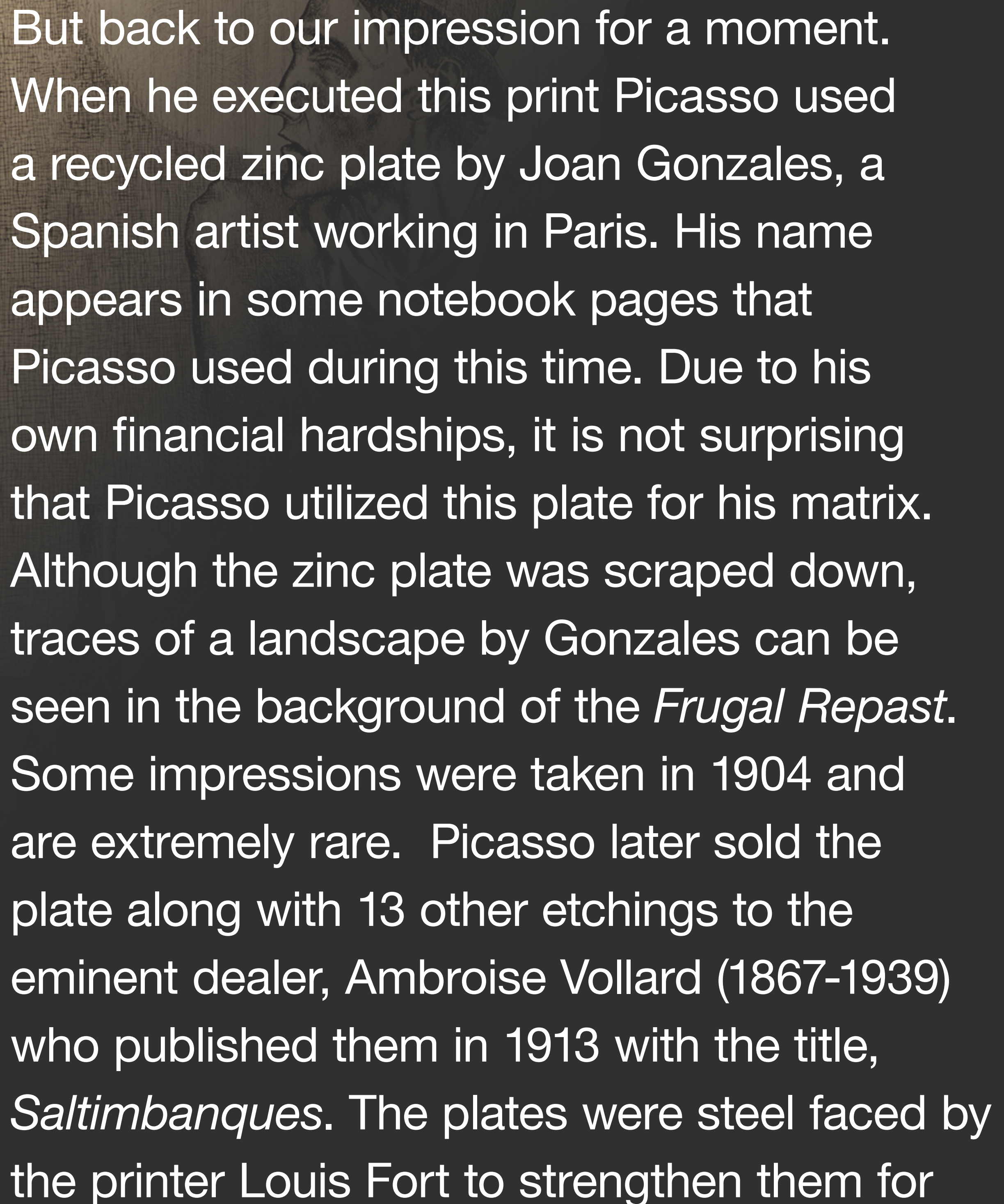


MASTERPIECE
MINUTE





The Frugal Repast by Pablo Picasso will be the subject today. This large etching dates to September 1904 when Picasso was just about 23 years of age. He had recently settled in the Montmartre district on his fourth trip to Paris. In this print, which was only his second, two figures sit closely together at a table, a woman who stares out and a sightless man in profile who looks away. Their bodies are emaciated and fragile. The hands are overly elongated. These individuals may possibly be acrobats or outcasts, living on the fringes of society. A wine bottle, a bowl, two glasses and several pieces of bread populate the tablecloth in front of them. In the years 1901 to 1904, during his Blue period, blindness and poverty were common themes in Picasso's work.



But back to our impression for a moment. When he executed this print Picasso used a recycled zinc plate by Joan Gonzales, a Spanish artist working in Paris. His name appears in some notebook pages that Picasso used during this time. Due to his own financial hardships, it is not surprising that Picasso utilized this plate for his matrix. Although the zinc plate was scraped down, traces of a landscape by Gonzales can be seen in the background of the *Frugal Repast*. Some impressions were taken in 1904 and are extremely rare. Picasso later sold the plate along with 13 other etchings to the eminent dealer, Ambroise Vollard (1867-1939) who published them in 1913 with the title, *Saltimbanques*. The plates were steel faced by the printer Louis Fort to strengthen them for

the large edition of 250 impressions on Van Gelder wove paper. The SDMA print is from this edition, unsigned and unnumbered as published. Following the 1913 edition, the plate was cancelled with a series of crossed lines so it could not be re-printed.

Our impression was purchased from the Frank Perls Gallery in Beverly Hills on May 8, 1941. Perls who came from a family of art dealers, was a personal friend of Picasso. It is tempting to think that this impression may have been acquired by Perls directly from the artist.

Thank you for listening, this has been John with Masterpiece Minute, here at Virtual SDMA.

