



The Goya Girls

In the early years, Goya perfumes were bottled, labelled and packed entirely by hand, which was said to give the best possible finish. Although managerial posts were mostly filled by men, the majority of staff were women. A team of over 100 women would decant, label, box and pack the perfumes and associated cosmetics.

Whilst casual work was available, particularly at Christmas time, many women were loyal employees, working for Goya for many years. Some worked their way up through the ranks from packer, to checker and then supervisor.

An average working day on the production floor began at 8am. Work was interrupted for a mid-morning tea break and for an hour's lunch at 1pm. Work finished at 5pm. Staff were allowed to chat or listen to the radio whilst they worked. There was a staff canteen but employees had to pay for their own lunch.

Goya offered a staff benefits package which included a quarterly gift of goods for personal use, discounted rates for purchasing products and an annual staff dance. Goya was also one of the first companies to introduce a third week of holiday (when two weeks was still the norm).



Women bottled, labelled and packaged the perfumes by hand. In the 1960s some of the process was mechanised – a labelling machine was introduced – but much continued to be done by hand.



Women worked for Goya for many years, with some progressing from packer or bottler to checker and then supervisor.