

PRINTS AFTER JAN VAN DER STRAET – STAMPE.V.108

IDENTIFICATION:

Shelf mark: Stampe.V.108

Fund membership: Vatican Library, Fondo Antico

Object type: Volume

Title: STAMPE DI GIOVANN STRADA

Description: Large volume with brown leather binding, with golden ornamentation and lettering on the spine. The prints, 135 in total, are trimmed and glued onto the pages in different ways. Every print has a collocation number. The volume contains blank pages to make successive additions possible. Likewise, there are specific places reserved to allow the completion of series at a later time point. Another peculiarity, that is characteristic for the entire Fondo Antico, is the practice to use prints from different editions and copies, as to replace the missing original prints or to permit a comparison between the copy and the original.

CREATION:

The volume is part of the Fondo Antico of the Vatican Apostolic Library. The Fondo Antico is the precious prints collection established under Pope Pius VI Braschi (1775-1799). It contains more than 17,000 prints by artists from the 15th to the 18th centuries, bound in 161 large volumes and arranged according to schools. Thirty volumes of the Fondo Antico represent the "Flemish School". The prints were divided according to artist and subject on the initiative of the Milanese cardinal Giovanni Archinto (1736-1799), Prefect of the Apostolic Palace. He appointed the silversmith Bartolomeo Boroni (1703-1787) for the selection and subdivision of the prints.

Artist: Bartolomeo Boroni (1703- 1787)

Place: Vatican City

Dating: c.1775-c.1787 and following years

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:

Material: Leather, paper

Technique: Prints are trimmed and glued in hardcover binding

Measurements: 712 x 495 x 50 mm

Watermarks: Yes

SUBJECT:

- Religious subjects
- Allegories and personifications
- Histories
- Hunts and animal scenes

- Most important artists:
 - o Inventors: Jan van der Straet
 - o Engravers and publishers: Galle family, Wierix family, Sadeler family, Collaert family, Crispijn van de Passe, Pieter Jalhea Furnius, Karel van Mallery, Hieronymus Cock

OTHER INFORMATIONS:

Ex libris: No

Collector mark: No

Bookbinder: No

Inscriptions: No (except for allocation numbers, 1-135)

Old shelf marks: Yes

STATE OF CONSERVATION: Fair

- At the moment the volumes were assembled in the 18th century, a restoration was carried out for the prints in poor condition. Losses were substituted with perfectly matching paper. On these paper fillings, the missing traces of the prints were carefully complemented with pen and ink. This did not always happen accurately with respect to the original, but it is done in such a precise way that you do not notice the amendments immediately. For example, the print by Philippe Galle after Jan van der Straet, *Mountain goat hunt*, dated between 1578-1580 (*Stampe* V.108(88)) has lost its lower left corner. It has been substituted with a new piece of (old) paper, on which with pen and ink a simplified hatching pattern was drawn, as well as the signature of Jan van der Straet, that is partially lost. Further losses on the edges are substituted in the same way.
- For the restoration, they probably used recuperated paper acquired from ruined prints. This has the advantage that the filling paper is approximately from the same age, quality and color as the print itself.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Jatta, B. "La Stanza delle Stampe e la nascita delle collezioni grafiche della Vaticana," in: Jatta, B. (ed.), *La Biblioteca Vaticana e le arti nel secolo dei Lumi, 1700-1797 (Storia della Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, 4)*, 2016, 175-215.

RELATIONS: /

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