

Engraved print.

## AN EQUESTRIAN PORTRAIT OF OLIVER CROMWELL

**Olivarius Cromwell Exercituum Angliae Republicae Dux Generalis. Locum-tenens et Gubernator Hiberniae Oxoniensis Academie Cancellarius.**

**Author**
VAN DEN HOEYE, Rombout

**Publication date**
1650-1658].

**Publisher**
Rombout van den Hoye,

**Publication place**
[Amsterdam,

**Physical description**
Engraved print.

**Dimensions**
Image: 550 by 430mm (21.75 by 17 inches). Sheet: 580 by 435mm (22.75 by 17.25 inches).

**Notes**
An equestrian portrait of Oliver Cromwell, showing him against the backdrop of the River Thames and the London skyline, emphasising his importance and his control over the seat of power in the country. Charles I was executed in January 1649, and the Commonwealth was established. Cromwell’s titles are given at the bottom as leader of the armies of the English republic, interim

governor of Ireland, and chancellor of the University of Oxford (a title which he lost in 1657, giving the latest possible date of the print). The Latin poem at the bottom of the print lauds Cromwell for his achievements, calling him “regibus hic frater; populis pater” – “brother to kings, parent to nations”. Cromwell was motivated by the “vera religione”, the “true religion” of Protestantism. This would have been well received in the Netherlands; the Protestant Dutch Republic had recently concluded the Eighty Years’ War against Catholic Spain in order to gain recognition as an independent country.

Rombout van den Hoeye (1622-71) was a Dutch publisher and printmaker, who often published political prints. He would later publish a satire showing Cromwell aping the station of a king.

O’Donoghue and Hake describe the print as a reworked version of Haelweg’s portrait of Christian IV of Denmark, but Layard disputes this.

**Bibliography**

BM 1935,0413.210; Hunterian GLAHA 52123; Museum of London 46.78/821; Freeman O’Donoghue and Henry M. Hake, Catalogue of Engraved British Portraits preserved in the Department of Prints and Drawings in the British Museum, 6 vols (London, 1908-25), p.73; George Somes Layard, Catalogue Raisonné of Engraved British Portraits from Altered Plates (London, 1927), p.130.

**Provenance**

**Price:**

**Inventory reference:** 12325

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