

Second state, etching on laid paper, watermark of a crowned fleur-de-lys above three ermine tails, image size 705 x 486 mm, margins trimmed outside of plate mark, loss along the upper edge only just crossing the neatline, stitching holes along left edge, lightly browned.

ARCHBASILICA OF SAINT JOHN LATERAN

Veduta della Facciata della Basilica di S. Giovanni Laterano.

Author
PIRANESI, Giovani Battista

Publication date
after 1775].

Publisher

Publication place
[Paris,

Physical description
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Dimensions
749 by 525mm. (29.5 by 20.75 inches).

Notes
The Archbasilica San Giovanni in Laterano was a key monument of the Catholic Church, being the official seat of the Pope (as Bishop of Rome) as well as the oldest church in Europe. Alessandro

Gallilei designed the façade, completed in 1737, in a neoclassical style that was starkly at odds with the then eminently popular Baroque. Piranesi stresses, but does not amplify, the colossal scale of the church through comparison with the crowds of dwarfed bystanders. A rural landscape, populated with farmhouses and the remains of an ancient aqueduct, extends out behind the church into the background, reminding us that in Piranesi's time San Giovanni in Laterano sat on outskirts of a much smaller city than we know today.

Bibliography
Hind 122.2.

Provenance
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