



Engraved portrait.

PETRUS PLANCIUS

Petrus Plancius theologus et mathematicus insignis S.S. ministerio functus primum clam sub cruce in Flandria locis variis, post publice Bruxellis An. VI. postremum Amstelr.An.XXXVII

Author

DELFF, Willem Jacobsz; [after Michiel van MIEREVELT]

Publication date

1623

Publisher

Willem Jacobsz. Delft,

Publication place

Delft,

Physical description

Engraved portrait.

Dimensions

235 by 135mm. (9.25 by 5.25 inches).

Notes

As a Protestant minister, Flemish theologian Petrus Plancius (1552-1622) was forced to flee Brussels in 1585, when the city fell into the hands of Spain. Plancius settled in Amsterdam, where he began a cartographical career that would see him become one of the foundational figures in the Dutch

Golden Age of cartography. Studying Portuguese charts and forming friendships with the city's leading publishers and travellers, including the explorer Henry Hudson, who would travel to the New World several times in the early seventeenth century, Plancius expanded his knowledge of navigation, geography and mapmaking. Over one hundred of his maps and charts were drawn for the Dutch East India Company, which Plancius helped to found and of which he was the first hydrographer.

This portrait, showing the bald and bearded Plancius wearing a fur-trimmed coat, was made by Willem Jacobsz Delff in 1623. Delff engraved many portraits painted his fellow resident of Delft, Michiel van Mierevelt, during the first half of the seventeenth century. Beneath the portrait six lines of Latin verse read: "Te maris et terrae scriptorem, Plance, vagique / Aeris, admirans ora Batava videt. / Coelestisque viae doctorem voce jusque / Exemplis, summa cum ratione probat. / Undis et terris coeloque Batavia foelix / Monstratas a te si scit inire vias" ('Plancius, you scribe of the sea and land, and wanderer of the sky, the Netherlands look on your portrait with admiration. With the greatest reasoning, you show yourself a master of the heavenly path, in your speech as well as your actions. The fortunate Netherlands knows how to travel the paths set out by you, through wave and land and sky'). There is also a dedication explaining that this engraving was sent to Plancius by Antonius Fayus, a pastor and professor in Geneva.

Bibliography

BM O,5.21

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 17797