

POLAND DURING THE DELUGE

Nova Descriptio Totius Regni Polonici Nec Non Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae cum suis Palatinatibus Castellanis ac Confinis

Author
GUDICANUS, Augustinus

Publication date
1658.

Publisher
Johann Antonius Kinckius,

Publication place
Cologne,

Physical description

Dimensions
328 by 305mm. (13 by 12 inches).

Notes
A rare zoomorphic map showing Poland as an eagle, originally a folding plate bound in to Borussian author Augustinus Gudicanus' description of Poland, 'Polonia, sive nova regni Poloniae', published in Cologne in 1658.

Poland is drawn in the shape of a crowned white eagle, the national symbol. A white eagle supposedly landed in a tree to show Lech, the legendary founder of the country, where he should make his capital. It became the symbol of the royal family of Poland, and still appears on the coat of arms of the country. Gudicanus' decision to show the country as an eagle was probably influenced by

contemporary events. Throughout the 1650s the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth was in a state of national collapse, known as ‘The Deluge’. The commonwealth was at war with Russia and was occupied by Swedish armies. The beleaguered king, John II Casimir, lost the support of his nobility and his people.

Gudicanus’ book would have coincided with the Treaty of Hadiach, which sought to create an alliance between the commonwealth and the Ukrainian Cossacks in the south. The regions of Ukraina and Kosacki clearly fall under the wings of the eagle. The resulting kingdom would be able to repel invading forces. Although the Treaty was never fully implemented, it represents an important point in Polish history.

Scarce; we have only been able to locate two examples of this map (one with the book) for sale in the last ten years.

Bibliography

Thomasz Niewodniczanski, Imago Poloniae: Das Polnisch-litauische Reich in Karten, Dokumenten und alten Drucken in der Sammlung von Tomasz Niewodniczanski (Warsaw: Warta, 2002) vol.I, H1/6, p.40-41.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 12306

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