

Hand-coloured, engraved map, upper border with loss skilfully repaired in facsimile.

THE BREAK UP OF THE XVII PROVINCES

Comitatus Hollandiae Deuno Formâ Leonis Curiosè Editus a Nicolao Johannis Visscher Anno 1648.

Author
VISSCHER, Nicolas

Publication date
1648.

Publisher
Nicolao Johannis Visscher,

Publication place
Amsterdam,

Physical description
Hand-coloured, engraved map, upper border with loss skilfully repaired in facsimile.

Dimensions
470 by 580mm. (18.5 by 22.75 inches).

Notes
What the ‘Truce map’ made implicit – the break-up of the XVII Provinces – the Leo Hollandicus made terrifyingly explicit.

At the end of the 12 Year Truce, Claes Janzsoon Visscher published his ‘Leo Hollandicus’. In stark

contrast to his ‘Truce Map’, the Hollandicus depicts a lion rampant facing east and brandishing a cutlass, with the patriotic motto ‘Patriae Defensio’ (Defender of the Country), engraved upon the blade. Above the lion are depictions of Dutch citizens, with iceboats and wind carts, to the borders are vignettes of Dutch towns, with the coats-of-arms of the towns in the province of Holland, below.

Whereas Visscher’s ‘Truce Map’ celebrated the fruits of peace that came with the cessation of hostilities; the ‘Hollandicus’ highlighted the Dutch Republic’s determination to defend its new-found independence. The map also emphasises the breaking apart of the XVII Provinces, between the Republican north and the Spanish-controlled south.

Van der Heijden records only one example one institutional example of the third state, that in the Montreal State Library.

Bibliography
van der Heijden 23.3.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 2279

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