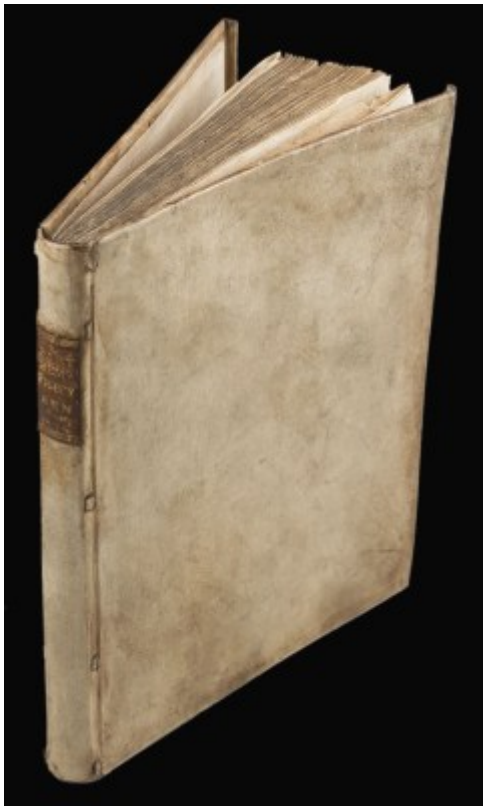


4to. Engraved frontispiece and 4 engraved plates, plates shaved, head of title-page reinforced, otherwise in good condition. Contemporary vellum.

Collation: [8], 56, “56” [= 60], 24, [2, 2 blank] pp.

THE FIRST EUROPEAN TO ENTER MECCA AND MEDINA

De uytnemende en seer vvonderlijcke zee-en-landt-reise van de heer Ludovvyck di Barthema, van Bononien, Ridder &c. Gedaen inde Morgenlanden, Syrien, vrughtbaer en woest Arabien, Perssen, Indien, Egypten, Ethiopien en andere.

Author
VARTHEMA, Ludvico di

Publication date
1654.

Publisher
Gerard Nieuwenhuysen & Willem Snellaert,

Publication place
Utrecht,

Physical description
4to. Engraved frontispiece and 4 engraved plates, plates shaved, head of title-page reinforced, otherwise in good condition. Contemporary vellum.

Collation: [8], 56, “56” [= 60], 24, [2, 2 blank] pp.

Dimensions

Notes
Second Dutch translation of a highly important and adventurous narrative containing the first recorded visit of a non-Muslim to Mecca. Ludovico di Varthema or Barthema (ca. 1468-1517) sailed from Venice to Egypt in 1502 and travelled through Alexandria, Beirut, Tripoli, and Aleppo, arriving in Damascus in April 1503. Here he enrolled in the Mameluke garrison and proceeded overland to Khaybar, Medina and Mekka, thereby becoming the first European to enter the two holiest cities of Islam. His travels took him to South Arabia, Shiraz (Persia), India, Goa, Cochin, and supposedly the Malay isthmus, Sumatra, Banda, the Moluccas, the Spice Islands, Borneo, Java and Malacca. He finally returned to Lisbon in 1508.

“Varthema’s Itinerario, first published in 1510, had an enormous impact at the time, and in some respects determined the course of European expansion towards the Orient” (Howgego). His account, moreover, contains a detailed description of Mecca and the Islamic pilgrimage, and four evocative plates (including an illustration of a Sati ritual).

Contrary to the statement on the title-page, this is de second Dutch translation; an earlier and rather elusive rendering had already been published at Antwerp in 1544. The present translation was made by Felix van Sambix de Jonge after Megiser’s German translation of the Italian. With a poem by Simon de Vries.

Bibliography
Tiele, Bibl., 1128; cf. Howgego V15; Lach I, p. 164-6.

Provenance

Price: £20000

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