



Double-page engraved map, hand-coloured in outline and heightened in gold, French text to verso.

THE VAN LANGREN LION

Leo Belgicus.

Author

VAN DER KEERE, Pieter

Publication date

[1622].

Publisher

Pieter van der Keere,

Publication place

[Amsterdam],

Physical description

Double-page engraved map, hand-coloured in outline and heightened in gold, French text to verso.

Dimensions

370 by 450mm (14.5 by 17.75 inches).

Notes

The map appears in Pieter van den Keere's well known work 'Germania Inferior' of 1617, and is the third incarnation of the Aitzinger form of the Leo Belgicus: the lion rampant facing right, with the right paw raised. The text to the verso acknowledges the lion's pedigree. Below the lion are depictions of Benelux nobility and gentry, and to the right, in an elaborate cartouche, the following text:

“A skilfully made geographical map representing the XVII Provinces of the Netherlands in the form of a lion, showing also the coats-of-arms of the provinces, their boundaries and their governors, as defined and appointed by the supreme authorities in 1559”.

The map was not in fact the work of van den Keere, but of Hendrik Floris van Langren, whose imprint can be faintly seen upon the present map. It would appear that van den Keere purchased the plate sometime after 1609, as van Langren is known to have lived and worked in Amsterdam up until that date. One should also note the cartouche text is almost identical to the language used in van Doetecum’s work, even though Langren’s map does not depict any of the governors.

The present example was published in the French language edition of 1622.

Bibliography

Van der Heijden 4.2 (noting three examples of the first state, one no longer traceable).

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 1913