Engraved globe gore with Italian text below and on the verso.

“HET NIEW HOLLANDT”

Untitled globe gore of the northern coastline of Australia.

Author
CORONELLI, Vincenzo Maria

Publication date
1696-1697.

Publisher
Vincenzo Coronelli,

Publication place
Venice,

Physical description
Engraved globe gore with Italian text below and on the verso.

Dimensions
380 by 280mm (15 by 11 inches).

Notes
This globe-gore was published in Vincenzo Maria Coronelli’s ‘Isolario’, and although not intended to be part of a globe itself, part of a brilliant marketing strategy that reused the engraved plates originally prepared for the globes, in atlas format.

This small, but powerful image, derives from a trio of gores printed for Coronelli’s second terrestrial

globe of 1692-1693, and clearly follows a post-Tasman view of Australia, bearing some considerable similarity to the map of New Holland by Melchisedech Thevenot. Text notes the discoveries of the Dutch, “Terra di Pietro Nuyts Scoperta l’anno 1627, 26. Genaro”. The portion of Australia visible here, is named ‘Het Niew Hollandt’ and, largely as a result of the positioning of the platemark, completely free and clear of the parts of Southeast Asia that it is often shown tangled with. A note, near the top of the map says that “some think this land is Marco Polo’s “Lochac”, because Polo had reported that “it was on “terra firma” (i.e. continental), it was isolated, and because his text, particularly Ramusio’s edition, implied a southerly location” (Suarez). Coronelli had been repeating this information on his maps and globe-gores since 1688, when he was so convinced that he included an elephant in the middle of the “red centre”. Other vignettes further reveal the depth of Coronelli’s misunderstandings, and include deer and windswept palm trees.

The text beneath the image, is a brief description of, New Guinea, “Nouva Guinea”.

The mapmaker
Vincenzo Coronelli (1650-1718) was an Italian cartographer and globe maker. He was apprenticed to a woodcut printer at ten years old, but then entered the Franciscan Order as a novice at thirteen.

In 1701, he was made Father General of the Order, but was removed from office by the Pope three years later after complaints from fellow clerics. Coronelli mainly lived and worked in Venice, but an opportunity arose to make his name when an early commission for two globes for the Duke of Parma brought him to the attention of the Cardinal d’Estrées, who summoned him to Paris to create two huge globes for Louis XIV. They each had a diameter of fifteen feet, and were built with trapdoors so they could be worked on from the inside. He was made royal cartographer to Louis XIV in 1681 as a result, and worked in Paris for two years. He collaborated with Jean Baptiste Nolin, who went on to become the French publisher for all of Coronelli’s work.

On his return to Venice, Coronelli was made cosmographer to the Republic, and granted a stipend of 400 florins a year. He printed globe gores in the ‘Libri dei Globii’ as well as producing pocket globes, and his large globe over a metre in diameter was owned by royalty across Europe. He issued the ‘Atlante Veneto’ in 1691, which was intended to be an extension of Blaeu’s atlas in three parts, covering hydrography and ancient and modern geography. One of the volumes was an isolario.

Coronelli was known as a careful scholar, and his work across Europe gave him access to the latest information. For example, he produced the first widely published European map of settlements in New Mexico, ‘America Settentrionale’ (1688), after being given the information by a former governor of New Mexico, Diego de Peñalosa.

Coronelli also founded the world’s oldest surviving geographical society, the Accademia degli Argonauti, who produced a printed version of the Paris globes. They were named for Jason and the Argonauts, the adventurers who set out to find the golden fleece; their symbol was the globe surmounted by a ship in full sail. A list published in the ‘Epitome cosmografica’ in 1693 reveals that the society counted princes, ambassadors and cardinals amongst its members. They were to receive a minimum of six copper engravings a month, creating a a guaranteed market for his productions. Before his death, he had managed to produce six volumes of what he hoped would be a comprehensive encyclopedia, the ‘Biblioteca universale sacro-profana’.

Bibliography
Literature: Clancy, ‘The Mapping of Terra Australis’, 2.13; Clancy, ‘So Came They South’, page 93; National Library of Australia, ‘Mapping our World: Terra Incognita to Australia’, pages 175-177; Tooley, ‘Mapping of Australia’, 352.

Provenance

Price:

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