



Folio (455 by 310mm) engraved title-page and 25 engraved double-page maps, title and maps with original hand-colour, each map with letterpress text on the verso, dampstaining throughout, some maps with minor loss to margins, all backed on japan paper, to preserve verdigris, later eighteenth century vellum, over boards, with morocco label, lettered in gilt.

THE FIRST FOLIO ATLAS OF THE NETHERLANDS

Germania Inferior id est, XVII Provinciarum ejus novæ et exactæ Tabulæ Geographicæ, cum Luculentis Singularum descriptionibus additis.

Author

KAERIUS, Petrus [Pieter van den Keere] and Petrus MONTANUS.

Publication date

1617.

Publisher

Pieter van der Keere,

Publication place

Amsterdam,

Physical description

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Dimensions

Notes

Pieter van den Keere dedicated the atlas of the Netherlands to the States General of the United Provinces. The text was written by Van der Keere's brother in law Petrus Montanus, while Petrus Scriverius, Daniel Heinsius and Petrus Bertius contributed with an introductory elegy and Latin and Greek poems. Van den Keere's maps were not entirely original. Some, including the famous *Leo Belgicus*, were printed from revised copperplates purchased a few years earlier at the auction of Cornelis Claesz. Others were inspired by maps by Abraham Ortelius, Gerard Mercator and Jodocus Hondius. The value of these maps of the provinces did not lie in their geographical originality but in a skilful mixture of exceptional engraving with a standardized way of showing town views and costumed figures, within the concept of the first national atlas.

The Lion map 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 sometimes be faintly seen upon the 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.

Bibliography

Koeman, "Pieter van den Keere, *Germania Inferior*, Amsterdam 1617," in: *Miscelleneae Cartographica*, pp. 67-83; V.d. Krogt, Koeman's *Atlantes Neerlandici*, 364:02; Schilder, *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica VII*, pp. 413-424.

Provenance

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