



Copper engraving.

THE "GALLY FUSTE" AND "EELL SCHIPES"

London.

Author

[MERIAN, Matthäus]

Publication date

c.1638].

Publisher

Matthäus Merian,

Publication place

[Frankfurt,

Physical description

Copper engraving.

Dimensions

image: 225 by 710mm. (12.75 by 28 inches). sheet: 337 by 750mm (13.25 by 29.5 inches).

Notes

A pre-Fire view of London and the Thames taken from a vantage point over Southwark. Matthäus Merian (1593-1650) was a Swiss engraver and published active in Germany. He moved to Frankfurt and worked for the de Bry publishing house, at that time run by Johann Theodor de Bry. Merian married Johann's daughter Maria, and took over the publishing house in 1523 after his father-in-law's death, before setting up as an independent publisher in 1526.

The plate was first used in 'Neuwe Archontologia Cosmica' by Johann Ludwig Gottfried, published by Merian in Frankfurt in 1638, but was also issued separately. It is based on earlier views by Visscher and John Norden.

Merian's view provides some insight into life on the river. The "gally fuste" (41) is the galley foist, the official barge of the city of London, used for ceremonial occasions by the Mayor. The "eell schipes" (40) nearby were Dutch merchant vessels; transporting live eels from Scandinavia in hold tanks full of muddy water. They would then anchor in the Thames and customers would row out to buy fresh eels. "Lion Kay" (27) was a busy water station, and ten years after this print was made James II, then Duke of York, would escape from there during the Civil War.

Bibliography

BM 1948,0315.1.3; RCIN 702202 (but ascribed to Merian the Younger); Scouloudi pp.42-44; V&A S.1113-1982.

Provenance**Price:**

Inventory reference: 12477