

Leen Helmink Antique Maps & Atlases

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Jamnitzer *[Sixteen etchings]*

Certificate of Authentication

This is to certify that the item illustrated and described below is a genuine antique map, print or book that was first produced and published in 1610, today 415 years ago.

January 6, 2025

Dr Leendert Helmink, Ph.D.

Cartographer(s)

Jamnitzer

First Published

Nuremberg, 1610

This edition

1610 first and only edition

Size

12.0 x 16.5 cms

Technique

Copper etchings

Stock number

19497

Condition

excellent



Description

Four sheets with legendary and iconic engravings/etchings, each sheet with four oval grotesques, depicting a total of sixteen scenes with mermaids, mermen, putti, sea horses and sea monsters. All drawn and copper-engraved/etched by Christoph Jamnitzer.

From *Neuw grotteßken Buch inventirt gradirt und verlegt durch Christoph Jamnitzer*, Nuremberg, 1610, one of the masterpieces of Baroque art.

Very rare.

The majority of copies of the book are preserved in public institutions. In 1979, Warncke counted seven complete copies in the libraries of the British Museum, Bamberg, Nuremberg, Stockholm, Vienna, Coburg and Wolfenbüttel. In Paris, the copy in the BNF and the two in the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts are incomplete by one or more plates. Of the copies cited by Warncke, only that of the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel is preserved in its original binding. Of the other three copies, perhaps still in private hands, the first two - the Versbow copy (Christie's Cat., April 9, 2013, no. 50) and the one offered by the bookseller Halwas - are incomplete by one leaf; a third, whose plates have been re-embossed, is incomplete by one printed leaf (dedication or privilege?) and in modern binding.

(Christie's)

Literature

Andresen, IV, pp. 244-264 ; Katalog Berlin, 32 ; Warncke, « Christoph Jamnitzers Neuw Grottesken Buch – ein Unikat in Wolfenbüttel », in *Wolfenbüttel Beiträge*, 3, 1978, pp. 65-87 ; Warncke, *Die ornamentale Grotteske in Deutschland, 1500-1650 : Text- und Bilddokumentation*, Berlin, Spiess, 1979, nos 926-988 ; Jamnitzer, *Nouveau livre de grottesques*. Introduction de Juliette Jestaz, ENSBA, 2012, passim.

Christoph Jamnitzer (1573-1610)

Grandson of the Nuremberg silversmith Wenzel Jamnitzer (1508-1585), known as "the German Cellini", and a renowned silversmith himself, Christoph Jamnitzer (1563-1618) is best known for his sumptuous Baroque goldsmiths. However, his name is also associated with the collection of ornamental motifs he published in Nuremberg in 1610. Intended for silversmiths and their apprentices, the *New Book of Grotesques* offers a collection of cartouches, medallions, candelabras and coiled leathers, more or less complicated with grotesque masks... Clumsy putti and hybrid monsters, each more improbable than the last, indulge in unbridled facetiousness, to the point where fantasy seems to take precedence over any didactic concern. The artist has thrown together a jubilant imagination, a phantasmagoria of rare invention, from which parody, irony and eroticism are not excluded. The result is a surrealist world before its time, where Bosch and Brueghel are joined by Grandville, Lewis Carroll and Max Ernst.