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Leo Belgicus

Stock#: 33161dc
Map Maker: Danckerts
Date: 1640
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Unrecorded edition of Hessel Gerritsz's Leo Belgicus, one of the most iconic cartographic images of the 17th Century.

The Seventeen Provinces mapped as a lion was first illustrated by the Austrian nobleman Baron Michael Aitzinger in 1583. This image of 'Leo Belgicus' proved very popular, with a number of other maps of the Low Countries in the shape of a lion (Leo Belgicus and Leo Hollandicus) published over the next 50 years.

The present example was first created in 1608 by Hessel Gerritsz and engraved by Jodocus Hondius. It is the prototype of one of the two major genre of Lion maps, this being the passive lion, facing to the left. The second pro-type, the rampant lion rampant facing to the right, was engraved by Hendrik Floris van Langren.

The publication history of the Gerritsz map is complicated, but involved the engraving of two nearly identical copper plates, each of which came into the possession of different publishing houses, resulting in a complicated lineage.

The present example includes the imprint of Cornelis Danckerts, rather than Hondius and was not located by Van der Heijden.

Detailed Condition:

Evidence of old folds