Print - St. Paul Preaching at Athens

Object: Print
Place of origin: Italy (probably, made)
Date: 1517-1520 (made)
Artist/Maker: Raimondi, Marcantonio (engraver)
Raphael, born 1483 - died 1520 (artist)
Materials and Techniques: engraving on paper
Credit Line: Bequeathed by Rev. Alexander Dyce
Museum number: DYCE.1013

Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level H, case DG, shelf 53

Public access description
This engraving is in the same direction as the cartoon from which it is derived but differs from it in some details. In this print Raimondi has provided a more urban background setting and turned the building behind St Paul into a ruin. The so-called Raphael Cartoons are seven full size designs for tapestries by the great Italian Renaissance artist Raphael (1483-1520). They illustrate passages from the Bible concerning the lives of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. None of them is smaller than ten feet high by thirteen feet wide. They belong to Her Majesty the Queen and have been on loan to this museum since 1865. The earliest print relating to the Raphael Cartoons dates from 1516, the year in which Raphael received final payment for the commission. It inaugurates an extraordinary case study in the history of printmaking, stretching over more than four hundred and fifty years and across a wide range of printmaking techniques.

Marcantonio Raimondi was the most admired engraver of his generation, active in Rome in the second decade of the sixteenth century. In a total output of around two hundred and fifty engravings, some fifty of them are based on compositions by Raphael. Their association is the most important example of a collaboration between a painter and a printmaker in the history of European printmaking. This is because to subsequent generations of art lovers both were revered as leading figures in their fields.

Descriptive line
St. Paul Preaching at Athens; from a cartoon by Raphael for the tapestries in the Sistine Chapel; engraving by Marcantonio Raimondi; Italian School; ca. 1516

Physical description
Saint Paul is on the left standing on steps preaching to a crowd. He stands in front of a building which is partially in ruins. Behind is a townscape and a rotund building with marble columns and niches, on top of which is a balcony with people standing on it. There is a statue of Mars just behind the listening crowd.

This print is in the same direction as the cartoon from which it is derived but differs in some details, such as the ruined building, the background, omission of statues in the niches of the rotunda and inclusion of people on the balcony.

Dimensions
Height: 27 cm trimmed, Width: 36 cm trimmed

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Object history note
From a design by Raphael for the tapestries in the Sistine Chapel, Vatican Rome.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1063091/st-paul-preaching-at-athens-print-raimondi-marcantonio/