Engraving


Date: third quarter 16th century (made)

Artist/Maker: Etienne Delaune (designed and engraved by)

Materials and Techniques: Engraving

Museum number: 29207:8

Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level D, case EO, shelf 14, box A

Public access description

This engraving is from a series by Etienne Delaune, depicting triumphal scenes of and battles. They were popular motifs in the Renaissance, repeated on Italian bridal chests and on French and Flemish tapestries in the 15th and 16th centuries. Engraved ornament of this kind would have been used to design decorative borders and friezes, and some was probably specifically intended for arms and armour.

This engraving shows eight satyrs and centaurs in battle, attempting to abduct women. In Greek mythology, a satyr was a wood-dwelling creature with the head and body of a man, and the ears, horns and legs of a goat; centaurs were half-human, half-horse.

Descriptive line

Etienne Delaune, plate from a suite of 4 entitled Combats et Triomphe. French, third quarter 16th century.

Physical description

Print showing a scene of satyrs and centaurs abducting women

Dimensions

Height: 6.8 cm, Width: 22.1 cm

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Object history note

Engraved ornament of this kind would have been used to design decorative borders and friezes, and some was probably specifically intended for arms and armour. The prints show a battle of savages, of lapiths and centaurs (half man, half horse) and satyrs (half man, half goat) and a comic battle of peasants. The processional triumph of Bacchus, the god of wine, includes his female worshippers, the maenads.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O114227/engraving-etienne-delaune/