Print - St. Jerome in the Wilderness

Object: Print
Date: after 1516 (made)
Artist/Maker: Unknown
Materials and Techniques: Engraving in ink on paper
Museum number: 29839A/4
Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level E, case I, shelf 14, box C

Public access description
Like his contemporary, Albrecht Dürer, Lucas van Leyden was internationally recognised within his lifetime and beyond. Giorgio Vasari, writing in 1568, praised Leyden's fine engraving style and his use of perspective. Fine quality early impressions of his prints are rare. Copper printing plates are capable of producing only one or two hundred fine impressions before the plate starts to wear down, especially with a fine line engraving style as Leyden's. Such was Leyden's reputation and his prints so sought by collectors that his original printing plates were kept and impressions taken from them long after his death, resulting in a larger number of surviving poor and worn impressions than fine ones. Numerous copies were also made from his originals, which satisfied demand when originals were not available or affordable and for collectors of images interested more in subject matter.

Descriptive line
Engraving, St. Jerome in the Wilderness, copy after Lucas Hugensz van Leyden (called Lucas Jacobsz); after 1516.

Physical description
St. Jerome kneels on the floor beside a tree looking up at a vision of Christ on the cross. He has a halo and is holding a rock in his right hand. A lion lies at the foot of the tree. In the background to the left can be seen a landscape with buildings.

Dimensions
Height: 15.2 cm max, cropped image, Width: 13.4 cm max, cropped image

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URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O180700/st-jerome-in-the-wilderness-print-unknown/