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## **Images for the music: drawings and secular cantatas**

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# 3. SIR JOHN SYMMONS AND THE LOST DECORATIONS

## 3.1 INTRODUCTION

A small volume preserved in Oxford at the Ashmolean Museum (cat. nr. WA1942.49) contains 32 pen drawings attributed to the renowned Florentine graphic artist Stefano della Bella (1610–1664). This volume, originating from the collection of Francis Douce (1757–1834), was bequeathed to the Bodleian Library in Oxford as per his will. Over time, many prints and drawings from his collection were transferred to the Ashmolean Museum.<sup>128</sup>

The drawings, though created by the same artist, do not share a unified subject matter. They include views of Rome, marine scenes, mythological and sea creatures, and genre-like representations. A distinctive feature of these drawings is the presence of fragments of musical compositions, both text and staves, on the verso of each leaf, penned by various hands.

In this chapter, I propose a reconstruction of the music manuscripts from which these drawings were extracted. This case study exemplifies how visual decorations, through their presence or telling absence, can reveal the collection history and contextual depth of 17th-century cantata manuscripts. Conversely, the decorations provide insights into the visual sources employed, suggesting a wealth of contextual information to be explored.

During my investigations it became evident that the album at the Ashmolean Museum contains intricate vignettes excised from miscellanea collections of cantatas now housed

in three separate libraries across Europe and Russia: the Stadtbibliothek in Hamburg (D-Hs ND VI 2263,1 D and D-Hs ND VI 2263,III), the British Library in London (GB-Lbl Add. 24311), and the National Library of Saint Petersburg (RUS-SPsc Fond 956 opis' 2 no. 247, olim Hs ND VI 2263,II). Remarkably, all four of these manuscripts share a common provenance. They were assembled in the extraordinary private library of Sir John Symmons (1745–1831), an English gentleman bibliophile whose ex-libris appears uniformly on the pastedown or guard leaf of each volume. Lastly, they were sold at Symmons's auction in 1828 and bought within a lot of five volumes by the organist Edward Hodges (1796–1867).<sup>129</sup>

These manuscripts currently exhibit paper patches where the original decorated initials once stood. On the recto, a simple pen-drawn letter now substitutes the lost vignette; the missing portion of music and text has been carefully recopied on the verso. Based on codicological evidence, watermark analysis, and comparative paleography, I will argue that the excision of the original drawings likely occurred at the end of the 18th or very beginning of the 19th century. The removal appears to have been executed with deliberation and technical competence, consistent with contemporary antiquarian practices of unbinding and reassembling fragments of interest for separate sale or album mounting.

After detailing the early provenance of the Ashmolean album, I will reconstruct the four source volumes. The discussion will include physical descriptions, analysis of the visual models for the drawings, and a contextual reassessment of their original function within the manuscripts.

By reconstructing these volumes, we gain a deeper understanding of their production and use and the collecting practices that shaped their

<sup>128</sup> Topper 2002, p. 49.

<sup>129</sup> Hodges's collection was then sold between the 4th and 5th of July 1864 by Puttick & Simpson in a collective sale. Coover 1988, King 2010.

transmission and dismemberment. This investigation reveals how 17th-century music manuscripts were entangled with broader histories of taste, antiquarianism, and material culture.

## 3.2 THE ASHMOLEAN ALBUM

The album at the Ashmolean Museum is bound in red Moroccan leather, with a golden geometrical border consisting of uninterrupted double-lined rectangles along the sides intersecting on the four corners. In the intersections are golden flowers. Within the rectangles is a decorative double spiral. The spine is divided into compartments, and on the second is the title: “DELLA|BELLA|DRAWINGS”. The spine is further decorated with a look-a-like fish skin motif created with intersecting lines. The folding of the leather secured to the cover is also decorated with a pearl-shaped iron, forming a golden chain around the border. This simple yet highly refined and elegant approach to binding can be dated to early 19th-century England, as is reminiscent of the workshop of Charles Lewis (1786–1836).<sup>130</sup>

The interior of the cover presents marbled paper, whereas the edges of the book have been gilded. The back of the cover is scratched, possibly with a sharp point; this defect, however, does not affect the integrity of the volume. The drawings are mounted from the sixth folio onwards, in paste-down. The pages are numbered in the top right corner in blue pen or graphite. The volume ends with five blank leaves. The thickness of the paper is not homogeneous: four drawings are in fact pasted on thick paper (namely folios 5, 6, 26, 27 and 30).

The sizes of the drawings are quite similar, with an average of 75 x 105 mm. Pen and black ink, sometimes with brownish shades, are the techniques employed for all the vignettes. All the drawings are enclosed in a double frame, with the external frame being slightly thicker and the internal traced in double lines.

### 3.2.1 ALBUM PROVENANCE

As the stamp on the first mounted drawing in the album attests, it once belonged to Francis Douce (L. 987), an eminent but also historically complex figure who was an antiquarian, collector, and curator at the British Museum between 1789 and 1811. His reputation as a collector was well-established among contemporaries: William Young Ottley (1771–1836), Keeper of Prints at the British Museum, praised the Douce collection for its rarity and intellectual value, even noting that Douce once owned the original woodblocks for Albrecht Dürer's (1471–1528) *Small Passion*.<sup>131</sup> Similarly, Jean Duchesne (1779–1855), Keeper at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, visited Douce's Cabinet in London and described it as a “most exquisite selection”, including 15th-century prints unnoticed even by Adam Bartsch (1757–1821).<sup>132</sup> Douce's collecting practices, which were eclectic and, at times, troublingly indiscriminate by today's standards, were nonetheless coherent expressions of his intellectual and aesthetic curiosity. His deep interest in medieval imagery, illuminated manuscripts, and marginal iconographies such as the *Dance of Death*, fools, grotesques, and decorative initials is well documented and culminated in the substantial bequest he made to the Bodleian Library in 1843.<sup>133</sup> This donation, celebrated in a 1984 exhibition marking its 150th anniversary,

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<sup>130</sup> The no-longer-accessible British Library Bindings Database (formerly accessible at [<http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/bookbindings/>]) provided images and catalogue records for historical book bindings in the Library's collections. As of 2024, the database is no longer publicly available following a

cyberattack that affected the British Library's digital infrastructure in late 2023.

<sup>131</sup> Ottley 1831.

<sup>132</sup> Duchesne 1834.

<sup>133</sup> Topper 2002.

illustrates the breadth and idiosyncrasy of Douce's taste, which can be situated firmly within the antiquarian culture of his time.<sup>134</sup> The exhibition catalogue offers an updated biography and an overview of the collector's print and drawing holdings, notably in section 6 (items 41–57). While Northern schools dominate, Italian printmakers are also represented in Douce's collection, indicating a broader graphic sensitivity that aligns with his interest in Italianate decoration.

The acquisition of the set of drawings examined in this case study fits within this context.<sup>135</sup> Douce's fascination with manuscript borders and decorated initials offers a plausible explanation for his interest in the drawings' ornamental qualities. Although Sir John Symmons – owner of the cantata manuscripts until 1828 – is not mentioned in Douce's surviving records, the possibility of indirect acquisition via dealers or fellow collectors, many of whom acted as intermediaries in an active and international market, cannot be excluded. Notably, names such as John Triphook (fl. 19th century), Thorpe (fl. mid-19th century), and William Young Ottley (1771–1836) appear frequently in Douce's notes. Douce's acquisition records show repeated transactions with primary London dealers, including William and George Smith (in partnership 1835–1848), who supplied him with prints by Dürer, Altdorfer, the Wierix family, and other Northern masters. Smith's name often appears alongside those of Colnaghi and Thomas Rodd (1763–1822), suggesting a vibrant and interlinked network of antiquarian suppliers. Rodd stands out not only for the volume and variety of materials he provided to Douce, from illuminated prayer books, prints and annotated armorial manuscripts, but also for the depth of their professional relationship. Rodd's name appears in dozens of acquisition notes between 1824 and 1830, often as

the source for lots that included rare drawings and Italian prints. Douce's trust in him was such that he remembered him with a legacy in his will and even commissioned him to produce a handwritten desiderata list of witchcraft literature, which Rodd later delivered to the Bodleian.<sup>136</sup> In this context, acquiring an album of decorated drawings – possibly unrecorded – through Rodd or one of his regular correspondents seems entirely plausible.

Furthermore, the presence in his collection of works by artists like Jacques Callot (1592–1635), whose professional and stylistic intersections with Stefano della Bella are well known, further suggests Douce's awareness of and appreciation for early 17th-century Italian and French printmaking.<sup>137</sup> In this light, the attribution of the Ashmolean vignette series to Della Bella, although not explicitly documented somewhere, may have been Douce's interpretative act—an aesthetic gesture shaped by his knowledge, tastes, and broader collecting strategy.

### 3.2.2 NOT JUST VIEWS OF ROME

The discovery that these drawings were originally vignettes excised from cantata manuscripts emerged gradually, and somewhat serendipitously. The first clue appeared in the Ashmolean Museum's online catalogue, which noted that the versos of the drawings were "inscribed in ink with part of a music score complete with lyrics." However, since the drawings are mounted on laid paper, the musical content on the reverse is only partially visible. When the pages are backlit, both text and music become clearly legible.

I typed these excerpts of text in the CLORI database, which revealed a striking pattern: the cantatas came from manuscripts in Hamburg and London that were missing initials. These had been

<sup>134</sup> Bodleian Library 1984.

<sup>135</sup> The Museum holds a typewritten copy of the manuscript acquisition diary of Francis Douce. I have no record of an inventory number.

<sup>136</sup> Topper 2002.

<sup>137</sup> Jameson 2018.

replaced with plain patches of paper bearing a simple pen-drawn initial on the recto and fully notated text and music on the verso.

Ultimately, I identified four manuscripts from which the drawings were removed: two currently held at the Stadtbibliothek in Hamburg, one at the British Library in London, and one formerly in Hamburg, but now housed in the National Library in Saint Petersburg.<sup>138</sup>

### 3.3 THE MANUSCRIPTS

During a visit to the Hamburg library, I discovered that the three cantata volumes originally held there had been looted by the Red Army during World War II and transported to Russia during the so-called “Operation Gomorrah”.<sup>139</sup> Of these, only volumes I and III were eventually repatriated to Germany, while volume II remained in Russia.<sup>140</sup> For this reason, some more recent studies mistakenly assumed this volume had been lost during the war.<sup>141</sup> The three Hamburg volumes entered the library in 1875, acquired from the private collection of Friedrich Chrysander (1826–1901), a key figure in 19th-century Handel scholarship.<sup>142</sup> In contrast, the volume now in London was donated between 1860 and 1861 by the English organist and musicologist Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876).<sup>143</sup> As it appears in the annotated sale catalogue of the sale of Symmons’s collection, all the music manuscripts for sale were acquired by the English organist and composer Edward Hodges.<sup>144</sup> As the sale of Hodges’s collection took place in 1864, it is likely that he ceded at least the Gauntlett’s volume

before that year, as the British Museum acquired it at the latest in 1861.

Despite sharing nearly identical dimensions, the volumes present different though contemporaneous bindings. D-Hs ND VI 2263,1 and GB-Lbl Add.24311 are remarkably similar. Although their leather is red-brown and green, they were tooled with the same decorative irons. Their compartmented design, featuring a central coat of arms, suggests they were bound in the Andreoli workshop in Rome during the late-17th century.<sup>145</sup> The arms, surmounted by a feathered helmet, likely belonged to a lay member of the Rocci family, although no documented connection between the Rocci lineage and these manuscripts has yet emerged.<sup>146</sup> The same coat of arms appears on a sumptuous manuscript now held at the Newberry Library in Chicago (US-Cn MS 5067), where its provenance traces back only to the collection of Madame de Pompadour (1721–1764).<sup>147</sup>

In his manuscript catalogue of the Hamburg music collection, Arrey van Dommer (1828–1905) notes that many cantatas were adorned initially with large, decorated initials. In some cases, these initials were never realized; in others, they were cut out and replaced with pasted patches bearing the copied music.

All of the 25 cantatas in D-Hs ND VI 2263,1 and GB-Lbl Add.24311 (13 and 12 cantatas, respectively) originally contained a vignette. I matched 24 drawings from the Ashmolean album to their respective cantatas, fully reconstructing the volume at the British Library (GB-Lbl Add.24311) and almost entirely rebuilding the first volume of the set in Hamburg (D-Hs ND VI 2263,1).

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<sup>138</sup> Giovani 2013, and ead. 2014.

<sup>139</sup> Alessandrini 2019; Karcovnik-Petrovna Rjzanova 2004.

<sup>140</sup> According to Alessandrini (2019): “[...] The arrival in 1991 of 2,227 manuscripts from Leningrad (St Petersburg) meant that about 90% of the seventeenth to eighteenth-century music manuscripts had now returned [...]”, p. 457.

<sup>141</sup> Charteris 1998.

<sup>142</sup> Valentin 1957.

<sup>143</sup> Charteris 1997, id. 1998, and id. 2002.

<sup>144</sup> The annotated catalogue is preserved at the library of the Wallace Collection Library in London.

<sup>145</sup> Hobson 1991.

<sup>146</sup> Nicolai 2008. I am very grateful to Dr. Nicolai for his information about the Rocci family’s archive.

<sup>147</sup> On the label pasted on the inner side of the cover: “[...] This manuscript is said to have come from the Library of Madame de Pompadour. [...]”

For the third volume of this collection (D-Hs ND VI 2263,III), I identified all five missing vignettes, each now replaced by patches. Three drawings come from the volume in Russia (Olim D-HS ND VI 2263,II).

After reconstructing the provenance of all the vignettes, the question of when the operation of cutting out and replacing the drawings occurred arose quite predominantly. According to the CLORI record of GB-Lbl Add.24311, this happened in the same period that the manuscripts were realized.<sup>148</sup> However, a close examination of the paper of the same volume revealed important clues. On the manuscript pages, I spotted different portions of recurring watermarks (on 65 pages), representing either the top or bottom part of lilies or three mountains. Not all the marks are complete due to the cut edges for binding. These marks relate to paper produced in Rome between 1650 and 1690. I soon realized that one of the patches substituting the original vignettes presented a watermark, or at least a portion of it. It is the beginning of the cantata “Come in Ciel dell’Aureo Crine” by Alessandro Stradella, on folio 45 (GB-Lbl Add.24311.05). It is a section of a larger mark presenting a coat of arms with a post horn, on top of which is a crown. The watermark ends at the bottom with two initials, a C and an S, intertwined, which appear on the page in question. This paper comes from the mill Curteis and Sons (Churchill 231), active from 1777 until circa 1800 in Surrey, a region located to the southeast area of London.<sup>149</sup> This watermark evidence points compellingly to the last decades of the 18th century. By that time, all four volumes were already in England and—crucially—unified within the vast private library of

Sir John Symmons, the collector whose ex-libris appears in each manuscript.

During a research visit to the archives of the Royal Literary Fund (RLF) at the British Library, I found examples of Curteis paper used in correspondence from the same period, directly supporting the hypothesis that Symmons himself may have overseen the substitution of the original vignette pages. In at least one case, the watermark on a patch in the manuscript perfectly matches the paper used by the RLF in the early 1800s.<sup>150</sup> This coincidence suggests a shared material supply and consolidates the link between the cantata manuscripts and Symmons’s custodianship.

Whether driven by aesthetic, economic, or bibliophilic motives, this excision most likely occurred while the volumes were housed in Symmons’s library, before their eventual dispersal at auction in 1828. Cutting out initials, plates, or decorations from manuscripts and books was common. Plates were sold at auctions separately and collected in albums. Francis Douce himself, the owner of the drawings at the Ashmolean since the 19th century, was acquainted with this practice and indulged in it too.

At the same time, one cannot entirely exclude that the excision of the drawings occurred at a later stage, after the 1828 auction, and perhaps before Douce’s death in 1834. Arguably, restorers in the nineteenth century sometimes used earlier paper stocks precisely in order to disguise the date of repairs. In this scenario, Edward Hodges could still have acquired the volumes intact, and the drawings may have been removed only in the years between

<sup>148</sup> “[...]The initial letter was cut out and replaced shortly after the manuscript was completed, as evidenced by the contemporary handwriting of the music recopied on the back of the new initial. [...]” <https://cantataitaliana.it/en/node/4414>. Author’s translation of the field “notes”. (Last accessed 12th May 2025).

<sup>149</sup> Shorter 1957 pp. 236-237, 260-261, illustrated on pp. 287-288.

<sup>150</sup> See letters from Carlisle to Symmons concerning the so-called *Nicholson affair* from May 21st 1815 and the letters thereafter until mid June of the same year. GB-Lbl Loan 96 RLF 1/45 (Due to a malfunction of the online catalogue of the British Library it is not possible to provide the exact signature of the letters).

1828 and 1834. My own examination, however, suggests that the patches were inserted primarily to preserve the musical text, rather than to deceive or repair. Their careless use of mismatched paper—often with chain-lines running in an opposite direction in respect to the orientation of the cantata folios—indicates that the replacements were functional rather than meant to deceive. Both possibilities remain open, but the material evidence supports a pragmatic rather than a falsifying intervention.

### 3.3.1 SIR JOHN SYMMONS AND HIS LIBRARY

Born into a landed family in Llanstinan, Pembrokeshire, John Symmons was the eldest son of John Symmons Sr. (1701-1771), and Maria Philipps (unknown dates) of the influential Picton Castle lineage. Despite this firmly Welsh inheritance, Symmons spent most of his adult life in London, quickly becoming embedded in elite intellectual, literary, and scientific circles. A member of the exclusive Noblemen and Gentlemen's Catch Club from 1783 (alongside the Prince of Wales and other high-ranking nobles), Symmons cultivated a reputation as a polymath, dilettante, and connoisseur.

His scientific credentials were substantial: he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1794, was a founding member of both the Royal Institution and the Linnean Society, and held membership in the Horticultural Society, Society of Antiquaries, and the Royal Literary Fund, to which he remained deeply committed as a benefactor and trustee. His Paddington House residence near Hyde Park became a hub of intellectual and botanical activity. There, Symmons maintained an extensive garden, catalogued in *Hortus Paddingtoniensis*, as well as a personal museum and an exceptional library of over 40,000 volumes and numerous

topographical drawings, maps, and early printed books.<sup>151</sup> Among his acquisitions was the entire print collection of the physician and anatomist Charles Combe (1743-1817), bought by private contract before it ever reached auction.

Symmons's social circle included Anthony Carlisle (1768-1840), the eminent surgeon, discoverer of electrolysis, and eventual husband to Symmons's daughter Martha (1780-?). Carlisle is now widely accepted as the probable author of *The Horrors of Oakendale Abbey*, a gothic novel attributed to a "Mrs Carver."<sup>152</sup> The novel's male protagonist, Lord Oakendale, bears several biographical and psychological traits that mirror Symmons's persona, suggesting that his complex character may have inspired the literary figure. The novel's themes of decay, secrecy, and macabre science align intriguingly with Symmons's documented interest in anatomical curiosities and funerary artifacts: one famous case notes his possession of the mummified corpse of a boy sealed in a vault since the 1665 plague.<sup>153</sup>

As a friend and correspondent of scientists like the botanist Joseph Banks (1743-1820), the philosopher William Godwin (1756-1836), the writer Richard Duppa (1770-1831), the anatomist John Hunter (1728-1793), and the Shakespearean scholar Maurice Morgann (1725-1802), Symmons also supported young scholars and writers through the Royal Literary Fund. His brother Charles Symmons (1749-1826), a respected poet and biographer of John Milton (1608-1674), and his niece Caroline (1789-1812), a promising poetess who died young, both link the family to literary culture of the time. Symmons's daughter Martha married Carlisle in 1800, further entwining the family in the currents of late-Enlightenment science and early-Romantic literature.

Symmons's vast collections, spanning botany, numismatics, music, and art, proved both a monument and a liability. Financially

<sup>151</sup> Salisbury 1797.

<sup>152</sup> Carver or Carlisle 1797; Cole 1952; Shelton 2019.

<sup>153</sup> Blumenbach 1794.

overextended, he was declared bankrupt in the 1820s. His possessions, including his celebrated library and artworks, were auctioned in 1828 in multiple sessions by Phillips of New Bond Street.<sup>154</sup> He then fled to the Low Countries, where he died in Tournai in 1831 at age 86, just days after composing a codicil to his will in an attempt to amend an earlier inheritance decision. His estate was valued at only £450, a pitiful remnant of the fortune that once allowed him to shape entire cultural networks.

Through his collecting and personal history, Sir John Symmons emerges as both an architect and a casualty of the 18th-century culture of collecting: a man who preserved and dispersed knowledge with equal fervor, and whose posthumous afterlife remains suspended between antiquarian respectability and gothic literary myth.

### 3.3.2 THE DISPERSAL OF BOOKS AND VIGNETTES

The dismemberment of the cantata manuscripts and the extraction of their decorative vignettes must be understood in the broader context of Sir John Symmons's collecting habits and the eventual dissolution of his library. A bibliophile of legendary proportions, Symmons amassed a private collection estimated at over 40,000 volumes, including works on literature, law, botany, music, antiquities, and the arts. The precise modalities of acquisition and, significantly, of deaccession, remain largely undocumented. Symmons may have acquired the cantata volumes through two possible channels. On one hand, the late-eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century British market for Italian

books was flourishing. Contemporary Italian observers deplored this constant outflow of works on paper, which were harder to regulate than antiquities or paintings, to the point that Pope Clement XI's edict of 1704 explicitly extended export bans to manuscripts and printed books.<sup>155</sup> On the other hand, Symmons could have obtained them directly during the Grand Tour he undertook in 1764, shortly after the death of his father.

By 1828, Symmons had fallen into financial ruin, a consequence of both his extravagant patronage and the unregulated generosity for which he was known.<sup>156</sup> That year, his entire collection was consigned to public auction. The sale, managed by Phillips of New Bond Street, lasted fourteen days and included multiple catalogues of books, prints, manuscripts, and curiosities. The volumes were sold as lot 773 on the fourth day of sale, on 6th of May 1828, as confirmed by the pen inscription on the inner side of every volume cover.<sup>157</sup>

The hypothesis that Symmons himself removed the vignettes from the manuscripts before the sale is supported by internal and external evidence. The watermark of Curteis and Sons that I found in the patch paper of the volume at the British Library points to an intervention at the end of the 18th century, precisely the period during which Symmons was active as a collector.<sup>158</sup> The substitution patches, neatly inscribed with musical notation and simple pen-drawn initials, suggest a deliberate effort to preserve textual and musical content after extracting the images.

However, whether Symmons carried out this operation himself remains uncertain. The

<sup>154</sup> Philips 1828.

<sup>155</sup> Guerrieri 2010, p. 114.

<sup>156</sup> From the letters in the RLF archive, I was able to determine that he often intervened with generous personal donations in several cases where the institution denied requested amounts for various purposes, like funerals (!) of members. Also, Gauthier de Brécy, the librarian of Sir Symmons, confirms the

magnanimity of the English man in helping him and other French émigrés, among many others.

<sup>157</sup> Lots 773–780 collected around 100 volumes of: "[...] music books, containing some very curious and scarce compositions by Italian masters [...]." Philips 1828.

<sup>158</sup> Shorter 1957.



possibility of third-party involvement cannot be excluded. His French librarian, Gauthier de Brécý (1753-1836), later wrote that he had frequently loaned books from Symmons's library without the owner's knowledge, sometimes even to some people living abroad.<sup>159</sup> In such a context, the physical removal of valuable decorative material and discreet reinsertion of the now-mutilated volumes would not have been impossible. Moreover, despite Douce's meticulous recordkeeping, no direct link between Symmons and Francis Douce, the final owner of the Ashmolean drawings, can currently be documented. If Douce acquired the vignettes through intermediaries, such as Thomas Rodd, John Triphook, or William Smith, the drawings may have passed through the antiquarian market without documentary evidence correlated to Symmons.

It is therefore plausible and likely that the vignettes were separated from the cantatas before their public sale, possibly with the intention of achieving a higher profit by selling them as individual works of art. This practice was far from unusual at the time: decorated initials, full-page miniatures, and other manuscript fragments were routinely extracted and sold separately, often to be mounted in albums such as the one now housed at the Ashmolean Museum.

After the 1828 auction, the volumes passed into the hands of the English organist Edward Hodges. His possession, however, appears to have been brief and largely custodial, with no evidence that he interfered with their material state. Unlike Symmons, Hodges had little antiquarian incentive to remove and resell the illustrations separately, making it unlikely that the dismemberment occurred during his ownership.

The following section offers a physical and material survey of the four cantata manuscripts, confirming their shared provenance through

detailed comparison of bindings, layouts, and drawing remnants.

### 3.4 THE MANUSCRIPTS IN DETAIL

The codicological and material characteristics of the four cantata manuscripts, bindings, decorative patterns, paper formats, and above all the measurements of the extracted vignettes and their patch replacements, offer concrete evidence not only of their shared provenance but also of a systematic operation of visual deconstruction. This section presents a detailed morphological description of the Symmons volumes, combining external and internal elements with precise measurement data. Where possible, I report the size of the lacuna left by the removed vignette and the dimensions of the surviving drawing now preserved in the Ashmolean album. This data allows for a material reconstruction of the act of removal, offering insights into the visual economy of manuscript production and the antiquarian practices that later intervened in their fate.

#### 3.4.1 GERMANY, HAMBURG, VOL. 1 (D-Hs ND VI 2263,1)

Of the three cantata manuscripts formerly held in Hamburg, only volumes I and III remain in the Stadtbibliothek. As previously mentioned, Volume II was taken to Russia during World War II. The first volume, D-Hs ND VI 2263,1, is bound in red Moroccan leather richly decorated in gold. The external cover plate measures 208 × 271 mm. In the centre is a coat of arms featuring a bunch of grapes with two leaves and a small branch, surmounted by a helm adorned with four large feathers. The cover's design, which follows a symmetrical quadrant layout and exhibits a characteristic *horror vacui* style, is consistent

<sup>159</sup> From the autobiography of the librarian: "[...] Throughout the duration of this work, he had given me the freedom and authority to lend books from his library to émigrés known to him and to me. I deemed

it necessary and prudent to have these books returned to Paddington; they were brought back and restored to their usual place. [...]" Translation by the author. Brécý 1834, p. 290.

with the late-17th-century Roman bindings attributed to the Andreoli workshop.

The ornamentation includes two outer floral frames, intertwined acanthus leaves and a geometric hollow border between double lines, grottesca-like motifs at the corners, and, toward the centre, a densely populated area with flying cupids, vine leaves, and further floral arrangements. The spine, divided into six compartments, is decorated with foliage and geometric patterns; the second bears a sticker with the inscription "ITALIAN / CANTATES," likely applied during the Symmons era. The page edges are gilded.

Several inscriptions appear on the inner cover: "4S N773 9 Blu (?) et [...] V Music Page S4"; a sticker from the library reading "Hamb. Stadtbibl. / Realcat. ND.VI. / No. 2263"; and handwritten notes such as "Cantate da Camera à voce sola BC" and "4<sup>o</sup>" in pencil. Sir John Symmons's ex-libris is pasted on the guard leaf, accompanied by further annotations including "Samml. Vol. I."

On the first page (pencilled as fol. 1), a table of contents lists the titles of 13 cantatas. A partially-erased note in the upper-right-hand corner of this page includes the word "of," suggesting a post-Roman context, though the handwriting differs from that of the content list.

On the first page, numbered on the top right with pencil (1) is the table of contents:

*Per stentato Camino Asperso* 1  
*Sopra tutte L'Altre Belle Al. Stradella* 13  
*X* [in pencil] *In Boscareccia* 29  
*Vincesti O Ciel Al. Stradella* 53  
*Sciogliete pur Al. Stradella* 73  
*Arresta il piè fugace* 93  
*Tra L'Ombre più secrete* 121  
*L* [!!] *penare per te Stradella*\* 141 [\*in different handwriting and ink]  
*Regia dell'Orbe Etrusco* 173  
*Anima incenerita Al. Stradella* 215  
*Gia dell'Indo Medes.* 241  
*Mentre un Zephyro Arguto Scarlatti* 255

*L'Armida. Pensi Ola Stradella* 295

On this same page, on the top right corner, are further hand-written notes that have been erased. Though only a single word is now visible: "of" which might point already to Symmons rather than the Roman context. Yet the handwriting is rather different than that of the list of contents. On the bottom right corner in red pencil, we find: "63", and there are heavy smudges on the bottom right corner.

On the backing of the cover notes, in pen in brown ink, we find:

340 W(?) 3 = 85 = 4c " 5'  
 B3 \_0 " 10 " 6  
 -----  
 4' 15' 6

For the rest of the pages the original page number, registering the recto and verso consecutively is replaced by a pencil folio number, thus referring only to the recto. A detailed comparison of the original manuscript page numbers (in brown ink) with the current foliation (in pencil) follows below, along with measurements of the lacunae left by the removed vignettes and the dimensions of the surviving drawings (see **Table 1**)

Each manuscript page measures approximately 195 × 270 mm. The staves are centred on the page, typically 3–4 cm from the binding margin and 5 cm from the outer edge. Vertical ruling lines are sometimes present, demarcating the width allowed for music copying.

### 3.4.2 RUSSIA, SAINTPETERSBURG, VOL. 2 (OLIM D-Hs ND VI 2263,II; NOW RUS-SPsc Fond 956 opis' 2 no. 247)

The second volume in the original Hamburg set consists almost entirely of cantatas by Alessandro Stradella (1639-1682), though the

hands involved in copying them are not uniform.<sup>160</sup> Its external appearance closely resembles that of the third volume (D-Hs ND VI 2263,III, now in Hamburg), suggesting they were bound in the same workshop, possibly at the same time. Although direct physical examination was not possible, comparative analysis of binding style and proportions suggests that the external plate measures approximately 210 × 270 mm.

The binding is in green leather with relatively simple gilt decoration: a broad geometric border defined by double lines encloses floral ornaments in each corner, ending in grape clusters with stylised leaves and tendrils. The spine, reportedly damaged, was not available for direct analysis or imaging.

Three pasted labels are still visible on the front cover's inner side. The uppermost bears the title "Cantate da Camera à voce sola B.C."; beneath it is a label from the Hamburg Stadtbibliothek, although no catalogue number is included.

On the right, in pen: "Ms / 4<sup>o</sup>". Symmons's ex-libris is pasted at centre, and a third label at the bottom reads "Samml. Vol. II." A familiar inscription, "4S N 773 9 Blu(?) et (?) Or e/...) V Music Page S 4", appears along the top of the inside cover, in the same hand and format found in the other three volumes.

Unlike the other manuscripts, no table of contents is appended. The sequence of cantatas begins directly with "Ch'io nasconda il mio foco" by Stradella. The lacunae left by the removed vignettes follow the same structure and position as in the other volumes, though only the dimensions of the surviving drawings can be reported here due to lack of access to the originals. This is why **Table 2** does not include the measures of the holes.

### 3.4.3 GERMANY, HAMBURG, VOL. 3 (D-Hs ND VI 2263,III)

The third volume in the original Hamburg set (now in situ) is a true miscellanea, both in terms of musical content and material construction. It includes works by multiple composers, copied by at least two distinct copyists. The diversity of scripts, page layouts, and decorative interventions within the volume makes it an especially valuable case for understanding copying practices in Roman cantata production of the late-17th century.

The binding, in green leather with relatively restrained gilt tooling, mirrors that of the Russian volume (Olim II). The external plate measures approximately 210 × 270 mm. A double-lined rectangular frame encloses floral ornaments in each corner, terminating in grape clusters with accompanying leaves and tendrils. The gilt decoration includes small gold dots dispersed between the floral motifs—fourteen on the front cover, sixteen on the back—suggesting an imprecise execution, possibly by a less experienced artisan.

The volume has undergone substantial restoration. The cover has been reconstructed and the spine replaced. A modern label has been affixed to the new spine, "CANT / DIVER." which is likely an abbreviation of the handwritten title found inside: "Canta tedi uerze" (sic), a garbled rendering of "Cantate Diverse."

The decorative endpaper, pasted initially to the inner cover, has been detached and rebound as the first folio. This striking bronze varnish paper features the typical zoomorphic and floral motifs printed in red and green, with overlaid bronze outlining.

<sup>160</sup> There are evident discrepancies among the handwritings, though a discussion of copyists lies outside the aims of this case study at present.

**Table 1**

| <b>Drawing</b>         | <b>New pagination<br/>Pencil (folios)</b> | <b>Measures of the hole<br/>in mm</b> | <b>Measures of the drawing<br/>in mm</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.23 | 2                                         | 86 x 104                              | 76 x 104                                 |
| GB-OAM WA1942.49.7     | 8                                         | 90 x 89                               | 80 x 89                                  |
| --                     | <b>16</b>                                 | <b>82 x 96</b>                        | --                                       |
| GB-OAM WA1942.49.5     | 28                                        | 85 x 92                               | 72 x 92                                  |
| GB-OAM WA1942.49.2     | 38                                        | 86 x 101                              | 77 x 100                                 |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.27 | 48                                        | 81 x 100                              | 75 x 100                                 |
| GB-OAM WA1942.49.9     | 62                                        | 88 x 101                              | 77 x 101                                 |
| GB-OAM WA1942.49.3     | 72                                        | 87 x 106                              | 80 x 106                                 |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.22 | 88                                        | 84 x 102                              | 75 x 102                                 |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.31 | 110                                       | 87 x 101                              | 80 x 101                                 |
| GB-OAM WA1942.49.6     | 123                                       | 82 x 92                               | 72 x 92                                  |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.12 | 130                                       | 88 x 89                               | 80 x 89                                  |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.29 | 150                                       | 90 x 94                               | 78 x 93                                  |

The pattern – including large, stylized flowers with black pistils, black dogs, and various foliage – indicates that it was printed in Augsburg at the end of the 17th century or at the latest during the first half of the 18th century. The printing method was stencil- and / or block-based.<sup>161</sup> The endpapers, found at both the front and back of the volume, measure approximately 200 × 270 mm each.

On the top of the guard page is the recurring inscription “4S N 773 9 Blu (?) et (?) Or e/...) V Music Page S 4”; to the right, in pencil, appears “12/13.” Below this is the table of contents, listing fifteen cantatas. Two different hands and inks were used to compile it, with the second hand (likely British) adding the pagination and replacing missing composer names with “No Name.” Repetitions are indicated with “D” or “D°” for ditto. Several titles are inaccurately transcribed—particularly those cantatas that originally featured vignettes, which had likely already been removed by the time the list was compiled. The table of contents reads as follows:

*Già dell’Umida Notte Gaetano Furloni* Pag 1  
*Impara a on dar Bononcini* 19  
*Non più ferite Amore* \_\_\_\_\_ 27  
*Voi volete ch’io Canti Severo del Luca* 37  
*Lungi dal Patrio Suolo* D 45  
*Mio Tiranno Adorato* D 57  
*Hor che gli lie (??) No Name* 73  
*Lurilla e congual Cora (sic!) F. (sic!) Cola* 83  
*Occhi vaghi Voi Giacomo Bacchi* 87  
*Tirsi che pena el Tace No Name* 91  
*[C]-olei che Portia (sic!) No Name* 99  
*Il Ciel che Noné (sic!) D°* 107  
*[L]-igio di due Pupilli (sic!) D°* 117  
*Cieco Nume Tiranno Bononcini* 126  
*Quanto Siete ver Mio Ziani* 130

The second copyist had little idea of what is written in the text of the cantatas. In fact, the

first two, on folios 37 and 45 respectively, are transcribed entirely and correctly by the first hand. Besides some spelling mistakes, the second hand could not figure out the initial of the text of the cantatas on folios 99 and 117, very likely because the vignettes were already removed. For the cantata on folio 107, also missing the vignette, the text begins with the article “Il” suggesting, therefore, that it was copied entirely and (almost) correctly by the second copyist.

On the verso of the guard page, now numbered “a/” in the top right corner, a library stamp is visible. The first cantata, “Già dell’humida notte” by Gaetano Furloni (fl. end 17th century), follows. Its initial is rendered as a large, ornate calligraphic letter, embellished with leaves and fruit-like elements in thin pen strokes. At the foot of the page appears a blue rectangular Cyrillic stamp with the number 17033—a trace of the volume’s wartime displacement to Russia during World War II. On the last page of the book, before the end paper, a handwritten note in pencil reads: “Begast, Juli 1997 (or 1991).”

**Table 3** provides information on the position of the missing illustrations and the size of the substituting patches.

Although modest in decorative scope, the volume’s physical features—including the ex-libris of Sir John Symmons, the recurring internal annotations, and the precision of the vignette removal—support its identification as part of the same corpus as the others. The stylistic consistency of the removed drawings and their subsequent placement in the Ashmolean album further confirms their shared provenance.

### 3.4.4 GREAT BRITAIN, LONDON, VOL. 4 (GB-Lbl. Add.24311)

The manuscript now preserved at the British Library, under the shelf mark Add. MS 24311, entered the collection in 1861 as a purchase

<sup>161</sup> Heijbroek-Greven 1994. On p. 33 is reproduced a portion of this same pattern.

from the organist and musicologist Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876). A manuscript note on the guard page reads: “Purchd. Of Dr. St. Gauntlett / 20 July 1861. / (Putt. 10 June Lot. 768),” a clear indication that the volume had been sold at Puttick & Simpson in London as lot 768 during the auction of 10–11 June 1861.<sup>162</sup>

On the inside of the front cover, a manuscript note in brown ink repeats the now-familiar phrase: “4S N 773 9 Blu (?) et (?) V Music Page S 4.” The ex-libris of Sir John Symmons is pasted at the center, and a penciled note in the lower left corner reads “MUSIC C / 128.a.”

The binding is of green leather, adorned with elaborate gilt tooling. A double acanthus frame encloses a richly ornamented central panel divided into four compartments. Each corner contains foliate and floral elements; within a scalloped inner frame are small four-petaled blossoms; the central space hosts a dense vegetal arrangement, including angels bearing grape clusters.

At the very center appears a coat of arms: a bunch of grapes supported by two branches with leaves, surmounted by a helmet with four large feathers. Although the original spine has been heavily modified, three of the compartments retain their titles and classification: “CANTATE / VARIE”, “MUS. BRIT. / JURE EMPT.”, and “24311 / PLUT. / CXXVIII.A.”

On the upper and lower compartments, decorated with a stamped gold rosette, are labels reading “MUSIC” and “C.” The back cover mirrors the front in design. In the inside of the bottom cover, on the top left, we find the following annotations in brown ink:

290 W(?)o = 72 " 6 = 3 " 12 " 6  
 B0 ----- 0 " 10 " 6  
 -----  
 4 " 3 " 0

Following the guard page is a list of the cantatas copied in the volume. The handwriting is likely from the late-18th or early-19th century and corresponds closely with the annotations found in the other manuscripts once owned by Symmons. The list includes the incipits of each cantata; some are slightly miscopied, especially where the decorative vignette had already been removed. Pagination was later revised in pencil to match foliation standards, with folio numbers now beginning from the table of contents. These are included in the round parentheses below. In square parentheses are my own annotations.

*Il più tenero Affetto* - - 1 [the capital ‘A’ is in 19th-century cursive script, and is therefore rounded] (2)  
*Come o Bella* - - 29 (16)  
*Fermatevi O Bei Lumi* - - 45 (23)  
*Intorno a Picciolo* - - 73 [the complete title would have included *lume*; furthermore the final ‘o’ of Picciolo should have been left out] (37)  
*Come in Ciel* - - 87 (45)  
*La Fortuna di Roma* - - 103 (53)  
*Stan soggetti* - - 127 [original title with *alla Fortuna*] (65)  
*Tante Perle* - - 143 (73)  
*Non vantar tanta Bellezza* - - 159 (81)  
*Con tutto che Amore* - - 183 [again with a rounded capital A] (93)  
*Sono in Armi* - - 207 [in this case the capital A is somehow copied from the cantata] (104)  
*Io che lasciato fui* - - 271 (136)

The manuscript is approximately 195 × 265 mm in size. Musical staves are consistently centered; in some cases, double vertical ruling marks indicate the intended copying boundaries. Two folios (23 and 103) present staves without any musical notation.

<sup>162</sup> Coover 1988, pp. 179–180.

**Table 2**

| <b>Drawing</b>         | <b>New pagination<br/>Pencil (folios)</b> | <b>Measures of the hole<br/>in mm</b> | <b>Measures of the drawing<br/>in mm</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| GB-OAM WA1942.49.19    | 17                                        | ?? x ??                               | 73 x 91                                  |
| GB-OAM WA1942.49.11    | 57                                        | ?? x ??                               | 73 x 92                                  |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.24 | 105                                       | ?? x ??                               | 74 x 103                                 |

**Table 3**

| <b>Drawing</b>         | <b>New pagination<br/>Pencil (folios)</b> | <b>Measures of the hole<br/>in mm</b> | <b>Measures of the drawing<br/>in mm</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.28 | 37                                        | 90 x 100                              | 78 x 100                                 |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.26 | 45                                        | 88 x 88                               | 80 x 88                                  |
| GB-OAM WA1942.49.21    | 99                                        | 86 x 87                               | 75 x 87                                  |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.20 | 107                                       | 85 x 97                               | 72 x 92                                  |
| GB-OAM WA1942.49.18    | 117                                       | 86 x 100                              | 77 x 100                                 |

The patches that now fill the original lacunae are laid paper of a darker shade, with chain lines oriented horizontally. These patches are always slightly larger than the removed area, suggesting careful adjustment. On a few folios (65r, 73r, and 136r), faint musical traces are visible at the patch edges—possibly transferred from the verso of facing pages, due to moisture or glue migration.

That the drawings were removed post-binding is confirmed by the consistent buffer space between the cut and the gutter, which allowed for a clean extraction. The width of each inserted vignette corresponds precisely to the original lacuna, whereas the height was slightly trimmed—typically by less than a centimeter—to ensure visual harmony in the Ashmolean album.

The manuscript contains works by a variety of composers: five cantatas by Alessandro Stradella, three by Giovanni Lorenzo Lulier (1662–1700), one each by Alessandro Scarlatti (1660–1725) and Francesco Bagaglia (1694–1740), and two by anonymous authors. Two copyists can be identified, with notably differing musical scripts, particularly as related to the direction and formation of clefs (especially the bass clef), and to letterforms such as ‘f’ and ‘g’. The following table provides an overview of the extracted drawings in the order they should have appeared in this volume.

**Table 4** provides an overview of the extracted drawings in the order they should have appeared in this volume.

### 3.5 THE RECONSTRUCTED MANUSCRIPTS

**Table 5** contains all cantata titles along with their composers, ordered as they appear in each manuscript described above. In the first column is the composer, in the second the title of the composition, in the third the inventory number of the missing drawing or the current

decoration, and in the last the manuscript’s call number. *Call. Initial* signals the presence of a calligraphic initial; *None* stands for no decoration.

### 3.6 VIGNETTES AND INITIALS

According to the classification outlined in the Introduction, the initials in the Symmons’ manuscripts fall into several categories. Five cantatas feature purely calligraphic initials, while two display no decorative space at all, their text running unbroken from margin to margin. In twelve cases, a blank space was clearly left for a decoration that was never executed or later removed. Notable exceptions include the phytomorphic initial that opens the Russian manuscript (olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.01), and the now-missing drawing from the first volume of the Hamburg collection (D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.03).

All the drawings gathered in the Ashmolean album, by contrast, fall under the category of vignettes namely images imbued with spatial, scenographic, or narrative connotations. Among them, eight may be defined as allusive, incorporating visual details that anticipate or echo the themes of the cantata they accompany. In twelve others, the draftsman appears to have altered specific details from the original visual source to suit the cantata’s opening letter, creating a form of figurative initial. The remaining vignettes feature hidden initials, often ingeniously concealed within anthropomorphic or zoomorphic forms, or architectural elements.

Far from being merely decorative flourishes, these images play an active role in shaping the reader’s engagement with the manuscript. They operate at once as paratextual thresholds, drawing the eye, and marking the textual entry point, and as allegorical prompts, offering visual commentary or mood-setting devices.

Their presence creates a richly layered experience: reading becomes seeing, and vice versa. In this sense, these vignettes act as visual



games, inviting recognition, interpretation, visual pleasure, and amusement.

The following sections explore some of their typologies and techniques in more detail, beginning with the allusive vignettes that integrate identifiable iconography into the form of the opening initial.

### 3.6.1 ALLUSIVE VIGNETTES

The first vignette in the Ashmolean album (cat. 3.01) combines a recognizable view of the Temple of the Sibyl at Tivoli with a mythological scene featuring Venus disarming Cupid. The goddess raises the arrows of Cupid in her left hand, while his bow lies abandoned on the ground. The episode, drawn from a well-established visual tradition in Italy, is integrated here into the foreground of a landscape otherwise populated by fishermen and ruins.

What makes this vignette particularly significant is a close correspondence between image and text. The cantata that follows describes the speaker's attempt to resist the assaults of Love, metaphorized as a siege of the heart's fortress. The gesture of Venus neutralizing Cupid's power becomes, in this context, a visual allegory of the cantata's moral stance: desire subdued by anger, or perhaps by reason. Interestingly, the same motif of Venus disarming the winged god appears in two other manuscript sources of cantatas by Alessandro Stradella, one in Cambridge (GB-Cfm MU MS 131.01), the other in Paris (F-Pn Rés.Vm7 639), always in the form of a small vignette. This recurrence suggests that the scene may have functioned as a kind of visual commonplace, a prelude recognizable to a cultivated audience.<sup>163</sup>

The allusive vignettes do not directly illustrate the dramatic content of the cantatas, nor do they always contain a hidden initial. Rather, they propose a scene, a setting, or a gesture that anticipates or resonates with the emotional and rhetorical structure of the poem. Their

relationship with the text is oblique, suggestive, and often poetic rather than referential.

In some cases, allusion operates through landscape and atmosphere, as in the riverside scene with bathers in "Tra l'ombre più secrete" (cat. 3.09), or the expansive skyscape above the Roman ruins in "Come in ciel dell'aureo crine" (cat. 3.14). In others, it lies in a single added figure or action, like a pointing hand, a hovering moth, or a gesture of flight or surrender, that charges the image with symbolic energy. The drawing accompanying "Intorno a picciol lume" (cat. 3.10), for instance, stages the allegory of the moth and the flame in a richly stylized interior, suggesting a theatrical setting as well as an erotic trajectory.

In "Già languia la note" (cat. 3.19), the monumental view of Saint Peter's Basilica, shown without both Bernini's left bell tower and the embracing colonnade, acts less as a literal setting and more as a rhetorical backdrop. It frames the cantata's tragic monologue within a space of imperial and divine silence, while the broad presence of the river suggests instability, separation, and emotional drift.

In the vignette for "Aure voi che spirate" (cat. 3.24), the sail and mast of a ship crossing a quiet inlet form a wide and open capital "A." The image derives its resonance less from its letterform and more from a topical and symbolic overlap with the cantata's language, which invokes wind, tide, and sea routes as metaphors for emotional return. The ship becomes a vehicle of longing and invocation: it prefigures the beloved's arrival even as it silently draws the eye into the poetic flow.

Finally, in the case of "Sono in armi Bellezza e Virtù" (cat. 3.32), the vignette transforms a generic battle scene into a metaphorical struggle between desire and reason. Here, the image is not merely allusive but fully allegorical: a pictorial double of the poem's moral conflict.

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<sup>163</sup> Lucioli 2011, pp. 207-219.

**Table 4**

| <b>Drawing</b>         | <b>New pagination<br/>Pencil (folios)</b> | <b>Orig. MS page<br/>Brown ink</b> | <b>Measures of the hole<br/>in mm</b> | <b>Measures of the<br/>drawing<br/>in mm</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.30 | 2                                         | 1                                  | 90 x 100                              | 81 x 100                                     |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.15 | 16                                        | 29                                 | 87 x 97                               | 79 x 97 [said 107(?)]                        |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.8  | 23                                        | 45                                 | 84 x 91                               | 72 x 91                                      |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.10 | 37                                        | 73                                 | 83 x 95                               | 75 x 95                                      |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.14 | 45                                        | 87                                 | 90 x 101                              | 82 x 101                                     |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.17 | 53                                        | 103                                | 88 x 103                              | 78 x 103                                     |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.25 | 65                                        | 127                                | 86 x 104                              | 75 x 104                                     |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.16 | 73                                        | 142                                | 87 x 99                               | 79 x 99 [said 100(?)]                        |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.13 | 81                                        | 159                                | 89 x 104                              | 80 x 104                                     |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.1  | 93                                        | 183                                | 89 x 107                              | 79 x 107                                     |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.32 | 104                                       | 207                                | 94 x 108                              | 85 x 108                                     |
| GB-OAM<br>WA1942.49.4  | 136                                       | 271                                | 90 x 103                              | 80 x 104                                     |

**Table 5**

| Author/Composer                | Title                                              | Ashmolean Album inv.       | Manuscript inv.          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Anonymous                      | <i>Per stentato camino</i>                         | GB-OAM WA1942.49.23        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.01     |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Sopra tutte l'altre belle</i>                   | GB-OAM WA1942.49.07        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.02     |
| Anonymous                      | <i>In boscareccia scena</i>                        | Missing drawing            | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.03     |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Vincesti, o ciel, vincesti</i>                  | GB-OAM WA1942.49.05        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.04     |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Sciogliete, pur sciogliete i vostri accenti</i> | GB-OAM WA1942.49.02        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.05     |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Arresta, arresta il piè</i>                     | GB-OAM WA1942.49.27        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.06     |
| Anonymous                      | <i>Tra l'ombre più secrete</i>                     | GB-OAM WA1942.49.09        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.07     |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Il penare per te, bella, m'è caro</i>           | GB-OAM WA1942.49.03        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.08     |
| Anonymous                      | <i>Regea dell'orbe Etrusco</i>                     | GB-OAM WA1942.49.22        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.09     |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Anima incenerita</i>                            | GB-OAM WA1942.49.31        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.10     |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Già nell'indo emisfero</i>                      | GB-OAM WA1942.49.06        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.11     |
| Alessandro Scarlatti           | <i>Mentre Zeffiro arguto</i>                       | GB-OAM WA1942.49.12        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.12     |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Pensi olà, che si bada?</i>                     | GB-OAM WA1942.49.29        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.13     |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Ch'io nasconda il mio foco</i>                  | Phytomorphic initial       | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.01 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Già languia la notte</i>                        | GB-OAM WA1942.49.19        | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.02 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>L'Arianna: Ferma il corso, torna al Lido</i>    | GB-OAM WA1942.49.11        | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.03 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Aure voi che spirate</i>                        | GB-OAM WA1942.49.24        | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.04 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Adorata libertà</i>                             | No initial/full page score | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.05 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Bella Rosa nel cui stelo</i>                    | No initial/full page score | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.06 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Udite amanti un prodigio novella</i>            | None                       | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.07 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Deggio penar così</i>                           | None                       | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.08 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Solcava in curvo legno</i>                      | None                       | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.09 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Con fia mai ah'nó ch'io sperì</i>               | None                       | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.10 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Addio cieli addio stelle</i>                    | None                       | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.11 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Quando sembra che nuoti quest'Alma</i>          | None                       | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.12 |
| Alessandro Stradella           | <i>Doppo ben mille prove date</i>                  | None                       | olim Hs ND VI 2263,II.13 |
| Gaetano Furloni                | <i>Già dell'humida notte</i>                       | Call. Initial              | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.01   |
| Giovanni Bononcini (1670-1747) | <i>Impara a non dar fede</i>                       | None                       | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.02   |
| Giovanni Lorenzo Lulier        | <i>Non più ferite amore</i>                        | None                       | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.03   |
| Severo De Luca (fl. 1688-1734) | <i>Voi volete ch'io canti</i>                      | GB-OAM WA1942.49.28        | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.04   |

|                                       |                                                             |                     |                        |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Severo De Luca                        | <i>Lungi dal patrio suolo</i>                               | GB-OAM WA1942.49.26 | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.05 |
| Severo De Luca                        | <i>Mio tiranno adorato</i>                                  | Call. Initial       | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.06 |
| Anonymous                             | <i>Hor che gl'eterei campi</i>                              | Call. Initial       | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.07 |
| Gregorio Cola (fl. 1696-1709)         | <i>Eurilla è con qual core</i>                              | Call. Initial       | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.08 |
| Pietro Giacomo Bacci (1643-post 1693) | <i>Occhi vaghi voi siete</i>                                | None                | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.09 |
| Giovanni Bononcini                    | <i>Peno e l'alma Fedele</i>                                 | None                | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.10 |
| Anonymous                             | <i>Colei che porta in fronte</i>                            | GB-OAM WA1942.49.21 | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.11 |
| Anonymous                             | <i>Il ciel che non è stanco</i>                             | GB-OAM WA1942.49.20 | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.12 |
| Anonymous                             | <i>Ligio di due pupille belle</i>                           | GB-OAM WA1942.49.18 | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.13 |
| Giovanni Bononcini                    | <i>Cieco nume tiranno spietato</i>                          | Call. Initial       | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.14 |
| Marc'Antonio Ziani (ca. 1653-1715)    | <i>Quanto siete ver' me stelle spietate</i>                 | None                | D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.15 |
| Alessandro Stradella                  | <i>Il più tenero affetto</i>                                | GB-OAM WA1942.49.30 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.01   |
| Anonymous                             | <i>Come, ò bella, disciogli</i>                             | GB-OAM WA1942.49.15 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.02   |
| Alessandro Stradella                  | <i>Fermatevi, ò bei Lumi</i>                                | GB-OAM WA1942.49.08 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.03   |
| Giovanni Lorenzo Lulier               | <i>Intorno a picciol lume</i>                               | GB-OAM WA1942.49.10 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.04   |
| Alessandro Stradella                  | <i>Come in ciel dell'aureo crine</i>                        | GB-OAM WA1942.49.14 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.05   |
| Alessandro Scarlatti                  | <i>La fortuna di Roma [also titled <i>Il Coriolano</i>]</i> | GB-OAM WA1942.49.17 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.06   |
| Giovanni Lorenzo Lulier               | <i>Stan soggetti alla fortuna</i>                           | GB-OAM WA1942.49.25 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.07   |
| Alessandro Stradella                  | <i>Tante perle non versa l'Aurora</i>                       | GB-OAM WA1942.49.16 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.08   |
| Giovanni Lorenzo Lulier               | <i>Non vantar tanta bellezza</i>                            | GB-OAM WA1942.49.13 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.09   |
| Francesco Bagaglia (1694-1740)        | <i>Con tutto, che Amore</i>                                 | GB-OAM WA1942.49.01 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.10   |
| Anonymous                             | <i>Sono in armi Bellezza e Virtù</i>                        | GB-OAM WA1942.49.32 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.11   |
| Alessandro Stradella                  | <i>Io, che lasciato fui</i>                                 | GB-OAM WA1942.49.04 | GB-Lbl. Add.24311.12   |

A similar dynamic is at play in the vignette for “Pensi olà che si bada” (cat. 3.13), where a solitary female figure, recognizable as Armida, raises a sword while her stance forms a capital “P.” Though the letter functions as an ornamental initial, the posture is also narratively charged: it enacts the vengeance and emotional agitation voiced in the cantata, merging typographic design with psychological gesture. As in the previous example, the image does not depict a specific episode but condenses its emotional premise in symbolic action.

In all these instances, the vignette does not comment on the text so much as prepare the eye for a mode of reading, one that is affective, metaphorical, and visually informed. The image serves as a threshold, offering tonal or symbolic cues that resonate with the cantata’s poetic argument. The result is a layered page, in which visual and verbal registers unfold in parallel. Rather than illustrating, these images invite recognition, echoing the Baroque taste for emblematic density and interpretive ambiguity.

### 3.6.2 VIGNETTES WITH FIGURATIVE INITIALS

Some of the most inventive images in the Ashmolean album feature letters concealed within figures or composite forms, functioning as disguised initials. These vignettes do not establish an explicit iconographic dialogue with the cantata texts they precede; rather, they invite the viewer to decode a letter embedded in bodies, gestures, or juxtapositions of natural and architectural elements. Their meaning lies not in narrative or atmosphere, but in visual construction: they are ornamental enigmas, designed to be recognized, not simply seen.

In one scene (cat. 3.06), a small sailboat gliding across a river bends its mast and sail to form a capital “G,” unobtrusively integrated into a pastoral landscape. Elsewhere (cat. 3.07), a pair of intertwined sea creatures rise from the water to form a serpentine “S,” continuing the motif of

marine calligraphy discussed in relation to Filippo Juvarra in Chapter 2. In a more frontal composition (cat. 3.09), a grotesque satyr on the riverbank leans forward beside a curved reed, the two elements together forming a “C” by adjacency rather than by transformation.

Some initials are formed directly by human figures. In cat. 3.08, a pair of standing women define a “V” with their mirrored stance, placed symmetrically within an empty Roman piazza. In cat. 3.12, a group of ruins serves as a backdrop to two male figures who clasp hands and feet to form an acrobatic “A,” exaggerated in its artificiality. These gestures are not emotionally expressive, nor do they belong to a broader allegorical program: they function as letters embedded in spectacle, demanding an active gaze.

Though unrelated to the cantatas’ contents, these images demonstrate a sophisticated play on visual literacy, where the initial is neither explicit nor ornamental, but performed. They occupy a liminal space between paratext and decoration, between calligraphy and choreography. Their primary effect is to train the viewer’s eye to look slowly, to interpret, and to recognize pattern—an aesthetic gesture in itself, and one perfectly attuned to the Baroque fascination with emblematic ambiguity.

### 3.6.3 VIGNETTES WITH A TWIST

In a third group of images, the initial is neither mimetically integrated nor directly formed by a single figure. Instead, it is suggested through compositional cues: vertical rhythms, spatial alignments, or juxtapositions of structures and gestures that, when viewed attentively, echo the shape of the first letter in the cantata’s incipit. These vignettes do not conceal initials so much as prepare the eye to read them within the logic of the image.

In “Sciogliete pur, sciogliete” (cat. 3.15), the curved trunk of a slender tree in the centre of a pastoral landscape subtly forms a capital “S,” its

branches bifurcating just enough to catch the viewer's attention. In "Il penare per te, bella" (cat. 3.16), a vertical mast atop a coastal fortress becomes a towering "I," its role amplified by the omission of other visual distractions from the source print. Similarly, a ship braving a stormy sea in "Io che lasciato fui" (cat. 3.17) uses its central rigging to draw an equally bold "I," while a bifurcated tree in "Vincesti, ò ciel, vincesti" (cat. 3.18) defines a naturalistic "V" through symmetrical balance.

In "Mentre un Zeffiro arguto" (cat. 3.21), the rooftops of a farmhouse and its annex compose a diagonal-vertical-diagonal rhythm that outlines a monumental "M," showing how built forms can serve graphic functions without symbolic intent. A similarly constructed initial appears in "Ligio di due pupille belle" (cat. 3.22), where a standing and kneeling figure together suggest an "L" through the opposition of vertical and bent postures. In "Regea dell'orbe etrusco" (cat. 3.23), a soldier marching in profile, isolated from the rest of the figures, sketches a clear "R" with his curved arm and forward-leaning silhouette.

The "A" formed by the angled mast and sail in "Aure voi che spirate" (cat. 3.24) brings typographic clarity into alignment with poetic thematics: the invocation of winds and sea routes finds resonance in the pictorial structure itself, transforming a ship into a visual and affective prelude. Similarly, in "Il più tenero affetto" (cat. 3.25), a lone figure standing in the foreground, staff in hand, marks the page with a silent, vertical "I," both typographically precise and emotionally congruent with the cantata's argument of departure from the loved one. The same strategy applies to "Il ciel, che non è stanco" (cat. 3.28), where a slightly detached pedestrian in the Roman Forum visually anchors the incipit with minimal intervention.

A particularly subtle example appears in "Lungi dal patrio suolo" (cat. 3.31), where a solitary figure at the center of a wide piazza, casting a long diagonal shadow, suggests a tilted "L." Here the letter emerges not from posture or

architecture, but from light itself. The initial becomes visible only when figure and shadow are read together, offering one of the album's most restrained yet eloquent cases of compositional lettering.

In all these instances, the letter is not imposed but emerges from within the scene, requiring attention, inference, and recognition. These are not decorated initials in the classical sense, but compositional initials, born of alignment rather than transformation.

Their success lies in subtlety: they do not overwhelm the image, but gently structure it, guiding the viewer into the text with a visual gesture that is both minimal and eloquent.

### 3.6.4 DRAWN FOR THE VIEW (?)

Not all vignettes in the album seem to engage with the cantata they precede in a typographic or symbolic sense. A small group of drawings presents scenes of considerable architectural or landscape interest, while offering no identifiable initial, either concealed, constructed, or suggested. The title of this section carries a question mark for a reason: these images raise the possibility that some vignettes were included simply for the sake of the view.

In "Tante perle non versa l'Aurora" (cat. 3.26), a sweeping perspective of Roman ruins and horsemen provides a monumental backdrop with no visible intervention. The scene is well-balanced and atmospheric, but graphically neutral. Similarly, "Colei che porta in fronte" (cat. 3.29) features a river bridge, yet despite its compositional clarity, no alphabetic form emerges - no curve, no upright, no hint of a capital letter.

The vignette for "Per stentato cammino" (cat. 3.30) centers on the arch of Constantine rendered with architectural exactitude. Though finely drawn and spatially eloquent, it offers no visual threshold into the poem, functioning instead as a decorative prelude. Even in "Il ciel,

che non è stanco" (cat. 3.28), where a single upright figure might suggest a letter "I," the ambiguity remains — and invites caution. The same applies to the lost cantata "Colei che porta in fronte" (cat. 3.21), where the drawing remains stubbornly reticent despite its compositional care.

What do these images offer, if not letters? Perhaps nothing more and nothing less than a moment of visual openness, an invitation to pause before the singing begins.

Yet even this muteness may be deceptive. In a manuscript so consistently attuned to typographic play, one must ask: is the image truly devoid of a letter, or is it simply that I cannot see it?

This question cannot be settled with certainty. What looks like absence may be the result of my own inattention. These vignettes thus mark not a failure of design, but a limit of recognition: the point at which reading turns back into seeing, and the eye must accept its doubt.

### 3.7 ICONOGRAPHIC SOURCES

The iconographic sources behind the manuscript's drawings are diverse but remarkably coherent in date and origin. Seventeen of the thirty-two drawings derive from six different series published by Israël Silvestre (1621–1691) in Paris between 1645 and 1648. Three others are based on sets published by his uncle, Israël Henriet (1590–1661), in 1643 and 1647. The remainder include four drawings after Jacques Callot (1592–1635), two after François Collignon (1609–1687), two after Langlois (1588–1647), one after Giangiacomo de Rossi (1627–1691), one after Balthazar Moncornet (1600–1668), and one after Ercole Bazzicaluva (1590–1641). Only a single drawing appears to be an original invention, seemingly inspired by the cantata it introduces.

That so many sources can be traced back to Stefano della Bella is not surprising. Many of these prints were etched by him or after his designs. Furthermore, his close collaboration with French publishers first in Rome (1631–1636) and later in Paris (from 1639 onward), ensured their wide diffusion.<sup>164</sup>

Most of the prints used were published in Paris in the 1640s and 1650s, offering a clear *terminus post quem* for the manuscripts' redaction and decoration. Current scholarship dates the manuscripts to the 1690s, when French print series were widely collected in Italy.<sup>165</sup> Their subject matter, mostly views of Rome and its environs, seascapes, and landscapes, fits within the genre of *voyages pittoresques*, which had become fashionable from the early-17th century onward. This iconographic and rather scenographic taste was mirrored in painting and fresco decoration, where vedute and imaginary ruins held a prominent place.<sup>166</sup>

The prints, originally ca. 70 × 165 mm and horizontal in format, were adapted by the draftsman to fit the smaller manuscript margins. Compositions were cropped or selectively copied; in a couple of cases, the left and right halves of a single print generated two separate drawings (cat. 3.09 and 3.15; cat. 3.18 and 3.28). These choices were far from arbitrary: the urban landmarks featured are recognizable, suggesting deliberate selection and cultural intent.

This same editorial eye governed the handling of seascapes, landscapes, and genre scenes. Modifications, such as replacing a building with a tree or omitting an oversized ship, reveal not just spatial adaptation but also aesthetic preference. Moreover, figures (or staffage) were often introduced or repositioned to interact with textual themes or to create visual analogues of the cantata's tone. These additions, though modest, are key to understanding the

<sup>164</sup> Piazzzi 2013.

<sup>165</sup> Negro Spina 1990, pp. 256–257.

<sup>166</sup> Briganti 1986, pp. 49–52; Ferrari 2008, pp. 27–30.

symbolic and narrative ambition of the manuscript's decoration (see 3.3.1).

### 3.8 OVERVIEW OF THE VIGNETTES

The vignettes examined throughout this chapter are anything but generic decorations. Their iconographic and structural complexity, emerging from careful selection, modification, and reinterpretation of printed sources, suggests a cultivated and technically skilled hand, actively engaging with both image and text. While the attribution to Stefano della Bella is understandable given the sources used, the drawings also merit attention from a graphic and technical point of view.

Far from being mere reproductions, these vignettes reflect a conscious effort to organize space, articulate depth, and balance visual rhythm. Though small in size, they display an assured control of perspective and a selective intelligence. The draftsman rarely replicates the original in full, but instead isolates meaningful portions, shifts emphasis, and inserts elements that serve a new compositional or narrative purpose. This is particularly evident in the so-called "twisted" vignettes, where a subtle interplay of visual cues and calligraphic intention results in ambiguous forms.

Graphically, the execution is also telling. The use of pen and ink mimics the etched line with surprising fidelity, not simply in outline, but also in its handling of pressure, flow, and density. One might say that where Callot and Della Bella strove to make etching look like drawing, this anonymous draftsman went the other way round: working in ink to capture the tonal qualities and graphic vibration of the printed line. This inversion is more than a visual curiosity: it speaks to an understanding of print not only as a model but as a medium to be translated, reimagined, and adapted to a different material context: namely, the manuscript page.

In short, these drawings are not only interpretive acts; they are exercises in graphic intelligence. They mirror the cantatas' lyrical complexity with their own visual sophistication and invite the viewer to participate in a layered experience of looking, reading, and listening. In doing so, they transform the manuscript into a site where multiple media converge.

### 3.9 CONCLUSIONS

This chapter aimed to demonstrate how decorative elements in cantata manuscripts are far more than ornamental flourishes: they are rich repositories of information. The vignettes preserved in the Ashmolean album, originally cut from four Roman manuscripts, offer a lens through which to examine not only the aesthetic strategies underpinning manuscript design but also their material histories, their trajectories through 18th-century collecting, and their modern rediscovery.

These images reveal how Roman cantata manuscripts were implicated in broader patterns of 18th-century cultural extraction. The dismemberment of the volumes, likely under the bibliophilic eye of Sir John Symmons, reflects the practices of acquisition, fragmentation, and recontextualization that characterized British collecting approaches. The prints chosen as iconographic models, largely French publications from the 1640s and 1650s, point to a sophisticated visual culture shaped by collecting networks and shared symbolic literacy.

At the same time, this chapter intersects with contemporary book history. One of the four volumes from which the drawings were removed, long thought lost after the upheavals of World War II, was identified during this research and is now preserved in the Russian National Library in St Petersburg. This is not merely a footnote: it underscores the potential of manuscript decoration to guide reconstruction, to expose paths of circulation and loss, and even to lead to new discoveries in institutional collections. The



volume not only sheds new light on the decorative practices of Roman cantata manuscripts, but also expands the known repertoire of Stradella's cantatas, offering a new primary source for his music.

Finally, the vignettes offer insight into the intended readerly experience of the manuscripts. Their visual strategies, particularly those employing hidden or compositional initials, invite playful, erudite participation. They are part of a 17th century aesthetic that blurs the boundaries between text and image, reading and seeing, interpretation and amusement. Through subtle cues and emblematic suggestions, they reward the viewer who recognizes not only the letter embedded in a figure or a tree, but also the cityscape, the architectural fragment, or the source print.

In short, the story of these drawings, from creation to removal, from dispersal to rediscovery, testifies to the power of decoration to illuminate music's material past. Their careful analysis sheds light on the entangled histories of manuscript production, graphic culture, collecting, and connoisseurship. They show that even the smallest visual detail can carry with it the weight of artistic intention, historical upheaval, and scholarly revelation.

### 3. CATALOGUE

This catalogue offers a systematic visual and documentary account of the 32 pen drawings currently held at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford (inv. WA1942.49). The aim of this catalogue is twofold: to provide detailed material documentation of the surviving drawings, including dimensions, techniques, inscriptions, and states of preservation, and to offer contextual iconographic and philological interpretations for each image. Each entry presents a reproduction of the drawing, the poetic incipit identified through databases such as CLORI, an English translation, and iconographic commentary that includes relevant parallels with known prints and models by artists such as Della Bella, Callot, Buffagnotti, and Silvestre. When possible, a codicological link to the cantata manuscripts discussed in Chapter 3 is also provided, along with measurements of the lacuna left by the removed vignette, reinforcing the physical correspondence between the fragments and their source volumes. While several of the drawings have long been associated with della Bella, alternative attributions or uncertainties are noted where relevant.

The entries follow the disposition of the vignettes in the Ashmolean album. Readers are encouraged to consult sections 3.4.1 through 3.4.4 of the chapter for parallel descriptions of the manuscripts and for cross-referencing individual vignettes with their corresponding cantatas. This catalogue thus serves both as an independent visual corpus and as a critical supplement to the archival reconstruction undertaken in the main body of the dissertation.

| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.01 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.1</b><br/> Francesco Bagaglia, "Con tutto, che Amore" [2326].<br/> <b>Former attribution(s):</b><br/> Stefano della Bella<br/> <b>Date:</b> ca. 1690<br/> <b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper<br/> <b>Size:</b> 79 x 107 mm<br/> <b>Description/Remarks:</b> Hidden allusive initial. Venus disarming Cupid.<br/> <b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73581">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73581</a><br/> <b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> GB-Lbl Add.24311.10<br/> <b>Bibliography:</b> -<br/> <b>Related work(s):</b> -</p> |  | <p>Con tutto che Amore<br/> Mi vada stringendo<br/> La rocca del core<br/> Ancor non mi rendo<br/> E col ferro e col foco<br/> La mia costanza assale<br/> Ma lo strale e la face<br/> Io prendo a gioco.<br/> Perché giungano i suoi dardi<br/> A far piaghe più penose<br/> Pria l'affina entro gli sguardi<br/> Di due luci dispettose.</p> <p>Ma temo, ohime<br/> Che al replicato assalto<br/> De guerrieri d'Amore<br/> Cederà questo core<br/> Ancor che sia di smalto<br/> Che per esser alato<br/> Quel Fanciullo bendato<br/> Vedo già che à miei danni<br/> Per entrar nel mio sen<br/> Nel mio sen dispiega i vanni<br/> Ma perché non si renda<br/> La fortezza dell'Alma<br/> Venga l'ira in soccorso,<br/> E il cor difenda.</p> <p>Perché non habbia del mio<br/> Sen la palma à quel'alato Nume<br/> Un bel foco di sdegno</p> | <p>Though Love, with all its might,<br/> May press upon me tight,<br/> The fortress of my heart<br/> Still will not yield its part.<br/> With sword and flame he tries<br/> To shake my steadfast guise,<br/> But his torch and dart I treat<br/> As trifles at my feet.<br/> To sharpen crueler blows,<br/> He hones his shafts, I know,<br/> Within the scornful gleam<br/> Of two eyes that cruelly beam.<br/> Yet I fear, alas,<br/> That with each fierce new pass<br/> Of Love's relentless host,<br/> My heart may yield its boast.<br/> Though made of tempered steel,<br/> Against this boy's bold zeal—<br/> This blind and winged sprite—<br/> I see him take to flight,<br/> To storm my breast again,<br/> Unfolding wings in vain.<br/> But to keep my soul from falling,<br/> Let anger heed its calling,<br/> Let wrath arise and stand,<br/> To shield my heart and hand.<br/> That Love may not obtain<br/> The glory of my pain,<br/> Let a fire of proud disdain<br/> Burn his feathers down again.</p> |

**3.01a**

**Title:** "Tempio della Sibilla in Tivoli", *Antiche. E. Moderne. Vedute. Di. Roma. E. Contorno. Fate. Da. Israel. Silvestro. cum priuile Regis excudit Parisiis.*

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

**Date:** 1645-48

**Technique and support:**  
etching on paper

**Size:** 75 x 150 mm

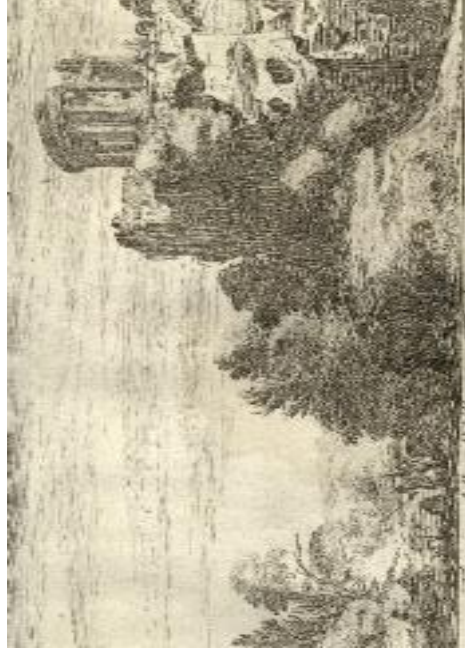
**Provenance/cat. nr:** Augusto Guidini Collection, Iconoteca dell'Accademia di architettura Mendrisio, Università della Svizzera italiana.

**Bibliography :** Faucheux 3.2

Arda le piume.

Perché non m'abbatta la forza  
d'Amore  
Farò che combatta sdegnoso  
rigore.

So Love shall not defeat me,  
If I let fierce scorn meet me,  
And with its boldest power,  
Stand guard this final hour.



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| 3.02 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.2</b></p> <p>Alessandro Stradella , "Sciogliete pur i vostri accenti," [5307].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b><br/>Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> ca. 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 77 x 100 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b><br/>Hidden, use of the composition.</p> <p>The scene is animated by a range of small figures, fishermen, herders, and distant peasants, and is framed on the right by a large foreground tree and gnarled roots.</p> <p>A slender tree in the middle ground, slightly leaning and forking at the top, is carefully positioned to describe the shape of a capital "S", echoing the opening of the cantata text. The gesture is not immediately obvious, but once perceived, anchors the composition typographically, creating a visual cue that supports the reading of the initial.</p> <p>Unlike other initials in the manuscript, this "S" is neither anthropomorphic nor zoomorphic. It remains a naturalistic feature, whose shape is enhanced through compositional placement and</p> |  | <p>Sciogliete pur, sciogliete i vostri accenti,<br/>Otiose mie corde,<br/>Con melodie concorde<br/>Secondate il tenor de miei tormenti,<br/>Acciò fra vostri musici respiri<br/>Versi più grato il suon de miei sospiri.<br/>Su la cetra d'un bel labro<br/>Dolci note Amor compose<br/>E con voci armoniose<br/>Crudo fabro<br/>Le mie pene articolò.</p> <p>Fra due conche di rubino<br/>Vaghe per le espose il cielo<br/>E con turbine di gelo<br/>Reo destino<br/>Le mie fiamme distillò.<br/>In così duro stato<br/>Chiedo soccorso al Fato!<br/>Ed ei crudel del mio dolor si ride.<br/>E destando a miei danni aure homicide,<br/>Acciò l'incendio rio l'alma distempre<br/>Con armoniche tempre<br/>Somministra alimento al foco mio.<br/>Con fiati sonori,</p> | <p>Unleash, yes, unleash your tones,<br/>Idle strings of mine,<br/>With harmonies divine,<br/>Echo now the tenor of my moans,<br/>So that within your musical sighs,<br/>The sound of my grief may sweeter rise.</p> <p>Upon the lyre of a lovely lip,<br/>Sweet notes did Love transcribe,<br/>And with harmonies that grip,<br/>The cruel smith<br/>My sorrows he inscribed.</p> <p>Between two ruby shells,<br/>Heaven placed its fair pearls,<br/>And with a storm of icy swirls,<br/>Wicked fate<br/>My burning love distills and hurls.</p> <p>In such a harsh condition,<br/>I cry to Fate for aid—<br/>But cruelly he mocks the pain I've laid.<br/>He stirs to harm me winds of deathly breath,<br/>And, lest this soul escape its blazing death,<br/>He tunes the flames anew,<br/>In harmonies untrue,</p> |

rhythmic emphasis. The solution reflects a more integrated and subtle approach to initial design, where landscape structure provides a framework for textual reference without interrupting pictorial coherence.

There is no direct iconographic connection between the image and the cantata's content.

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73118>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.05

**Bibliography:** -

**Related work(s):** -

|                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cocenti fragori<br>M'avventa nel seno<br>Canora beltà.                                                                                              | That feed the fire with sound and sigh—                                                                                                                                          |
| A tanto diletto<br>L'accesso mio petto<br>Languisce, vien meno,<br>Ne trova pietà.<br>E con deliquio eterno<br>Nel paradiso altrui prova l'inferno. | With tuneful beauty,<br>Piercing in its duty,<br>He strikes my breast anew<br>With music's cruel delight.                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                     | At such sweet torment,<br>My heart, now fervent,<br>Faints and loses sight.<br>And finds no mercy bright.<br>In endless swoon I dwell,<br>In others' heaven tasting my own hell. |

**3.02a**

**Title:** *Première Suite de Quatre Paysages.*

**Attribution:** François Collignon, after Stefano Della Bella

**Date:** ca. 1643

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 112 x 208 mm

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbma 1871,0513.701

**Bibliography:** De Vesme 1093





| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| 3.03 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.3</b></p> <p>Alessandro Stradella, "Il penare per te bella m'è caro," [5309].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b><br/>Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> ca. 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 80 x 106 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b><br/>Hidden, use of the composition<br/>This vignette reinterprets the left portion of a larger port scene, deliberately omitting the vessels and activity on the right in order to highlight a single vertical mast rising from the fortress atop the promontory. The mast, accentuated by its isolation and framing, draws a clear capital "I", the initial of the text. Though entirely naturalistic and integrated into architecture, its role as a visual cue is emphasised by the compositional decision to exclude surrounding clutter. The eye is led naturally to the top of the hill, where the upright line breaks the skyline with typographic precision.</p> <p>There is no iconographic correspondence between the drawing and the cantata's intensely affective narrative of suffering and desire.</p> |  | <p>Il penare per te, bella, m'è caro,<br/>Pur ch'un giorno sperar possa<br/>mercede,<br/>Deh ti muova a pietà il mio pianto<br/>amaro,<br/>Che nascan queste stille in mar di<br/>fede.</p> <p>Sol contentati, amata,<br/>Dhe bagi genuflesso a piedi tuoi<br/>Quella mano adorata,<br/>A cui diè l'alabastro i pregi suoi?<br/>E se il candore<br/>È simbolo di fede,<br/>Al candor della man l'alma non<br/>cede.</p> <p>Febo il corso arresterà<br/>L'ondeggjar cesserà il mare.<br/>Ma ch'io lasci mai d'amare,<br/>Non puot'esser, non sarà.</p> <p>La mia Erminda adorerò,<br/>Finché havrò spiro nel seno,<br/>Nè il mio foco verrà meno,<br/>Ma via più l'accenderò.</p> <p>Sotto il cielo latino<br/>Non si vidde già mai beltà sì rara<br/>E per donna sì cara,<br/>Meraviglia non fia, s'arde Fileno.</p> | <p>To suffer for you, my beauty, is<br/>sweet,<br/>So long as I might one day hope<br/>for grace.<br/>Oh, may my bitter tears your pity<br/>meet,<br/>These drops born of a faithful<br/>soul's embrace.<br/>Be content, beloved,<br/>If I may kneel and kiss, in humbled<br/>art,<br/>That hand adored and gloved,<br/>Whose alabaster shames all<br/>sculptor's part.<br/>And if pure white<br/>Be faith's true sign above,<br/>Then her white hand speaks truer<br/>than my love.<br/>Phoebus may halt his golden race,<br/>The seas may still their endless<br/>sway,<br/>But cease to love? That has no<br/>place—<br/>Nor now, nor any day.</p> <p>I shall adore my fair Erminda true,<br/>While breath remains within my<br/>living breast.<br/>My flame shall not grow weak or<br/>bid adieu—</p> |

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73582>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** D-Hs ND VI

2263,1.08

**Bibliography:****Related work(s):**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Se per lei venne meno,<br>Se g'heremi cercò,<br>Se pianse, se languì,<br>Se per lei delirò,<br>Che al fin lecito fia<br>Piangere, vaneggiar, perdere i<br>sensi<br>Per bellezza divina,<br>Che merta idolatria, che merta<br>incensi.                | It ever grows, unrested and<br>unblessed.<br>Neath Latin skies, no fairer sight<br>was seen;<br>And for a lady so divine,<br>It is no wonder that Fileno burns,<br>If for her he lost all reason,<br>Sought the wilderness alone,<br>Wept, and wandered senseless<br>seasons.<br>Let it be no sin<br>To mourn, to rave, to lose the<br>mind entire,<br>For such divine a beauty,<br>Deserving of incense and of<br>sacred fire. |
| Sorte ria, che seguirà?<br>Finirà<br>Di piagarmi,<br>Tormentarmi<br>La crudel mia deità?                                                                                                                                                             | Let it be no sin<br>To mourn, to rave, to lose the<br>mind entire,<br>For such divine a beauty,<br>Deserving of incense and of<br>sacred fire.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Mio destino, e che farò?<br>Viverò,<br>Fiera sorte,<br>Dammi morte,<br>Perché almen non penerò.                                                                                                                                                      | Cruel fate, what shall you do?<br>Will you<br>At last relent<br>And end the torment<br>Dealt by my pitiless deity?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Destinati nel baratro infernale<br>Furon quei, che nel sen gl'odij<br>covaro.<br>Ivi gl'empj ne andaro<br>Giustamente puniti.<br>Ma la crudele Erinda<br>Fa provar un inferno<br>Al misero Fileno<br>E vuol, ch'in seno<br>Senta un incendio eterno, | O my destiny—what shall I<br>embrace?<br>Shall I live<br>With this fierce fate?<br>Then let me die—<br>For only thus shall pain abate.<br>To the depths of Hell were cast<br>the damned,<br>Those who nursed hatred deep<br>within their chest;                                                                                                                                                                                 |



E per pena maggior non vuol, che  
mora.  
Tal castigo le dà, perché l'adora.

There, the impious were rightly  
judged and banned,  
Their endless torment fit and just  
redress.  
Yet cruel Erminda, with a harsher  
hand,  
Inflicts a hell on poor Fileno's soul.  
She bids a fire within my spirit  
stand, / But bars me from death's  
consoling goal.  
The greater punishment she thus  
bestows:  
To live, and burn, because he  
loves her so.

### 3.03a

**Title:** *Divers Paysages.*

**Attribution:** Stefano Della Bella;  
publisher: Henriët Israël

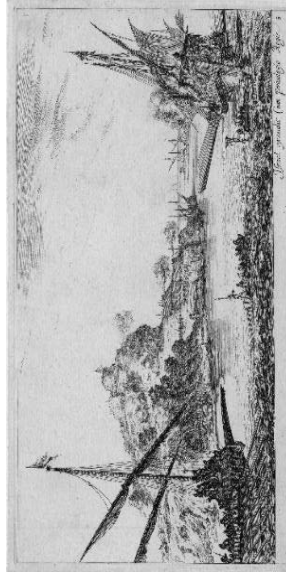
**Date:** ca. 1643

**Technique and support:** etching on  
paper

**Size:** 115 x 255 mm

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbma  
1871,0513.716

**Bibliography:** De Vesme 764



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| 3.04 | <b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.4</b><br>Alessandro Stradella, "Io che lasciato fui" [t. Giovanni Filippo Apolloni], [4140]<br><b>Former attribution(s):</b><br>Stefano della Bella<br><b>Date:</b> ca. 1690<br><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper<br><b>Size:</b> 80 x 104 mm<br><b>Description/Remarks:</b><br>Hidden, use of the composition<br>This drawing depicts several ships in the midst of a storm. The central is more detailed and prominent. Its sails torn and hull tilted, surrounded by crashing waves and the other vessels in the distance. The composition centres on a vertical mast, which rises sharply from the deck and cuts the sky in a stark upward motion, visually echoing a capital "I".<br>The scene is markedly less concerned with topographic fidelity than with emotive composition. The storm functions as a visual topos of disorientation and turmoil, mirroring the cantata's conflicting sentiments of love, abandonment, and the futility of escape.<br>The initial is not disguised but suggested through compositional |  | Io che lasciato fui<br>Più che dà gli occhi altrui,<br>Dal mio Fato crudele in<br>abbandono,<br>Vengo à provar se giova in strana<br>forma,<br>E nova cangiar me stesso<br>E pur l'istesso io sono<br>Filli, tu mi lasciasti,<br>Et io dovei partir,<br>Mà non ho per fuggir Petto, che<br>basti.<br><br>Il rimedio d'Amor<br>È scordarsi d'amar,<br>Mà l'istesso dolor<br>Che mi guida ad'amar<br>F ache l'anima mia<br>Sol pensa à Filli<br>Al suo rimedio oblia.<br><br>Il non pensare à te<br>Curar mi può solo<br>Mà la tradita fe in sasso mi<br>cangiò<br>E mentre lete invoco<br>Corre lete à mio danno<br>Onde di foco.<br><br>Mà dimmi empia e rubella<br>Per esser infedele | <i>I, who was left behind<br/>           More than by any eyes of others, /<br/>           By cruel Fate abandoned and<br/>           denied,<br/>           Now come to test if change of<br/>           form brings peace,<br/>           To change myself in some strange<br/>           guise—<br/>           And yet, I am the same beneath<br/>           disguise. / Phyllis, you left me,<br/>           And I should too depart,<br/>           But I have not the strength,<br/>           No heart stout enough to start. //</i><br><i>The remedy for love<br/>           Is to forget we ever loved at all— /<br/>           But the very same pain<br/>           That leads me to recall<br/>           Keeps my soul<br/>           Fixed on Phyllis still,<br/>           And makes me forget love's cure<br/>           and will. //</i><br><i>To not think of you<br/>           Alone might be the way—<br/>           But betrayed faith<br/>           Has turned me into stone,<br/>           And while I call on Lethe's sway,<br/>           Lethe flows against me,<br/>           Bringing fire, not oblivion, in its<br/>           play. // But tell me, cruel and<br/>           defiant one:<br/>           To be unfaithful,</i> |

alignment: the mast anchors the page graphically and textually, reinforcing the opening word of the poem ("Io"). This is a clear case of symbolic and graphic convergence, in which the image does not illustrate but amplifies the affective register of the cantata.

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73583>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbl

Add.24311.12

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pensi d'esser più bella<br>Il vanto di crudele<br>Morto mi vuoi cresce<br>Forse ornament à l lumi tuoi?<br>Così di gloria cede<br>Nel bel seno di Filli<br>Lo sdegno all'ira<br>Alla bugia la fede?<br>Ò mille volte, e mille<br>Maledetto quel di ch'al tuo<br>sembiante<br>Fissai lo sguardo à tante<br>Prove, e tante per falsa ti ravvigo,<br>Ogni voce, ogni moto,<br>Il guardo, il riso, sembra pace et è<br>Guerra<br>È Nembo, e par sereno, e quanto<br>in te<br>Si serra è tutta inquit<br>Tutto è veleno resta perfida<br>Quella pace à goder,<br>Con cui mi lasci.<br>Lasso mà che m'arresta,<br>Chi mi lega le piante<br>Della ragione à scorno.<br>Ah', ch'in un solo istante<br>Parto, e resto, amo, oblio,<br>M'involo, e torno.<br><br>Se giovasse il fuggir<br>Come pronto, e spedito<br>Mi partirei da te per non morir,<br>Mà se per ogni lito | Do you think it makes you fairer? /<br>Does the pride of cruelty<br>Raise your dead lover<br>As adornment to your eyes' cold<br>glare?<br>Thus glory yields<br>In Phyllis' lovely breast<br>To scorn and wrath,<br>And truth gives way to falsehood's<br>jest. //<br>Oh, a thousand times, and more, /<br>Cursed be the day I set<br>My gaze upon your traitorous<br>silhouette.<br>Through proof on proof, I now<br>confess— / Every word, each<br>motion, / Your glance, your smile—<br>seem peace, and yet are war, / A<br>storm that masks itself as calm—<br>/ All in you is unrest,<br>All is poison. False heart,<br>You keep the peace for your<br>delight / With which you leave me<br>torn apart. // Alas, what holds me<br>still? / What binds my feet / In<br>shame, by reason fettered? / Ah!<br>In but a single breath / I go—and<br>yet remain,<br>I love and I forget,<br>I flee—and turn again. //<br>If fleeing helped, / How swiftly<br>would I fly from you, / So not to<br>die. / But if on every shore<br>I carry with me all my pain, |
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**3.04a**

**Title:** "Baviere ordinaire qui passe de Doure a Calais" Vues de Ports de Mer.

**Attribution:** Stefano della Bella

**Date:** 1647

**Technique and support:**

Etching on paper

**Size:** 90 x 139 mm

**Provenance/cat. nr:** US-NYmm  
2018.839.132

**Bibliography:** De Vesme 797



Porto meco il mio mal resta cor  
mio  
Tanto abbrugia l'ardor quanto  
l'oblio.  
  
Lo scordarsi del mal il pianto non  
asciuga  
Ne si vince il dolor quando è fatal  
Che val dunque la fuga  
Che mi giova il partir  
Per vendicarmi tento peno  
ad'amar  
Tanto à scordarmi.

Then, dearest heart,  
Both burning love and cold  
forgetting / Seem equally in vain.  
// To forget such sorrow  
Dries no tear, nor dulls the smart—  
/ One cannot overcome true grief  
/ When it is written in the heart. /  
What good, then, is fleeing? /  
What help is there in parting  
ways? / To seek revenge I try— /  
But loving still, I only weep / And  
cannot make myself forget / No  
matter how I grieve or deeply cry.

| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| 3.05 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.5</b><br/> Alessandro Stradella, "Vincesti o ciel."<br/> [5306]<br/> <b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella<br/> <b>Date:</b> 1690<br/> <b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper<br/> <b>Size:</b> 72 x 92 mm<br/> <b>Description/Remarks:</b><br/> Hidden, use of the composition<br/> This vignette adapts a composition by Stefano della Bella, omitting the original flock of sheep and focusing instead on a solitary bifurcated tree, placed almost exactly at the centre of the image. Its trunk leans sharply left, while the twin branches arch outward and upward, forming the unmistakable profile of a capital "V."<br/> The initial is not formed by transformation or disguise, but by compositional emphasis: the tree is both natural and typographic, its placement guiding the viewer's eye to a shape that echoes the incipit. The surrounding landscape remains calm and spacious, offering no narrative content, but supporting the structure of the letter as a graphic anchor.<br/> There is no iconographic correlation between the drawing and the cantata's</p> |  | <p>Vincesti, ò ciel, vincesti!<br/> I tuoi raggi funesti<br/> Hanno del petto mio più fine<br/> tempre.<br/> Vincesti, ò ciel, vincesti al fin per<br/> sempre!<br/> Se di morte adopri l'armi,<br/> Scudo invano il seno oppone<br/> E non san gli stoici carmi<br/> Incantar l'elmo a ragione.<br/> Ma se forbice eterna<br/> Con falce alterna su la tela irriti<br/> De miei spirti arditi,<br/> Dimmi, con qual oggetto<br/> Contro filo indiretto<br/> Il taglio rivolgesti?<br/> Tu Rosina uccidesti, ò traditore!<br/> Perché di cruci nuovi<br/> L'inventato dolore<br/> Ne g'altrui sensi ogni mio senso<br/> prova?<br/> Così m'atterra<br/> Del fato vile<br/> Obliquo stile<br/> Di torta guerra.<br/> La mina, ch'ei tenta,<br/> Non s'apre al mio piè,<br/> Gli strali, che avventa,</p> | <p>You have won, oh heavens, you<br/> have won!<br/> Your fatal rays have struck<br/> A breast of finest steel and made<br/> it yield.<br/> You have won, oh heavens, and<br/> forever sealed!<br/> If death be your weapon's might,<br/> Then vain the shielded chest must<br/> be,<br/> And stoic charms in lofty rite<br/> Cannot enchant the helm of<br/> Reason's plea.<br/> But if your eternal shears,<br/> With alternating scythe, provoke<br/> the threads<br/> Of my bold and daring breath,<br/> Tell me—against what image,<br/> On which fated line,<br/> Did you direct your cut and mark<br/> the death?<br/> You slew Rosina, oh betrayer!<br/> Why then must I now bear<br/> The burden of new woes<br/> Invented to make others' sorrow<br/> mine to wear?<br/> Thus I am struck down<br/> By vile fate's crooked art,</p> |

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| <p>violent rhetorical force, which revolves around defiance, divine betrayal, and emotional annihilation.</p> <p><b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73584">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73584</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> D-Hs ND VI 2263,104</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> <p><b>Related work(s):</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Non mirano a me.</p> <p>Dall'altrui sen carnefice saetta<br/> Con eco ostile entro il mio cor riflette.<br/> Vincesti, ò ciel, vincesti<br/> A l'indefesso sdegno<br/> Dar possa omai dovresti?<br/> No, no, riversa pure<br/> Dell'alma mia l'instatiabil sdegno<br/> Tutto l'arco immortal delle sventure.</p> <p>E se tu speculi<br/> Forme d'offendere,<br/> Miei amici in secoli<br/> Studia a distendere,<br/> Che punto gemere<br/> Già mai saprò<br/> E gli astri premere<br/> Saggio ardirò.</p> <p>Ma il calcarli sin hor vergine<br/> impresa<br/> Soffre il contrasto il ciel non già l'offesa.</p> </td><td> <p>By slanted wars<br/> That break the soul, not part.<br/> The mine he lays<br/> Opens not beneath my feet—<br/> The darts he flings<br/> Are not for me to meet.</p> <p>But from another's breast,<br/> The murderous shaft is drawn,<br/> And echoes back within my own<br/> With vengeance cruelly pressed.<br/> You have won, oh heavens, you have won— / But tell me now,<br/> Should endless scorn not find its power somehow?</p> <p>No, no—then let it pour / From my insatiable soul, / This storm of wrath forevermore / Across fate's immortal scroll.</p> <p>And if you seek / New shapes to strike and sting, / Then stretch across the ages / The torment of my friends' becoming. / For I shall never weep, / Nor tremble at your fire— / I shall press upon the stars With measured, wise desire.</p> <p>But to tread the stars, a path still chaste,<br/> Stirs heaven's resistance—<br/> But never heaven's taste for hate.</p> </td></tr> </table> | <p>Non mirano a me.</p> <p>Dall'altrui sen carnefice saetta<br/> Con eco ostile entro il mio cor riflette.<br/> Vincesti, ò ciel, vincesti<br/> A l'indefesso sdegno<br/> Dar possa omai dovresti?<br/> No, no, riversa pure<br/> Dell'alma mia l'instatiabil sdegno<br/> Tutto l'arco immortal delle sventure.</p> <p>E se tu speculi<br/> Forme d'offendere,<br/> Miei amici in secoli<br/> Studia a distendere,<br/> Che punto gemere<br/> Già mai saprò<br/> E gli astri premere<br/> Saggio ardirò.</p> <p>Ma il calcarli sin hor vergine<br/> impresa<br/> Soffre il contrasto il ciel non già l'offesa.</p> | <p>By slanted wars<br/> That break the soul, not part.<br/> The mine he lays<br/> Opens not beneath my feet—<br/> The darts he flings<br/> Are not for me to meet.</p> <p>But from another's breast,<br/> The murderous shaft is drawn,<br/> And echoes back within my own<br/> With vengeance cruelly pressed.<br/> You have won, oh heavens, you have won— / But tell me now,<br/> Should endless scorn not find its power somehow?</p> <p>No, no—then let it pour / From my insatiable soul, / This storm of wrath forevermore / Across fate's immortal scroll.</p> <p>And if you seek / New shapes to strike and sting, / Then stretch across the ages / The torment of my friends' becoming. / For I shall never weep, / Nor tremble at your fire— / I shall press upon the stars With measured, wise desire.</p> <p>But to tread the stars, a path still chaste,<br/> Stirs heaven's resistance—<br/> But never heaven's taste for hate.</p> |
| <p>Non mirano a me.</p> <p>Dall'altrui sen carnefice saetta<br/> Con eco ostile entro il mio cor riflette.<br/> Vincesti, ò ciel, vincesti<br/> A l'indefesso sdegno<br/> Dar possa omai dovresti?<br/> No, no, riversa pure<br/> Dell'alma mia l'instatiabil sdegno<br/> Tutto l'arco immortal delle sventure.</p> <p>E se tu speculi<br/> Forme d'offendere,<br/> Miei amici in secoli<br/> Studia a distendere,<br/> Che punto gemere<br/> Già mai saprò<br/> E gli astri premere<br/> Saggio ardirò.</p> <p>Ma il calcarli sin hor vergine<br/> impresa<br/> Soffre il contrasto il ciel non già l'offesa.</p> | <p>By slanted wars<br/> That break the soul, not part.<br/> The mine he lays<br/> Opens not beneath my feet—<br/> The darts he flings<br/> Are not for me to meet.</p> <p>But from another's breast,<br/> The murderous shaft is drawn,<br/> And echoes back within my own<br/> With vengeance cruelly pressed.<br/> You have won, oh heavens, you have won— / But tell me now,<br/> Should endless scorn not find its power somehow?</p> <p>No, no—then let it pour / From my insatiable soul, / This storm of wrath forevermore / Across fate's immortal scroll.</p> <p>And if you seek / New shapes to strike and sting, / Then stretch across the ages / The torment of my friends' becoming. / For I shall never weep, / Nor tremble at your fire— / I shall press upon the stars With measured, wise desire.</p> <p>But to tread the stars, a path still chaste,<br/> Stirs heaven's resistance—<br/> But never heaven's taste for hate.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

**3.05a**

**Title:** "Première Suite de Quatre Paysages."

**Attribution:** François Collignon, after Stefano Della Bella

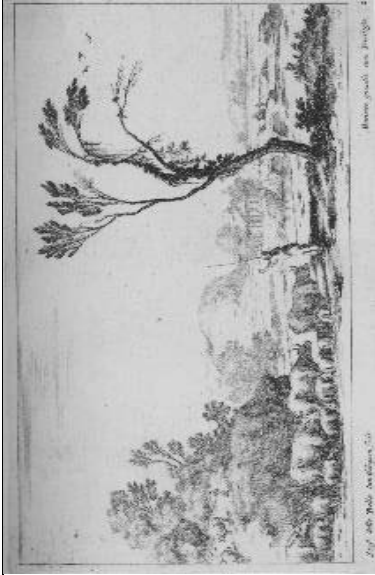
**Date:** ca. 1643

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 101 x 203 mm

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbma X.5.120  
1643

**Bibliography:** De Vesme 1094





| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| 3.06 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.6</b></p> <p>Alessandro Stradella, "Già nell'Indo emisfero", [5313]</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 72 x 92 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, figurative, antropomorphic</p> <p>This small riverside scene depicts a tranquil stretch of the Arno river flanked by rustic buildings and the distant cathedral of S. Maria del Fiore. A solitary boat glides through the centre of the image, its mast and sail forming the capital letter "G".</p> <p>The scene, at first glance, appears to be a generic pastoral backdrop. The illusion is subtle and demands effort from the viewer. It is not an ornamental caprice, but a conceptual device: the image both conceals and reveals delaying legibility in a manner perfectly in tune with the affective aesthetics of the cantata. The boat becomes more than scenic punctuation it is a visual cipher, a metaphorical vessel adrift in emotional waters.</p> |  | <p>Già nell'Indo emisfero<br/>Con luminoso aspetto<br/>L'alba era uscita a ristorare<br/>Il mondo e nel cimerio tetto<br/>Adagiato dall'ombre il Popol nero<br/>Sopiva i sensi in dolce oblio<br/>profondo.<br/>Quando per dare all'aure<br/>Tributo di sospiri<br/>Così esposse Filandro i suoi<br/>martiri:</p> <p>Fra le schiere de gl'estinti<br/>Infelice più di me<br/>Dimmi, o ciel, se mai sorti.<br/>Che non satio<br/>Dello stratio,<br/>Nè contento<br/>Del tormento<br/>Mi costringi notte e di<br/>In un mar d'acerbi pianti<br/>A sommerger la mia fè.</p> <p>Se con tempre sì fiere<br/>Le sfere<br/>Piovon sempre a miei danni<br/>Gl'affanni.<br/>Di rigor<br/>Di lor empio tenor<br/>Saprà l'alma<br/>Sottrar la sua salma.</p> | <p>Already in the Indian hemisphere,<br/>With radiant gaze,<br/>Dawn had emerged to bring relief<br/>To the weary world; and in the<br/>vaulted lair<br/>Where shadowed silence lay, the<br/>dusky race<br/>Had lulled their senses in sweet,<br/>deep forgetfulness.<br/>Then, to offer sighs unto the<br/>winds,<br/>Thus did Filandro voice<br/>The anguish of his soul:</p> <p>Among the hosts of the departed,<br/>Was there ever one more cursed<br/>than I?<br/>Tell me, O heavens,<br/>Unsated still<br/>With the wreckage,<br/>Unfulfilled<br/>By suffering still,<br/>You drive me, night and day,<br/>To drown my faith<br/>In seas of bitter weeping and<br/>dismay.</p> <p>If with such cruel tempers<br/>The spheres<br/>Rain down afflictions<br/>On my years,</p> |



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**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73585>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** D-Hs ND VI  
2263,1.11

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

*From their harsh, unholy laws*

*Shall my soul*

*Free its frame from mortal thrall.*

*Che a fuggir il furor d'un cielo  
irato*

*Ha bastante speranza un  
disperato.*

*For to flee the wrath of an angry  
sky,*

*Even despair may find the  
strength to try.*

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**3.06a**

**Title:** dedication plate of a set of 12 landscapes.

**Attribution:** Ercole Bazzicaluva

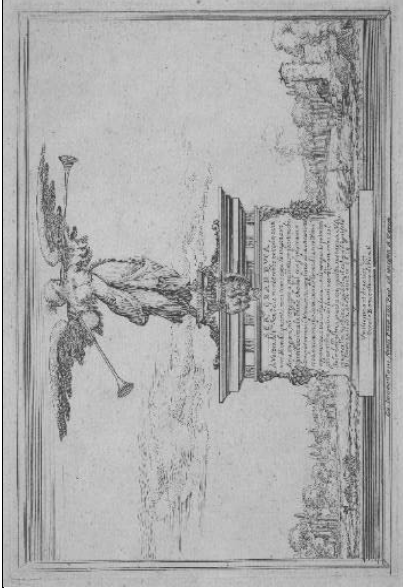
**Date:** 1638

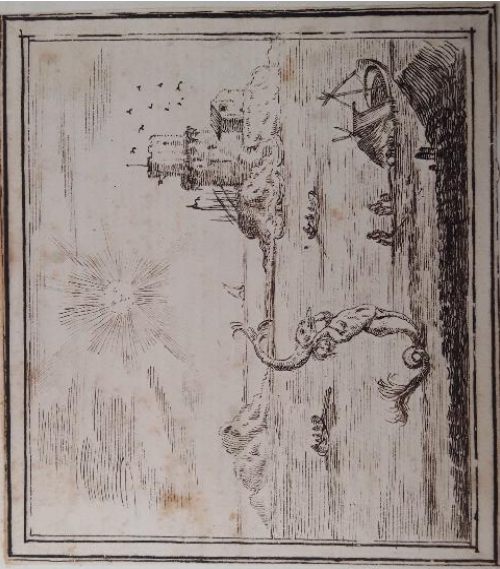
**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 290 x 395 mm

**Provenance/cat. nr:** US-Wnga 1990.3.1

**Bibliography:** -



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| 3.07 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.7</b></p> <p>Alessandro Stradella, "Sopra tutte l'altre belle," [5304]</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 80 x 89 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic, zoomorphic</p> <p>A dramatic seascape unfolds under a radiant sun, with fishing boats and rocky islands animating the central bay. A round fortress stands on the distant promontory. In the foreground, a merman emerges from the water. With arms raised above its head, it hoists the body of a second fish, the two tails curving together into a near-perfect "S".</p> <p>This serpentine composition is not incidental. As in other examples within the manuscript, and consistent with the figurative initials found in Filippo Juvarra's designs (see Chapter 2) the "S" is formed entirely through the animation of animal and hybrid bodies. The effect is both whimsical and rhetorical: a coded initial shaped by motion, flesh, and marine invention.</p> |  | <p>Sopra tutte l'altre belle<br/>Voi più bella e vaga sete,<br/>Nel bel volto il sole havete,<br/>G'occhi sembrano due stelle.</p> <p>Ma vi s'opone in voi solo una<br/>cosa:<br/>Che più che bella sete assai<br/>ritrosa.</p> <p>La bellezza senza amore<br/>Mai nel sen gioie produce<br/>Ella è un sol, che non ha luce,<br/>Ella è un alma senza core.</p> <p>Così appunto, ben mio, in voi<br/>succede:<br/>Poco amor, gran beltà e senza<br/>fede.</p> <p>Troppo barbara empietà<br/>Mai deporre i suoi rigori<br/>Trionfar dell'alme e i cori<br/>Far morir con la beltà.</p> <p>Siate crudele pur, che fate assai:<br/>Far penar gl'altri e voi non gioir<br/>mai.</p> | <p>Above all other beauties fair,<br/>You shine with charm beyond<br/>compare;<br/>Within your face the sun does<br/>glow,<br/>Your eyes like stars in night do<br/>show.</p> <p>But still, in you one flaw remains:<br/>More than your beauty—your<br/>disdain.</p> <p>Beauty without love brings no<br/>delight,<br/>It stirs no joy within the heart;<br/>It is a sun that lacks all light,<br/>A soul from which love stands<br/>apart.</p> <p>And so, my dear, in you I find:<br/>Much beauty, little love, no heart<br/>inclined.</p> <p>Too cruel is such barbarity—<br/>To never yield your stern control,<br/>To conquer hearts in vanity,<br/>And with beauty, break the soul.</p> <p>Then be as cruel as you will—<br/>You make all others suffer, yet<br/>feel no thrill.</p> |

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**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73630>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** D-Hs ND VI  
2263,1.02

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

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**3.07a**

**Title:** *Divers embarquements.*

**Attribution:** Stefano Della Bella,  
publisher: Giovanni Giacomo de Rossi

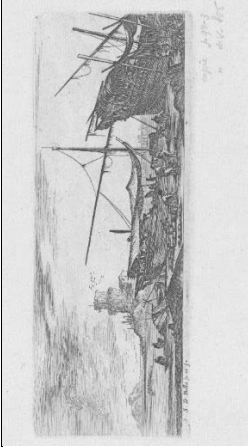
**Date:** 1620-64

**Technique and support:** etching on  
paper

**Size:** 62 x 163 mm

**Provenance/cat. nr:** NL-Arrl RP-P-  
1904-1258 (detail)

**Bibliography:** De Vesme 805



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| 3.08 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.8</b></p> <p>Alessandro Stradella, "Fermatevi, o bei lumi."</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 72 x 91 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic</p> <p>A rustic building, with a group of figures at its base and a single man holding a horizontal staff across his shoulders.</p> <p>This posture, combined with the upright stance of the figure, creates the outline of a capital "F", clearly legible and positioned near the right edge of the composition. The initial is not constructed through invention, but through strategic selection and framing: the original print contains this element, but only in the reworked drawing does it acquire typographic function.</p> <p>While the image bears no symbolic relation to the cantata's themes of emotional torment, defiance, and ecstatic reversal, it provides a graphic anchor for the incipit. The use of an existing human gesture as a</p> |  | <p>Fermatevi, ò bei lumi,<br/>Non mi guardate più.<br/>Fatto esangue<br/>Per voi lingue<br/>Il mio core,<br/>Che d'Amore<br/>È ridotto in servitù.</p> <p>Fuggitemi, ò bei lumi,<br/>Non mi guardate, nò.<br/>Se mirate,<br/>M'impiegiate,<br/>Ch'ogni sguardo<br/>Fassi un dardo,<br/>Ond'ogn'or trafitto io vò.</p> <p>È d'un cor sventurato<br/>Troppo misera sorte,<br/>Onde gl'altri han la vita, io n'ho la morte.</p> <p>Filli, che ne begl'occhi<br/>Tutti del cielo ha trasportato i rai,<br/>Sa di tutto l'Inferno<br/>In un sol guardo epilogare i rai,<br/>Onde s'avvien, che poi<br/>O per ire, o per vezzo ella mi miri,<br/>Mi costa un guardo sol mille martiri.<br/>Tal lieto di mie pene</p> | <p>Hold, oh lovely lights,<br/>Look on me no more.<br/>Already bloodless,<br/>For you languishes<br/>My heart—<br/>Made a slave<br/>To Love's burning lore.</p> <p>Flee from me, oh lovely lights,<br/>No more your gaze bestow.<br/>If you glance,<br/>You wound—<br/>Each look becomes a dart,<br/>And pierced at every moment I must go.</p> <p>Such is the fate, too cruel,<br/>Of an unlucky heart:<br/>Where others find life, I find only death in part.</p> <p>Phyllis, in whose eyes<br/>All the rays of heaven shine bright,<br/>Knows how to gather<br/>All of Hell's torments in a single sight.<br/>Thus, if she gazes at me—<br/>Be it anger or sweet play—<br/>One glance alone<br/>Costs me a thousand pains in a day.</p> |

letterform, rather than designing one, reflects a minimalist and economical strategy of visual paratext.

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73631>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbl

Add.24311.03

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

Con tirannico riso hor gode

Amore,

Che con le gioie ancor s'affligge  
un core.

Lungi dal mio seno

Tuo veleno, ò nudo Arciero.

Se scherzi, tu sferzi,

Se alletti, saetti,

Se ridi, m'uccidi,

E se Amico ti fai, sei più severo.

Fugga dal mio core

Tuo rigore, ò cieco Infante.

Del vago lo m'appago,

Ma presto funesto

lo sento un tormento,

Che all'instabil piacer cangia  
sembiante.

Ma folle, e che vaneggio?

D'Amor così discorro

Misero e non m'aveggio

In quai deliri, in qual error  
trascorro?

Amor, deh', mi perdona!

Errai, ma dell'error fu mio

l'affanno,

Io me stesso condanno,

Che per Filli il mio bene

Mi son dolci i dolor, care le pene.

Crescano pur a mille a mille i

guai,

Che s'unito ad un guardo

*Now Love, delighted*

*With my endless sorrow,*

*Laughs tyrannically,*

*Finding joy in my borrowed  
morrow.*

*Far from my breast,*

*Your venom fly, oh naked Archer!*

*If you jest, you lash;*

*If you charm, you strike;*

*If you smile, you slay;*

*And if you feign friendship, you*

*are crueler still today.*

*Flee from my heart,*

*Your harshness, oh blind Boy!*

*In beauty I find delight—*

*Yet swiftly, too swiftly,*

*Torment arises*

*And changes pleasure into*

*fleeting fright.*

*But—foolish me!—what madness  
is this?*

*To speak thus against Love,*

*Wretched and unaware*

*Of the delirium, the error I move*

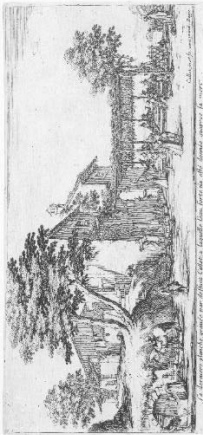
*within!*

*Love, ah, forgive me!*

*I strayed—but the sorrow was all*

*mine,*

*And I blame myself alone,*

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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|                     | <p>Balenerammi un riso,<br/>Sarà tosto il mio Inferno un<br/>Paradiso.</p> <p>Luci vezzose,<br/>Non mi fuggite!<br/>Sia di morte terribile il gelo,<br/>Ch'il mio Amore temerlo non sa,<br/>E darà propitio il cielo,<br/>Se con voci sol m'uccide<br/>Omicide, a me gradite.</p> <p>Non mi fuggite,<br/>Luci vezzose!<br/>Se d'Amore propitia la sorte<br/>Per voi sole morire mi fa,<br/>Mi sarà vital' la morte,<br/>Che per causa così bella<br/>La mia stella a me dispose.</p> <p>Charming eyes,<br/>Do not flee!<br/>Though death's terrible chill<br/>Might seize me still,<br/>My Love shall not fear,<br/>And Heaven shall bless the kill—<br/>If with voices alone<br/>You murder me, so sweetly known.</p> <p>Do not flee,<br/>Charming eyes!<br/>If by Love's favor<br/>You alone bring me death,<br/>Then death shall be life anew—<br/>For so lovely a cause,<br/>My star has destined me to you.</p> | <p>For because of Phyllis, my sweet<br/>treasure,<br/>Even pain is dear, and wounds are<br/>pleasure.</p> <p>Let sorrow multiply by thousands<br/>more—<br/>For if with a glance<br/>She should grant me a smile,<br/>My Hell would turn at once into<br/>Paradise.</p> |
| <p><b>3.08a</b></p> | <p><b>Title:</b> "La dernière planche gravée par<br/>deffunt Callot, a laquelle l'eau forte n'a<br/>esté donée quapres sa mort."<br/><b>Attribution:</b> Jacques Callot<br/><b>Date:</b> 1636</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |



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**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 80 x 165 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** US-Wnga  
57.650.322

**Bibliography:** Lieure 1428

**Size:** 80 x 165 mm

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| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| 3.09 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.9</b></p> <p>Anonymous [RISM: Alessandro Scarlatti], "Tra l'ombre più segrete" [5309].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 77 x 101 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden allusive initial</p> <p>A pastoral riverside scene, densely populated and rendered with a delicate atmospheric tone. Compared to the print, the drawing features several added elements: more bathers scattered across the foreground and a particularly notable figure on the left who, half-submerged, points toward the river. On the far left, a thick cluster of bushes and vegetation casts a deep shadow, creating a visual pocket of secrecy the "ombra più segreta" [=most secret shadow] evoked in the cantata's opening line. This setting, though seemingly tranquil, becomes charged with meaning when read alongside the text. The speaker describes how, in the most private, shadowed moments, amorous desire reawakens, stirred by memory and</p> |  | <p>Tra l'ombre più segrete,<br/>Quando l'alma già stanca<br/>Ogni fascio mortal depone in Lete<br/>L'amoroso desio, che in me non<br/>dorme,<br/>Riconduce al pensier l'amiche<br/>forme.<br/>Ma quel fugace rio,<br/>Che le fiorite sponde<br/>Lava ed al corso intanto affretta<br/>l'onde<br/>del ben, per cui mi struggo,<br/>L'oggetto immaginato adoro e<br/>fuggo.</p> <p>Son pur belle d'un aspe le spoglie,<br/>Quando al sole fa pompa del<br/>seno.<br/>Ma raffreni lo sguardo le voglie,<br/>Che quell'oro<br/>È un tesoro,<br/>In cui splende più ricco il veleno.</p> <p>Perché grato è il piacer, ti danna<br/>a morte,<br/>E se il cor n'ha tormento,<br/>La gloria in quel dolor trova<br/>alimento;<br/>Là nell'indica sabbia<br/>Prenda l'onda bramata entro il<br/>cimiero</p> | <p>In the deepest shade of night,<br/>When the weary soul at last<br/>Lays down all mortal weight in<br/>Lethé's stream,<br/>The longing born of love—<br/>unchained by sleep—<br/>Leads back into my thoughts<br/>those forms I cherish deep.<br/>But that fleeting stream,<br/>Which laves the flowery shore<br/>And hastens every wave along its<br/>gleam,<br/>Of the good I crave and pine for,<br/>Shows me the imagined form—I<br/>worship, and I flee it evermore.</p> <p>Even the serpent's skin appears<br/>so fair,<br/>When it bares its breast to the<br/>glowing sun.<br/>Yet let not gazes run unware,<br/>For that gold—<br/>Though bright to behold—<br/>Holds poison richer than any won.</p> <p>For though pleasure be sweet, it<br/>condemns you to die,<br/>And if the heart is wracked with<br/>pain,<br/>In that very grief, glory feeds<br/>again.</p> |

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| <p>imagination. The river, here central both visually and thematically, functions as a metaphor for time, longing, and the impossibility of possession. The vegetation on the left forms a hidden "T" shape, possibly alluding to the cantata's opening word, though the letter is not explicitly drawn. The erotic gaze is thematised and then subverted in the poetic text. What begins as sensual attraction is reframed through moral caution and classical exempla: a parched warrior, a poisonous treasure, a deceptive celestial vapour. The bather who points, a gesture seemingly innocent, may thus be read as a warning figure, or an embodiment of that desio d'Amor [=desire of Love] which "rides and plays" but ultimately "kills its mother."</p> | <p>Sitibondo guerriero,<br/>Ma n'asperga l'arene e non le labbia,<br/>Poi che all'esempio di virtù si rara<br/>Mille schiere più liete<br/>Nell'arsura di lui spengon la sete.</p> <p>Mira il prato, il suo vapore<br/>Farsi stella in ciel sereno.<br/>Ma quel raggio, che l'alletta,<br/>Con adultero splendore<br/>Poi dal ciel torna saetta<br/>Per ferire il patrio seno.</p> <p>Figlio d'alma gentile<br/>È quel desio d'Amor, che scherza<br/>e ride,<br/>Ma se poi vuol goder, la madre<br/>uccide.</p> | <p><i>There, on Indian sands,<br/>May the wave so long desired<br/>strike the crest<br/>Of a parched warrior's helm in his<br/>quest—<br/>Yet wet only the dust, not his lips,<br/>For through such rare and<br/>virtuous thirst,<br/>A thousand joyful ranks<br/>Shall quench their own by his<br/>example first.</i></p> <p><i>See the meadow—its breath,<br/>Rising like stars in the calm of the<br/>skies.<br/>But that very beam which tempts<br/>with golden grace,<br/>With adulterous light returns<br/>To wound its native place.</i></p> <p><i>A child of noble soul<br/>Is that love-born desire which<br/>plays and laughs in glee,<br/>But when it seeks to feast—<br/>It slays its mother mercilessly.</i></p> |
| <p><b>Image link:</b><br/><a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73632">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73632</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.07</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> <p><b>Related work(s):</b> 3.15</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**3.09a**

**Title:** "Ponte Laudentano vicina  
 Sant'Agnessa," *Antiche. E. Moderne.  
 Vedute. Di. Roma. E. Contorno. Fate. Da.  
 Israel. Silvestro. cum priuile Regis  
 excudit Parisiis.*

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

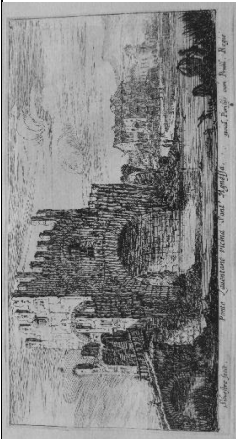
**Date:** 1645–48

**Technique and support:** etching on  
 paper

**Size:** 70 x 150 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** I-Ricg S-FC67065

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 3.8



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| 3.10 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.10</b></p> <p>Giovanni Lorenzo Lulier, "Intorno à picciol lume," [4132]</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 75 x 95 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Allusive vignette</p> <p>This vignette breaks from the landscape norm by presenting a richly furnished interior scene, a long coffered hall decorated with grotesque motifs, chandeliers, and a perspective that leads the viewer's eye towards a door at the back. To the left, in the foreground, a small moth hovers near a candle placed on a table. A dog runs from right to left, in the direction of the seated figure behind the table. Unlike other vignettes in the album, this image does not derive from a known print, but it is heavily theatrical in composition and inspired by the content of the cantata's text. The visual grammar, forced perspective, axial symmetry, decoration of walls and ceiling, strongly evokes 17th-century stage design, particularly the kinds of illusionistic scenes created in</p> |  | <p>Intorno a picciol lume,<br/>Ch'emulava l'ardor de miei sospiri,<br/>Con audaci deliri<br/>Farfalletta gentil battea le piume.<br/>E mentre accesa amante<br/>Col suo volo costante<br/>Tesseva in faccia all'adorato incendio<br/>Amorose carole,<br/>Parea Clitia volante in faccia al sole.<br/>Ma non contenta a pieno,<br/>Di contemplar col ciglio<br/>Del vicin foco il lucido periglio<br/>Notturna fenicetta<br/>Nel rogo amato a incenerir s'affretta.<br/>E pria d'arder in grembo al suo bel foco<br/>Con sussurro già roco,<br/>Ch'in ossequio d'Amor sul labro ordì,<br/>Rimproverò le mie follie così:</p> <p>Bella fiamma, che pur sei<br/>Calamita del mio volo,<br/>Se ti miro, ogn'hor consolo<br/>Cò tuoi lampi i lumi miei.</p> <p>Sì, sì, fiamme mie belle,</p> | <p>Around a little flame,<br/>That rivaled the heat of my sighs,<br/>With bold and frenzied flight<br/>A gentle butterfly beat her wings in game.<br/>And as, in burning love,<br/>With tireless arcs she wove<br/>In front of her adored and blazing pyre<br/>A dance of love in air,<br/>She seemed a flying Clytie before the sun's fire.</p> <p>But not content to gaze<br/>Upon the gleaming danger<br/>Of the flame's nearness with enchanted eyes,<br/>The night's small phoenix, bright and tender,<br/>Hurried to burn in the fire she did prize.<br/>And just before she vanished<br/>In her beloved fire's embrace,<br/>With voice already faint—<br/>In honor of Love, her final breath<br/>Reproached my folly thus in death:</p> <p>"Lovely flame, you are to me<br/>The magnet of my flight,<br/>And when I see you, your light</p> |

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| <p>Bologna and Rome. The closest visual affinity is a stage design by Carlo Antonio Buffagnotti (1660-1717), whose sets often depicted long ceremonial halls, palaces, or salons, composed with scenographic depth and decorative exaggeration.</p> <p>This setting is perfectly matched to the cantata it introduces, a lyrical meditation on desire and self-destruction, voiced through the allegory of a moth [=farfalla] fatally drawn to a flame. The moth, drawn to the "bel foco" of beauty, dances, idolises, and finally burns itself to ash. The cantata stages a moralised erotic trajectory, from desire, through delight, to excess and annihilation. And the vignette answers this trajectory by dramatizing the space of seduction and combustion.</p> <p>Here, the candle is literal and symbolic. It is placed at the centre of a courtly room. The coffered ceiling might allude to nobility or elevation, while the grotesques that climb the walls allude to the creeping, entangling nature of desire. The perspective pulls the viewer into the scene, mimicking the moth's fatal approach.</p> <p>This allusive vignette thus becomes a miniature stage for the drama of erotic ruin.</p> | <p>Pur v'amo e vi desio<br/>Benché siete facelle al morir mio.<br/>Ah', che dirò morendo<br/>De vostri ardori<br/>Idolatrando il lume?<br/>Purche ne godan gli occhi, ardon<br/>le piume.</p> <p>La farfalla così,<br/>Che al rogo al fin volò<br/>Nella fiamma, ch'amò, s'incenerì.</p> <p>Fuggi amante, deh fuggi<br/>Quel lampo di beltà, che<br/>t'innamora.</p> <p>Muor nel periglio, chi il periglio<br/>adora.</p> <p>Brings comfort to my sight.<br/>Yes, yes—my beautiful flames,<br/>I love you and desire you,<br/>Though you are the torches of my<br/>funeral too.<br/>Ah, what shall I say while dying<br/>Of your devouring blaze,<br/>As I worship your light until the<br/>end of days?<br/>So long as my eyes may take their<br/>fill,<br/>Let my wings burn—I'll love you<br/>still."</p> <p>Thus the butterfly,<br/>Who flew at last into the flame,<br/>Was turned to ash by the fire she<br/>claimed.</p> <p>Flee, lover—ah, flee!<br/>That beam of beauty that inflames<br/>thy core—<br/>He dies in danger<br/>Who warships danger evermore.</p> |
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**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73119>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbl

Add.24311.04

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

**3.10a**

**Title:** (above) "Sala Reggia" (below)  
 "Stanza d'Anagilde in Campagna." *La  
 forza della virtù: drama per musica da  
 rappresentarsi nel Teatro Malvezzi  
 l'anno M.DC.XCIV. / di Domenico David;  
 dedicato all'eminentissimo, e  
 reverendissimo sig. cardinale Marcello  
 Durazzo legato di Bologna.*

**Attribution:** Carlo Antonio Buffagnotti

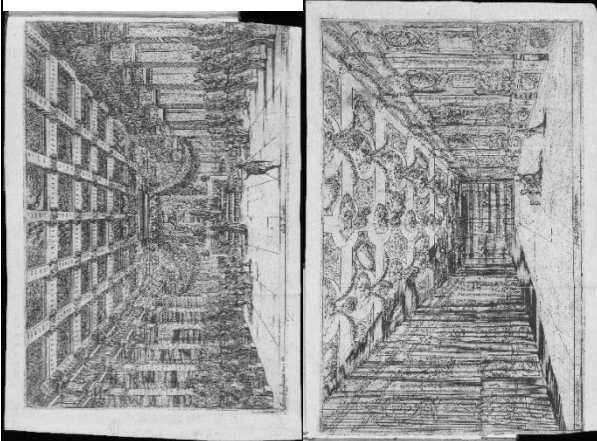
**Date:** 1694

**Technique and support:** etching on  
 paper

**Size:** ??

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** US-NH 2021210

**Bibliography:** Sartori 1991 10875





| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| 3.11 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.11</b></p> <p>Alessandro Stradella, "Ferma il corso e torna al Lido" «L'Arianna»</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 73 x 92 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic</p> <p>This drawing derives from a formal French garden scene originally published in a print by Moncornet but focuses only on the central portion of the composition, isolating a group of figures near the path. A man holding an open parasol gestures with his right arm, which forms a clean diagonal against the vertical axis of his body and accessory.</p> <p>Together, the pose and object produce a distinct capital "F", legible by its alignment and silhouetting. The result is not a concealed or symbolic initial, but one embedded through figural configuration: a moment of gesture caught and fixed into letterform.</p> <p>While the garden layout and fountain hold no narrative relationship to the cantata's intensely emotional tone, centred on betrayal, vengeance, and</p> |  | <p>Ferma il corso e torna al lido, né fuggir più dal mio seno; se mirar non puoi l'aspetto con diletto,</p> <p>il mio duolo ascolta almeno, che fra cifre d'argento leggerai nel mio pianto il tuo contento.</p> <p>Al mio costante amore, alla mia fedeltà, perfido traditore, questo premio si dà?</p> <p>Così la fede osservi al giorno d'Imeneo? E tant'odio conservi contro Arianna tua, crudo Teseo, che, sprezzata, tradita, vilipesa, schernita, abbandonata in solitaria riva, lasci l'anima mia d'anima priva?</p> <p>In questa sponda infida, esule dal suo regno, senza cor, senza guida, esposta all'altrui sdegno, lasci colei che libertà ti diè e con furtivo piè, del mio rapito onor porti il tesoro entro i frutti del mar toro?</p> | <p>Halt your course and return to the shore;<br/>flee no more from my breast.<br/>If you cannot gaze with delight upon my face,<br/>then at least listen to my sorrow, for within my tears, woven in silver,<br/>you shall read your own joy.</p> <p>To my steadfast love,<br/>to my loyalty—<br/>faithless betrayer—<br/>is this the reward you give?<br/>Is this how you honor your vow on the day of Hymen?<br/>And do you preserve such hatred against your Ariadne, cruel Theseus,<br/>that, scorned, betrayed, dishonored, mocked,<br/>you abandon me on this lonely shore,<br/>leaving my soul bereft of soul?</p> <p>On this treacherous strand,<br/>an exile from her kingdom,<br/>without heart, without guide,<br/>exposed to others' wrath,<br/>you leave the one who gave you liberty.</p> |

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| <p>eventual clemency, the image serves as graphic anchor, marking the incipit with a visual rhythm. The rigid geometry of the parterre contrasts with the inner disorder voiced in the text, creating a quiet dissonance between order and emotional implosion.</p> <p><b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73633">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73633</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> Olim D-Hs ND VI 2263, II.03</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b><br/> <b>Related work(s):</b></p> | <p>La mia vita immersa resta,<br/> e con flebile tempesta<br/> fa naufragio funebre il mio<br/> decoro,<br/> ed io, tra tanti affanni ogn'or più<br/> involta,<br/> di Dio non fo, dell'Idol mio, altra<br/> giostra.</p> <p>E invendicata in questo suol<br/> m'assido:<br/> ferma il cor e torna al lido.</p> <p>Vincerò di tua fierezza<br/> l'implacabile rigor,<br/> e soggetta al mio furor<br/> d'un crudel sarà l'asprezza.<br/> E così, con equal sorte,<br/> mentre cerchi, o fellon, darmi la<br/> morte,<br/> del mio sdegno mortal fra' lacci<br/> avinto,<br/> lo scempio pagherai d'un core<br/> estinto.</p> <p>In grembo all'Erebo,<br/> con face stigia,<br/> t'aggirerò dal petto barbaro,<br/> con forza orribile strage farò.</p> <p>Ah no!<br/> Sì fieri oltraggi contro il mio<br/> amato sol<br/> tolgan le stelle,</p> | <p>and with stealthy steps<br/> stole the treasure of my stolen<br/> honor<br/> from the fruits of the sea-born<br/> bull.</p> <p>My life remains submerged,<br/> and with a feeble storm<br/> my honor shipwrecks in a funeral<br/> wreck;<br/> and amid so many anguishes,<br/> ever deeper enmeshed,<br/> I dare not accuse God,<br/> but only my idol.</p> <p>And unavenged upon this shore I<br/> sit:<br/> halt your heart and return to the<br/> shore.</p> <p>I shall conquer the implacable<br/> rigor<br/> of your pride,<br/> and subjected to my fury<br/> shall be the harshness of a cruel<br/> soul.</p> <p>Thus, with equal fate,<br/> while you, O traitor, seek to bring<br/> me death,<br/> caught within the mortal snares of<br/> my scorn,<br/> you shall pay for it<br/> with the ruin of your extinguished<br/> heart.</p> |
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| né mie brame ribelle<br>offendan mai della tua luce i<br>raggi.                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Into Erebus's womb,<br>with a Stygian torch,<br>I shall hurl you;<br>from your barbarous breast,<br>with dreadful force,<br>I shall wreak bloody havoc.                                                                                                             |
| Basterà dell'error per giusta<br>emenda<br>che a me, pentito, o traditor, ti<br>renda.                                                                                                                                                                                  | Ah no!<br>May the stars, with pity,<br>keep such fierce outrage<br>from harming my beloved sun,<br>nor may my rebellious desires<br>ever tarnish the rays of your light.                                                                                            |
| In un mar d'immensa gioia<br>condurrai felice l'alma,<br>e fugata ogni aspra noia<br>godrò perpetua calma.                                                                                                                                                              | It shall suffice, as penance for<br>your wrongs,<br>that you, repentant, return to me,<br>traitor.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Ma, s'alle mie querele,<br>ai miei tormenti,<br>la dovuta pietà nieghi, spietato,<br>e con abete alato<br>solchi dell'empio Egeo le spume<br>algenti,<br>perch'io fra le pene ardenti<br>cada sventata in questa arena<br>infesta<br>di predator, lascio Ostia funesta? | You shall lead my soul<br>to an ocean of boundless joy,<br>and, all bitter sorrows fled,<br>I shall enjoy eternal peace.                                                                                                                                            |
| Esangue, insepulto,<br>esposto al volere di rigide fiere,<br>sia l'empio tuo volto<br>e lo scheletro immondo<br>del cadavere tuo corrompa il<br>mondo!                                                                                                                  | But if to my laments,<br>to my torments,<br>you deny the pity you owe,<br>ruthless one,<br>and with your winged bark<br>you cut across the frothing, bitter<br>Egean waves,<br>so that, amid burning pains,<br>I may fall senseless upon this<br>treacherous shore, |
| No,<br>frena le note, mia lingua troppo<br>audace;                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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cangia la guerra in pace,  
che dar morte al mio cor l'alma  
non puote.  
T'adorerò, mio ben, negletta  
amante,  
e se vissi fedel, morirò costante.

*abandoned among predators,  
O wretched harbor!*

*Unburied, exposed,  
at the mercy of wild beasts,  
may your vile face,  
your monstrous corpse,  
be corrupted before the world.*

No—  
restrain your bold tongue, my  
soul!

*Turn war into peace,  
for to kill the one it loves  
is beyond the heart's power.*

*I shall adore you still,  
neglected lover;  
and if I lived faithful,  
faithful I shall die.*

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### 3.11a

**Title:** *Livre nouveau de fleurs tres util pour l'art d'à orfeureire, et autres.*

**Attribution:** Baltazar Montcornet, after Nicolas Cochin

**Date:** 1645

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 86 x 126 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** Wien, MAK – Museum für angewandte Kunst, Wien, Bibliothek und Kunstblättersammlung, inv. K1 2714

**Bibliography:**



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| 3.12 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.12</b></p> <p>Alessandro Scarlatti, "Mentre un Zeffiro arguto," [5314].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 80 x 89 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, use of the composition</p> <p>This drawing shows a rustic compound composed of a stable, an outbuilding. The foreground is occupied by figures tending to a field, and the composition opens diagonally from left to right, guiding the viewer's gaze across the architectural cluster.</p> <p>The main buildings overlap to form a visible capital "M", suggested by the steep pitch of two roofs and a central upright volume. The letter is not delineated but emerges from spatial alignment and the triangular rhythm of the structure. The result is a compositional initial, more "read" than "seen."</p> <p>There is no narrative connection between the pastoral setting and the cantata's content.</p> |  | <p>Mentre un Zeffiro arguto<br/>Con la sferza dell'ali<br/>Castigava l'ardor de lampi estivi,<br/>Del mar presso alle sponde,<br/>Cui baciavan l'arene i salsi<br/>argenti,<br/>Mesto e solingo un di<br/>D'Amor mi dolsi e favellai cosi:</p> <p>Non più lacci, non più strali,<br/>Son legato, son ferito,<br/>Hai vinto Amor, hai vinto!<br/>D'un tremulo crine<br/>La bionda procella<br/>Ritorta in anella,<br/>Intesse fatali<br/>Catene al mio cor.</p> <p>Non più lacci, non più strali,<br/>Son legato, son ferito,<br/>Hai vinto Amor, hai vinto!<br/>D'un tremulo crine<br/>La bionda procella<br/>Ritorta in anella,<br/>Intesse fatali<br/>Catene al mio cor.</p> <p>Non più lacci, non più strali,<br/>Son legato, son ferito,<br/>Hai vinto Amor, hai vinto!<br/>D'un tremulo crine<br/>La bionda procella<br/>Ritorta in anella,<br/>Intesse fatali<br/>Catene al mio cor.</p> <p>Non più lacci, non più strali,<br/>Son legato, son ferito,<br/>Hai vinto Amor, hai vinto!<br/>D'un tremulo crine<br/>La bionda procella<br/>Ritorta in anella,<br/>Intesse fatali<br/>Catene al mio cor.</p> | <p>While a clever Zephyr,<br/>With the whip of its wings,<br/>Chastised the heat of summer's<br/>lightning blaze,<br/>By the sea, near the shore,<br/>Where the briny silver kissed the<br/>sand,<br/>Sad and alone one day<br/>Of Love I grieved, and thus began<br/>to say:</p> <p>No more snares, no more darts,<br/>I am bound, I am wounded—<br/>You've conquered, Love, you've<br/>conquered!<br/>From trembling locks,<br/>A golden tempest,<br/>Twisting in curls,<br/>Weaves fatal chains<br/>That bind my heart.</p> <p>No more snares, no more darts,<br/>I am bound, I am wounded—<br/>You've conquered, Love, you've<br/>conquered!<br/>An eye that glows<br/>Ignites me with its gaze,<br/>But this sorrowful soul—<br/>Like a new-born Phoenix—<br/>Finds life again<br/>In the fire of a glance.</p> |

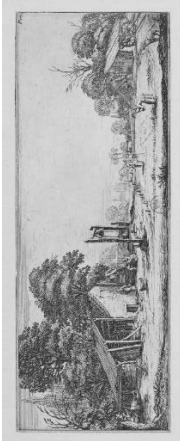
**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73634>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.12

**Bibliography:****Related work(s):**

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| Così genio fatale<br>Mi costringe ad amar con duolo eterno<br>Sotto angeliche spoglie alma d'inferno.                                                                                         | Cupid wills that I must die,<br>And my neglected faith<br>Now bows to proud and pitiless beauty.<br>Thus a fatal spirit<br>Forces me to love in endless sorrow—<br>An angelic form concealing a heart of shadow. |
| Sirena, ch'alletti<br>Con vezzi homicidi,<br>Dolcezze prometti,<br>Ma, perfida, uccidi.                                                                                                       | Siren, who enchants<br>With murderous grace,<br>You promise sweetness,<br>But, treacherous, bring death in its place.                                                                                            |
| Co' i cenni furtivi<br>Di lieta sembianza<br>Le ceneri avvivi<br>Di morta speranza.                                                                                                           | With secret signs<br>And joyful show,<br>You rekindle the ashes<br>Of a hope laid low.                                                                                                                           |
| Stelle, barbare stelle,<br>Ch'il mio voler forzate,<br>L'inumano rigore<br>Nel cor di Filli ò la mia fè cangiate.                                                                             | Stars—cruel stars!<br>That twist my will with force,<br>You've changed my faith<br>Into Phyllis' heartless course.                                                                                               |
| Navigar l'Egeo d'amore<br>Contro vento è gran sventura.<br>Nell'onda torbida, che rauca freme,<br>Si perde l'ancora d'amica speme,<br>Che d'un ciglio lo splendore<br>Degl'amanti è cinosura. | To sail love's Aegean<br>Against the wind is bitter fate.<br>In murky waves that roar and groan,<br>The anchor of all hopeful dreams is thrown—<br>For from a single glance                                      |
| Mio cor, se di Fortuna<br>Spira un aura nemica,<br>Per non restar tra le tempeste<br>absorto                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|       | Chiudi le sparse antenne e riedi al porto.                                            | Lovers take their guidance and their chance.<br><br>My heart, if Fortune's breath<br>Blows in hostile strain,<br>To not be lost among these storms<br>at sea,<br>Draw in your scattered sails—<br>return to port, be free. |
| 3.12a |  | <p><b>Title:</b> "Le Jardin," <i>Les quatre paysages</i>.<br/><b>Attribution:</b> Jacques Callot<br/><b>Date:</b> 1618-24<br/><b>Technique and support:</b> etching on paper<br/><b>Size:</b> 84 x 210 mm</p>              |



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**Provenance/cat. Nr:** F-Pn IFN-  
8495873

**Bibliography:** Lieure 264

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| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| 3.13 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.13</b></p> <p>Giovanni Lorenzo Lulier, "Non vantar tanta bellezza," [4137].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 80 x 104 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic.</p> <p>Set in a sunlit piazza framed by classical ruins, this vignette presents a stage-like composition, where everyday activity unfolds in the shadow of monumental architecture. At the centre of the foreground, two elegantly posed female figures stand slightly apart, joined by a stick and some fabric that arc between them.</p> <p>Together, their stances trace the vertical shafts and diagonal stroke of a capital "N", creating a figurative initial formed entirely through bodily alignment. The effect is theatrical yet restrained: the initial is embedded within a moment of poised interaction. The symmetry is enhanced by the surrounding emptiness, which isolates the figures and draws the eye to their relational geometry.</p> |  | <p>Non vantar tanta bellezza<br/>Filli mia che caderà<br/>Non sei sola ad'esser bella<br/>E soggiace alla tua stella<br/>Anco il fasto che ha vaghezza<br/>Di donarti verde età<br/>Non vantar tanta bellezza<br/>Filli mia che caderà.</p> <p>Vedesti mai su nei stellati giri<br/>Vapor tratto dal suolo<br/>Che in veste d'oro il suo mortal<br/>copri?</p> <p>A pena a mezzo ciel l'ali scopri<br/>Che a terra egli cadé<br/>Io giuro su l'honor della mia fé<br/>Filli, tal sorte a te succederà.</p> <p>Non vantar tanta bellezza<br/>Filli mia che caderà.</p> <p>Dirai che i fior d'un viso<br/>Han più lunga stagion siati<br/>concesso<br/>Ma il tempo che consuma il<br/>marmo istesso<br/>Pensa tu se vorrà<br/>Lasciar te sola al mondo<br/>Per tormento de cori e per<br/>mercede</p> | <p>Boast not so of your beauty,<br/>Phyllis, my dear—it too shall fall.<br/>You are not the only one fair,<br/>And even your star must one day<br/>yield.<br/>The pride that grants you<br/>The bloom of youth and grace<br/>Is also bound to time's cruel call.<br/>Boast not so of your beauty,<br/>Phyllis, my dear—it too shall fall.</p> <p>Have you ever seen,<br/>High among the stars,<br/>A vapor drawn from earth<br/>That dressed its mortal self in<br/>golden glow?<br/>No sooner had it reached mid-sky<br/>in flight<br/>Than back to earth it fell below.<br/>I swear upon the honor of my<br/>truth— / Phyllis, such fate awaits<br/>your youth. // Boast not so of your<br/>beauty,<br/>Phyllis, my dear—it too shall fall. //<br/>You may claim that the flowers of<br/>your face<br/>Shall bloom a little longer—grace<br/>be granted.<br/>But time, which even marble does<br/>erase, / Think—will it spare you, /<br/>Leave you alone in all the world,</p> |

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| <p>Unlike other vignettes in this group, there is no clear iconographic or metaphorical link to the cantata's moralising message on beauty, transience, and pride.</p> <p><b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73635">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73635</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> GB-Lbl Add.24311.09</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> <p><b>Related work(s):</b></p> | <p>Ciò che nacque col tempo al tempo cede.</p> <p>Poiché il ciel ti dié nel ciglio<br/> Il poter d'un guardo invitto<br/> Nel destar l'altrui periglio<br/> Ben tu dei haver memoria<br/> Onde nacque la tua gloria<br/> Far del merito un delitto<br/> Saria troppa crudeltà.</p> <p>Non vantâr tanta bellezza<br/> Filli mia che caderà.</p> | <p><i>To torment hearts without<br/> reprieve, / And as reward, let<br/> beauty never leave?</i></p> <p><i>What's born with time must to<br/> time give way—<br/> That is the law all must obey. //</i></p> <p><i>Since heaven placed within your<br/> eyes / A gaze so potent, never<br/> missed—<br/> If in rousing peril,<br/> You find your glory and delight,<br/> Then you should also keep in sight<br/> / That to make virtue seem a<br/> crime / Would be too cruel a twist.<br/> / Boast not so of your beauty, /<br/> Phyllis, my dear—it too shall fall.</i></p> |
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**3.13a**

**Title:** "Tempio del Sole." Antiche. E. Moderne. Vedute. Di. Roma. E. Contorno. Fate. Da. Israel. Silvestro. cum priuile Regis excudit Parisiis.

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

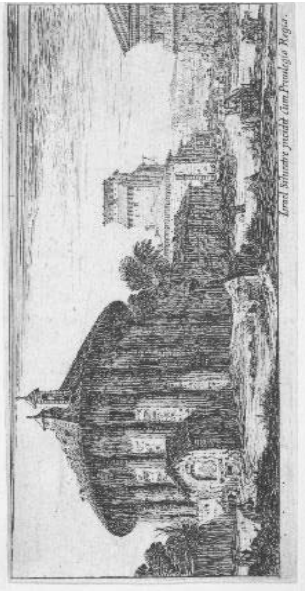
**Date:** 1645-48

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 69 x 159 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** US-NYmm 2012.136.240

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 3.9



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| 3.14 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.14</b></p> <p>Alessandro Stradella, "Come in ciel dell'aureo crine," [4133].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 82 x 101 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Allusive vignette</p> <p>This vignette reproduces the Basilica of Maxentius (or "Temple of Peace"). The structure, a long façade of collapsing arches, dotted with foliage and framed by classical fragments, is rendered with less foreground than in the original, and with significantly more sky above, where a flock of birds is carefully drawn in flight.</p> <p>This seemingly minor modification is, in fact, highly meaningful when read against the cantata text. The cantata opens with a serene, almost Arcadian description of atmospheric calm, light, wind, clarity, and hope, but soon shifts into a dramatic storm.</p> <p>The visual emphasis on the open sky, and the presence of birds in flight, may thus anticipate the sudden meteorological violence described in the second stanza. The image is not a</p> |  | <p>Come in Ciel dell'aureo crine<br/>         Spiega il sol tranquilli i rai<br/>         Qual dall'indiche marine<br/>         Più bel dì nacque già mai.</p> <p>Ovunque il guardo io giro<br/>         Smalta di Giuno i campi<br/>         Un ridente zaffiro<br/>         E perché l'ali in feste<br/>         Non rivolgan curiosi<br/>         A svegliar nemi a seminar<br/>         tempeste</p> <p>Entro all'ebrio clauastro<br/>         Preme acerba catena<br/>         Africo et Austro.</p> <p>Sol placido fiato<br/>         D'auretta gioconda<br/>         Hor nuota su l'onda<br/>         Hor scherza nel prato<br/>         E porge all'altrui ciglio avia sì<br/>         pura</p> <p>Di costante seren speme si cura.</p> <p>Ma qual mentre vagheggio<br/>         Pompe si belle in un momento<br/>         alzarsi</p> <p>Dall'Occidente oscura nube io<br/>         veggio?</p> <p>Come spedito il volo<br/>         Muove per l'aere e sego</p> | <p>As in the sky the golden-haired<br/>         sun<br/>         Spreads its tranquil rays,<br/>         What day was ever born<br/>         More fair from Indian bays?</p> <p>Wherever I cast my gaze,<br/>         Juno's meadows shine with light,<br/>         Like laughing sapphire skies.<br/>         And lest the wings of roving winds<br/>         Should rise in revelry<br/>         To stir dark clouds or sow<br/>         tempestuous cries,<br/>         Within their drunken prison<br/>         Fierce chains now bind<br/>         The South and Afric wind.</p> <p>Only the gentle breath<br/>         Of a playful breeze<br/>         Now dances on the seas,<br/>         Now teases through the grass<br/>         beneath—<br/>         And to others' eyes it brings<br/>         A purest hope of calm, of constant<br/>         peace in things.</p> <p>But ah! While I delight<br/>         In such sweet pomp and grace,<br/>         Suddenly I see arise<br/>         A dark cloud from the western<br/>         skies.</p> |

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| <p>narrative illustration but a spatial and emotional analogue, a visual mood-board calibrated to evoke the cantata's affective arc: from placid euphoria to catastrophic reversal.</p> <p>Unlike other vignettes in the album, this drawing does not appear to hide an initial within its structure. Rather, it plays on a more atmospheric register, where the contrast between stone and air, ruin and open space, echoes the fragility of contentment and the unpredictability of fortune.</p> | <p>Ha di nemi seguaci immenso stuolo?<br/>         Ohimè già reso è cieco<br/>         Da fosco orrore il sol già d'ogn'intorno<br/>         Toglie notte improvvisa<br/>         Con ombra micidial la vita al giorno.</p> <p>Già di Noto i crudi sibili<br/>         Turban l'aria il suol combattono<br/>         Piogge irate e lampi orribili<br/>         Frangon rupi e selve abbattono.</p> | <p>How swift its flight!<br/>         It rushes through the air,<br/>         And draws behind it<br/>         Storming hosts beyond compare.<br/>         Alas! The sun, now veiled<br/>         In gloom and shadow deep,<br/>         Has turned to blindness—<br/>         And sudden night<br/>         Steals from the day its life,<br/>         And slays it with its shade.</p> <p>Now Notus howls and shrieks,<br/>         He shakes the earth and rends the skies—</p> | <p>Furious rain, and lightning bleak<br/>         Strike the cliffs and fell the trees<br/>         that rise.</p> | <p>Oh God—where have they fled,<br/>         Those powers that reigned but moments past?<br/>         Such peace, so still, so mild...<br/>         Ah, here below, no light endures—<br/>         No serenity but what is pierced<br/>         By a thousand sudden changes,<br/>         And Fortune, fickle,<br/>         Grants to calm but fleeting time.<br/>         So learn, my heart,<br/>         Never to hope for joy that lasts<br/>         sublime—</p> | <p>For a single moment<br/>         Can turn all bliss to pain and<br/>         darkened torment.</p> |
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**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73636>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbl

Add.24311.05

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

**3.14a**

**Title:** "Tempio della Pace," Antiche. E. Moderne. Vedute. Di. Roma. E. Contorno. Fate. Da. Israel. Silvestro. cum priuile Regis excudit Parisiis.

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

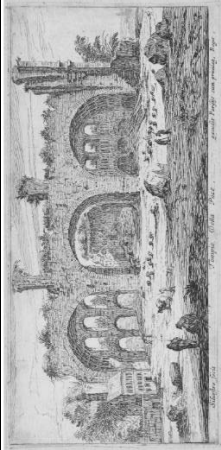
**Date:** 1645-48

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 72 x 157 mm

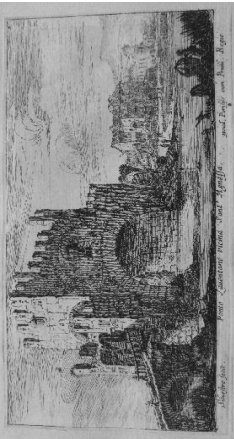
**Provenance/cat. Nr:** Princeton University Art Museum, inv. x1938-143

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 3.5



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| 3.15 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.15</b></p> <p>Anonymous, "Come o bella disciogli," [4130].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 79 x 97 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic</p> <p>The ruined bridge dominates the central portion of the scene, while a collapsed walkway connects the left riverbank to the main structure.</p> <p>In the right foreground stands a male figure with grotesque features, possibly a satyr, shown in a bent pose with his back arched. To his right, a tall river plant or reed curves upward.</p> <p>Together, the figure and the vegetal element form a clear capital "C", constructed not through transformation but through compositional adjacency.</p> <p>There is no direct iconographic link to the cantata text, but the spatial logic reveals an intentional use of figural and natural elements to generate a readable yet understated ornamental initial.</p> |  | <p>Come, ò bella, disciogli<br/>Con armonico fiato<br/>Contro del Nume alato<br/>Sì dolorsi accenti,<br/>Se con dolci portenti<br/>Tu negl'occhi e nel labro<br/>Tutte d'Amor l'insidie sue<br/>raccoglie,<br/>Mentre con rio tenore<br/>Col canto alletti e poi trafiggi il<br/>core.</p> <p>De tuoi lumi vaghi arcieri<br/>Per far guerra a un petto amante<br/>Sol dà sguardi lusinghieri<br/>Prende l'armi il Dio volante.<br/>Se del labro il dolce canto<br/>Lusingando un core allette,<br/>Fatto Arciero di vendette<br/>Di piagare ogn'alma hà vanto.</p> <p>Così dunque, ò crudele,<br/>Sol per scherno d'Amanti<br/>Lusinghiera, infedele<br/>Clori, tal'or tu canti<br/>Contro l'infido Amor<br/>Battaglie e morte.<br/>Ma con più lieta sorte,<br/>Lasso, ben io comprendo,<br/>Dal tuo mentito core.</p> | <p>How is it, O beauty, that you let fall<br/>with harmonious breath<br/>such sorrowful accents<br/>against the winged god,<br/>if in your eyes and on your lips<br/>you gather all the snares<br/>that Love has ever devised—<br/>while, with cruel intent,<br/>your singing charms and then<br/>pierces the heart?</p> <p>From your eyes, fair archers,<br/>to wage war on a loving heart,<br/>you launch only alluring glances—<br/>and the winged god takes up<br/>arms.<br/>If the sweetness of your song<br/>seduces a heart with flattery,<br/>then, turned avenger-archer,<br/>he boasts of wounding every soul.</p> <p>Thus it is, O cruel one,<br/>that only to mock your lovers<br/>you sing, charming yet unfaithful<br/>Clori,<br/>of battles and death<br/>against treacherous Love.<br/>But with clearer fate—<br/>alas, I see it plainly—<br/>from your lying heart,</p> |



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| <p><b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/71720">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/71720</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> GB-Lbl<br/> Add.24311.02</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> <p><b>Related work(s):</b> 3.09</p>         |                                                                                       | <p>Che d'Amore hai comune<br/> E inganni e Regno.</p> <p><i>that in love you share<br/> both his deceptions and his<br/> dominion.</i></p> |
| <p><b>3.15a</b></p> <p><b>Title:</b> "Ponte Laudentano vicina Sant'Agnessa," Antiche. E. Moderne. Vedute. Di. Roma. E. Contorno. Fate. Da. Israel. Silvestro. cum priuile Regis excudit Parisiis.</p> <p><b>Attribution:</b> Israël Silvestre</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1645-48</p> |  |                                                                                                                                            |

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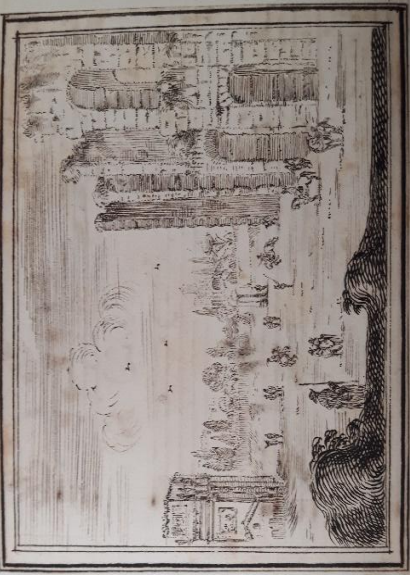
**Technique and support:** etching on  
paper

**Size:** 70 x 150 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** I-Rlcg S-FC67065

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 3.8

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| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| 3.16 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.16</b></p> <p>Alessandro Stradella, "Tante perle non versa l'Aurora," [4136].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 79 x 99 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b><br/> Vignette, no initial<br/> Scene featuring monumental ruins, an arch in the distance, and various groups of figures moving across a broad esplanade. The architecture is detailed but not exaggerated, and the human presence remains evenly dispersed.</p> <p>Despite careful analysis, no discernible initial appears to be embedded within the composition. Neither the architectural structures, nor the figures in foreground or background, trace the outline of a letter. The image seems to function entirely as a view, setting the stage but not intervening graphically in the cantata's structure. There is also no evident thematic or atmospheric link between the drawing and the cantata's tone, which is intensely introspective and mournful.</p> |  | <p>Tante perle non versa l'Aurora<br/> Quante cadon da gl'occhi di clori<br/> E del volto le Rose,<br/> E i candori rugiadose<br/> Si mirano ogn'ora.<br/> Tante in cielo non splendono<br/> stelle<br/> Tante Arene non sono nel mare<br/> Quante scorrono lagrime amare<br/> Da due luci del sole più belle.</p> <p>Tu piangi amato bene,<br/> Et io piango, e sospiro<br/> E sono le tue pene<br/> La dolente cagion de miei<br/> tormenti<br/> E vuol astro fatale<br/> Per rendere il mio duol<br/> Sempre immortale,<br/> Che questo cor che il tuo bel volto<br/> adora<br/> Giunga alla morte e per penar non<br/> mora.<br/> È inseperabile, ahime il dolor<br/> Se regna stabile nell'Alme Amor.</p> <p>Chi provò sdegnoso il fato adirato<br/> Non pietà crudeltà sperar poi lice<br/> Che à un infelice<br/> Sorde sono le stelle,<br/> E cieco Amore.</p> | <p>Not so many pearls does Aurora<br/> shed<br/> As those that fall from Clori's eyes<br/> instead—<br/> And on her face, the roses<br/> And pale hues kissed by dew<br/> Are mirrored ever anew.<br/> Not so many stars shine in the<br/> skies,<br/> Nor grains of sand fill ocean's<br/> wide floor,<br/> As bitter tears that endlessly pour<br/> From two bright suns, her weeping<br/> eyes.</p> <p>You weep, beloved soul—<br/> And I weep, and sigh with you.<br/> Your pain makes up the whole<br/> Of what torments my spirit too.<br/> And some cruel star above,<br/> To make my sorrow<br/> Forever echo love,<br/> Decreases this heart, which adores<br/> your lovely face,<br/> Shall reach to death—yet never<br/> leave this place.<br/> For pain, alas, is inescapable,<br/> When Love remains, unshakably<br/> stable.</p> |

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| <p>The grand ruins offer no symbolic echo of grief or solitude; they provide instead a monumental, almost indifferent frame—a scene drawn for the eye, not for the voice.</p> <p><b>Image link:</b><br/><a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/71721">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/71721</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> GB-Lbl Add.24311.08</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> <p><b>Related work(s):</b></p> | <p>Perche mora al gioir, viva al dolore.</p> | <p>Whoever met a wrathful fate with pride<br/>Should not expect, nor beg, for mercy's grace.<br/>To one cast low and cast aside,<br/>The stars are deaf,<br/>And Love is blind.</p> <p>So let him die to joy—<br/>And live only in pain, resigned.</p> |
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**3.16a**

**Title:** *Paysages et ruines de Rome.*

**Attribution:** Stefano della Bella,  
publisher Pierre Mariette

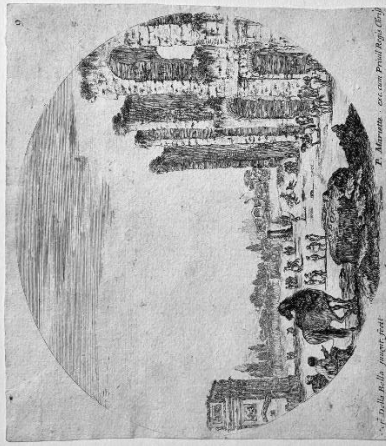
**Date:** 1655

**Technique and support:** etching on  
paper

**Size:** 128 x 128 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** Private  
collection, The Netherlands

**Bibliography:** De Vesme 827



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| 3.17 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.17</b></p> <p>Alessandro Scarlatti, "La Fortuna di Roma." [4134].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 78 x 103 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic</p> <p>A single standing figure, not present in the source print, occupies the centre of the foreground. The man, dressed in rustic clothes, leans on a long scythe, with his body upright and the tool held at an angle.</p> <p>Together, torso and blade form a capital "L", stylised but legible, and clearly constructed as a graphic intervention rather than a naturalistic detail. This invented figure provides a visual incipit to the cantata, though without narrative or symbolic relation to its subject – the tragic patriotism of Coriolanus, his mother Veturia, and wife Volumnia.</p> <p>The letter operates in visual isolation: it is neither camouflaged nor exaggerated, but inserted quietly into the scene, demanding a certain calligraphic attentiveness from the</p> |  | <p>La fortuna di Roma<br/>A debil filo appesa<br/>A momenti attendea l'ultima offesa<br/>Coriolano irritato<br/>Dall' infelice e forse ingiusto esiglio<br/>In vendetta cangiato<br/>Havea l'amor di cittadin di figlio<br/>De Volsci unito al bellicoso ardire<br/>Dalle tende nemiche<br/>Sovra il Tebro stendea l'ombre guerriere<br/>Venian gl'amici a schiere<br/>Per frenar del suo Cor l'ardire insano<br/>I più famosi eroi<br/>Chiedevano pietà ma tutto invano<br/>Che il giovane superbo<br/>Al suo campo seguace un guardo gira<br/>E rispondon per lui fortuna ed' ira.</p> <p>Miei compagni e che s'aspetta<br/>La fortuna è un sol momento<br/>Sia virtude o tradimento<br/>Vuò far bella una vendetta.</p> <p>Amici ecco di Roma il fin bramato</p> | <p>Rome's fortune,<br/>Hung by a slender thread,<br/>Awaited, moment by moment, its final blow.<br/>Coriolanus, enraged<br/>By his unjust and bitter exile,<br/>Had turned from love<br/>Of citizen and son—<br/>To vengeance wild and dire. //<br/>Joined with the Volsci<br/>In their warlike fire,<br/>From enemy tents<br/>He cast a warrior's shadow over the Tiber.<br/>Friends came in droves<br/>To check the madness in his heart, / The noblest heroes<br/>Pleaded for mercy—but all in vain.<br/>/ The proud young man,<br/>Turned to his loyal host with steely gaze—<br/>And for him, Fortune and Wrath<br/>replied in praise. // My comrades—<br/>what do we wait for? // Fortune is<br/>but one brief hour. / Be it virtue or<br/>betrayal,<br/>I'll make vengeance my finest<br/>power. / Friends—behold the fall<br/>of Rome you sought!<br/>I swear upon the honor of your<br/>souls:</p> |

viewer. As with other figurative initials in this group, the image does not comment on the text but asks to be read through it, as part of a silent contract between letter and landscape.

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/71722>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbl

Add.24311.06

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Io giuro su l'honor delle vostr' alme<br>Che dal nostro valor pende un gran fato<br>Volea più dir ma gli sospese il labro<br>Un numeroso stuolo<br>Di nobili donzelle<br>A cui facean la scorta<br>Volumnia bella a Coriolan consorte<br>Veturia Genitrice<br>Così con doppia face Amor ribatte<br>Dell'ira i moti e in nobil cor combatte. | Upon our valor hangs a mighty fate.<br>He would have spoken more—<br>But his lips were stayed<br>By a noble host of women,<br>Led by Volumnia,<br>His fair and faithful wife,<br>And Veturia, his mother—<br>Two torches of love<br>That burned through rage<br>And fought the storm within his noble heart. |
| Caro figlio io so ch'hai vanto<br>D'atterrar ogni valore<br>Ma per vincere il tuo core<br>Vengo a vincere col pianto.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Dearest son, I know your pride<br>Lays every valor low—<br>But to conquer your own heart,<br>I come, with tears that flow.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Sposo amato un vero ardire<br>Vuò destar alla tua gloria<br>Ma una fiamma di memoria<br>Destar voglio e poi morire.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Beloved husband—true courage<br>Wins glory through might,<br>But I would light a flame of memory, / Then perish from your sight. // At the sweet name of husband—of son,<br>He yielded, after but a fleeting thought.                                                                                        |
| Di marito e di figlio al dolce nome<br>Doppo breve pensier cedè ma poi<br>Fù da i seguaci il traditor tradito<br>A sì funesto avviso<br>Uscir dolenti le romane donzelle<br>In nero amanto<br>E dove il sangue sparse                                                                                                                       | Yet in that hour,<br>His own were turned against him.<br>Betrayed by those he led,<br>He fell, and mournful Roman maidens<br>Clad in mourning black<br>Departed from the blood-stained ground,                                                                                                               |

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Il Giovane infelice

Amarissima corse onda di pianto  
Fui poi d'urna invece  
S'alzò Teatro al femminil valore  
Chi vive per tradir tradito muore.

*Where the young man—unhappy—  
Had spilled his wrath. // A bitter  
tide of tears  
Flowed in place of urns.  
A theater was raised there  
instead,  
To honor women's valor.*

*He who lives to betray  
Shall by betrayal be struck down,  
and dead.*

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### 3.17a

**Title:** "Veduta del Palazzo Maggiore."  
Antiche. E. Moderne. Vedute. Di. Roma.  
E. Contorno. Fate. Da. Israel. Silvestro.  
cum priuile Regis excudit Parisiis.

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

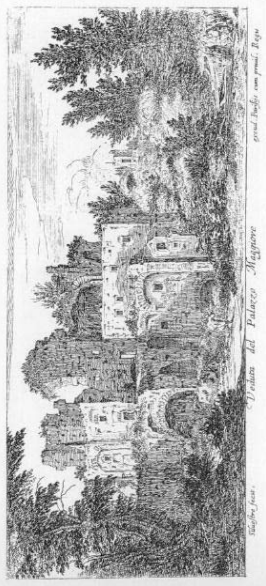
**Date:** 1645-48

**Technique and support:** etching on  
paper

**Size:** 115 x 224 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** art market

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 3.3

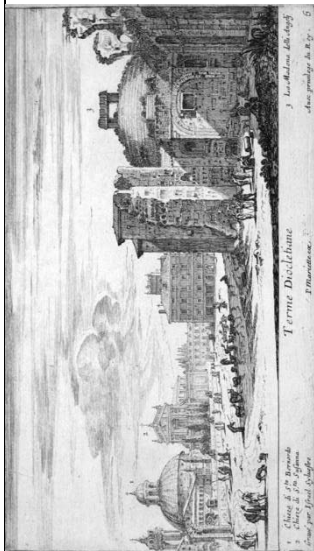


| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| 3.18 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.18</b></p> <p>Anonymous, "Ligio di due pupille belle"</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 77 x 100 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic (use of the composition)</p> <p>This vignette depicts a monumental ruin, probably inspired by Roman baths or theatres, set within a vast open square. A massive arched structure dominates the right side of the composition, while other fortified buildings stretch toward the left. The space is animated by scattered figures, both seated and standing. Two figures in the middle ground, placed just before the central arched wall, create the shape of a capital "L". One stands upright, holding a staff or spear, while the other crouches or kneels beside them, forming a short horizontal line. The juxtaposition of these bodies and their shadow projected on the ground, draws the eye into the geometry of the page, insinuating the initial through human alignment.</p> |  | <p>Ligio di due pupille<br/>belle si ma crudeli<br/>un cor costante,<br/>fatto saldo ad amante<br/>del nudo Arciero,<br/>a mille colpi e mille,<br/>nell'Idolo spietato un di s'affisse,<br/>sciolse un sospir, ruppe il silenzio<br/>e disse:<br/>Armati pur d'orgoglio,<br/>negami pur pietà,<br/>sarò di fede un scoglio<br/>nel mar di tua ferezza:<br/>trofeo di rigidezza,<br/>l'alma t'adorerà.<br/>Congiurati a' miei danni,<br/>girino, empio destino,<br/>astri tiranni:<br/>far non potranno ch'io non t'adori,<br/>e sia vittima al tuo rigor l'anima<br/>mia.<br/>T'amerò, crudel, sì sì,<br/>t'amerò senza speme di mercé.<br/>Stancherà fors'anche<br/>di tua durezza la mia fè;<br/>fors'anche un dì la tua durezza<br/>la mia fè stancherà.<br/>E s'è scritto nel ciel ch'io stia<br/>penando,<br/>penerò, morirò, ma sempre</p> | <p>Devoted to two lovely eyes<br/>(though cruel they may be), a<br/>faithful heart,<br/>made firm in love<br/>for the naked Archer,<br/>stood fast through a thousand<br/>wounds,<br/>and on that ruthless idol one day it<br/>fixed—<br/>then loosed a sigh, broke silence,<br/>and said:<br/>Arm yourself with pride,<br/>deny me pity still,<br/>I'll be a rock of faith<br/>in the sea of your disdain;<br/>a trophy to your harshness—<br/>yet still, my soul will worship you.<br/>Let all conspire against me—<br/>cruel fate, tyrant stars—<br/>they shall not make me cease to<br/>adore you,<br/>nor spare my soul from being<br/>a victim to your cruelty.<br/>I will love you, yes, cruel one,<br/>I will love you without hope of<br/>mercy.<br/>Perhaps, even your harshness<br/>may one day tire of my steadfast<br/>love;<br/>perhaps, one day,</p> |

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| <p>There is no evident connection between the architectural setting and the content of the cantata.</p> <p><b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/71723">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/71723</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.13</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> <p><b>Related work(s):</b> 3.28</p> | <p>amando;<br/> ma sempre amando, penerò.</p> | <p>my faith may wear your harshness down.<br/> And if it's written in the stars that I must suffer,<br/> then suffer I shall, and die—<br/> but ever loving,<br/> ever loving, I shall suffer.</p> |
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**3.18a****Title:** "Terme Diocletienne." Vues de

Rome et de Venise

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre**Date:** 1621**Technique and support:** etching on paper**Size:** 114 x 200 mm**Provenance/cat. Nr:** GB-Lwl 22477i**Bibliography:** Fauchoux 4.6

| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| 3.19 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.19</b></p> <p>Alessandro Stradella, "Già languia la notte."</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 73 x 91 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Vignette, no (?) initial, Allusive</p> <p>This vignette is a reduced reinterpretation of Silvestre's etching. The drawing retains the general structure and perspective of the original but omits several architectural elements, most notably the left bell tower, designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1598-1680) and later dismantled due to structural issues. The foreground introduces human figures and small boats navigating the Tiber, which now acts as a symbolic and literal threshold between the viewer and the ecclesiastical complex. The figures on the left sit or crouch among reeds, watching the river or each other. The broad sweep of the water occupies nearly a third of the image, turning the river into an almost theatrical proscenium in front of the dome.</p> |  | <p>Già languia la notte,<br/>e i zeffiretti alati,<br/>con aliti adorati,<br/>scorreano a ravvivar sui campi i fiori.</p> <p>Già i pargoletti Amori<br/>sorgean dal Gange a colorir le sponde,<br/>e già tremole l'onde<br/>attendeano inquiete<br/>goder fra molli argenti<br/>dell'adorato Sol i rai nascenti.</p> <p>Quando Medea tradita,<br/>al pallido splendor del dì bambino,<br/>scopri del reo Giasone la fuga<br/>ardita.</p> <p>Allor del suo destino,<br/>palesando il tenore,<br/>contro il suo traditore,<br/>che già l'onde solcava invan,<br/>s'accinse<br/>a provocar i venti,<br/>col far noti in tal guisa i suoi lamenti:</p> <p>Cielo, oh Dio, cielo che tardi?<br/>Desta, omai, desta lo sdegno!<br/>Per ferir forse l'indegno<br/>l'arco tuo non ha più dardi?<br/>Nume, o tu Nume d'Averno,</p> | <p>The night was already fading,<br/>and little winged Zephyrs,<br/>with perfumed breaths,<br/>were gliding to revive the flowers<br/>of the fields.</p> <p>Already the little Loves<br/>rose from the Ganges to paint the<br/>shores,<br/>and the trembling waves, restless,<br/>/ awaited / to bathe in the tender<br/>silver<br/>of the newborn rays of the adored<br/>Sun.</p> <p>When Medea, betrayed,<br/>at the pale splendor of the<br/>newborn day, / saw revealed the<br/>bold escape of wicked Jason. /<br/>Then, revealing the fate set before<br/>her,<br/>against her traitor,<br/>who already was sailing the<br/>waves, / she roused the winds<br/>and gave voice to her grief in this<br/>manner: //</p> <p>Heaven, O God, heaven, why do<br/>you delay?<br/>Awake now, awake your wrath!<br/>To strike the vile one,<br/>have your bows no arrows left? //</p> <p>O god, your spirit of Hell,</p> |

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| <p>The cantata that follows is a dramatic monologue of betrayal, vengeance, and ambivalent love: Medea, abandoned by Jason, first calls down divine punishment, then hesitates, then urges his death again, only to retract once more. This emotional oscillation is staged as a stormy confrontation between passion and justice, and water recurs as both setting and symbol.</p> <p>In this light, the presence of the Tiber in the vignette takes on new meaning: it becomes the arena of both escape and retribution, the liquid territory in which the drama unfolds.</p> <p>Unlike other vignettes, there is no evident initial hidden in the composition. The image functions more as a panoramic tableau, preparing the reader for a cantata of operatic breadth and tragic intensity. The view is both real and emblematic: a Rome that watches, unmoved, while Medea rages between fury and surrender.</p> | <p>s'á punir t'elesse il fato<br/>l'infedele, l'empio, l'ingrato,<br/>perché non danni a strazio eterno?</p> <p>Nei sentieri dell'onda vorace,<br/>Dio delle acque, sommergi<br/>l'infido,<br/>e nel mar, pria che giunga sul lido,<br/>di sua vita s'estingua la face.</p> <p>Fiamme ultrici, tua destra tonante<br/>vibri, o gran Nume del Polo!<br/>E a trafigger quel seno incostante<br/>i tuoi fulmini affrettino il volo.</p> <p>Ah no! fermate, o Numi,<br/>lasciate pur in vita<br/>lo spergiuro, l'ingrato,<br/>l'infedele adorato;<br/>ché, s'egli è la mia vita, egli è il mio core,<br/>viver già non poss'io, s'egli sen more.</p> <p>Ma tu, crude!, non vedi,<br/>e forse intanto un lusinghiero inganno<br/>ti minaccia la morte.<br/>Ahi! se armata a tuo danno<br/>l'onda t'assale e ti contrasta il lido,</p> | <p><i>if fate has chosen you to punish /<br/>the faithless, the wicked, the<br/>ungrateful,<br/>why do you not condemn him to<br/>eternal torment? //</i><br/><i>On the paths of the devouring<br/>wave,<br/>god of the waters, drown the<br/>traitor, / and before he reaches<br/>the shore, / extinguish the flame<br/>of his life.</i></p> <p><i>Let avenging flames, / from your<br/>thundering hand, / strike swiftly, O<br/>great God of the Pole,<br/>and pierce that inconstant heart /<br/>with your furious bolts. // Ah no!<br/>Stop, O gods—<br/>let him live still,<br/>the perjurer, the ungrateful one, /<br/>the adored traitor;<br/>for if he is my life, he is my heart<br/>too,<br/>and I cannot live if he should die.</i></p> <p><i>But you, cruel one, do not see,<br/>and perhaps even now,<br/>some treacherous deceit<br/>threatens your death.<br/>Ah! if, armed against you,<br/>the waves assault and battle you<br/>at the shore,<br/>before you sink,</i></p> |
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**Image link:**  
<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/71724>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** Olim D-Hs ND VI 2263,II.02

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| pria di restar assorto,<br>corri al mio seno e ti ricovra in<br>porto.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | run to my breast and find shelter<br>in my arms.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Torna, o caro!<br>E se crudele<br>nega Zefiro i respiri,<br>daranno fiato alle tue vele<br>più che l'aure i miei sospiri.<br>Sorgogliosa onda incostante<br>si fa sorda al tuo desio,<br>darà calma al pino errante<br>più che l'onda il pianto mio.<br>Torna, o caro, torna, oh Dio! | Return, oh beloved!<br>And if cruel Zephyr<br>denies you his breath,<br>my sighs shall fill your sails more<br>than the breezes.<br>If the proud, capricious wave<br>refuses your desire,<br>my tears shall calm your ship<br>better than the sea itself.<br>Return, oh beloved, return, O God!               |
| Ma già che sordi il Ciel, la Terra, il<br>Mare,<br>l'Inferno, e tu, più crudo e più<br>sordo,<br>sei alle strida, alle pene, ai pianti<br>miei,<br>a che più spargo le mie voci<br>indarno,<br>se l'offesa son io, s'a me s'aspetta<br>far del barbaro indegno l'aspra<br>vendetta?   | But since the heavens, the earth,<br>the sea,<br>and hell itself—and you, more<br>cruel and deaf than all—<br>do not hear my cries, my<br>suffering, my tears,<br>why do I waste my voice in vain?<br>If I am the one wronged,<br>then to me belongs<br>the fierce vengeance against the<br>wicked barbarian! |
| Con armate falangi<br>l'Oceano varcherò,<br>e nei confini dell'abisso stesso<br>anco ti giungerò.                                                                                                                                                                                     | With armed legions<br>I shall cross the Ocean,<br>and even in the very depths of the<br>abyss                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Amici, a che tardate?<br>Su veloci accorrete,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | I shall pursue you.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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| volando il mar fendete,<br>uccidete, sbranate!                                                                                                                                                       | <i>Friends, why do you delay?<br/>Swiftly fly,<br/>cut through the sea,<br/>strike him down, tear him apart!</i>                                                                   |
| Già parmi, io già m'avviso,<br>il di lui teschio calpestar reciso.                                                                                                                                   | <i>Already I see,<br/>already I imagine,<br/>his severed skull beneath my foot.</i>                                                                                                |
| No, no, non più dimora:<br>mora l'infido, mora!<br>Forse, in mirar<br>core sì perfido<br>reso cadavere,<br>esangue e lacero,<br>dell'ira i stimoli<br>potrò chetar.                                  | <i>No, no more delay:<br/>let the traitor die!<br/>Perhaps in seeing<br/>his perfidious heart,<br/>cold, bloodless, and torn,<br/>the fury in my soul<br/>will find its peace.</i> |
| E di cangiar<br>degli astri torbidi<br>gl'influssi rigidi<br>in raggi prosperi<br>con simil vittima<br>potrò sperar.                                                                                 | <i>And maybe then,<br/>the dark stars above<br/>will turn their harsh influences<br/>into rays of fortune,<br/>with such a sacrifice to fulfill my<br/>hope.</i>                   |
| Prendetelo, sì! Ma, oh Dio,<br>non l'uccidete, no, ch'è l'idolo mio.                                                                                                                                 | <i>Take him, yes! But oh God—<br/>do not kill him, no! For he is still<br/>my idol.</i>                                                                                            |
| Sì, sì, per maggior pena,<br>cinto d'aspra catena,<br>conducetelo a me.<br>E se veggio il superbo,<br>con un duolo più acerbo,<br>chieder umil perdono chino al<br>mio piè,<br>così l'audace avvinto | <i>Yes, yes, for greater punishment,<br/>bound in harsh chains,<br/>bring him back to me!<br/>And if I see the proud one,<br/>broken with sorrow,</i>                              |



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| vedrò supplice prima, e poi<br>estinto.                                                                                                | humbly beg forgiveness at my<br>feet, / thus shall I see him, once<br>bold, / now humbled and<br>destroyed. // And making a river<br>of all my tears,<br>it will be my triumph<br>to see the cruel one<br>shipwrecked in the flood of my<br>weeping. |
| Onde, cangiato in fiume<br>delle lacrime mie sarà mio vanto<br>far che venga il crudele<br>a naufragar degli occhi miei nel<br>pianto. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| E al fin, tradito il traditore<br>istesso,<br>saprò ben io ardere,<br>e incenerirlo col foco mio.                                      | And at last, betrayed,<br>the traitor himself<br>I shall know how to burn and<br>reduce to ashes<br>with my own fire.                                                                                                                                |
| Alme che tenere seguite Amor,<br>or che sentite il mio dolor,<br>deh, compatite l'afflitto cor.                                        | Souls who tenderly follow Love,<br>now that you hear my grief,<br>ah, pity this afflicted heart!                                                                                                                                                     |
| Figlio di Venere,<br>che fai nel ciel?<br>Dai tuoi alti culmini<br>scaglia il tuo tel,<br>vibra i tuoi fulmini<br>contro il crudel.    | Son of Venus,<br>what do you still in heaven?<br>From your lofty heights,<br>hurl your bow,<br>send your thunderbolts<br>against the cruel one!                                                                                                      |

**3.19a**

**Title:** "Vue de l'Église Saint Pierre et du Chateau Saint Ange," *Vues de Rome et des environs.*

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

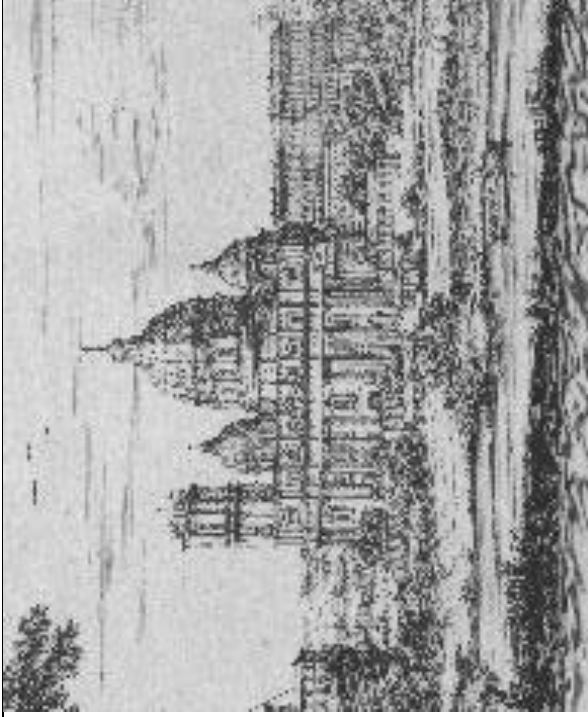
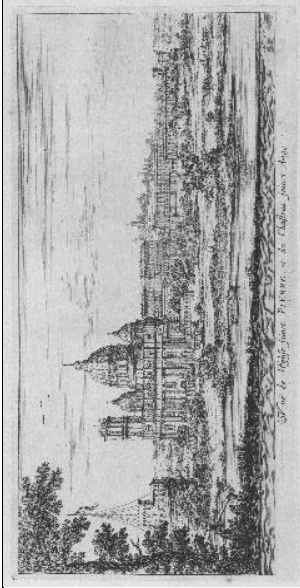
**Date:** ca. 1650

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 211 x 330 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** US-Wnga 1981.69.12.226

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 11.1



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.20 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.20</b></p> <p>Anonymous, "Il ciel che non è stanco"</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 72 x 92 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b> Hidden, anthropomorphic (use of the composition)</p> <p>The buildings including the tower of the church of Santi Luca e Martina are rendered with architectural clarity, while the figures in the foreground are reduced to a few small groups and individuals.</p> <p>A single upright figure, standing near the lower left quadrant of the image, draws the viewer's attention. Holding what may be a cloth or a staff, and framed by empty space, this figure provides the basis for a capital "I", subtly but effectively integrated into the structure of the scene.</p> <p>There is no apparent narrative link between the drawing and the cantata, which opens with a farewell ("Il ciel... vuol ch'io parta..."), but the placement of this still, solitary form adds a note of distance and vertical tension, in line with the speaker's emotional parting.</p> |  | <p>Il Ciel, che non è stanco<br/>di vibrar contro me fulmini, o Filii,<br/>vuol ch'io parta e ti lasci.<br/>Deggio partir?<br/>Deggio lasciarti?<br/>Ahi lasso,<br/>non so se amante,<br/>o convertito in sasso.</p> <p>Già che vita il ciel mi toglie<br/>col privarmi del mio bene,<br/>non andrò di selve amene<br/>a goder l'ombrese foglie,<br/>a goder l'ombrese foglie.</p> <p>In un antro che minaccia<br/>al mio duol tempesta eguale,<br/>io seguir saprò la traccia<br/>della morte più funesta.</p> <p>Morte, tu sola puoi<br/>torre agli affanni un disperato<br/>core,<br/>se la vita è martire<br/>a chi, volendo,<br/>ancor non può morire.</p> <p>Non pretendo che consoli,<br/>cara pace, il mio dolor.<br/>Vuò che i miei pensieri soli<br/>sian le furie del mio cor.</p> | <p>Heaven, never weary<br/>of hurling bolts at me, O Phyllis,<br/>now wills that I must leave you,<br/>that I must part from you.<br/>Must I go?<br/>Must I leave you?<br/>Alas!<br/>I do not know if I am still a lover<br/>or turned already into stone.</p> <p>Since Heaven steals my life<br/>by robbing me of my joy,<br/>I shall not roam the pleasant<br/>woods<br/>to delight in shady leaves,<br/>to delight in shady leaves.</p> <p>In a cavern that threatens<br/>a tempest equal to my grief,<br/>I shall follow the dark path<br/>of the most dreadful death.</p> <p>O Death, you alone can<br/>take sorrow from a desperate<br/>heart,<br/>if life is but torment<br/>for one who,<br/>even wishing it,<br/>cannot die.</p> <p>I ask not, gentle peace,</p> |

The result is a quiet instance of compositional lettering, one that initiates the reading without revealing itself immediately.

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/71725>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** D-Hs ND VI 2263.III.12

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In dura lontananza<br>m'accingo a lagrimar.<br>Piangerò tanto<br>ch'il destino rio<br>tempri rigori suoi col pianto mio.<br><br>Occhi dolenti, formate un mare,<br>naufragate in quell'onde pietose<br>i miei tormenti. | that you soothe my pain.<br>I want my thoughts alone<br>to be the furies of my heart.<br><br>In cruel separation<br>I prepare to weep.<br>I shall weep so long<br>that cruel fate<br>may soften its harshness<br>with my tears.              |
| E se tarda la morte,<br>e se sordo l'inferno<br>si mostra a danni miei<br>col più strano rigore,<br>morte ad inferno avrò<br>nel mio dolore.                                                                            | Weeping eyes, form a sea,<br>let my torments<br>wreck upon those pitiful waves.<br><br>And if death delays,<br>and Hell turns deaf<br>to my despair<br>with the strangest cruelty—<br>then death and Hell<br>will be found within my sorrow. |

**3.20a**

**Title:** "Veduta di Campo Vaccina." Vues de Rome.

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

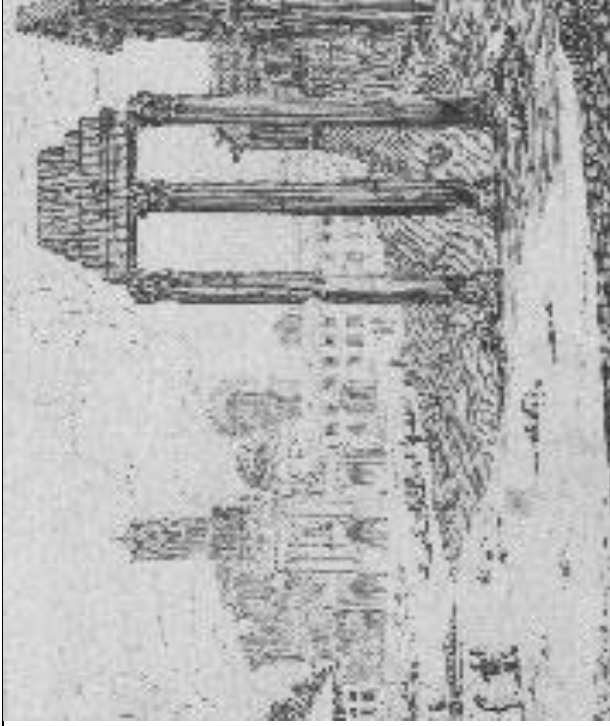
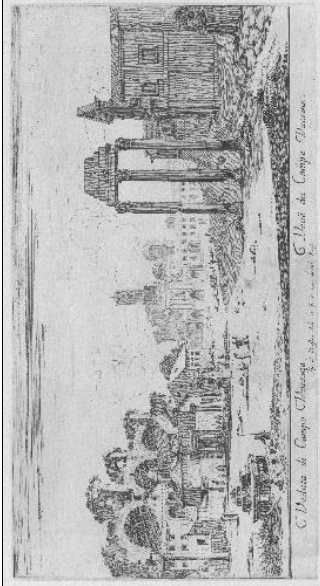
**Date:** ca. 1650

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 211 x 330 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** US-Wnga 1981.69.12.202

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 8.8



| cat. | Inventory nr; references;<br>descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| 3.21 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.21</b></p> <p>Anonymous, "Colei che porta in fronte"<br/> <b>Former attribution(s)</b>: Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date</b>: 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support</b>: pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size</b>: 75 x 87 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks</b>:<br/> Vignette</p> <p>This vignette depicts a fortified bridge over a wide river, flanked by a cylindrical and a square tower. Several boats glide across the water, while distant figures and buildings animate the background. A group of plants and seated figures in the foreground provide spatial framing, but no central focus.</p> <p>Despite detailed rendering, no initial can be discerned within the composition. Neither the arrangement of architectural elements, nor the positioning of human or natural features suggests a typographic shape. The drawing appears to function entirely as a framing landscape, offering no visual link to the incipit or theme of the cantata.</p> |  | <p>Colei che porta in fronte<br/> L'incendio del cor mio,<br/> Su la sponda d'un rio,<br/> Di bel ire sferzando<br/> Il candor di mia fede<br/> Perché geloso sono<br/> Poco amante mi crede.<br/> Io per placar quell'alma<br/> Tumidete a disdegno a miei tormenti<br/> Sciolgo così gl'innamorati accenti.<br/> Cara bella, tutta mia,<br/> S'io t'adoro, amor lo sa.<br/> Ma se provo gelosia<br/> Non offendo tua beltà<br/> Finché spirito in seno avrò,<br/> Sangue in vene e cor in petto,<br/> Tu sarai mio sol diletto.<br/> Sempre fido t'amerò<br/> Né potrà fortuna ria<br/> Ritornarmi in libertà.<br/> Troppo bella e troppo vaga<br/> È la fiamma ch'ardi il cor.<br/> Se gelosa è la mia piaga<br/> T'un incolpa il dio d'amor,<br/> Fin che l'alma in vita sta,<br/> Idolatro fido amante<br/> Questo sen sarà costante<br/> Nel servire tua beltà.</p> | <p>She who bears upon her brow<br/> The fire that burns within my heart,<br/> By the banks of a stream,<br/> Scorning my pure devotion<br/> With a beauty full of wrath,<br/> Because I am jealous,<br/> She deems me but a tepid lover.<br/> To soothe that soul,<br/> So swollen with disdain for my torment,<br/> I now loosen the passionate tones of love:<br/> Dearest beauty, wholly mine,<br/> If I adore you, Love knows it well.<br/> But if I feel jealousy,<br/> It is no insult to your grace.<br/> So long as breath fills my chest,<br/> Blood runs in my veins,<br/> And my heart beats in my breast,<br/> You shall be my only delight.<br/> Ever faithful, I shall love you,<br/> Nor shall cruel fate<br/> Return me to liberty.<br/> Too fair, too bright,<br/> Is the flame that burns my heart.<br/> If my wound is born of jealousy,<br/> Blame not the god of Love.<br/> So long as my soul lives on,<br/> As a devoted, faithful worshipper,<br/> This heart shall remain steadfast</p> |

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| <p><b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73637">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73637</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> D-Hs ND VI 2263,III.11</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> <p><b>Related work(s):</b></p> | <p>Né sarà destin crudele<br/>         Ch'io non peni al tuo splendor.</p> | <p><i>In service of your beauty.<br/>         Nor shall cruel destiny<br/>         Keep me from suffering in your<br/>         splendor.</i></p> |
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**3.21a**

**Title:** "Vue du pont Lamentano proche de Tivoli." *Vues de différents lieux.*

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

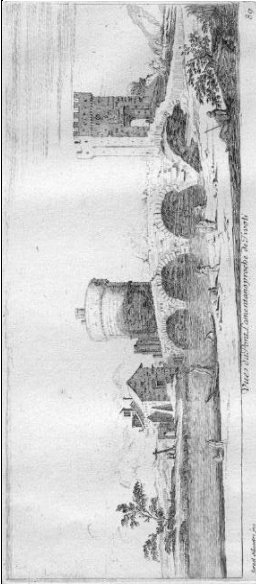
**Date:** ca. 1650

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 116 x 249 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** GB-lbm X.9.190

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 21.1





| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| 3.22 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.22</b></p> <p>Anonymous, "Regea dell'orbe etrusco" [5311].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 75 x 102 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic</p> <p>This vignette depicts a rural scene showing a congregation outside a church. The drawing reproduces only the left portion of the original composition, omitting the crowd on the right and instead isolating a single soldier in the left foreground.</p> <p>This marching figure, viewed in three-quarter profile and carrying a heavy satchel or pack, is carefully placed and shaped to suggest a capital "R". His forward-leaning posture and bent right arm form a curved diagonal, while the torso and pack trace a rounded shoulder and vertical line.</p> <p>There is no direct narrative correspondence between the vignette and the cantata's tragic monologue on the failed assassination of Porsenna by Muzio Scevola.</p> |  | <p>Regea dell'orbe etrusco<br/>Ad inondar del Quirinale grembo<br/>Carco di ferro hostil Porsenna un nembro,<br/>Quando dal Tebro fusco<br/>Mutio mirollo e a vendicar l'offese<br/>Della patria fedel così s'accese:<br/>Dunque del gran Tarpeo l'aquile auguste<br/>Han da giacere al pondo<br/>Di barbaro Titan, di rege immondo?<br/>Dunque per un Tifeo<br/>Vedovo ha da restare il<br/>Campidoglio<br/>Di palme, di trofei, corone e soglio?<br/>Ah, che solo il pensier l'alma m'accora,<br/>O Porsenna perisca o Mutio mora.</p> <p>Ferro, tu non sei mio,<br/>Se non l'uccidi hor.<br/>Se non appresti a bere<br/>Tutto il mio sangue al Tevere<br/>Svenato dal mio cor.<br/>Chi ha sprito nel petto,<br/>Di Marte al dispetto<br/>D'incontro di morte<br/>Timore non ha.</p> | <p>He ruled the Etruscan world—<br/>And to flood the Quirinal's womb<br/>With storms of hostile steel,<br/>Came Porsenna, heavy with war's gloom.<br/>But from the dusky Tiber<br/>Mucius arose, ablaze to avenge<br/>His homeland's wounds, with fiery resolve did he engage:<br/>Must, then, the august eagles<br/>Of great Tarpeian heights<br/>Bow beneath the weight<br/>Of a barbarian Titan—of a foul king's might?<br/>Shall one Typhoeus make the Capitol<br/>Bereft of palms, of trophies, crowns, and all?<br/>Ah—this very thought<br/>Pierces my soul with dread!<br/>Let Porsenna perish—<br/>Or let Mucius fall instead!<br/>Steel, you are not mine<br/>Unless you strike him now—<br/>Unless you offer up my blood<br/>To the Tiber in a crimson flood<br/>Drawn from this loyal heart.<br/>He who bears a soul within his breast,<br/>Fears not death,<br/>Though Mars himself contest.</p> |

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73638>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** D-Hs ND VI

2263,1.09

**Bibliography:****Related work(s):**

A che dunque, pensier, tu pensi ancora?  
 O Porsenna perisca o Mutio mora.  
 Son l'offese eterne trombe  
 Che sin dalla tombe  
 Risvegliano a vendetta ogni valor.  
 Così Mutio dicea  
 El ferro micidial tutto nel petto  
 Gli profondò, ma con contrario effetto,  
 Poiché, quando credeva  
 Atterrato al suo piè l'hoste protervo  
 In vece di Porsenna uccise il servo. //

Crudi numi, astri severi,  
 Deh, movetevi a pietà.  
 Ecco Mutio tradito  
 Dal suo braccio inawvertito,  
 Fatto scopo d'empietà.

Ma che pietà? merti pietade indegno?  
 Non merta premio, chi non colpisce al segno.  
 Dunque la mano rea  
 Si castighi col foco, e se ferio,  
 Chi non doveva, hora ne paghi il fio.

Bragie, bragie,

Why, then, thought—do you still delay?  
 Let Porsenna perish—  
 Or let Mucius die this day.  
 Offense is an eternal trumpet  
 That calls forth valor from the tomb—  
 To vengeance it awakes  
 The noble soul in gloom.  
 So spoke Mucius—and  
 Drove the deadly blade into his chest,  
 Yet fate betrayed his noble quest.  
 For when he thought  
 He'd cast the tyrant at his feet,  
 He found he'd slain the servant,  
 not the king in seat.  
 Cruel gods, stern stars—  
 Move now to pity, I implore!  
 Behold Mucius—betrayed  
 By his own hand's unthinking blade,  
 A victim of this war.  
 But what pity? Does he merit such grace?  
 Who misses the mark  
 Deserves no praise, no honored place.  
 So let this guilty hand  
 Be judged by fire.  
 If I struck the wrong man,  
 Let now my flesh atone entire.  
 Embers—embers,  
 That devour my arm in flame,

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| Che il mio braccio colmate<br>d'ardori,<br>Non scemate già punto il mio<br>honor.<br>Siete rose fodate d'allori,<br>Che formate corone al mio error.<br>// Così manco di man di braccio<br>estinto,<br>Se da Mutio perdei, Scevola ho<br>vinto. | <i>You do not dim my honor's name.<br/>You are roses lined with laurel<br/>bright,<br/>That crown my fault<br/>In glory's light.<br/>So, though I lost my hand—my arm<br/>consumed in flame,<br/>If Mucius failed—then Scaevola is<br/>my name. /</i> |
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**3.22a**

**Title:** Le misères et les malheurs de la guerre.

**Attribution:** Jacques Callot

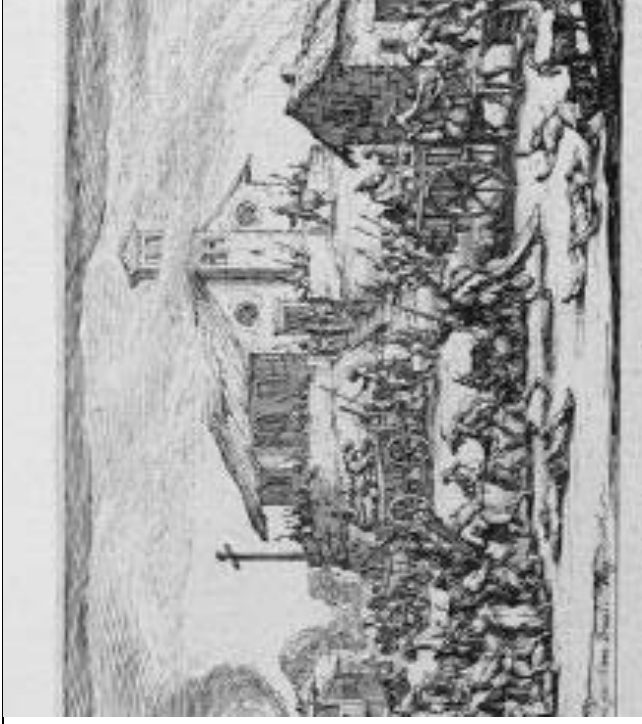
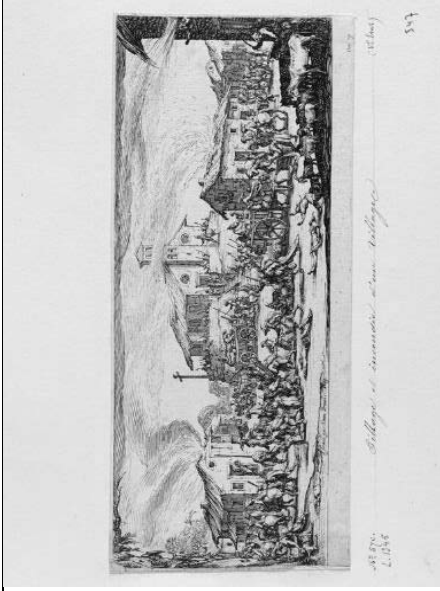
**Date:** 1633

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 85 x 187 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** F-Pi L 44 LR/547  
Recto

**Bibliography:** Lieure 1345



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| 3.23 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.23</b></p> <p>Anonymous, "Per stentato cammino asperso," [5300].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 76 x 104 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Vignette</p> <p>The drawing presents the Constantine arch standing alone in a rural clearing, flanked by vegetation and low walls. A few figures walk or converse near the base, but none of them dominate the scene or engage the viewer's attention directly.</p> <p>No visual or structural element appears to form an initial, nor does the composition suggest any graphic cue at the level of letterform. The overall layout is symmetrical, calm, and scenographic – a faithful rendering of a classical monument with minor adjustments in scale and proportion. The cantata's tone of suffering and interior conflict finds no direct echo in the image, which appears to have been chosen (or retained) for its decorative clarity rather than symbolic or rhetorical relevance. It thus belongs</p> |  | <p>Per stentato cammino<br/>Asperso ogn'or di pianti<br/>Mi conduce e mi spinge il mio destino<br/>E se pur veggio avanti<br/>Due begl'occhi ridenti,<br/>Cinoseure amorose al mio desio<br/>Pur tragger non poss'io<br/>Da quel riso d'Amor se non tormenti.</p> <p>Veggio risplendere<br/>Luci sì care,<br/>Ne so cessare<br/>Di lacrimar!<br/>Più sento accedere<br/>Fiamme nel core,<br/>Più sveglio ardore<br/>Nel sospirar.</p> <p>Lumi, che splendono<br/>Da sì bei rai,<br/>Non lascian mai<br/>Di tormentar!<br/>E qual'or scendono<br/>Tra quei bei giri,<br/>Nuovi sospiri<br/>Fan risvegliar.</p> | <p>Along a path so steep and slow,<br/>Forever bathed in tears I go,<br/>Driven onward by my fate,<br/>Though I see before me, late,<br/>Two lovely eyes that softly shine,<br/>Love's beacons bright, desire's design,<br/>Yet from that smile Love grants to me,<br/>I draw no joy—only misery.</p> <p>I see those radiant eyes appear,<br/>So dear, so dear—<br/>Yet still I weep, nor find relief.<br/>The more I feel love's flame arise,<br/>The more my soul ignites with grief.</p> <p>Eyes that shine with such fair light,<br/>Their beams so bright,<br/>Bring not delight,<br/>But ceaseless pain.<br/>And when they fall, those lashes low,<br/>In gentle arcs that sweetly flow,<br/>They stir anew my sighs again.</p> |

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among the vignettes drawn for the view: images that frame and enrich the page without actively engaging the text.

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73639>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** D-Hs ND VI

2263,1.01

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

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**3.23a**

**Title:** "Arco di Costantino", Antiche. E. Moderne. Vedute. Di. Roma. E. Contorno. Fate. Da. Israel. Silvestro. cum priuile Regis excudit Parisiis.

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

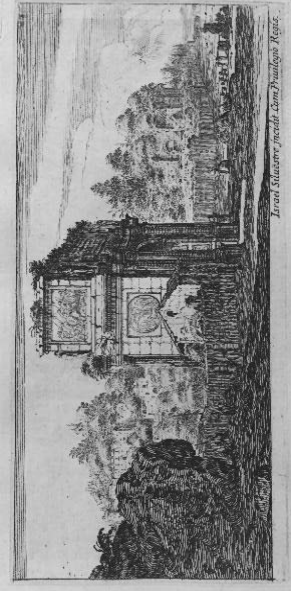
**Date:** 1645/48

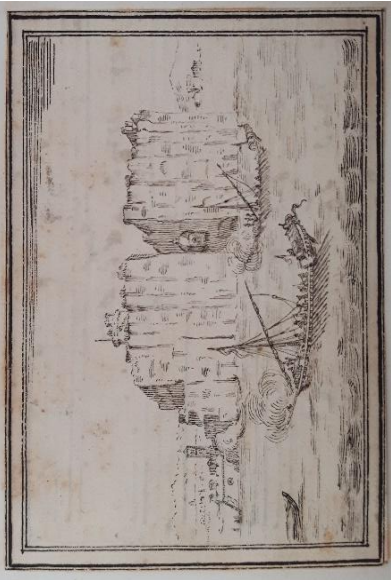
**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 68 x 153 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** art market

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 3.10



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| 3.24 | <b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.24</b><br>Alessandro Stradella,<br>"Aure voi che spirate."<br><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella<br><b>Date:</b> 1690<br><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper<br><b>Size:</b> 74 x 103 mm<br><b>Description/Remarks:</b><br>Hidden, allusive<br>This vignette presents a fortified coastal landscape, with two sailing ships navigating choppy waters in the foreground. The vessel on the left, shown in three-quarter view, features a prominently curved sail and a vertical mast which together trace the outline of a wide, open capital "A." The fortress behind is monumental but generalized, acting more as backdrop than narrative setting.<br>The drawing subtly reworks a known seascape model, but with adjustments in framing and detail to enhance the legibility of the letter. The initial is not integrated into a figure or disguised in natural elements; rather, it emerges compositionally from the silhouette of rigging and canvas. Its function is not decorative but symbolic and atmospheric. |  | Aure voi che spirate<br>Di Partenope ai lidi<br>E voi navigli fidi<br>Che quell'onde solcate<br>Solo vi chieggió che per mio<br>ristoro<br>A me rendiate Erminda o ch'io mi<br>moro.<br>Pini voi che le miniere<br>Dell'indiche maremme impoverite<br>Per compiacer l'avide menti<br>umane<br>Del mare all'onde insane<br>Vi consegnate e alle procelle in<br>seno<br>Frangervi non curate<br>E doppio aver solcato<br>Sin dall'occaso all'orto<br>La vostr'ancora alfin abbraccia il<br>porto.<br>Or se con lungo e faticoso giro<br>Salve portate altrui merce gradita<br>Discaro non vi sia<br>Da Partenope a me recarsi la vita.<br><br>Vesti o cielo azzurro amanto<br>E respira aura soave<br>Usignuol non ti sia frale<br>Festeggiar con il tuo canto<br>Or ch'a me riede il mio ben,<br>Rio velen di gelosia | Winds, you who blow<br>Over the shores of Parthenope,<br>And you, faithful ships,<br>That plow through those waves—<br>I ask only this:<br>For my comfort,<br>Either return Erminda to me,<br>Or let me die. //<br>Pines, you who strip<br>The mines of the Indian seas<br>To satisfy the greedy minds of<br>men,<br>You who surrender yourselves<br>To the mad waves of the sea<br>And do not fear to break amid the<br>storms—<br>After having sailed<br>From the setting to the rising sun,<br>At last your anchor embraces the<br>shore.<br>Thus, if after such a long and<br>arduous voyage<br>You bear to others precious<br>goods,<br>Let it not seem a burden to you<br>To bring back my life from<br>Parthenope. // Sky, dress yourself<br>In a blue cloak,<br>And breathe forth a gentle breeze.<br>Nightingale, may your fragile voice<br>Celebrate with joyful song, |



The cantata, which opens with an apostrophe to the winds and sea, centers on themes of maritime longing, return, and emotional navigation. The ship becomes a metaphor for the speaker's hope and distress, echoing classical and baroque tropes of seaborne love and absence. The "A" thus works both as a literal incipit and as a figural condensation of the poem's emotional coordinates. Rather than illustrating the narrative, the image establishes a tone, a sense of movement, distance, and elemental invocation that prepares the eye and mind for the cantata's rhetorical unfolding.

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73640>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** Olim D-Hs ND VI 2263,II.04

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

|                                            |                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| L'alma mia tormentata fu a<br>bastanza     | Now that my beloved returns to<br>me.                            |
| Dal rigor di tiranna lontananza.           | Cruel venom of jealousy<br>Has already tormented enough          |
| Scherzi in mar placida l'onda              | This soul of mine,                                               |
| E si vesta il suol de fiori                | Under the tyranny of distant<br>absence. //                      |
| Voi del rio garruli umori                  | Let the sea play gently,                                         |
| Festeggiate in verde sponda                | Let the earth be clothed in<br>flowers.                          |
| Or ch'a me riede il mio cor                | You, streams of merry murmurs,                                   |
| Caro amor fa piaga eguale                  | Celebrate upon the green banks, /                                |
| Col tuo strale                             | Now that my heart returns to me.                                 |
| O al mio sen spegni l'ardore               | // Dear Love, strike me again /                                  |
| O cangia alla crudel sembianza o'<br>core. | With your sweet dart—                                            |
| Godi o' Tebro or che riede                 | Either quench the fire in my<br>breast,                          |
| Dalle partenopee spiagge vicine            | Or change the cruel heart of my<br>beloved. // Rejoice, O Tiber, |
| La bella Erinda tua                        | Now that she returns                                             |
| E lì dove passar deve il ben piede         | From the shores of Parthenope,                                   |
| Smalta quel suol d'inargentate<br>brine.   | The beautiful Erinda—                                            |
| Su su sparite                              | And where her dear foot shall<br>tread,                          |
| Pensieri vili                              | Cover the ground with silvered<br>dew. // Up, up—disappear,      |
| Di servitù                                 | Vile thoughts of slavery!                                        |
| Non più, non più.                          | No more, no more.                                                |
| No che non voglio amar                     | Not that I refuse to love—                                       |
| Ma sol voglio adorar                       | But I wish only to adore                                         |
| Della mia libertà l'ore gradite            | The blessed hours of my liberty.                                 |
| Su su sparite.                             | Up, up—disappear! //                                             |
| No non fuggite                             | No, do not flee,                                                 |
| Affetti miei                               | My tender affections!                                            |
| Meco vi vò                                 |                                                                  |

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Fin che vivrò.  
Sì voglio adorar  
E sempre sospirar  
Già che così per me stelle influite  
No non fuggite.

*Remain with me,  
As long as I shall live. / Yes, I shall  
adore,  
And forever sigh—  
Since such is the decree  
The stars have written for me.  
No, do not flee!*

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**3.24a**

**Title:** "Rocher de Gayette lequel se fendit en deux lors de la passion de Nostre Seigneur." *Vues d'Italie.*

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

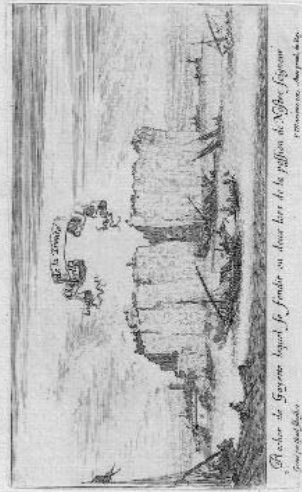
**Date:** c. 1640

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 80 x 165 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** art market

**Bibliography:** Fauchaux 5.9



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| 3.25 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.25</b></p> <p>Giovanni Lorenzo Lulier, <i>Stan soggetti alla Fortuna</i>, [4135].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 75 x 104 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic/zoomorphic</p> <p>The composition features a round coastal tower rising from rocky outcrops, with a fortified settlement in the background and various boats animating the harbour. In the foreground, a coiled sea creature emerges from the water, its tail curving back over its head to form a clear, decorative capital "S".</p> <p>The figure is placed in isolation at the bottom centre of the scene, drawing attention to the initial without integrating it into the surrounding narrative. As in other examples within the manuscript, the "S" is generated through the twisting pose of a hybrid or marine body, in a mode that recalls earlier grotesque.</p> <p>While there is no direct link between the cantata text and the subject of the vignette, the theme of fickle beauty</p> |  | <p>Stan soggetti alla Fortuna<br/>Anco i fiori di beltà.<br/>Nel giardin, ch'un volto accoglie,<br/>Questa diva il piè discioglie<br/>E con man, ch'insidie aduna,<br/>Gigli e rose a coglier va.<br/>Stan soggetti alla fortuna<br/>Anco i fiori di beltà.</p> <p>Ne di rosa o di giglio<br/>La matura vaghezza<br/>Scerner puote già mai, se cieco<br/>ha il ciglio.<br/>Così della bellezza<br/>Manca la primavera<br/>Sotto un cieco gestin l'alba o la sera.</p> <p>Filli mia, se va svanita<br/>La beltà, ch'hoggi è fiorita,<br/>N'è cagion sorte importuna<br/>Congiurata con l'età.<br/>Stan soggetti alla fortuna.<br/>Anco i fiori di beltà.</p> | <p>Even the flowers of beauty<br/>Are subject to Fortune's sway.<br/>In the garden that is a face,<br/>This goddess sets her steps in<br/>grace,<br/>And with a hand that hides deceit,<br/>She moves to pluck the rose and<br/>lily sweet.<br/>Even the flowers of beauty<br/>Are subject to Fortune's sway.</p> <p>Nor rose nor lily,<br/>In ripened bloom,<br/>May ever truly show its grace—<br/>If the gaze is blind to what it sees.<br/>So too does beauty's springtime<br/>fade,<br/>When blind command<br/>Turns dawn to dusk, and light to<br/>shade.</p> <p>Phyllis, my love,<br/>If beauty fades, though bright<br/>today,<br/>It is misfortune's fault—<br/>Conspiring with the years to steal<br/>away.<br/>Even the flowers of beauty<br/>Are subject to Fortune's sway.</p> |

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and ephemeral fortune may subtly echo the instability of the creature's form and placement. The sea creature appears ornamental, almost incidental, yet it anchors the composition's function as a textual threshold. Its calligraphic loop enacts a literal flourish, a visual prologue to a poem about the fragility of youth and charm.

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73641>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbl

Add.24311.07

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

**3.25a**

**Title:** "Porto Vecchio." Antiche. E.  
 Moderne. Vedute. Di. Roma. E. Contorno.  
 Fate. Da. Israel. Silvestro. cum priuile  
 Regis excudit Parisiis

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

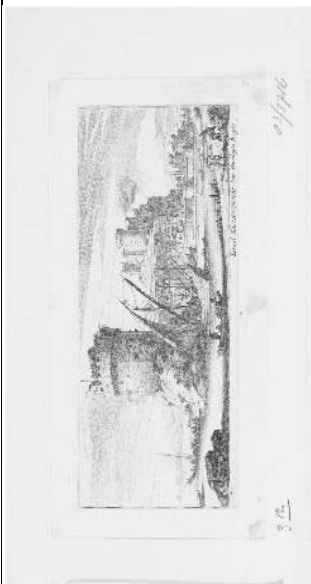
**Date:** 1650

**Technique and support:** etching on  
 paper

**Size:** 94 x 176 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** D-BKh 1903/3716

**Bibliography:** Fauchoux 3.12



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| 3.26 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.26</b></p> <p>Severo de Luca, "Lungi dal patrio suolo"</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 88 x 88 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic</p> <p>The drawing presents the square of the <i>Bocca della Verità</i>, with a loggia on the left, rustic buildings on the right, and scattered figures engaged in various activities. A man stands at the very center of the composition, casting a clear shadow diagonally behind him. The visual alignment between standing figure and shadow produces a subtle but legible capital "L", tilted on its axis. This letter is not constructed through posture or architecture, but rather emerges from the play of light, making it one of the most discreet and effective examples of compositional lettering in the album.</p> <p><b>Image link:</b></p> <p><a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73642">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73642</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> D-Hs ND VI 2263.III.05</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> |  | <p>Lungi dal patrio suolo<br/>Eurillo, innamorato d'una beltà crudele,<br/>per isfogare un dì l'aspro suo duolo,<br/>in solitarie piante i suoi tormenti così narrava ai fiori, all'onde, ai venti:<br/>Aure, fiori, onde,<br/>voi siete del mio duol la vera imago.<br/>Voi, aurette, sospirate,<br/>vaghe rose, sempre arsite,<br/>e con flebil mormorio,<br/>mesto rio, sol di piangere sei vago.<br/>Dunque, per non mirare<br/>sì lagrimosi oggetti,<br/>volgi al cielo le luci!<br/>Ah! che lagrime ogn'or mia sorte vuole—<br/>che se rimiro il ciel, veggio il mio sole.<br/>Chiudi dunque nel sen<br/>le dolenti pupille,<br/>già che mirar non ponno<br/>questo misero cor fra tante pene.<br/>Ah! di spietata Irene gli occhi che ti mirarono—<br/>vuoi che paghino il fio di tanto errore?</p> | <p>Far from his native land,<br/>Eurillo, in love with a cruel beauty,<br/>to ease, one day, his bitter sorrow,<br/>among silent groves told his torment<br/>to the flowers, the waves, and the winds:<br/>Breezes, flowers, waves,<br/>you are the true image of my pain.<br/>You, soft breezes, sigh;<br/>roses, ever scorched;<br/>and with a mournful murmur,<br/>you, sad stream, long only to weep.<br/>So, to avoid beholding<br/>such tearful things,<br/>I lift my eyes to Heaven.<br/>Ah! But tears fall still—<br/>for when I gaze at the sky, I see my sun.<br/>Close, then, within my breast,<br/>these grieving eyes,<br/>since they can no longer bear<br/>this heart, so torn by pain.<br/>Ah! for Irene's pitiless eyes—<br/>must they pay the price for such a sin?</p> |

**Related work(s):**

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| Ch'è ben folle chi crede al tuo splendore.<br>Dormi pure, dormi pure,<br>e il cieco Dio versi al core<br>onde di Lete, che l'Amore al petto mio<br>vibra ogn'or fiamme amorose.<br>Onde care, deh pietose,<br>il mio foco un di estinguate!<br>Appena avea lo sventurato Eurillo<br>chiuse le luci al sonno,<br>che spaventose forme<br>lo tormentano ogn'or mentre<br>esso dorme.<br>Mira la bella Irene<br>al suo dolor più fiera,<br>più sorda alle sue pene,<br>d'ogni pietade ignuda,<br>nei pianti di lui farsi più cruda.<br>Destossi, e disperato<br>di ritrovar mai posa al suo<br>tormento,<br>in sì pietoso grido pianse il suo<br>mal—<br>ma non s'udì Cupido.<br>O sorte crudelissima,<br>se tormentar mi vuoi,<br>insegnami a soffrir!<br>A danni miei si cangiano<br>le ombre in tiranni orribili,<br>per farmi ogn'or languir.<br>Ma sordo il Nume infante<br>non udì le querele<br>dell'infelice amante, | He is a fool who trusts your brightness.<br><br>Sleep, then, sleep,<br>and may blind Love pour into my heart<br>the waves of Lethe, while he strikes<br>my breast with ever-burning flames.<br>Gentle waves, oh merciful ones,<br>quench this fire one day!<br><br>But no sooner had the wretched Eurillo<br>closed his eyes in sleep,<br>than fearful visions<br>haunted him still as he dreamed.<br>He sees fair Irene,<br>even fiercer in his grief,<br>deaf to his pain,<br>stripped of all pity,<br>growing more cruel at his tears. /<br>He woke, and in despair, /<br>believing he'd find no rest from torment, / he cried aloud in pitiful lament— / but Cupid did not hear. //<br>O most cruel fate,<br>if you would torment me,<br>teach me how to suffer!<br>My very shadows turn<br>to horrible tyrants<br>to make me languish evermore. // |
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che a se stesso crudele,  
per terminar mille tormenti e  
mille,  
pungentissimo strale  
immerse in quel bel seno.  
E l'alma, sciolta  
dall'infelice carcere di pene,  
fuggia... e ver'... fuggia...  
ma pur chiamava Irene.

*But deaf was the infant god,  
who heard not the complaints  
of the unhappy lover,  
who, cruel to himself,  
to end a thousand torments,  
plunged a sharpest dart  
into that fair breast. / And the  
soul, freed / from its unhappy  
prison of pain,  
fled... fled—but still  
called out Irene's name.*

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**3.26a**

**Title:** "Scola greca ovvero bocca della verita." *Vues de Rome et de Venise.*

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

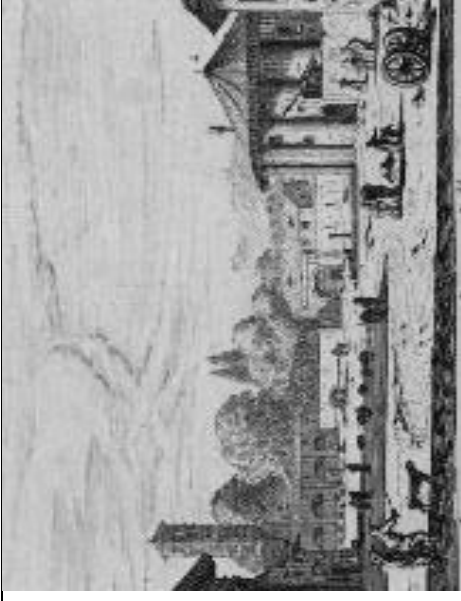
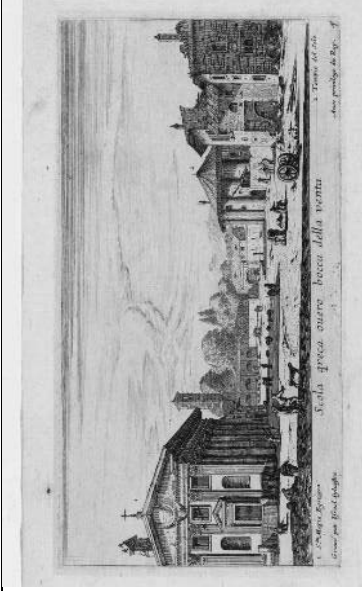
**Date:** 1621

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 114 x 200 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** US-RISD Museum 81.201

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 4.4



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| 3.27 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.27</b></p> <p>Alessandro Stradella, <i>Arresta, arresta il piè</i>, f.49r-62v, [5308]</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s)</b>: Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date</b>: 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support</b>: pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size</b>: 75 x 100 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks</b>:<br/>Hidden, anthropomorphic<br/>This vignette shows the Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella on the Via Appia. The circular tomb dominates the background, while to the right the remains of the adjoining fortification are sketched in lighter contour. In the foreground, a female figure is shown in a dynamic stance, with legs apart and arms raised, forming a clear capital "A". Her right foot rests on a spade, suggesting a moment of digging or marking the ground. The initial emerges from a functional gesture, rather than a theatrical display. This deliberate combination of bodily movement and letterform reinforces the cantata's themes of pursuit, resistance, and emotional resolve. The tomb in the background, a monument to loss and permanence, contrasts with the immediacy of the figure's</p> |  | <p>Arresta, arresta il piè,<br/>Fugace mentitor, crudo tiranno,<br/>Ch'il tuo furtivo inganno<br/>Sdegnato Amor vendicherà per me.</p> <p>Al mio servir costante<br/>Tal guiderdon si dà?<br/>E con barbara empietà<br/>Tormentata così lasci un'amante?<br/>Ah perfido inhumano,<br/>Tradimenti sì fieri a me prepari;<br/>E con stile profano<br/>Solo a mentir, solo a tradire impari?</p> <p>E fra sospiri amari<br/>Me sola esponi in queste dure selve</p> <p>Schernò di predator, pasto di belve?</p> <p>Ed io lassa pur resto<br/>Invendicata ancora<br/>E senza far dimora<br/>L'armi hostil non appresto?<br/>E con archi e saette<br/>Non fò, di chi m'offese, aspre vendette.</p> <p>Nell'aringo del furore,<br/>Fra le squadre de i martiri<br/>Il mio cor spiega l'insegna<br/>E s'ingegna</p> | <p>Halt, halt your step,<br/>Fleeting liar, cruel tyrant,<br/>Your stealthy deception<br/>Shall be avenged by scorned Love for me.</p> <p>Is this the reward<br/>For my faithful service?<br/>With barbarous cruelty<br/>You leave your lover thus tormented?</p> <p>Ah, treacherous, inhuman man,<br/>Such fierce betrayals you prepare for me;<br/>And with profane intent<br/>You learn only to lie, only to deceive?</p> <p>And amid bitter sighs<br/>You leave me alone in these harsh woods</p> <p>Mocked by predators, prey to beasts?<br/>And I, alas, still remain Unavenged,<br/>And without delay<br/>I do not ready my hostile arms?<br/>And with bows and arrows<br/>I do not bring harsh revenge on the one who wronged me?</p> <p>In the arena of fury,<br/>Amid the squadrons of torment,</p> |

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| <p>action. Together, the elements construct a visual threshold where gesture, letter, and landscape intersect—the “A” standing as both opening and omen.</p> <p><b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73643">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73643</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> D-Hs ND VI 2263,1.06</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> <p><b>Related work(s):</b></p>                                     | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Con falangi di sospiri<br/>D'espugnare il tuo rigore<br/>E s'Amore<br/>Del mio pensier non smarrirà la traccia,<br/>Prigionier ti farò nelle mie braccia.</td><td>My heart unfurls its banner<br/>And strives<br/>With legions of sighs<br/>To overcome your hardness.<br/>And if Love<br/>Does not lose the path of my thought,<br/>I shall make you prisoner within my arms.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Del tuo corso spedito<br/>L'aure tumultuose<br/>L'amato suol non varcaran sì presto,<br/>Che del mio sen tradito<br/>L'onde caliginose<br/>Non facciano al tuo piè geloso arresto<br/>E con ben degno oltraggio<br/>Nelle lacrime mie provi il naufraggio?<br/>Ah no, sì crudo scempio<br/>Bramar contro il suo cor l'alma non sà.<br/>Basterà sol, che l'empio<br/>Del mio grave languir senta pietà,<br/>E che pentito al meno<br/>De tradimenti suoi torni al mio seno.</td><td>Your swift course<br/>The tumultuous winds<br/>Will not cross the beloved shore so soon<br/>That the shadowy waves<br/>Of my betrayed heart<br/>Do not bring your jealous foot to a halt<br/>And with rightful outrage<br/>Make you shipwreck in my tears?<br/>Ah no, such cruel destruction<br/>My soul does not know how to desire against the heart it loves.<br/>It will be enough that the cruel one<br/>Feels pity for my deep languishing,<br/>And that repentant at last<br/>He returns to my breast from his betrayals. //</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fra catene di contenti<br/>Stringerà l'ore amorose<br/>E con forme più pietose<br/>Darà fine a miei tormenti.</td><td>In chains of contentment<br/>He will bind the loving hours<br/>And with gentler forms<br/>He will put an end to my torments.<br/>//</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ah, che la doglia acerba</td><td>Ah, how bitter grief</td></tr> </table> | Con falangi di sospiri<br>D'espugnare il tuo rigore<br>E s'Amore<br>Del mio pensier non smarrirà la traccia,<br>Prigionier ti farò nelle mie braccia. | My heart unfurls its banner<br>And strives<br>With legions of sighs<br>To overcome your hardness.<br>And if Love<br>Does not lose the path of my thought,<br>I shall make you prisoner within my arms. | Del tuo corso spedito<br>L'aure tumultuose<br>L'amato suol non varcaran sì presto,<br>Che del mio sen tradito<br>L'onde caliginose<br>Non facciano al tuo piè geloso arresto<br>E con ben degno oltraggio<br>Nelle lacrime mie provi il naufraggio?<br>Ah no, sì crudo scempio<br>Bramar contro il suo cor l'alma non sà.<br>Basterà sol, che l'empio<br>Del mio grave languir senta pietà,<br>E che pentito al meno<br>De tradimenti suoi torni al mio seno. | Your swift course<br>The tumultuous winds<br>Will not cross the beloved shore so soon<br>That the shadowy waves<br>Of my betrayed heart<br>Do not bring your jealous foot to a halt<br>And with rightful outrage<br>Make you shipwreck in my tears?<br>Ah no, such cruel destruction<br>My soul does not know how to desire against the heart it loves.<br>It will be enough that the cruel one<br>Feels pity for my deep languishing,<br>And that repentant at last<br>He returns to my breast from his betrayals. // | Fra catene di contenti<br>Stringerà l'ore amorose<br>E con forme più pietose<br>Darà fine a miei tormenti. | In chains of contentment<br>He will bind the loving hours<br>And with gentler forms<br>He will put an end to my torments.<br>// | Ah, che la doglia acerba | Ah, how bitter grief |
| Con falangi di sospiri<br>D'espugnare il tuo rigore<br>E s'Amore<br>Del mio pensier non smarrirà la traccia,<br>Prigionier ti farò nelle mie braccia.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | My heart unfurls its banner<br>And strives<br>With legions of sighs<br>To overcome your hardness.<br>And if Love<br>Does not lose the path of my thought,<br>I shall make you prisoner within my arms.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                 |                          |                      |
| Del tuo corso spedito<br>L'aure tumultuose<br>L'amato suol non varcaran sì presto,<br>Che del mio sen tradito<br>L'onde caliginose<br>Non facciano al tuo piè geloso arresto<br>E con ben degno oltraggio<br>Nelle lacrime mie provi il naufraggio?<br>Ah no, sì crudo scempio<br>Bramar contro il suo cor l'alma non sà.<br>Basterà sol, che l'empio<br>Del mio grave languir senta pietà,<br>E che pentito al meno<br>De tradimenti suoi torni al mio seno. | Your swift course<br>The tumultuous winds<br>Will not cross the beloved shore so soon<br>That the shadowy waves<br>Of my betrayed heart<br>Do not bring your jealous foot to a halt<br>And with rightful outrage<br>Make you shipwreck in my tears?<br>Ah no, such cruel destruction<br>My soul does not know how to desire against the heart it loves.<br>It will be enough that the cruel one<br>Feels pity for my deep languishing,<br>And that repentant at last<br>He returns to my breast from his betrayals. //                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                 |                          |                      |
| Fra catene di contenti<br>Stringerà l'ore amorose<br>E con forme più pietose<br>Darà fine a miei tormenti.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | In chains of contentment<br>He will bind the loving hours<br>And with gentler forms<br>He will put an end to my torments.<br>//                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                 |                          |                      |
| Ah, che la doglia acerba                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ah, how bitter grief                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                 |                          |                      |

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| <p>Corrompe ogni dolcezza<br/> E con tacita asprezza<br/> Solo al penar il viver mio riserba.<br/> Soffio d'aura superba,<br/> Gonfia della speranza il debil lino.<br/> Ma nel mar del dolor naufraga il<br/> pino. //</p> <p>Voi del cielo dorate fiammelle,<br/> Che infondete a mortali gl'ardori,<br/> Fate fede co i vostri splendori,<br/> Se s'asconde il mio sol fra le<br/> stelle.</p> <p>Ma se per l'onde insane<br/> Di tumido Anfitrite<br/> Con l'ali dell'ardir varca le spume<br/> E alle sponde inumane<br/> Del portentoso Dite<br/> Tributario del duol piega le<br/> piume.</p> <p>Fra le turbe degli estinti<br/> I più chiusi laberinti<br/> Tentarò.<br/> E nel regno delle pene<br/> Il mio bene<br/> Seguirò.</p> <p>Sì, sì, voglio seguire,<br/> Chi m'abbandona e fugge,<br/> Sì, sì, voglio servire,<br/> Chi mi consuma e strugge<br/> E con funesta sorte</p> | <p><i>Corrupts all sweetness<br/> And with silent harshness<br/> Leaves my life to suffering alone.<br/> A breath of haughty air<br/> Swells the fragile sail with hope.<br/> But in the sea of sorrow, the ship<br/> is wrecked. //</i></p> <p><i>You golden flames of heaven,<br/> Who pour passion into mortals,<br/> Bear witness with your shining<br/> If my sun hides among the stars.</i></p> <p><i>But if through the mad waves<br/> Of swelling Amphitrite<br/> He crosses the foam with wings of<br/> boldness<br/> And to the inhuman shores<br/> Of monstrous Dis<br/> He bends his wings as tribute to<br/> grief,</i></p> <p><i>Among the crowds of the dead<br/> Through the deepest labyrinths<br/> I shall go.<br/> And in the realm of sorrows<br/> My beloved<br/> I shall follow.</i></p> <p><i>Yes, yes, I want to follow<br/> The one who abandons and flees<br/> from me,<br/> Yes, yes, I want to serve<br/> The one who consumes and<br/> destroys me</i></p> |
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Morirò per cercar, chi mi dà  
morte.

*And with a fatal fate  
I shall die in search of the one who  
brings me death.*

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**3.27a**

**Title:** "Tomb of Cecilia Metella",  
Antiche. E. Moderne. Vedute. Di. Roma.  
E. Contorno. Fate. Da. Israel. Silvestro.  
cum priuile Regis excudit Parisiis.

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

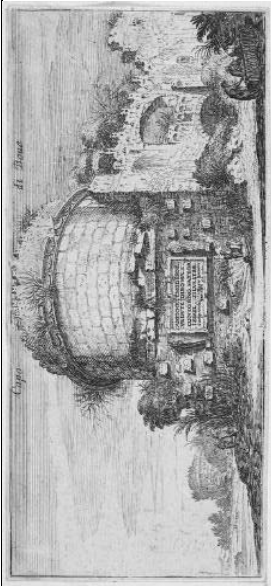
**Date:** 1654

**Technique and support:** etching on  
paper

**Size:** 68 x 155 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** F-Pi 31176 LR/  
Recto

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 3.1



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| 3.28 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.28</b></p> <p>Severo de Luca, <i>Voi volete ch'io canti canterò</i> [t. Francesco Maria Paglia]</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 78 x 100</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b></p> <p>Hidden, anthropomorphic</p> <p>This vignette depicts a wide, empty square surrounded by monumental architecture, including a domed church, a baroque portal, and a palazzo with a long cornice. The view is loosely inspired by composite Roman piazzas, though not directly traceable to a single topographic source.</p> <p>At the centre of the square, two small human figures stand facing slightly outward, forming a shallow "V" shape through the angle of their bodies. There is no other prominent motif in the foreground; the eye is drawn to their placement and symmetry, which together define the initial.</p> <p>Unlike the more complex anthropomorphic or zoomorphic initials elsewhere in the manuscripts, this "V" is entirely generated by orientation and negative space.</p> |  | <p>Voi volete ch'io canti?<br/>Canterò, ma il dolor mio<br/>Chiamerà sugli occhi il pianto<br/>Piangerò se il cieco Dio<br/>Fra le labra uccide il canto.<br/>Voi volete ch'io canti.</p> <p>Canterò ma piangeranno<br/>Le mie voci e i miei sospiri<br/>Piangerò del cor l'affanno<br/>Canterò crudi martiri.</p> <p>Dirò che il mio pensiero<br/>Come libero nacque<br/>La libertà godea<br/>Ma perché poi dispiacque<br/>La mia pace alle sfere<br/>La libertà perdé restando alfine<br/>L'infelice pensiero<br/>Schiavo della prigion d'un crin<br/>ch'è nero.</p> <p>È nero quel crine,<br/>Che a tante ruine<br/>Condanna il mio cor:<br/>È nero quel laccio<br/>Per cui son di ghiaccio<br/>Nel mezzo all'ardor.</p> <p>È nero il legame<br/>Che l'arse mie brame</p> | <p><i>Do you wish me to sing?<br/>I shall sing—but my sorrow<br/>will summon tears to my eyes.<br/>I shall weep, if blind Love<br/>kills the song upon my lips.<br/>You wish me to sing.</i></p> <p><i>I shall sing, but my voice and sighs<br/>shall weep together.<br/>I shall lament the heart's deep<br/>anguish,<br/>I shall sing of cruel torments.</i></p> <p><i>I shall tell how my thought,<br/>born free,<br/>once rejoiced in liberty;<br/>but because my peace displeased<br/>the spinning spheres of fate,<br/>my thought, alas, lost its freedom,<br/>and now remains a prisoner<br/>of a single lock of black hair.</i></p> <p><i>That hair is black—<br/>that condemns my heart<br/>to so much ruin.<br/>That dark tress,<br/>by which I freeze in ice<br/>even amid the flames of passion.</i></p> <p><i>Black is the bond<br/>that compels my burning desires</i></p> |



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| <p>There is no clear iconographic correspondence between the vignette and the cantata text, which is dense with metaphors of darkness, bondage, and infernal imagery. However, the stark emptiness of the piazza may subtly mirror the emotional void described in the poem's conclusion. The quiet geometry of the two figures, isolated in a vast architectural field, becomes a visual metaphor for a song caught between performance and lament.</p> <p><b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73644">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73644</a></p> <p><b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> D-Hs ND VI 2263.III.04</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> <p><b>Related work(s):</b> 3.18</p> | <p>Costringe a penar<br/> È nero il mio nodo<br/> L'adoro e non godo<br/> Mi basta l'amar.</p> <p>Vanti pur biondo crine<br/> D'ingelosir l'arene<br/> Del Pattolo e Arimaspe<br/> Del Tago ed Eritreo<br/> Del Gange e Idaspe;<br/> Che amor per darmi pene<br/> Già sul crin del mio bene<br/> Distemprò Flegetonte<br/> Lete, Stige, Cocito ed Acheronte.</p> <p>Con l'onde torbide<br/> Del nero inferno<br/> L'arcier terribile<br/> Quel crin formò<br/> Per far dell'anima<br/> Crudo flagello<br/> Fece quel crin ch'è nero sì, ma bello.</p> <p>Dall'empie tenebre<br/> Dei ciechi abissi<br/> Il nume barbaro<br/> Quel crin rubbò<br/> Nascose i fulmini<br/> Con la sua face<br/> Sotto quel crin, ch'è nero sì, ma piace.</p> <p>E non intendo ancora</p> | <p>to suffer in pain.<br/> Black is the knot I adore,<br/> and though I find no joy,<br/> it is enough for me to love.</p> <p>Let the fair-haired locks boast<br/> of outshining the golden sands<br/> of Pactolus and Arimaspe,<br/> of Tagus and Eritrean shores,<br/> of Ganges and Hydaspes;<br/> but Love, in forging my pains,<br/> tempered my beloved's hair<br/> with Phlegethon,<br/> Lethe, Styx, Cocytus, and Acheron.</p> <p>From the murky waves<br/> of black Inferno<br/> the dreadful Archer<br/> wove that hair,<br/> to forge a cruel scourge<br/> for the soul:<br/> a hair black as night—<br/> and yet so beautiful.</p> <p>From the impious darkness<br/> of blind abysses,<br/> the savage god<br/> stole that hair,<br/> hiding the thunderbolts<br/> beneath that flame:<br/> black hair—so dark, yet so sweet.</p> <p>And still I cannot fathom<br/> how, for my ruin,</p> |
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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Come per mie ruine                   | my lovely idol, whose brow holds |
| Il bell'idolo mio ch'ha l'alba in    | the dawn,                        |
| fronte                               | can bear the sun in her eyes,    |
| Porta negl'occhi il sol, la notte al | but the night in her hair.       |
| crine.                               |                                  |
| Dunque convien ch'io mi              | Thus, I must drown myself in     |
| distrugga in pianti,                 | weeping—                         |
| E volete ch'io canti?                | and still you wish me to sing?   |

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**3.28a**

**Title:** "Terme Diocletienne." Vues de

Rome et de Venise

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

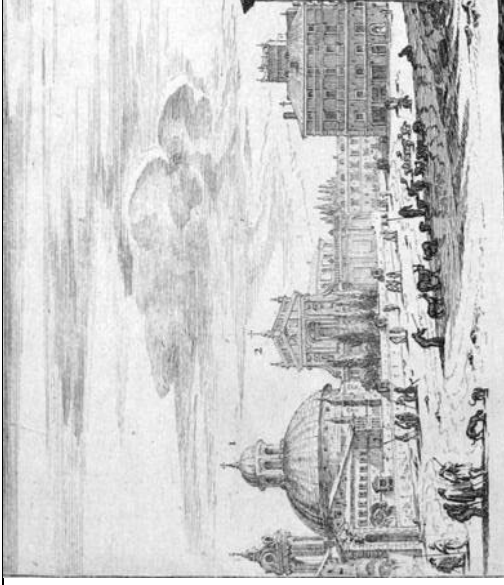
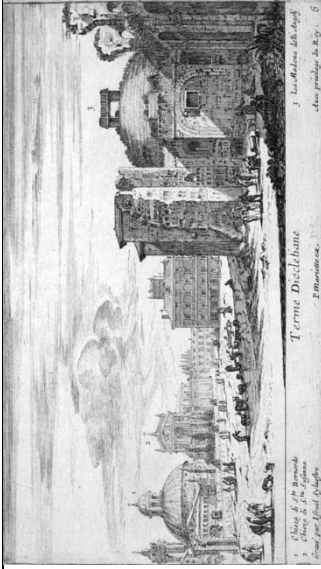
**Date:** 1621

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 114 x 200 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** GB-Lwl 22477i

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 4,6



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| 3.29 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.29</b><br/> Alessandro Stradella, <i>Pensi olà' che si bada</i> [5315]<br/> <b>Former attribution(s)</b>: Stefano della Bella<br/> <b>Date</b>: 1690<br/> <b>Technique and support</b>: pen and brown ink on paper<br/> <b>Size</b>: 78 x 93 mm<br/> <b>Description/Remarks</b>:<br/> Hidden, anthropomorphic<br/> Set in front of a ruined architectural backdrop, this vignette presents a central female figure in dramatic isolation, facing the viewer. She holds a sword in one hand. Her body and drape together form a clear, stylised capital "P", placed at the forefront of the scene.<br/> The figure can be identified as Armida, invoked directly in the cantata. Her posture conveys both rage and restraint, matching the tone of the text, in which the heroine oscillates between murderous fury and desperate love. The letter is not hidden, but incarnated in action: the "P" is both an initial and a gesture of vengeance.<br/> Unlike other initials in the manuscript that rely on disguise or subtle integration, this one asserts itself</p> |  | <p>Pensi olà, che si bada?<br/> Sù, sù, venga il destriero,<br/> Mi si cinga la spada,<br/> Ch'al rimbombo guerriero<br/> De martiali carmi<br/> Il tradito mio cor già corre<br/> all'armi!<br/> Schernò del mio furor,<br/> Bersaglio del mio sdegno<br/> Sia d'un barbaro infido il capo<br/> indegno.<br/> Che pera il traditore,<br/> Che Rinaldo s'uccida,<br/> Così comanda alle sue furie<br/> Armida.</p> <p>Con valore insuperabile<br/> L'invincibile<br/> Suo poter saprò combattere<br/> Ed abbattere<br/> D'un perfido sleal l'ira<br/> implacabile,<br/> Che del mio brando horribile<br/> Il mortifero assalto<br/> Il suo sen frangerà benché di<br/> smalto.</p> <p>Ah no, frenate il volo,<br/> Homicidi miei sensi,<br/> E negl'abissi immensi</p> | <p><i>Do you think, oh there, that I will wait?</i><br/> <i>Up, up—bring forth the steed,</i><br/> <i>Let the sword gird my side,</i><br/> <i>For at the echoing beat</i><br/> <i>Of martial hymns and cries,</i><br/> <i>My betrayed heart already to arms</i><br/> <i>does rise!</i><br/> <i>Let him be mockery of my wrath,</i><br/> <i>Target of my scorn—</i><br/> <i>That vile barbarian's unworthy</i><br/> <i>head be torn.</i><br/> <i>Let the traitor perish,</i><br/> <i>Let Rinaldo be struck down,</i><br/> <i>So commands Armida, wild with</i><br/> <i>fury, and renown.</i><br/> <i>With a courage unconquerable,</i><br/> <i>I shall know how to fight</i><br/> <i>And to defeat</i><br/> <i>The invincible force</i><br/> <i>Of a perfidious, faithless blight.</i><br/> <i>Let my dreadful blade descend,</i><br/> <i>With deadly force defend—</i><br/> <i>Let it shatter his steel-strong</i><br/> <i>breast,</i><br/> <i>That unrepenting wretch, no</i><br/> <i>longer blessed.</i></p> <p><i>Ah no—restrain the flight,</i><br/> <i>My senses steeped in murder!</i><br/> <i>And in the deep abyss</i></p> |

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| <p>through gesture, weapon, and dramatic stance. It marks the page not just as an entrance to the text, but as a visual prologue to the emotional and rhetorical charge of the cantata.</p> <p><b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73645">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73645</a></p>           | <p>Di smemorato oblio chiudete il duolo,<br/>         Che sol l'imaginar lacero al suolo<br/>         Volto così gradito,<br/>         È tormento infinito<br/>         Ed è troppo martire<br/>         Pensar l'amato estinto e non morire.</p>                                                                             | <p><i>Of forgotten oblivion hide this blight.<br/>         For even to imagine that face,<br/>         once kissed,<br/>         Fallen, torn in pain,<br/>         Is torment without end—<br/>         Too cruel a suffering<br/>         To think my beloved slain and still be living.</i></p>                                   |
| <p>No, no, cada il superbo,<br/>         Distruttor del mio honore e di mia fede,<br/>         E se al mio duolo acerbo<br/>         L'iniquo mentitor negò mercede,<br/>         Sia degna ricompensa<br/>         Della barbarie sua la mia inclemenza.</p>                                                                                    | <p>No, no—let the proud one fall,<br/>         Destroyer of my honor and my trust.<br/>         And if my bitter grief<br/>         He dares repay with silence and with gall,<br/>         Let my own cruelty<br/>         Be the just reward for his barbarity.</p>                                                         | <p><i>Cruel thoughts of savage wounds,<br/>         That pierce this soul so deep,<br/>         Have mercy now and keep<br/>         My fury bound in Pluto's tomb.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>Crude idee d'aspre ferite,<br/>         Che quest'alma trafiggete,<br/>         Per pietà, deh, ritenete<br/>         Le mie furie in grembo a Dite.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Cruel thoughts of savage wounds,<br/>         That pierce this soul so deep,<br/>         Have mercy now and keep<br/>         My fury bound in Pluto's tomb.</p>                                                                                                                                                          | <p><i>Cruel thoughts of savage wounds,<br/>         That pierce this soul so deep,<br/>         Have mercy now and keep<br/>         My fury bound in Pluto's tomb.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>Ah sì, mora l'ingrato<br/>         E dal petto spietato<br/>         L'iniquo spirto il mio furor distinguea,<br/>         Nè pietà lusinghiera il cor mi punge!<br/>         Faccian turbe voraci<br/>         Delle viscere sue l'ultimo scempio<br/>         E a gl'amanti mendaci<br/>         La strage d'un crudel serva d'esempio.</p> | <p>Ah yes—let the ingrate die,<br/>         And from that pitiless breast<br/>         Let his wicked spirit be torn by my unrest.<br/>         Let no sweet pity soften me again!<br/>         Let ravening hordes<br/>         Make his entrails their final feast—<br/>         And let the ruin of one cruel deceiver</p> | <p><i>Ah yes—let the ingrate die,<br/>         And from that pitiless breast<br/>         Let his wicked spirit be torn by my unrest.<br/>         Let no sweet pity soften me again!<br/>         Let ravening hordes<br/>         Make his entrails their final feast—<br/>         And let the ruin of one cruel deceiver</i></p> |

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|                                                                                        | <i>Be a lesson to all false-hearted lovers.</i>                                                 |
| Vendicata al fin sarò,<br>Ne potrò                                                     |                                                                                                 |
| La mia sorte più incolpar,<br>Se penar l'odio mi fè,                                   | At last I shall be avenged,<br>And no more                                                      |
| Per mercè del mio rigor<br>Giust'Amor farà sentir                                      | Shall I blame fate or moan,<br>If hatred made me suffer.                                        |
| Dolce effetto del gioir.                                                               | For as reward for my harsh rigor,<br>Just Love shall grant me                                   |
| Ah, che troppo discorda<br>La lingua del desio                                         | The sweet fruit of joy delivered.                                                               |
| E troppo mal s'accorda<br>Il dar morte, a chi regge il viver mio.                      | Ah—but how discordant still<br>Is the tongue of desire—<br>And how poorly aligns                |
| Sì, sì, pera il tiranno,<br>E se a punire il suo lascivo inganno                       | The thought of death, for him who<br>gives me life entire.                                      |
| L'armi fatali mie non son<br>bastanti,                                                 | Yes, yes—let the tyrant fall!<br>And if my fatal arms prove too small                           |
| Sappia la lingua sussurar<br>gl'incanti.                                               | To punish his licentious crime,<br>Let my tongue enchant with spells<br>in time.                |
| Alme ree del nero Tartaro,<br>Scatenate i fieri cardini                                | O damned souls of gloomy<br>Tartarus,                                                           |
| Della stigia crudeltà<br>E dal vostro horrendo baratro                                 | Unleash the cruel hinges<br>Of Styx's iron gates,                                               |
| Per sommergere un sacrilego<br>Vomitare ogn'empietà.                                   | And from your horrid gulfs below,<br>Spew forth all blasphemies<br>To drown a sacrilegious foe. |
| Le nubi squarcino<br>Tempeste o fulmini,<br>L'onde sconvolghino<br>Procelle e turbini, | Let clouds be torn with thunder,<br>With lightning and wild hail—                               |

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Il suol disserrino  
Rupie voragini,  
Gemit, fremiti  
Il mondo assordino  
E dall'etherea mole  
Per dar tomba a un fellown ruini il  
sole.

Let waves churn up in fury,  
And winds in madness wail—  
Let the earth crack open wide,  
With rocks and gulfs untamed,  
Let groans and roars resound  
And deafen all creation—  
Let the sun crash from heaven's  
height  
To become the traitor's tomb  
beneath its light.

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**3.29a**

**Title:** "Baths of Diocletian." *Paysages et ruines de Rome*

**Attribution:** Stefano della Bella, publisher : François Langlois, il Ciartres

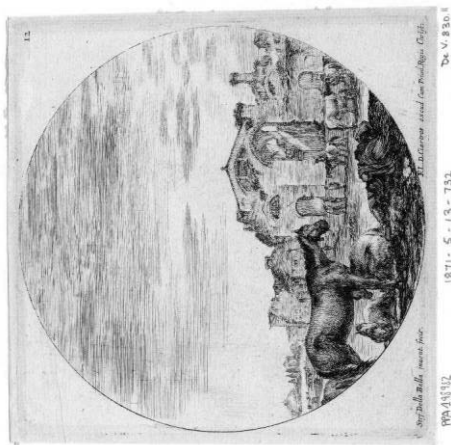
**Date:** 1646

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 131 x 136 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** GB-Lbma 1871,0513.732

**Bibliography:** De Vesme 830





| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| 3.30 | <b>GB-0am WA1942.49.30</b><br>Alessandro Stradella, <i>Il piu' tenero affetto</i> [4129].<br><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella<br><b>Date:</b> 1690<br><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper<br><b>Size:</b> 81 x 100<br><b>Description/Remarks:</b><br>Hidden, anthropomorphic (use of the composition)<br>The composition is divided between a massive arched ruin on the left and a complex of multi-storey dwellings with chimneys and balconies on the right. Figures are scattered throughout, but the standing figure in the left foreground, holding a long staff or walking stick, commands visual attention.<br>The posture and placement of this figure, upright, slightly off-centre, and isolated, form a capital "I", coinciding with the incipit of the cantata. The gesture is subtle but deliberate: the figure is not ornamental, but structurally integrated, acting as the vertical axis that introduces the page.<br>There is no direct iconographic relationship between the image and the cantata, which takes the form of an extended emotional monologue by Idraspe, torn between departure and longing. Yet the solitude of the figure, placed at the visual and narrative threshold, resonates quietly with |  | Il più tenero affetto,<br>Che mai destasse Amore<br>In nobil petto<br>Di costante Amatore,<br>Questi à ciascun fuor che à tè<br>sola ascosi<br>Mi detta idolo mio sensi amorosi.<br><br>Già di Sirio cocente<br>Fugge Apollo i latrati<br>E con tepidi fiati<br>Più soavi respiri il ciel consente.<br>Ma la cruda mia sorte<br>Vuol, che queste vicende<br>Porghino altrui la vita, a me la<br>morte.<br><br>Sappi dunque, mio bene,<br>Che partir mi conviene,<br>Pochi giri di sole<br>Restano a me di vita,<br>Se vita si può dire<br>Il pensare a partire anzi a morire.<br>Partirò.<br><br>Dura legge,<br>Benché sia di natura, a ciò<br>m'induce,<br>Senza l'amata luce<br>Proveran gl'occhi miei continua<br>sera,<br>Breve sì, ma severa fia la stanza | The tenderest affection<br>That ever Love awoke<br>In a noble breast<br>Of a faithful lover,<br>To all but you, my idol,<br>It stays concealed—<br>Yet bids me sing with love—<br>inspired zeal.<br>Already from Sirius' blaze<br>Apollo flees the howls,<br>And with tepid breath<br>He grants the sky more soothing<br>airs.<br>But my cruel fate<br>Decrees that these transitions<br>Bring life to others—and to me,<br>death.<br>Know then, my dearest,<br>That I must take my leave.<br>Only a few turns of the sun<br>Are left to me in life,<br>If "life" it be to name<br>This constant thought of parting—<br>nay, of dying.<br>I shall depart.<br>A harsh decree,<br>Though born of nature, urges me<br>to go.<br>Without your loving light,<br>My eyes shall dwell in endless<br>dusk.<br>Brief, yet cruel shall be my stay |

the poem's affective stance: a solitary speaker preparing for exile. The result is a restrained but effective instance of initial suggestion through spatial design, emblematic of the manuscript's broader interplay between landscape, figure, and letterform.

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73646>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbl Add.24311.01

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| Per me nel patrio albergo,<br>E pria, ch'a te ritorni,<br>Anni, l'ore, saran secoli i giorni.<br>Partirò.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Within my native home,<br>And ere I return to you,<br>The days will feel like centuries—<br>each hour a year.<br>I shall depart.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Così vuole<br>Il mio fato, il mio sangue,<br>E benché io resti esangue<br>Di gelosi pensieri onusto ed ebro,<br>Volgo all'Arbia le piante, il core al<br>Tebro.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | So commands<br>My fate, my blood,<br>And though I stand drained,<br>Drunk on jealous thoughts,<br>I turn my steps toward Arbia, my<br>heart to the Tiber.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Non lascio omai le piume,<br>Ne mai veggio lucente<br>Nascer dall'oriente il Rè del lume,<br>Ch'io non pensi a quell'Alba,<br>Che porta a gl'occhi miei sì lunga<br>notte,<br>La mia quiete, i miei sonni<br>Son vigilie interrotte,<br>Procellosa tempesta<br>Prova l'anima mia pensando solo,<br>A chi parte, a chi resta, e solca<br>intanto<br>Golfi di gelosia, flutti di pianto. | I no longer find rest on downy<br>plumes,<br>Nor see the King of light<br>Rise in the East<br>Without thinking of that Alba<br>That brings such endless night<br>unto my eyes.<br>My quiet, my sleep,<br>Are sleepless vigils torn by storm.<br>My soul, in torment, drifts alone,<br>Dwelling on who leaves, who<br>stays—<br>And sails through seas of jealousy,<br>waves of tears. |
| Dovrei, lumi beati,<br>Più continuo mirarvi,<br>Dovrei, labbri adorati,<br>Più frequente ascoltarvi,<br>Ma poiché delle stelle<br>Obbedir mi conviene,<br>A gl'influssi protervi<br>Meglio fia, che per tempo<br>Avvezzi queste luci a non vedervi.                                                                                                                                    | O blessed eyes,<br>I should behold you evermore,<br>O lips adored,<br>I should hear your voice more<br>often.<br>But since I must obey<br>The stars above,<br>And their harsh influences,                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| Sì, sì, misero Idraspe,<br>Impara a poco a poco<br>A star lungi dal foco,<br>Et arder sempre<br>Forma di salde tempre<br>All'Alma tua l'Usbergo e pensa<br>homai<br>Come viver potrai<br>Lontan da questo suolo<br>Povero d'ogni ben, ricco di duolo.                                                       | It is better that these eyes<br>Grow used to not beholding you.<br>Yes, yes—wretched Idraspe,<br>Learn slowly, step by step,<br>To stay far from the flame,<br>And yet forever burn.<br>Form a breastplate of steadfast<br>metal<br>To shield your soul, and learn now<br>How you shall live<br>Far from this beloved soil—<br>Poor in joy, rich only in sorrow.<br>Oh God, what shall I do?<br>Hope tells me<br>That Dori, my beloved,<br>Swore to be constant.<br>But cruel Jealousy<br>Whispers to my soul:<br>"No, she did not."<br>O Heaven, what now?<br>My heart, mistaken, sighs<br>In vain for your fidelity.<br>Yet around my sun<br>There looms a shadow<br>That brings me death.<br>Among such doubting thoughts<br>I shall waste away,<br>Languishing in Etruria's woods,<br>through days and hours.<br>Led by grief,<br>I'll tread those desolate paths,<br>Spending my life<br>With no company<br>But your memory, sweet Dori. |
| Oh' Dio, che farò?<br>Mi dice la spene,<br>Che Dori il mio bene<br>Costanza giurò.<br>Ma ria Gelosia<br>All'Anima mia<br>Soggiunge di nò.<br>O ciel, che sarà?<br>Il cor, che delira<br>A torto sospira/si duole<br>Di tua fedeltà.<br>Ma intorno al mio sole<br>Qualch'ombra s'aggira,<br>Che morte mi dà. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Fra sì dubbi pensieri<br>Consumerò languendo<br>Nelle selve d'Etruria i giorni, e<br>l'ore.<br>Guidato dal dolore<br>Per quegl'ermi sentieri<br>Passerò la mia vita                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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| Senz'altra compagnia,<br>Che la memoria tua Dori gradita.<br>Studierò per quei Boschi<br>Filosofo d'amore<br>Le cagioni e gl'affetti<br>Del gelo e dell'ardore,<br>Speculerò la forza<br>Di quel genio fatal, che l'Alma<br>uccide?<br>Tu sola in quel soggiorno<br>Ad'ogni linea mia centro sarai,<br>Ma non sò, s'al ritorno<br>Ritrovar ti potrò, qual ti lasciai.<br>Ripensarò sovente<br>Alle noie, che porto,<br>Alle gioie, che lascio,<br>Stringerò in un sol fascio<br>La mestitia, il contento,<br>Le speranze e i timori,<br>I miei felici, i miei gelosi Amori.<br>L'Acque, le Belve, i venti<br>Farò de miei pensieri<br>Messaggieri frequenti?<br>S'avvien ch'aura vagante<br>D'intorno a te s'aggiri,<br>Saranno i miei sospiri,<br>Il mormorio dell'onda<br>Ti narrerà il dolor, ch'in sen<br>m'abbonda,<br>De gl'augelli i concenti<br>Diranno i miei lamenti,<br>E se tal'ora di vedermi hai desio,<br>L'ombra, che segue te, quella son<br>io. | <i>Through those woods, I shall<br/>study,<br/>A philosopher of love,<br/>The causes and effects<br/>Of coldness and of ardor.<br/>I'll ponder the strength<br/>Of that fatal spirit which slays the<br/>soul.<br/>And there, in that retreat,<br/>You alone shall be the center of<br/>my every line—<br/>But I know not if, upon returning,<br/>I shall find you as I left you.<br/>I will often recall<br/>The troubles I now carry,<br/>The joys I now forsake—<br/>Binding all into one sheaf:<br/>My sadness, my delight,<br/>My hopes and fears,<br/>My blissful and my jealous loves.<br/>The waters, the beasts, the winds<br/>Shall become messengers<br/>Of my wandering thoughts.<br/>If a wandering breeze<br/>Circles near you,<br/>It shall be my sighs.<br/>The murmuring waves<br/>Shall tell of the sorrow<br/>overflowing in my breast.<br/>The songs of birds<br/>Shall speak of my lament,<br/>And if at any moment you wish to<br/>see me—</i> |
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|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Ma vola il tempo e benché acerbo<br>e grave | The shadow that follows you—that<br>is me.     |
| Riesca al labro mio                         | Yet time flies, and though bitter<br>and harsh |
| Di proferir partendo il tuo bel<br>nome,    | It is to my lips                               |
| Studio per dirti a dio,                     | To utter your sweet name while<br>parting,     |
| Ma non sò come?                             | Still I try to say farewell—                   |
| O quale al mio partire                      | But I know not how.                            |
| Di ribellanti affetti                       | O what a war of passions                       |
| Battaglia in me si serra,                   | Wages within me at this hour,                  |
| Che mi sconvolge e tace!                    | It shakes and silences me!                     |
| Io parto in guerra e tu rimanti in<br>pace. | I depart in war—<br>And you remain in peace.   |

**3.30a**

**Title:** "Antiche. E. Moderne. Vedute. Di. Roma. E. Contorno. Fate. Da. Israel. Silvestro. cum priuile Regis excudit Parisiis."

**Attribution:** Israël Silvestre

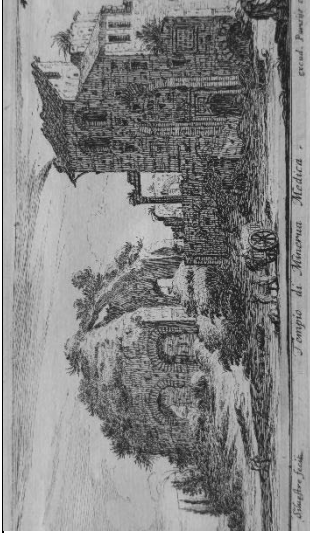
**Date:** 1645-48

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 67 x 154 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** Fitcher Kunsthandel, sale 10.12.2022, lot 1075

**Bibliography:** Faucheux 3.4



| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| 3.31 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.31</b><br/> Alessandro Stradella, <i>Anima incenerita</i> [5312].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 80 x 101 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b><br/> Hidden, Antropomorphic<br/> In this vignette, two figures occupy the foreground, positioned in a symmetrical and unnatural pose. Their hands and feet are clasped together, forming a triangular structure that clearly describes a capital "A". The gesture is both artificial and theatrical, calling attention to its function as an initial.</p> <p>All meaning is condensed into the human letter-gesture, which dominates the composition and introduces the cantata with visual intensity.</p> <p>The body, bent into a letter, becomes both ornament and symbol, caught between display and distortion.</p> <p><b>Image link:</b><br/> <a href="https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73647">https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73647</a></p> |  | <p>Anima incenerita<br/> A i rai del mio bel sole<br/> Fulminata si duole,<br/> Nè ritrova all'ardor scampo, nè aita,<br/> Che Lauro difensore<br/> Non han gl'amanti al fulminar d'Amore.</p> <p>Qual nel lido acheronteo<br/> Mesto Orfeo,<br/> Preda d'Amor<br/> Fò canoro il pianto mio<br/> E pietà dal cieco dio<br/> Non impetra<br/> La mia cetra<br/> Flaggellata dal dolor.</p> <p>Con severa tirannia<br/> L'alma mia<br/> Ciglio crudel<br/> Fa bersaglio alle saette<br/> E un momento non permette,<br/> Ch'io respiri<br/> Tra martiri<br/> Crudo fato, avverso ciel.</p> <p>Ma qual vil codardia le glorie<br/> oscura<br/> Alla mia fè costante?</p> | <p>A soul turned to ashes<br/> By the rays of my bright sun,<br/> Struck by thunder, mourns alone,<br/> And finds no escape from the burning flame, no aid—<br/> For laurel does not shield<br/> Lovers from Love's fierce blade.</p> <p>As on Acheron's shore<br/> Sorrowful Orpheus<br/> In Love's cruel snare,<br/> So do I make my weeping sing,<br/> And from the blind god<br/> No pity can I bring—<br/> My lyre,<br/> Lashed by sorrow's hand,<br/> Knows no other command.</p> <p>By a cruel tyranny,<br/> My soul is pierced<br/> By a merciless eye<br/> That turns its glance to target true,<br/> And not one moment does it grant me breath—<br/> Only martyrdom anew<br/> By cruel fate, by heaven's wrath.</p> <p>But what cowardice would darken glory<br/> Born of steadfast faith?</p> |

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| <b>Provenance/cat. nr:</b> D-Hs ND VI<br>2263, 1.10<br><b>Bibliography:</b><br><b>Related work(s):</b>                                                                                                                                                                 | <table> <tr> <td> Mi sgomentan l'arsure e sono amante?<br/> No, vero non fia,<br/> Che mal nato timor l'alma debelli.<br/> Sì, luci adorate,<br/> Ferite, saettate,<br/> Piovete sul mio seno i mongibelli,<br/> Grandinate ver me strali d'ardore,<br/> Che a un diluvio di fiamme offro il mio core. </td><td> Shall flames frighten me, and I yet love?<br/> No—never shall it be<br/> That low-born fear defeats the soul in me.<br/> Yes, beloved lights,<br/> Wound me, strike me,<br/> Rain your Etna-fires upon my breast!<br/> Let burning darts fall fast upon my frame—<br/> I offer up my heart to flame. </td></tr> <tr> <td> Il sagittario<br/> Figlio di Venere<br/> Strali ardentissimi<br/> Vibri al mio sen?<br/> Che fia mio svaro<br/> Converso in cenere<br/> Tra incendij asprissimi<br/> Di venir men. </td><td> The Archer,<br/> Son of Venus,<br/> Let him hurl his fiercest bolts<br/> At my breast—<br/> Should I fall, consumed in fire,<br/> Turned to ash in blazing pyres,<br/> Let it be my fate confessed. </td></tr> <tr> <td> 2.a<br/> Ciglio implacabile<br/> Piaga insoffribile<br/> M'apra nell'anima<br/> Senza pietà.<br/> Che caro e amabile<br/> È il duol terribile,<br/> Che mi disanima<br/> Per sua beltà. </td><td> An implacable gaze<br/> Opens an unbearable wound<br/> Within my soul—<br/> No pity offered there.<br/> Yet how sweet, how dear,<br/> Is this terrible pain<br/> That leaves me lifeless<br/> For the beauty I bear. </td></tr> <tr> <td> Ma chi sa, se gradite<br/> A duo begl'occhi alteri<br/> Siano le fiamme ambite<br/> E riportin mercè stratij sì fieri? </td><td> But who can say, if perhaps,<br/> To those proud, shining eyes,<br/> These flames I bear </td></tr> </table> | Mi sgomentan l'arsure e sono amante?<br>No, vero non fia,<br>Che mal nato timor l'alma debelli.<br>Sì, luci adorate,<br>Ferite, saettate,<br>Piovete sul mio seno i mongibelli,<br>Grandinate ver me strali d'ardore,<br>Che a un diluvio di fiamme offro il mio core. | Shall flames frighten me, and I yet love?<br>No—never shall it be<br>That low-born fear defeats the soul in me.<br>Yes, beloved lights,<br>Wound me, strike me,<br>Rain your Etna-fires upon my breast!<br>Let burning darts fall fast upon my frame—<br>I offer up my heart to flame. | Il sagittario<br>Figlio di Venere<br>Strali ardentissimi<br>Vibri al mio sen?<br>Che fia mio svaro<br>Converso in cenere<br>Tra incendij asprissimi<br>Di venir men. | The Archer,<br>Son of Venus,<br>Let him hurl his fiercest bolts<br>At my breast—<br>Should I fall, consumed in fire,<br>Turned to ash in blazing pyres,<br>Let it be my fate confessed. | 2.a<br>Ciglio implacabile<br>Piaga insoffribile<br>M'apra nell'anima<br>Senza pietà.<br>Che caro e amabile<br>È il duol terribile,<br>Che mi disanima<br>Per sua beltà. | An implacable gaze<br>Opens an unbearable wound<br>Within my soul—<br>No pity offered there.<br>Yet how sweet, how dear,<br>Is this terrible pain<br>That leaves me lifeless<br>For the beauty I bear. | Ma chi sa, se gradite<br>A duo begl'occhi alteri<br>Siano le fiamme ambite<br>E riportin mercè stratij sì fieri? | But who can say, if perhaps,<br>To those proud, shining eyes,<br>These flames I bear |
| Mi sgomentan l'arsure e sono amante?<br>No, vero non fia,<br>Che mal nato timor l'alma debelli.<br>Sì, luci adorate,<br>Ferite, saettate,<br>Piovete sul mio seno i mongibelli,<br>Grandinate ver me strali d'ardore,<br>Che a un diluvio di fiamme offro il mio core. | Shall flames frighten me, and I yet love?<br>No—never shall it be<br>That low-born fear defeats the soul in me.<br>Yes, beloved lights,<br>Wound me, strike me,<br>Rain your Etna-fires upon my breast!<br>Let burning darts fall fast upon my frame—<br>I offer up my heart to flame.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Il sagittario<br>Figlio di Venere<br>Strali ardentissimi<br>Vibri al mio sen?<br>Che fia mio svaro<br>Converso in cenere<br>Tra incendij asprissimi<br>Di venir men.                                                                                                   | The Archer,<br>Son of Venus,<br>Let him hurl his fiercest bolts<br>At my breast—<br>Should I fall, consumed in fire,<br>Turned to ash in blazing pyres,<br>Let it be my fate confessed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                      |
| 2.a<br>Ciglio implacabile<br>Piaga insoffribile<br>M'apra nell'anima<br>Senza pietà.<br>Che caro e amabile<br>È il duol terribile,<br>Che mi disanima<br>Per sua beltà.                                                                                                | An implacable gaze<br>Opens an unbearable wound<br>Within my soul—<br>No pity offered there.<br>Yet how sweet, how dear,<br>Is this terrible pain<br>That leaves me lifeless<br>For the beauty I bear.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Ma chi sa, se gradite<br>A duo begl'occhi alteri<br>Siano le fiamme ambite<br>E riportin mercè stratij sì fieri?                                                                                                                                                       | But who can say, if perhaps,<br>To those proud, shining eyes,<br>These flames I bear                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                      |



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| <p>Farsi vittima al rigor<br/> Senza speme di goder<br/> È un delirio del pensier<br/> E dell'alma un folle error.</p> <p>2.a</p> <p>Farsi scopo all'empietà<br/> Senza speme di mercè.<br/> Ma, che dico, è viltà<br/> Di lingua troppo avara<br/> Chieder mercè per servitù sì cara.<br/> Di spontaneo servaggio<br/> È trionfo il soffrir, premio<br/> l'oltraggio.</p> | <p><i>Might win reward, though I<br/> agonize?</i></p> <p><i>To make oneself a victim of such<br/> scorn,<br/> With no hope of delight,<br/> Is madness of the mind,<br/> And folly of the soul's own right.</i></p> <p><i>To be the target of cruelty<br/> With no hope for grace...<br/> But—what say I? It is cowardice<br/> Of a tongue too greedy<br/> To ask for mercy for a servitude<br/> so dear.<br/> To suffer for such willing bondage<br/> Is triumph in pain, and in<br/> outrage—a prize sincere.</i></p> |
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**3.31a****Title:** "Divers Paysages."**Attribution:** Stefano della Bella,  
publisher: Henriët Israël**Date:** 1643**Technique and support:** etching on  
paper**Size:** 80 x 165 mm**Provenance/cat. Nr:** US-Wnga  
1973.34.16**Bibliography:** De Vesme 765

| cat. | Inventory nr; references; descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | images                                                                             | text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | translation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| 3.32 | <p><b>GB-Oam WA1942.49.32</b></p> <p>Anonymous, "Sono in armi Bellezza e Virtù" [4139].</p> <p><b>Former attribution(s):</b> Stefano della Bella</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1690</p> <p><b>Technique and support:</b> pen and brown ink on paper</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 85 x 108 mm</p> <p><b>Description/Remarks:</b> Allusive</p> <p>This vignette depicts a chaotic <i>mêlée</i> of mounted soldiers, some charging, others retreating, many strewn across the field. Smoke rises in the background, and a distant army appears in vague formation at the upper right. In its original context, this image would likely have been read as a depiction of real or imagined warfare. But in the manuscript, paired with its cantata, it takes on an unmistakably allegorical role. The poem stages an inner conflict between two principles: Beauty and Virtue, both "armed," both demanding allegiance. The speaker is caught in a storm of indecision, drawn by desire and called by reason, seduced by delight yet compelled by honour. The battle becomes emblematic of this inner strife: not a clash of armies, but of values. The horses rear and fall as metaphors for</p> |  | <p>Sono in armi Bellezza e virtù<br/>Ma non so chi di lor vincerà<br/>Mi fa grata l'Amor la servitù<br/>Mi fa bella l'Amor la libertà.</p> <p>Dove acerbi pensieri<br/>Rivolgerete i giovanili spiriti<br/>Fra diversi sentieri<br/>Una Piaggia offre i Lavri,<br/>Un'altra i Mirti.</p> <p>Se in bel Prato di fiori cupido<br/>Tra e l'affetti legati da un crine<br/>La virtude inimica à i riposi<br/>Vuol che lasci le Rose di Gnido<br/>E che cerchi il piacer nelle spine.</p> <p>Se il rigore condanna il diletto<br/>Che fa imbelle la gloria d'un Alma<br/>Il diletto poi sgrida al rigore<br/>Perché troppo sia crudo ad un petto<br/>Ne mai lasci che goda la calma.</p> <p>Così mentre m'aggio<br/>Nelle mie voglie in certe<br/>Un dolor nutre l'altro, ond'io sospiro,<br/>Che se il valor prevale<br/>Tosto un bel guardo il suo caraggio assale.</p> | <p><i>Beauty and virtue now take up arms—<br/>But I know not which shall win.<br/>Love makes my servitude feel sweet,<br/>And Love makes liberty<br/>A joy within.</i></p> <p><i>When bitter thoughts arise,<br/>Where will you lead, youthful spirits bold?<br/>Among diverging paths,<br/>One slope offers laurels,<br/>Another myrtle's hold.</i></p> <p><i>If in a fair field of flowers I'm drawn,<br/>With affections bound by a single strand,<br/>Virtue, foe to repose,<br/>Bids me leave the roses of Cnidus,<br/>And seek out pleasure where thorns command.</i></p> <p><i>If strictness condemns delight,<br/>And dims the soul's bright flame,<br/>Then pleasure, in turn, reproaches harshness,<br/>For being cruel to a heart<br/>That never knows calm nor gentle aim.</i></p> |

the instability of the soul; the smoke and dust cloud the field as doubt clouds judgment. The field of honour is here also the field of affect. Unlike more delicate or picturesque vignettes in the album, this one employs a raw and compressed graphic language, full of diagonals, centrifugal movement, and overlapping gestures.

**Image link:**

<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/73648>

**Provenance/cat. nr:** GB-Lbl

Add.24311.11

**Bibliography:**

**Related work(s):**

À fiera battaglia s'accinga l'ardir  
Chi vince prevaglia  
Ch'io non posso due scorte  
seguir.

And so I wander,  
Torn in my desires, unsure—  
One sorrow feeds another, and I  
sigh.  
For if valor gains the upper hand,  
A single glance may strike its  
courage down again.

To fierce battle let boldness rise!  
Let one prevail,  
For I cannot follow both guides.

**3.32a**

**Title:** "La Bataille." Le misères et les malheurs de la guerre

**Attribution:** Jacques Callot

**Date:** 1633

**Technique and support:** etching on paper

**Size:** 83 x 187 mm

**Provenance/cat. Nr:** US- NYmm 22.68.6

**Bibliography:** Lieure 1341

