

PRESS RELEASE

Noord-Hollands Archief discovers oldest panoramic view of Stockholm, dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century

Haarlem, the Netherlands, 23 April 2020 – A recent online stock-taking of the collection of images in the Noord-Hollands Archief uncovered a panoramic view of Stockholm, Sweden. This unique drawing is part of a book of maps of Waterland, which contains maps from the period from 1588 to 1605.



Only three other 16<sup>th</sup>-century panoramic views of Stockholm are known to exist. The drawing in the Waterland book of maps dates from 1588 and was made – as was the entire book – by Bertelmieus or Bertelmeeus Simonsz. He was a surveyor from Monnickendam.

The fact that a panorama of Stockholm should be found in a book of maps of Waterland can be explained by the economic history of Monnickendam. Monnickendam experienced a period of economic

prosperity from 1575 onwards, due to its position in the Baltic trading routes. The port of Monnickendam was able to accommodate large seagoing vessels and Stockholm and its merchants played a prominent role in this. People were naturally curious about the city these trading partners came from.

The drawing depicts the east of old Stockholm, seen from the water. The letters above various buildings refer to a legend in which the Dutch names of the buildings are listed. These buildings are Stockholm's landmarks or famous places ('*vermaertste plaetsen*'), such as churches, the market place, the weighing house, gates, and bridges. Additionally, the names of various areas around Stockholm are recorded in 16<sup>th</sup> century Dutch. For example, 'Diergaerde' is mentioned at the bottom of the drawing. In Swedish, this area is called Djurgården. It is a peninsula to the east of Stockholm. The panorama was made from here.

Alexander de Bruin, the curator of the collections of images belonging to the Noord-Hollands Archief, has conducted extensive research into the panoramic view. For example, his research revealed that there are three known panoramic views dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, one dating from 1535 and two from 1588. However, the oldest of these is actually a 17<sup>th</sup>-century copy and the prints dating from 1588 are not drawings. The panoramic view in the Noord-Hollands Archief is moreover the only one depicting the east of Stockholm, the other three showing the west of the city.

Alexander de Bruin reveals more about this unique discovery on the Noord-Hollands Archief website.

*Note for the editor, not for publication:*

For more information, please contact Annabelle Arntz (Noord-Hollands Archief Communication Department) via [annabelle.arntz@noord-hollandsarchief.nl](mailto:annabelle.arntz@noord-hollandsarchief.nl) or at +31 623 396 203. The images can be downloaded [here](#).