

Basic Detail Report



La Fortresse de Montmélian, prise par Monsieur De Catinat

Date

1695

Primary Maker

Sebastian LeClerc

Medium

Engraving on laid paper

Description

A wheeled chassis (triumphal car) with the depiction of a fort atop a steep, rocky mountainside. Standing on the front of the rocks a weeping figure of a woman (representing mourning for the troops lost?) and below her an urn with a fountain of water. On the side of the vehicle is a classical trophy of war with a shield, cannon and other weapons. The vehicle is pulled by 17 men and pushed from behind by three more. An angel of victory wearing a laurel wreath on her head and blowing a trumpet flies above the scene carrying the flag or banner of Savoy. The architectural background (probably the Louvre Palace or possibly Versailles) of large arched niches with classical statuary and a single glazed window is populated by ranks of onlookers behind a draped railing and by others at the base of the niches behind valances decorated with the fleur-de-lis. The subject of the print is a passing in review or parade with a representation of the Fortress at Montmélian which had been surrendered on December 21, 1691 by the Italians to Nicholas Cantinat, a general in the army of Louis XIV, Montmélian was a mountaintop walled town in the Savoy area in the southeast of present day France. Montmélian was the only part of the Duchy of Savoy that the French did not win in the Battle of Staffarda in August 1690, during the Nine Years' War. However, these losses along with others in that theatre of war operations led to the surrender in the following year. One source records that "The importance of the possession of Montmélian was fully realised in Paris, and Te Deums were sung in the churches on reception of the news." (See file)

Dimensions

Sheet: 7 1/4 x 10 15/16 in. (18.4 x 27.8 cm)