

COLNAGHI



Leonardo da Vinci
Wenceslaus Hollar
Three heads in profile, c. 1644-1652

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WENCESLAUS HOLLAR, after LEONARDO DA VINCI
(Prague 1607 – 1677 London)

THREE HEADS IN PROFILE, c. 1644-1652

Etching on laid paper
6 x 11.1 cm.; 2 3/8 x 4 3/8 in.

Signed and dated (lower centre): *Leonardo da Vinci inv. W. Hollar Fecit.*
First state of two.

Provenance

Belgian private collection.

Literature

R. Pennington, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Etched Work of Wenceslaus Hollar 1607–1677*, Cambridge 1982, no. 1602.I.

G. Luijten and R. Zijlma (eds.), *The New Hollstein: German Engravings, Etchings and Woodcuts, 1400–1700*, Ouderkerk aan den IJssel 1996–, no. 1252.I.



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Hollar left his native Prague in 1627. He spent several years travelling and working in Germany before his patron, the Earl of Arundel brought him to London in 1636. It is during this time that Hollar engraved, amongst other works, the drawings of Leonardo da Vinci from the Arundel collection. During the civil wars, Hollar fought on the royalist side, after which he spent the years 1644-52 in Antwerp. Hollar's views of London form an important record of the city before the Great Fire of 1666. Among his most ambitious projects was a set of plates of women's costumes, entitled *Ornatus muliebris Anglicanus*, or *The severall habits of English women from the nobilities to the country woman* (1640). He was prolific and engraved a wide range of subjects, producing nearly 2,800 prints, numerous watercolours and many drawings.

The present work represents three heads in profile to left; at left, outline of the head of a youth; in the middle, head of an old man; at right, head of a youth, with curly hair falling over the nape of his neck. It is related drawing by Leonardo in the Royal Collection at Windsor (RL 12276, fig. 1).

A very good sharp early impression of the first state. On a dense laid paper with still some ink traces in the plate border. Condition is good with no folds or tears, some mild foxing bottom left corner and vague ink smudge top right.



Fig. 1. Leonardo da Vinci, *The Madonna and Child with the infant Baptist, and heads in profile*, c. 1478-80, pen and ink, 40.5 x 29.0 cm. Windsor Castle, Royal Collection.

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