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## Marc Van de Wiele organises a successful auction of important travel books, illustrated books and literature

*Record price for travel book Van Linschoten*

*Record result for the entire auction*

BRUGES – On Friday 6 March and Saturday 7 March 2009, Marc Van de Wiele has organised a successful auction of important travel books and atlases, books on natural history, classical and modern literature and beautiful illustrated books.

The highest price in the auction was realised for the first Latin edition of the book on the travels of the Dutch explorer and merchant **Jan Huyghen van Linschoten** (lot 729). The *Navigatio* was printed in The Hague in 1599 and became one of the standard works on travel in the known world. It is now considered as one of the most important historical travel accounts. Van Linschoten travelled to India in 1580 with a Portuguese bishop. The book also discusses the expeditions by Barents and Heemskerck to the Arctic region. The book contains many interesting maps and images, including an extremely rare map of the Arctic region. This book was sold to a private collector for EUR 142,680. The book is the most expensive book to be sold in the auctions organised by Marc Van de Wiele and breaks the record price achieved for the Johann Baptist Homann, *Grosser Atlas über die ganze Welt uit Nürnberg* (1716) (sold for EUR 120,540 in October 2007).

An atlas by **Abraham Ortelius** from 1581 printed by Plantin was also sold (lot 794). The first French edition of this famous atlas was sold, containing 40 maps more than the first edition. This copy also contained more than 5 extra maps. The atlas was sold for EUR 51,660 (estimate EUR 15,000 – 20,000). The atlas of the Low Countries by **Frederick De Wit** was sold for EUR 5.412 (estimate EUR 3.500 – 4.000).

An exceptional leave from a 14<sup>th</sup> century French illuminated manuscript with an image of the death of emperor Tiberius (lot 765) was another highlight of the auction and was sold for EUR 16,650 (estimate EUR 2,500 – 5,000). A 1544 Lyon book on the history of Troy by Le Fevre was sold for EUR 13,530 (estimate EUR 2,000 – 3,000) (lot 720). There was a lot of interest for other books related to the antiquity, such as for the first Belgian edition of the “Ilias” printed by **Dirk Martens** in 1521 (lot 684) (EUR 6,642) (estimate EUR 800 – 1,200).

An exceptional book on natural history by **De Boot**, printed in Bruges in 1640 attracted a lot of interest (lot 567). De Boot was a famous natural historian, doctor and advisor to emperor Rodolf II. The book was sold for EUR 10,086 (estimate EUR 3,000 – 4,000). A *Cruydt-boeck* by **Dodoens** from 1618 (lot 616) with very beautiful contemporary colours was sold for EUR 11,562 (estimate EUR 7,000 – 9,000). Also one of the first scientific ornithological works, a

16<sup>th</sup> century French book by **Pierre Belon** (lot 490) was sold for EUR 4,305 (estimate EUR 2,000 – 3,000).

Not only classical authors, but also modern authors were part of the auction. On Friday two manuscripts by **Gezelle** were sold. The manuscript “Spellewerkend” was sold for EUR 6,396 (EUR 3,600 – 4,500) (lot 332) and the manuscript “De Pikke slaat het koren af” and “Sint Aernoud die ons al verblijdt” (lot 333) was sold for EUR 7,380 (estimate EUR 6,000 – 9,000).

The variety of the offer was also illustrated by a sketch by **Delvaux** from the ‘20s (sold for EUR 2,706 (estimate EUR 2,000 – 2,400) (lot 100).

High prices were realised at the auction and there was enthusiastic bidding from a local, national and international audience, consisting of private collectors, institutions, museums, archive and dealers from amongst others, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Portugal and Greece.

With a total result of EUR 672,000 over two days, this auction was the most successful auction since the start of the auctions in 2003. Marc Van de Wiele commented: *“These results demonstrate a sustained interest in rare books of an exceptional quality. For such works there is a strong competition in the auction between private collectors and dealers, from Belgium as well as from abroad. Via our illustrated catalogues, our auction room in our own building in the historical centre of Bruges and a presence via the internet, we attract a passionate national and international public.”*

The prices include buyer’s premium.

#### About Auctions Marc Van de Wiele

Marc Van de Wiele is antiquarian bookseller in Bruges since 1975. He specialises in books from the 15th to the 18th century, art, history and Belgicana. Since 2003 he regularly organises auctions of antiquarian books. The auctions take place in an own auction room in Groenige in the historical centre of Bruges. He works together with his wife, Anette Van de Wiele and his daughter Nathalie Van de Wiele (degree in Roman languages). Recently Bénédicte Visart de Bocarmé (degree in medieval history) has joined the team.

#### More information

The website [www.marcvandewiele.com](http://www.marcvandewiele.com) contains an illustrated catalogue and a full list of results.

For more information, please contact Marc Van de Wiele

Sint-Salvatorkerkhof 7, B-8000 Brugge  
Tel +32 (0) 50 33 38 05 / + 32 (0) 50 33 63 17  
Fax +32 (0) 50 34 64 57  
[van.de.wiele@skynet.be](mailto:van.de.wiele@skynet.be)

Illustrations available on request.