



Sixteenth Century Prints as C&I Sources

Hugo van Harlo, November 2018: The sixteenth century saw a proliferation of printed materials spanning the High Renaissance and the ensuing artistic period known as Mannerism. From illustrative pieces to ornamental work, the century offers a myriad of fascinating works to inspire artists and illuminators.

Key Takeaways

1. Printing began in Europe in the 15th century. First with woodcuts, then copper and silverplate engraving, the by early chemical etching in the 17th century. By the 16th century (its dissemination helped by the 1527 sack of Rome), print media became a widespread form of media and art created for many different purposes and for all social classes.
2. *Broadsides* (broadsheets) and *frontispieces* (title pages of books) will provide the most numerous examples to reference when creating original C&I work.
3. Ornament and pattern books (such as by Jacques Androuet Ducereau and Hans Vredeman de Vries) as well as contemporary cartography will also provide examples to include. Ornaments and maps are not likely to provide a complete, standalone extant piece to replicate, however.
4. Complex scrollwork and strapwork is the *vital key* to capturing and replicating the sixteenth century Mannerist aesthetic. Crib from extant examples!
5. As we are emulating combined intaglio prints with letterpress text (although there *are* some lovely examples of beautiful calligraphy in engravings), a careful attention to the calligraphic hand used will also help cement the period aesthetic.

Examples

1. 1582 Memorial broadside. Letterpress and woodcut:



2. Frontispiece c. 1600. Engraved (including text):



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