

1680 engraving of Valletta

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A friend of mine in Scotland has discovered a reproduction of an engraving of Valletta from the seaward side of Fort St Elmo. The reproduction seems genuine, framed and preserved, and has all the appearances of a well-looked-after family memento.


Three names appear on the engraving: Gaspar Huberti - excud; Ioannes Peeters - delineavit and Lucas Vostermann - fecit 1680. From what we could glean, the original drawing was by Ioannes Peeters, who had also drawn other fortified cities (apparently at least another two of Malta). Gaspar Huberti appears to be the publisher and had a number of plates engraved by master engraver Vostermann.

There are a number of anomalies in the engraving, no doubt due to the method of interpretation between the actual sketch by Peeters and the engraver.

The drawing must have been made around the 1670s. The appearance of a chain between Valletta and Ricasoli Point means there was some measure of control over which vessels were allowed to enter the harbour, or as protection against possible invasion. Was this the case, or was it Peeters' 'invention'?

My friend has asked me to submit image of the framed engraving for publication to The Sunday Times in the hope that some feedback will give a measure of authenticity to the picture.

Comments

victor rodenas(1 week, 6 days ago) 

AS FAR AS I KNOW THE CHAIN WAS IN GALLEY`S CREEK.i THINK THAT THE DRAWING OF THE CHAIN THERE IS JUST AN ARTISTIC LICENCE.i`m sure we have experts in cartography who can solve all this.

