



A woodcut of the Florentine Cockerel

Anonymous.
Der Florentinische Hahn.

German, c.1683. Woodcut with letterpress, sheet. 200 x 150mm.

£120

A woodcut illustrating a legend of Florence. In the 13th century Florence and Siena were exhausted after a long war over the Chianti region. To settle things they agreed that the border would be set where two knights, setting out from their respective cities at first cock-crow, would meet. The Sienese chose their best, a white cockerel; the Florentines picked an underfed black rooster. Waking because of its hunger, the black rooster started crowing so early that the Florentine night nearly reached Siena before meeting his opponent. Thus Chianti became part of Florence, with many vineyards using a "Gallo nero" label.

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