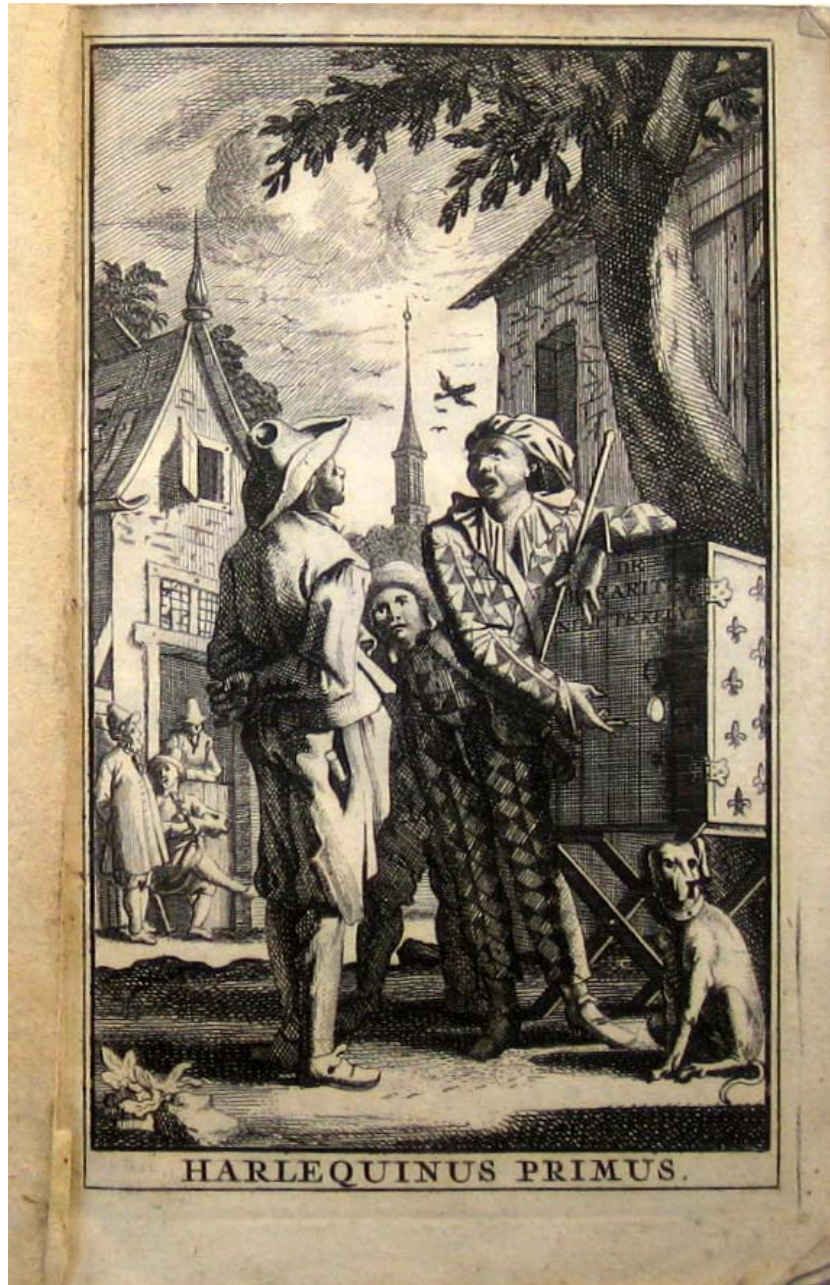


*Dutch Peepshow Demonstrated by a Harlequin*



[POCK, Jan.] Harlequin, Reysende met zyn Rarekiek van Wynendaal en Ryssel naar de Amsteldamse Kermis, en van daar te rug naar de grensen van Vrankryk. Laatende op een Geestige wys, in Drie Vertooningen Zien, het voorgevallene van den 28

September, tot het eynde van 't Jaar 1708. Agter aan zyn gevoegt, eenige Vreugdeliedren en Zegesangen, over de gelukkige Veldtocht van 't selve Jaar. Met Figuren.

Amsterdam, Andries Rempelaar, Andries van Damme, 1709.

£3,200

8vo, pp. 82, with three full-page engraved plates in the pagination, one positioned as frontispiece, title page in red and black; stitched as issued in contemporary pattern paper wrappers, a little frayed and dog-eared, spine chipped.

Very rare pamphlet of a Harlequin demonstrating his '*Rarekiek*' or peepshow at a Dutch street fair, illustrated with three finely engraved plates.

The plates show the Harlequin with his peep show, a wooden box with a viewer, through which architectural or topographical engravings could be viewed, giving an illusion of depth and perspective. The show was traditionally accompanied by the Harlequin reciting verse explaining or dramatising what was on view inside, or singing and sounding musical instruments to attract and amuse the crowds patiently waiting their turn to look through the viewer. This was a typical fair ground attraction, popular all over Europe, and, of course, a precursor of newsreel and cinema.

The text in this case is a political one, recounting the history of the battle of Wijnendale and the siege of Ryssel/Lille, by the Duke of Marlborough in the War of the Spanish Succession, followed by successive events in Flanders. This presumably also explains the serious look on the faces of both Harlequin and spectators. The last section is taken up with a number of celebratory songs.

The plates are similar to the ones used in Pook's *Rommel-Zoodjen*, Amsterdam, Ten Hoorn, 1709. The text is partly by Pook (?- 1714), Dutch writer and satirist and partly by the burlesque writer Jan van Gysen (1668-1722).

OCLC: Leyden, Nijmegen, Amsterdam, BL has incomplete copy; see Balzer, *Peepshows a visual history*, 1988.