

JOHN SMITH

“Palazzo Publico in Bologna”



Select views in Italy, with Topographical and Historical descriptions in English and French, Londra, 1792

126 mm x 189 mm

Note: Bibliografia: A. Brighetti, Bologna nelle sue stampe. Vedute e piante scenografiche dal Quattrocento all'Ottocento, 1979, p.99. D. Cremonini, L'Italia nelle vedute e carte geografiche dal 1493 al 1894 libri di viaggi e atlanti, 1996, p.136.

Provenienza: Francia

In collezione **altro e** **semplare** non sciolto ma nel volume in collezione (primo volume con tutte le stampe di Bologna e degli Appennini tra Bologna e Firenze). Provenienza: USA. Segue con anche i relativi fogli di testo.



Palazzo Pubblico, in Bologna.

Engraving published by John Smith, 1792. Original by John Smith.

Plate 1

PALAZZO PUBBLICO, AT BOLOGNA.

THIS city, considerable in the prevailing taste throughout Italy, is embellish'd with piazzas, squares, fountains, and other beautiful edifices. Of the square, the most worthy of notice is that wherein is situated

II. PALAZZO PUBBLICO, OR, THE TOWN-HALL.

An ancient brick building, the usual residence of the Legate, the Vice-Legate, and the Senators; and here are also held the courts of justice.

Over the principal entrance, (as it appears in the view,) is a statue, erected by the people and senate of Bologna, in honour of Pope Gregory XIII. Two other statues are placed on the facade, in the memory of PAPA IV. and of ROBERTAQUE VIII. but greatly inferior to the first, in point of workmanship. A fourth monument, though different in its kind, yet not less curious, is an inscription in Latin, recording that memorable event, when the celebrated CHARLES V. Emperor of Germany, King of Spain, Sicily, &c. &c. and Pope Clement VII. met here, and concluded a general peace, which yet is said to be a long and fruitless contest that the many years had deluged Italy with Christian blood.—The Pope gave his benediction to the Emperor in the adjoining church of St. Petrus, and, at the same time, crowned him King of Lombardy; they then walked in procession through the city, and afterwards returned to the palace, where they passed the winter together, in great splendor and magnificence.

The lower court forms a large quadrangle, containing an extensive range of magnificent apartments.

PLATE II.

PALAZZO PUBBLICO, AT BOLOGNA.

Nearly in front of this palace, is a superb fountain, the joint labour of three of the most eminent artists of their time. The design was given by Leoni, and executed under his direction by Antonio Zappalà. The statues only are from the chisel of the celebrated Giovanni Bologna; a work that does equal credit to himself, and to the great master under whose he studied, the immortal MICELANGELO.

At the upper end of this square stands the magnificent church of St. Petrus, the patron saint of Bologna. It is seen in the preceding general view of the town, situated near the *Arinale* tower. The Legate officiates here in person, arrayed as Pontiff.

This church has some good pictures, particularly a St. Peter, larger than life, by Parmigianino; and, at the end of the choir, a large fresco of the Virgin and Child seated on the Moon, and St. Petrus below kneeling, by Giamo. On the pavement is the famous Meridional Line, drawn by Cassini; it is a channel of copper, two hundred and seventy-two feet long, set into the floor, on which, through a small aperture in the roof, the sun marks the precise time of the vernal and autumnal equinoxes.

Bologna, from its situation on the northern verge of the Apennines, is peculiarly well adapted to a warmer residence; all the lower declivities, which connect the high mountains with the plain, being decorated with almost insurmountable villas, beautifully situated amongst the most luxuriant groves, and thereby considerably diminishing the oppressive heat which it occasions at Rome, and in other parts of Italy.