Primary Maker: Unidentified artist
Title: Der Paradyss Vogel (The Greater Bird of Paradise [Paradisaea apoda]) Broadside
Date: ca. 1550
Medium: Wood block print (broadside) hand-colored with watercolor washes, formerly laid on an album page.
Dimensions: Overall (irregular): 11 3/16 × 15 3/4 in. (28.4 × 40 cm)
Object Number: 1889.10.2.56

Classification: DRAWINGS

Curatorial Remarks:
The text of this rare broadside describes the marvelous bird-of-paradise with delicate wings that flies in the air without feet and wraps its two dark tail feathers around a tree. Hamer was a member of a Nuremberg family of publishers and woodblock designers. He specialized in these single-leaf woodcuts or broadsides—the tabloids of their times—that frequently announced natural phenomena, sometimes termed “wonders” or marvels of nature. Notices like this one encouraged a taste for these striking but rare birds and their fabulous feathers.

Physical Description:
Avian Print

Inscribed: Printed inscription in German cut off at the right margin.
Markings: Inside cover of Album 1 contains a printed catalogue description reading: "Drawings of European Birds, a Collection of upwards of 200 Drawings, most beautifully executed colours, of European Birds, taken from Nature,"
and most faithfully copied with a view to be published; but from the death of the artists M. la Grese, and M. Petit, they never were engraved. Most of them are accompanied with their names, in 4 large vols. oblong folios, formerly in the Duke of Devonshire's Collection"

Related Objects: