Primary Maker: Unidentified maker

Title: Seal matrix

Date: ca. 1646

Medium: Silver

Dimensions: Overall: 1 5/8 x 1 1/4 in., 1 oz (troy) 17.3 dwt (4.1 x 3.2 cm, 58 g)

Credit Line: Gift of Robert Van Rensselaer Stuyvesant

Object Number: 1909.34

Object Name: Seal matrix

Classification: SILVER

Curatorial Remarks:

When Peter Stuyvesant (1611/12-1672) arrived in May 1647 to assume his duties as director general of New Netherland, he brought this newly minted Dutch seal matrix. Few documents survive with this seal, which was probably made not long after May 1645, when Stuyvesant was selected by the Dutch West India Company to succeed director Willem Kieft. The absence of examples of this seal on surviving official documents raises the possibility that Stuyvesant used this matrix primarily for purposes of identification and security, and used the official seal of New Netherland as a mark of authorization.

Physical Description:

Cast and engraved silver seal matrix of Peter Stuyvesant; circular matrix engraved with the arms of the Stuyvesant family, a running stag below a hound chasing a hare in a shield, shield surmounted by the family crest, a demi-stag
jumping out of a prince’s crown, and foliate scrolls; feathered border around the edge with an inscription along the border; engraved in Latin, "S. PET: STUYVESANT: N: BELGII ET CURACO. INS. GUBERNATOR" [Seal of Peter Stuyvesant, Director General of New Netherland and Curacao] in roman letters; cylindrical hinge applied vertically down the reverse; double s-scroll topped by a loop, applied to the hinge.

Inscribed: Engraved around the edge: "S. PET: STUYVESANT: N: BELGII ET CURACO. INS. GUBERNATOR" in roman letters

Related Objects: