

Satirical Depiction of a Lewd Peasant (1526)

Abstract

Woodcuts were a means of replicating images in the thousands for quick and widespread distribution. The first half of the sixteenth century saw the circulation of more illustrated broadsheets than ever before. A common genre was the satirical drawing depicting political, religious or everyday themes – frequently vulgar. This woodcut features a lewd old peasant and his potential bed partner. The owl perched on the falconer's glove on the peasant's left hand is a reference to an old German proverb: "He who does not have a falcon must hunt with an owl," meaning that one must content oneself with what's available. The verse reads: I spent many a day screwing / so much so that I don't want to anymore / If I still want to call myself a lover / I must hunt with an owl.

Source



Source: Christoph Amberger, peasant couple in conversation (satire). Original: Herzogliches Museum Gotha. Available online at: Zeno/Directmedia, <http://www.zeno.org/nid/20003862437>

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