



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Plan of the City of New York in North America Surveyed in the years 1766 & 1767.

Stock#: 69882
Map Maker: Colton
Date: 1853
Place: New York
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 37.5 x 40 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare J. H. Colton lithographed version of the exceptional Bernard Ratzer map of New York.

An unparalleled map for its detail and grandeur, Bernard Ratzer's map of the New York City area is without question the most decorative and sought after 18th Century plan of New York City among collectors and an historic artifact of the highest order. This 1853 edition by J.H. Colton, himself perhaps the most important American mapmaker of the 19th century, is the best reasonably-obtainable edition of the map.

Bernard Ratzer's map was by far the most accurate published plan of New York City and its environs at this critical time in history. The map is based on the surveys undertaken at the direction of Sir Henry Moore, who authorized mapping efforts in response to the Stamp Act Riots of 1765. He and other British leaders feared that the city might soon become a battleground -- a fear they no doubt carried over from the barely-concluded French and Indian War. Needing a more detailed accounting of New York's layout, the British authorities commissioned Ratzer to survey and construct a map the city, which was drawn in 1766.

Ratzer's map was completed to a level of detail unparalleled in a study of an American city; the work is



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fitting of an official map of a major English city.

Manhattan above Duane Street (unnamed here) is almost entirely given over to country estates and common land, with the exception of a still-developing area around the Bowery, west of Delancy Square. The country estates are labeled with the names of approximately 20 landowners, which will be familiar to students of New York history (Stuyvesant, Bayard, Delancy, Beekman, Harrison, Murray, Watts, Duane, Tiebout, etc.). The Bowery (here "Bowry") leads up through the center of the island before splitting into Bloomingdale Road and the "Road to King's bridge or Boston".

A successful effort has been made to render pictorially elevation, fields, marshes, salt meadows, and gardens around the city. The general effect is comprehensive enough to transport one back in time.

This edition leaves out the view that is at the bottom of the original Ratzer 1776 Ratzer.

The 1853 map was lithographed & printed by Schedler & Liebler 129 William St. N.Y. It includes a certification from William Perris: "City Hall Place, New York 18th May 1853. I hereby Certify, that I have compared this map with the Original in the Possession of J. Carson Brevoort, Esqre. and found it uniformly correct."

Detailed Condition:

Lithographed map, dissected in 30 panels and linen-backed (minor spotting, modern backing), laid in loose to an original or near-contemporary gilt-lettered cloth folder (rebacked).