



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

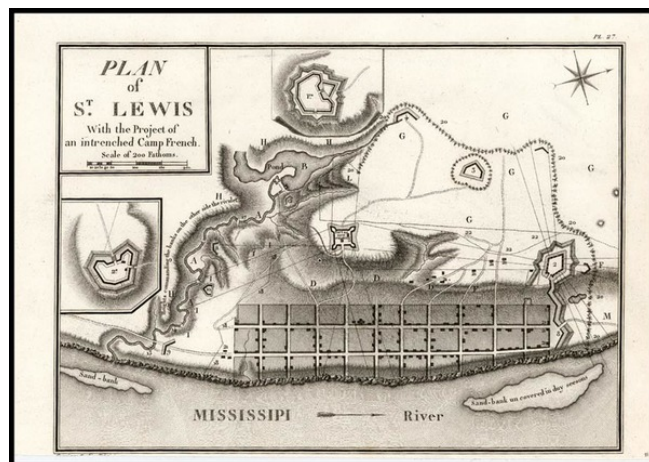
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Plan of St. Lewis With the Project of an intrenched Camp French

Stock#: 14580
Map Maker: Collot
Date: 1826
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 11 x 5.6 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Collot's map of St. Louis provides a pre-Lewis & Clark look at one of the first cities West of the Mississippi River in the Transmississippi West.

It is unquestionably one of the earliest town plans of any town west of the Mississippi and one of the earliest obtainable maps of St. Louis and one of the first printed maps of the city (although released 20 years after it was first printed for reasons known only to Collot's widow).

Collot's survey in 1796 was part of an intelligence mission into Spanish Louisiana and Florida in preparation for a possible French attack on the Spanish colonies. Collot was arrested by Governor Carondelet and expelled from the colony. The map shows an early town plan (consisting of 33 city blocks), early buildings, fortifications, streets and roads, and the Heights commanding the banks on the other side of the rivulet. A Sand-bank uncovered in dry (dry) seasons is also noted. The center point is the Fort (as now existing). Significant detail is given treating the lines of sight (and shot) from the various fortifications. Rumsey notes that the map pre-dates the Louisiana purchase in 1803.

Although French General Victor Collot traveled through the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys in 1796, his two-volume account was not published until 1826. During his inspection tour, Collot observed the topography, resources, and people of these American and Spanish-held lands, which he illustrated with regional maps, town plans, and views in an accompanying atlas. His plan of St. Louis displayed the town's military fortifications, which he found sadly lacking. But the image also reveals the town emerging as the gateway for the fledgling Missouri River fur trade. The work was completed in 1804, but delayed 20 years by the death of Collot. The work represented a significant step forward in the mapping of the regions explored.



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This is one of 23 maps which appeared in the Atlas volume, of which only 100 were printed in English. The work is of extreme rarity and very important in the history of American Cartography.

Detailed Condition: