



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

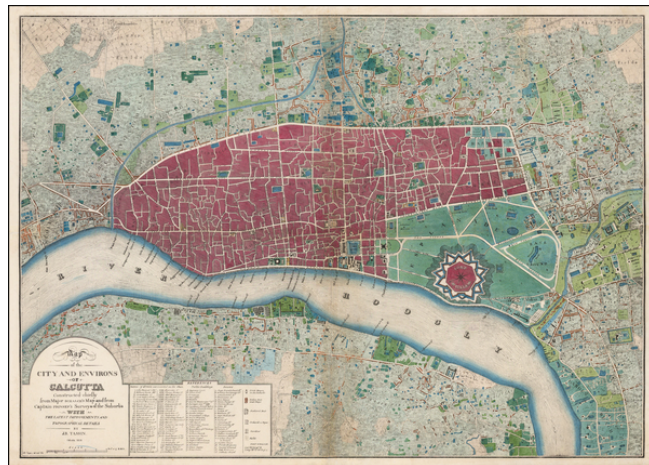
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Map of the City and Environs of Calcutta Constructed chiefly from Major Schalch's Map and from Captain Prinsep's Surveys of the Suburb's With The Latest Improvements and Topographical Details

Stock#: 47006
Map Maker: Tassin
Date: 1832
Place: Calcutta
Color:
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 30 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A superb map of Calcutta printed in Calcutta by one of India's greatest lithographers and used to improve the public health of the city.

The map depicts Calcutta and surroundings in great detail and also includes the western side of the Hooghly River. It also shows Fort William and the surrounding Esplanade. The key in the lower left elaborates the street names that did not fit in the map image, it also lists the public buildings and bazaars of Calcutta. Brick houses, native huts and ships, scattered huts, orchards or topes, gardens, and fields, are all differentiated pictorially. North is at the left, giving the map an eastern orientation.

As noted in the title, the map is based on the surveys of Major John Augustus Schalch (1793-1825) and Captain Thomas Prinsep. Those surveys were conducted from 1820-28, and substantially updated Lieutenant Colonel Mark Wood's survey of the city that was executed in 1784 and 1785. The Schlach-Prinsep surveys were initiated in part as a response to the 1817 Cholera epidemic in Lower Bengal.

The Shlach-Prinsep surveys were first made available with Ernesto de la Combe's virtually unobtainable map of 1828.

Schalch's survey proved that Calcutta sloped from East to West, and thus it served as the basis for a system of canals around the city that were intended to improve its precarious hydrological position. The canals were begun in 1829 and finished in 1833. The Circular Canal is shown on the map.



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The map, when it is seldom seen, is usually dissected and laid on linen. This is the first example that we have seen uncut.

The map is by Jean-Baptiste Tassin, whose fascinating and geographically wide-ranging career landed him in Calcutta, where he started one of the city's first lithography presses. He later also worked in San Francisco, with period between and after in France.

Detailed Condition: