



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Tallis's London Street Views, Exhibiting Upwards of One Hundred Buildings in Each Number, Elegantly Engraved on Steel; The Whole Forming a Complete Stranger's Guide Through London, to all the Public Buildings, Places of Amusement, Tradesman's Shops, Name and Trade of Select Occupiers, &c. &c. [Numbers 1-77]

Stock#: 65488
Map Maker: Tallis

Date: 1838 - 1840
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 16.5 x 5.25 inches map size

Price: SOLD



Description:

The Most Complete Set of Tallis's London Views That We Can Find Having Come to the Market.

An impressive run of parts 1 through 77 (of 88) of John Tallis's fantastic project to provide a view of every major street in London during the late 1830s.

Tallis's project was essentially unparalleled in urban mapmaking and invites comparison to an early Google Street View. His views of London form an invaluable historical and social record, providing an immensely detailed snapshot of a city in flux. This sense of change is hinted at by its notation of demolitions ("two houses being pulled down", pt. 74), as well as its incorporation of planned but yet to be completed sites such as Trafalgar Square. It also captures the everyday life and commerce of London, providing a view of the city from the perspective of the average person in the street and conjuring an evocative sense of the sights, sounds, and smells that would have been encountered through its description of each building and storefront.

The wonderfully illustrated advertisements and historical notes add to this, giving a fuller understanding of each area as well as offering extra advice about local businesses, a typical tip being, for example, that Morton's restaurant at 104 Bishopsgate Street was the "cheapest house in London for turtle and venison".

The elevated street views themselves are beautifully engraved, depicting the minute detail of shop fronts



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and the delicate twists and turns of adjoining streets and alleys.

Rarity

Because of the mode of publication (with each part individually sold in separate wrappers) even semi-long runs of parts are very rare on the market. The next-largest group of views that we can find having traded hands is a set of parts 1-40 which sold in the Edward Tufte Library sale at Christie's in 2010 for \$5,000.

Detailed Condition:

Oblong 8vo. Parts 1-77 (of 88), issued separately. Each part consists of an engraved elevated street view, overhead map and vignette of a notable site, a numbered list giving details of the trade and occupants of each building and six pages of commentary and ads (including the rear cover.) Each part in original colored-paper lettered wrappers. The wrappers firm and bright throughout, with little wear to the extremities, minor creasing to a few covers, a small tear to the edge of pts. 69 and 70, a small tear to the cover of pt. 20 and a few small tears to the edge of pt. 35. The contents with a little foxing, though overall bright and clean. Altogether Very Good to Very Good +. Contained with a later brown cloth case with the armorial bookplate of Major-General Sir Harold A. Wernher to the inner flap.