



Large wall map on nine engraved sheets, with sheet seven reproduced in printed heliogravure facsimile.

MAKHAEV'S MAP OF ST PETERSBURG "TO THE GLORY AND HONOUR OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE"

Plan de la Ville de St. Petersbourg

Author

[MAKHAEV, Mikhail Ivanovich, TRUSKOTT, I.F., SOKOLOV, I. and others].

Publication date

1753.

Publisher

Petersburg Academy of Sciences

Publication place

St Petersburg,

Physical description

Large wall map on nine engraved sheets, with sheet seven reproduced in printed heliogravure facsimile.

Dimensions

1415 by 2065mm. (55.75 by 81.25 inches).

Notes

Makhaev's extraordinary large-scale map of St. Petersburg; one of the masterpieces of Russian engraving art.

Published in limited numbers to mark the first jubilee of the city in 1753, and dedicated "to the glory and honour of the Russian Empire" Markhaev's map was commissioned to commemorate the city's remarkable growth in the 50 years since its foundation.

The extraordinary map is on a scale of 1:3350 and gives an accurate view of the existing streets, palaces and public buildings of the city, as well as prospective building projects. The decoration includes the Arms of the City, and attributes of the sciences, arts, commerce, and the art of war at the top right. The majority of the design was by Makhaev and so, correctly, his name is usually attributed to the whole work. However, numerous artists contributed to the views and panoramas, and the map itself was prepared at the Geographic Department of the Academy of Sciences and supervised by the junior scientific assistant I.F. Truskott. under the guidance of I. Sokolov, who also engraved the figure of the Empress Elisabeth Petrovna after a portrait by Louis Caravaque.

Only 100 prints were taken and were distributed amongst major library and palace collections in Europe. This small production run, together with the high mortality rate associated with large-scale wall maps, means that the map is now extremely rare.

Bibliography

SK 5346 and 5347; cf. Obol'ianinov 2048.

Provenance

Price: £40000

Inventory reference: 14711