



First edition, folio (560 by 450mm), folding key sheet, 20 double-page engraved maps, plates 18 and 19 joined, numerous plans, maps, views and cameos pasted to verso of each sheet, full calf, fillet border, spine rebacked preserving original gilt decoration.

TURGOT'S MONUMENTAL PLAN OF PARIS

[Plan de Paris].

Author

[BRETEZ, Louis] and [TURGOT, Michel-Etienne].

Publication date

1739

Publisher

Publication place

Paris,

Physical description

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Dimensions

550 by 840mm. (21.75 by 33 inches).

Notes

Turgot's fine plan of Paris during the reign of Louis XV, which, if joined, would measure some 2360 by 2400mm.

In 1734 Michel-Étienne Turgot (1690-1751), Mayor of Paris, decided to promote the reputation of Paris to Parisian, provincial and foreign elites by implementing a new plan of the city. He asked Louis Bretez, a member of the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture, and professor of perspective, to draw up the plan of Paris and its suburbs.

Louis Bretez began his work in 1734, and was given permission by Turgot to enter all the mansions, houses and gardens in Paris, in order to gain accurate measurements and drawings. The endeavour would take two years.

Turgot depicts Paris in isometric projection, a slightly more scientifically rigorous example of the seventeenth century birds-eye view. This was somewhat against the grain of cartographic thinking at the time, with many cartographers abandoning the visually appealing birds-eye view, for the more scientifically accurate geometric plan.

In 1736, Claude Lucas, engraver of the Royal Academy of Sciences, engraved the 21 copper sheets of the plan. The plan was published in 1739, and the prints were bound in volumes offered to the King, the members of the Academy, and the Municipality. Additional copies were to serve as representations of France to foreigners.

Bibliography

Millard 39.

Provenance

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