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Carte des Routes de Postes de L'Empire Francais du Royaume D'Italie et de la Confederation du Rhin... 1813 (From The Library of General Nicholas Charles Oudinot)

Stock#: 52559op
Map Maker: Tardieu
Date: 1813
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 55.5 x 47.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Tardieu's Large Format Postal Map of the French Empire Just Before Its Defeat -- From the Library of General Oudinot.

Tardieu's magnificent engraved map of Western Europe under French Dominion, focusing primarily on political divisions and post roads.

The map was published in the first year of the War of the Sixth Coalition (May 1813 - May 1814), which would eventually see Napoleon deposed and sent into exile on Elba. After the disastrous French invasion of Russia of 1812, the continental powers joined Russia, the United Kingdom, Portugal and the rebels in Spain who were already at war with France.

An 1814 edition was published, which extends east to the Black Sea and includes route information in the British Isles. It may have been executed on new plates.

General Nicolas Charles Oudinot

A final detail that gives this map particular importance is the identity of its former owner, Nicolas Charles Oudinot, 1st Comte Oudinot, 1st Duc de Reggio (1767 - 1848), and a Marshal of France. A fierce fighter, the man was wounded no less than 34 times during his military career!



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The only one of nine siblings to live past childhood, Oudinot joined the army without a noble pedigree, and therefore without a chance of high promotion. That all changed in 1792, with the outbreak of the French Revolution. In that year, Oudinot was elected lieutenant-colonel of the third battalion of the volunteers of the Meuse. After transfer to the regular army and admirable service in Belgium, he was promoted to the rank of general in June 1794 after the Battle of Kaiserslautern.

From Belgium he shifted to the German and Swiss fronts, where he fought as a general of division and chief of staff to Andre Massena. Oudinot stood out at the Battle of Monzambano so much so that Napoleon himself presented him with a sword of honor, now known as the *Legion d'Honneur*. Napoleon did not forget him after he established his empire; now Emperor Napoleon recognized Oudinot again, this time with a Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor.

During the Napoleonic Wars, Oudinot continued to acquit himself commendably. He was elected a member of the Chamber of Deputies, commanded a company of grenadiers nicknamed for him, and fought in battles from Vienna to Poland. In 1808, he was appointed governor of Erfurt and was made a Count of the French Empire. Finally, in 1809, after the Battle of Wagram, he was named a Marshal of France, France's highest military distinction.

Oudinot continued to serve as an administrator in Holland and on the battlefield in the Russian campaign. After Napoleon's fall, Oudinot joined the Bourbon Restoration and stayed loyal to the King even after Napoleon's return in 1815. For his loyalty and service, he was named a peer of the realm. He served until 1823, when he participated in the French invasion of Spain. Then, he turned again to political and administrative appointments; he died while serving as governor of *Les Invalides*, at the veterans' hospital in Paris.

Provenance

Purchased at auction in Paris, from Artcuriel, *Collections from the Castle of Malicorne Marshal Oudinot's Historical Souvenirs*, June 13, 2017 (Lot 156).

Detailed Condition:

Publisher's outline hand-color. Multi-sheet map dissected into 66 sections and laid on a single sheet linen. Folding into a contemporary paper slipcase.