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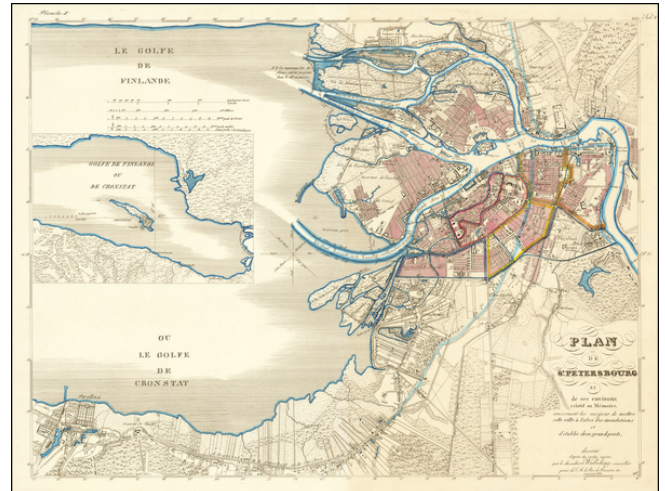
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[St. Peterburg] Plan de St. Petersbourg et de ses environs relatif au Memoire, concernant les moyens de mettre cette ville a l'agbri des inondations et d'etablir deux grands ports, dessine d'apres des cartes exactes, par le chevalier de Wiebeking, conseiller prive de S.M. le Roy de Baviere, etc. (With separately published Legende du Plan De St.-Petersbourg . . .)

Stock#: 64539
Map Maker: von Wiebeking

Date: 1840
Place: St. Petersburg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 24.5 x 18.5 inches

Price: \$ 2,800.00



Description:

Rare Plan of St. Petersburg Proposing An Early Solution to St. Petersburg's Perennial Flooding Issues

Von Wiebeking's plan for St. Petersburg was one of several competing plans proposed for the purpose of addressing the chronic flooding issues in St. Petersburg. Water was an issue for the new Russian town from the days it was built. The plans of protection of St. Petersburg from floorings are known as early as 1727 (the first proposal for a full city plan for flooding protection was created by Burkhard Christoph von Münnich). The year 1824 saw a historic devastating flooding of the city with the water level rising over 4 meters higher normal, with 462 houses destroyed and hundreds of people killed in the flooding. This 1824 Saint-Petersburg flooding is immortalized by Alexander Pushkin in his classic 1833 poem "The Bronze Horseman".

After the 1824 flood, St. Petersburg city officials put out a call to a number of the most important engineers in other parts of Europe, including Parrot, Petrov, Bazaine, Wiebeking etc., seeking proposals to protect the city from the rising waters. The Russian classic writer Ivan Tourgeniev in one of his letters mentions that he met Wiebeking in April 1834 and the engineer told him about his work on the city's anti-flooding project.



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The proposed projects fell mainly in 4 categories depending on the proposed types of protection, including an exotic project of building the walls surrounding each island. All of projects were reviewed by the authorities and were declined mostly because of the high price and technical imperfections. In an 1898 book by Vassily Salov *"The historical outline of the St. Petersburg floods and assumptions regarding the protection of the low parts of the city of St. Petersburg from flooding"* it is mentioned that the State commission found that Wiebeking's project was "not supported by either calculations or facts or calculation of the price of the proposed work" and "sea water will nevertheless penetrate the unprotected arms of the Neva river and, raising the water level in the river, it can cause flooding in the city".

No major changes to protect the city were undertaken until 1890, when another big flood prompted authorities to again address the issue. The real major anti-flooding system was in the end based on earlier ideas of Pierre-Dominique Bazaine. In late 1960s, the city finally began the construction of a complex of gigantic dams and shipping channels, which was finished 40 years later, in 2011.

Von Wiebeking's plan was likely accompanied by his 1833 pamphlet *"Mémoire sur les moyens de mettre St. Petersbourg à l'abri des inondations, et sur l'établissement de deux ports sûrs et commodes devant cette capitale de l'empire de Russie: accompagné d'un plan exact de cette cité et de ses environs"*. The pamphlet's reference to "un plan exact de cette cité et de ses environs" is most certainly the present *"Plan De St. Pétersbourg..."*

Rarity

OCLC locates copies of the plan dated 1825 in the Ladesbibliothek Darmstadt and dated 1833s in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Bibliothek National (Strasbourg), Central Library of Zurich.

The Appendix is unknown, but is likely a reprinting of the appendix of the 1833 *Memoire* pamphlet, revised in 1840.

A manuscript example of an early state of this map dated 1831 survives in the Bibliothek National de France: <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53098476v>

Detailed Condition: