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Plan of the City of New-York, with the recent and intended Improvements, Drawn from actual survey by William Bridges, City Surveyor A.D. 1807 [with:] The Picture of New-York; or The Traveller's Guide, through the Commercial Metropolis of the United States

Stock#: 76553
Map Maker: Bridges / Maverick / Riley
Date: 1807
Place: New York
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size:
Price: SOLD



Description:

Nice example of the infamous William Bridges "pirate" edition of [Joseph Francois Mangin and Casimir Goerck's 1803 A Plan and Regulation of the City of New York](#), here published without attribution to Mangin-Goerck in Isaac Riley's 1807 *The Picture of New-York*...

The plan gained notoriety as one of two high-profile examples of Bridges taking credit for maps for which he had done almost none of the real work. William Bridges made a splash in the New York when he arrived there from England in 1805 or '06. He had scarcely settled in New York when he received the job of City Surveyor, placing him in competition with a number of established mapmakers, most importantly John Randel Jr. Bridges took Randel's extensive survey work for the first the initial layout of the New York City grid and turned it into the famous *Commissioner's Plan*, which he published in 1811 - that map was also engraved by Peter Maverick. Despite the fact that the plan would have been impossible without Randel's survey maps, Bridges gave him no credit, and this resulted in a public disagreement, in which Bridges ultimately prevailed.

The present map follows the Mangin-Goerck in its scope and style. It covers lower Manhattan up to Spruce Street, with a characteristic rectilinear look that extended to the signature angular shoreline of the Lower



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East Side. Bridges made some changes to the cartography, erasing much of the topographical and ground cover information, adding some new parks, and filling in the grid where development had occurred in the intervening years, but the map's lineage is obvious. Such copying and compiling was not uncommon among mapmakers dating back to at least to the Late Medieval era, however, Bridges was a scoundrel in many aspects of his life and this likely contributed to the way his cartographic plagiarism was interpreted.

On the left side of the map is a 52-point key, which references important public buildings, most churches (the Jewish Synagogue at Mill Street is also noted), as well as a hospital, college, theatre, etc. This is a slightly amended copy of the key included in Mangin-Goerck, which number 45 buildings of interest.

This is a key map for New York City from before its period of explosive growth later in the 19th century. It is also the only opportunity a collector will likely have to obtain a near-contemporary version of the Mangin-Goerck (which has come to market only twice in the last several decades).

Detailed Condition:

Map in Very Good or better condition with just some faint offsetting. The book is in early-19th-century ½ calf over marbled boards (somewhat worn, hinges splitting). The map is separate from the book and suitable for framing.