



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Napoleon Rising from His Tomb) "Je désire que mes Cendres reposent sur les bords de la Seine, au milieu de ce Peuple Français que j'ai tant aimé" Testament de l'EMPEREUR NAPOLÉON; Ste Hélène, 15 Avril 1821.

Stock#: 99826
Map Maker: Vernet / Jazet
Date: 1840
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.5 x 27 inches
Price: \$ 1,400.00



Description:

This aquatint, engraved by Jean-Pierre-Marie Jazet and based on a painting by Horace Vernet, presents a dramatic and symbolic portrayal of Napoleon, likened to Christ's resurrection. Titled with Napoleon's poignant wish from his last will, "It is my wish that my ashes may repose on the banks of the Seine, in the midst of the French people, whom I have loved so well," this work captures a significant moment in French history and Napoleonic iconography.

In 1840, a pivotal year marked by the repatriation of Napoleon's remains to France, Horace Vernet painted this evocative scene, which Jean-Pierre-Marie Jazet, an accomplished engraver, subsequently immortalized in aquatint. The image depicts Napoleon, characterized in a Christ-like manner, rising from his tomb bathed in a celestial glow, symbolically shedding the shroud of death. This portrayal not only reflects the reverence and mythic status Napoleon held in French society but also underscores the era's artistic and cultural milieu, deeply intertwined with historical events and figures.



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Reflecting the artistic trends of the period, the work stands as a testament to the fusion of art and history, capturing the posthumous glorification of Napoleon. Its inclusion of folk art elements, like the depiction of a grognard reminiscent of a Roman soldier at Jesus's tomb, not only deepens the Christological parallel but also highlights the intersection of high art and popular culture in commemorating historical figures. This aquatint serves as an important artifact for understanding the complex layers of Napoleonic legend and its enduring impact on French identity and collective memory.

Detailed Condition:

Wide margins. Original hand-color in full.