



The first 'tourist' map of Mont Blanc

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Carte Physique et Minéralogique du Mont-Blanc et des Montagnes et Vallées qui l'avoisinent
 Présentée à Son Excellence Le Comte Molé Pair de France Directeur Général des Ponts et
 chaussées et des Mines.

Paris, 1815. Some old colour. 615 x 875mm.

£950

A large and detailed relief map of the environs of Mont Blanc with an inset view top right, surveyed, drawn and engraved by Raymond (1766-1830), a captain of the French Royal Engineers. The map was surveyed between 1797-99 in preparation for Napoleon's crossing of the St Bernard Pass with 40,000 men in 1800, but the text panel states this version was published to complement Horace-Bénédict de Saussure's 'Voyages dans les Alpes' and for the 'use of travellers who want to visit the Glaciers of Chamonix'. Thus it was the first separate-issue map published for Alpine tourists. The map extends to Cluse and Flumet in the west to Aosta in the east. The relief of the mountains is depicted with hachuring rather than contours, giving a remarkable 3D effect.

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