



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Around 1850. Watercolor Lithograph. The Spalentor In Basel



120 EUR

Signature : Constantin Guise

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Paper

Width : 31 cm (cadre compris)

Height : 40 cm (cadre compris)

Description

The Spalentor, or St. Paul's Gate, in Basel is one of the few remaining carefully preserved vestiges of the city's mighty ramparts, which were demolished in the late 19th century--reportedly to make way for the expanding city. This print is enhanced with watercolor and varnished with shellac, likely by the artist himself or his studio. The effect is stunning because the work was done with great care. Constantin Guise (1811-1858) was a skilled watercolorist, theater set designer, and lithographer who was well-regarded in the city of Basel. This engraving is linked to the history of the city's Jewish community, as it is often referred to as "A Jew at the Spalenthor," although this title does not appear on the black-and-white lithographs. The reference may stem from the fact that the guard at

Dealer

Pierquin Philippe

Tableaux anciens, objets de charme

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the city gate appears to be barring entry. Furthermore, a figure beneath the gate is seen pleading. It is a reminder of the persecutions of 1349, following the Black Death--a reminder, and then yet another prolonged exodus; the history is terribly bloody and turbulent. This lithograph is in a lovely original frame, with its 19th-century gilded molding. Only the backing had to be replaced about sixty years ago.