Switzerland - Cent-suisse Guard Of Roy & Jenner - Montigny - 1772



120 EUR

Signature : Claude-Antoine Littret de Montigny (1735-1775)

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 15,5 cm

Width : 8,5 cm

Description

Claude-Antoine Littret de Montigny (1735-1775) drew and engraved these engravings, which were colored and highlighted with gouache at the time, from the book *Military Uniforms*, which contains intaglio engravings of the uniforms of the King's Household and all the regiments of France, as well as the flags, standards, and pennants, along with the dates of their creation and various illustrations of military drills for both the cavalry and the infantry, Paris, 8vo, 1772.- The King's Hundred Swiss Guards in 1481 (Plate No. 4) - tear in the lower right corner- Swiss Jenner in 1677 (Plate No. 79)The company of the King's Hundred Swiss Guards was established in 1481 by King Louis XI. Impressed by the military prowess and discipline of the Swiss infantrymen during the Burgundian Wars

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(notably at the Battles of Grandson and Morat in 1476), the king decided to permanently recruit a contingent for his personal protection. This decision marked the birth of the first permanent foreign military unit in the direct service of the French crownElite Recruitment: The company initially consisted of 100 soldiers rigorously selected from the Swiss cantons, primarily for their large stature and physical strength. Primary Mission: They formed the innermost circle of defense around the sovereign, providing the regular guard for the King, his family, and the royal apartments day and night. They also served as instructors for the French royal army. Original Armament: In 1481, these elite guards fought primarily with the halberd. Later, in response to technological advances in military technology, the corps incorporated pikemen and arquebusiers. Exclusive benefits: To secure their unwavering loyalty, Louis XI granted them, as early as 1481, significant tax privileges (tax exemptions) as well as the right to be tried by their own national courts. Visual identity: Their historic motto became "Ea est fiducia gentis" ("Such is the loyalty of this nation"), echoing their reputation for absolute loyalty, which would endure until the end of the French monarchy. The year 1677 marks the creation of the Regiment of Stuppa the Younger (January 28, 1677). This Swiss mercenary infantry regiment in the service of France during the Ancien Régime would change owners and names several times over the decades. In 1763, it was renamed the Jenner Regiment (under the command of another member of the famous Bernese family, Samuel Jenner, 1705-1779), before becoming the 76th Line Infantry Regiment in 1791Dimensions: 15.5 cm x 8.5 cm