

A visual tour of Parisian theatres at the beginning of the nineteenth century

DONNET (Alexis). *ARCHITECTONOGRAPHIE DES THEATRES DE PARIS mis en parallèle entr'eux. Recueillis et dessinés à une échelle commune par Alexis Donnet Ingr Géog. et Gravés par J. Orgiazzi, Graveur du Dépôt de la Guerre.*
Paris, Orgiazzi, s.d. [c. 1822].

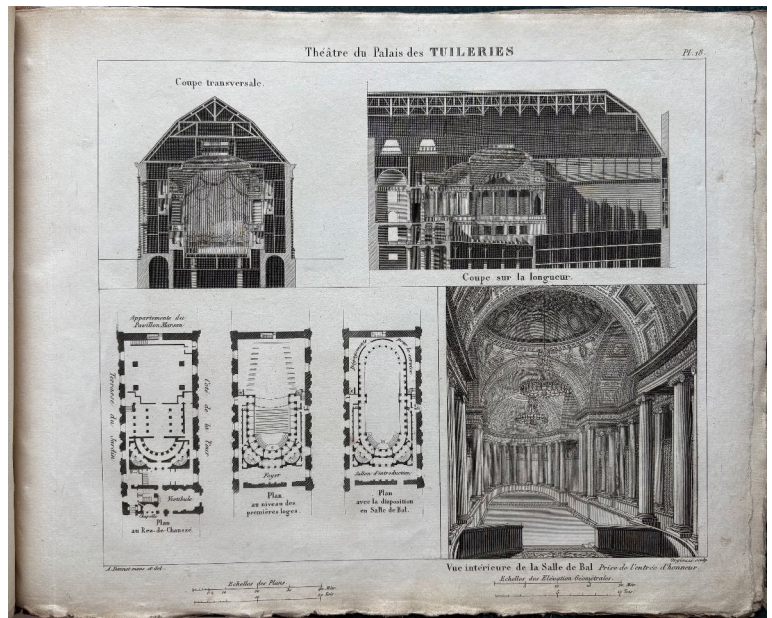
(22 x 27.5 cm). Oblong album only. 25 engraved and numbered plates, including the title. Contemporary smooth sheepskin spine decorated with gilt fillets and dotted interlacing, over paste paper boards, untrimmed, slightly rubbed spine. Plates in fine condition.

\$2,200



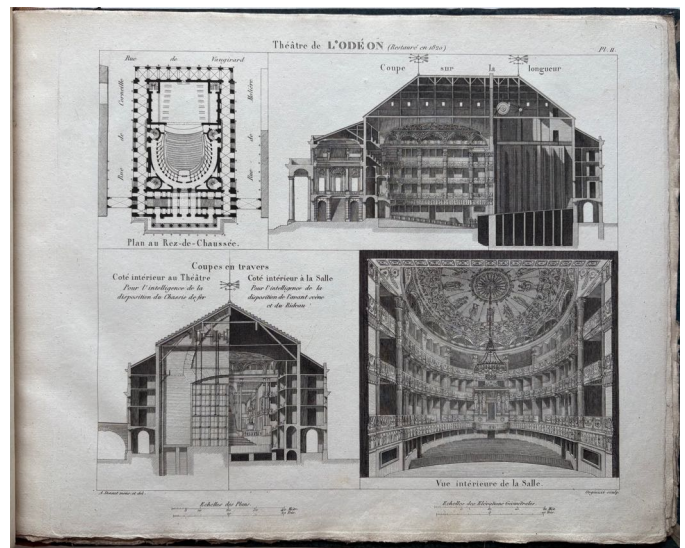
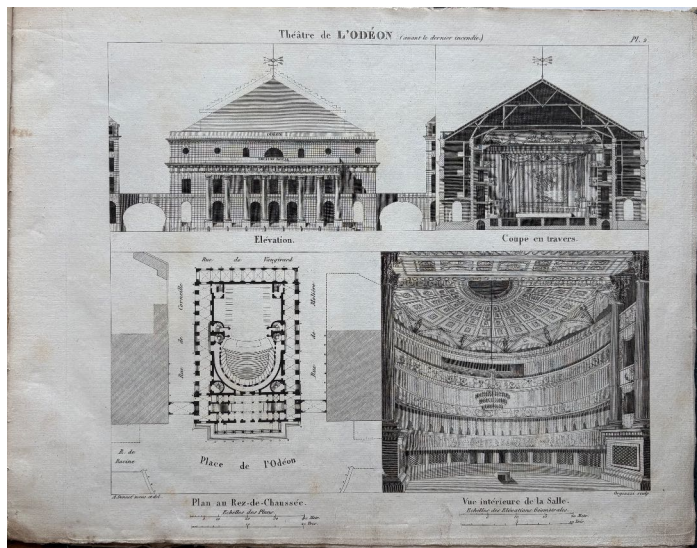
Exlibris stamp of the architect Antoine-Marie Chenavard (1787-1883), who renovated the Lyon Opera, Place de la Comédie, 1827-31—perhaps referring to this volume for inspiration.

Architectonographie des Théâtres de Paris is a foundational text in architectural history, offering a magnificent panorama of Parisian theaters at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It crucially provides the most comprehensive historical, critical, and technical documentation of 19th-century Parisian theaters, including rare insights into stage construction and configuration. The plates include two scales one, for the floor plans and the other for the interiors, and detailed elevations, transversal cuts, sectional-cuts, interior views, and precise floor plans that occasionally locate the theater's position with regards to the surrounding streets, constituting a **precious ensemble-portrait**: most of these buildings having been destroyed or extensively transformed.



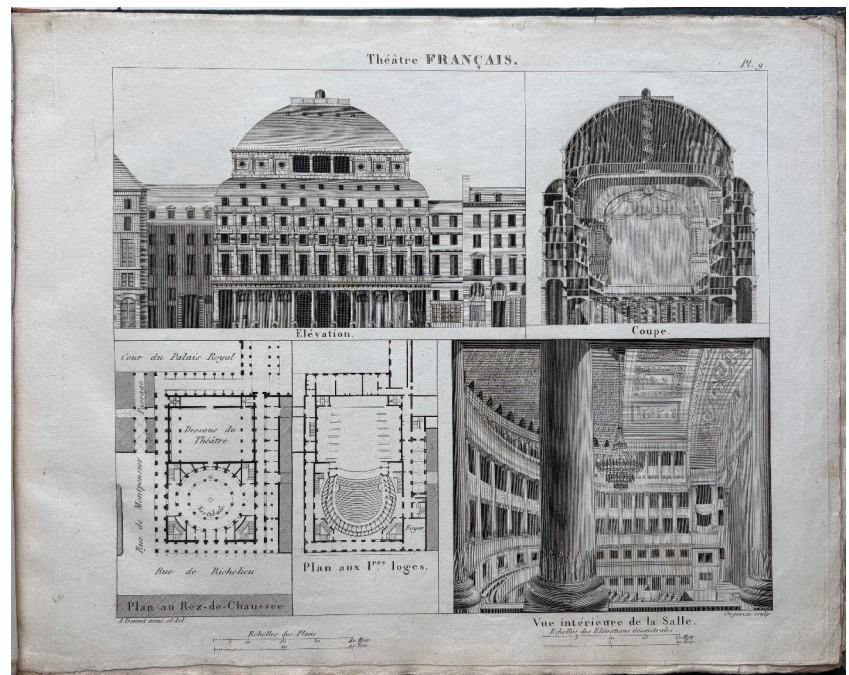
Above: the Théâtre de Palais des Tuileries, built in 1660 and the Comédie-Française notably premiered Beaumarchais's *The Barber of Seville* here, February 23, 1775. The theater was destroyed by fire during the Commune in 1871.

First edition. Atlas only, which is rare on the market and in libraries. The text volume is often found without the plates which were issued apart, some copies including a *Plan topographique de Paris* which is not present in this copy. The period covered by this album was a significant one for a growing theater culture in Paris. Not in Mareuse, Berlin 2817.



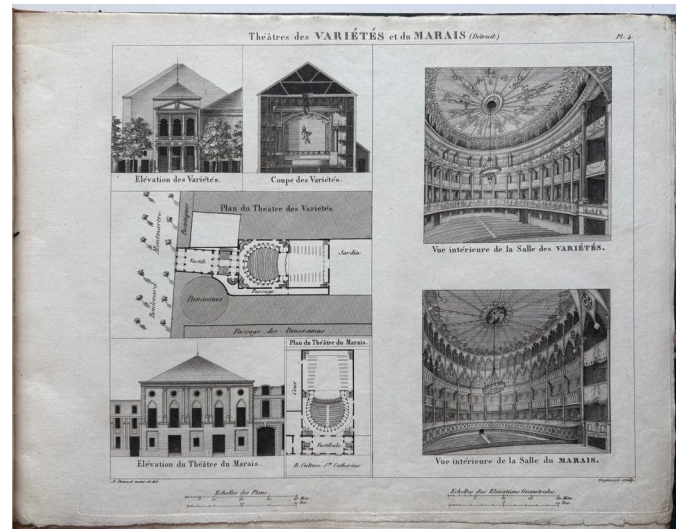
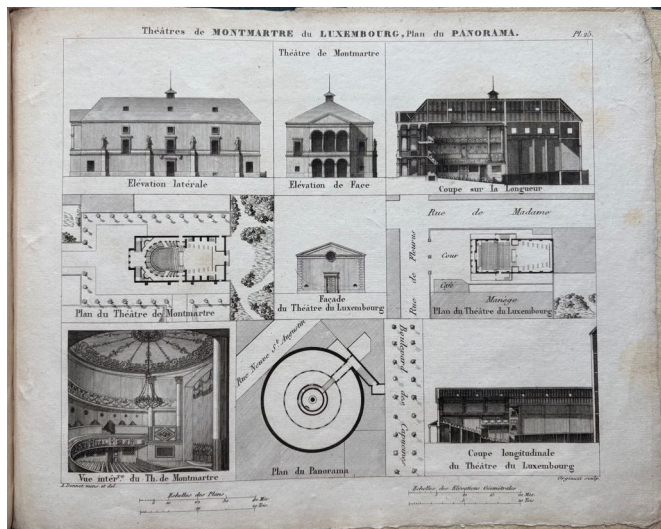
The Odéon Théâtre has two plates: *left*, before the fire in 1818, and *right*, after its restoration in 1820.

The Théâtre Français, built in 1680 and since 1799 the home of the Comédie-Française, is shown here prior to important renovations made under Napoléon III in the 1850s and the fire that undid the work in 1900. A second plate shows the Théâtre Français with the renovation made in 1822 (shown at the end). The theater's location, across the rue de Rivoli from the Louvre and integrated in the Palais Royal, gives it a central place in Parisian cultural and social life, where it remains today.



The theaters included here are as follows, after the engraved title page, numbered plate 1:

2) Théâtre de l'Odéon (avant le dernier incendie [1818]). 3) Théâtre Favart. 4) Théâtres des Variétés et du Marais (Détruit). 5) Théâtres de la Gaîté et des Jeunes Artistes (Détruit). 6) Théâtre du Gymnase Dramatique. 7) Théâtre Faydeau [sic]. 8) Théâtre de la Porte Saint-Martin. 9) Théâtre Français. 10) Théâtres de l'Ambigu Comique et de Molière (Fermé). 11) Théâtre de l'Odéon (Restauré en 1820). 12) Théâtres Louvois et du Vaudeville. 13) Théâtres des Arts, ancien Opéra (Détruit) et du Vaudeville. 14) Théâtre des Arts. 15) Cirques Olympiques. 16) Théâtre Olympique (Détruit). 17) Théâtres du Conservatoire et de la Cité (Détruit). 18) Théâtre du Palais des Tuileries. 19 and 20) Théâtre de l'Académie Royale de Musique (Opéra). 21) Théâtre Français (Restauré en 1822). 22) Théâtres du Panorama Dramatique et du Mont Parnasse. 23) Diorama et Wauxhall. 24) Théâtre des Élèves de l'Opéra (Détruit) Wauxhall, Panorama et Combat du Taureau. 25) Théâtres de Montmartre du Luxembourg, Plan du Panorama.



Alexis Donnet (1782-1867), was a French architect and cartographer. During the First Empire he was an Engineer-geographer attached to *Cadastré de la France*, i.e., the public records office for property records. In addition to this architectural study of Paris theaters, he also published cartographic work related to mineralogical and statistical and large format maps of France and Paris in the early 19th century.

Giovanni Giacomo Orgiazzi (1776-1839), was an engraver of the Dépôt Général de la Guerre, who engraved geographical, topographical and military maps for the French army under the First Empire and the Restoration. He is well known for the engravings in *Architectonographie des Théâtres de Paris*.

Below: the second plate of the Théâtre Français:

