



Christopher Clarke Antiques

Dealers in Campaign Furniture  
& Travel Items

## Camp Laundry & The Invitation, or Camp Politeness

Robert Sayer & Bennett

Sold



REF: 6646

Height: 42.5 cm (16.7")

Width: 32.5 cm (12.8")

## Description

These two prints are satirical mezzotints published by R. Sayer and J. Bennett of 53 Fleet Street, London in the early 1780's.

Sayers and Bennett produced a number of such satires in what were described as posture prints, a term used to describe portrait shaped prints of 14 by 10 inches which were a convenient size for a folio or album. In *Camp Laundry* an Officer stands on a riverbank watching two women washing and hanging the camp laundry. One looks up to him, perhaps suggesting that she may offer other services. In *The Invitation or Camp Politeness* we see two Officers cajoling a well dressed lady into their tent. Both prints give a good insight into camp life and the distractions that a soldier may seek.

Camp followers were an important part of the movement of an army, taking care of the domestic needs of the soldiers. *The Invitation* also gives a view of an Officer's tent and we can quite clearly see a tripod table with a teapot and china, a folding chair and an upholstered sofa making the interior appear very comfortable. Sayer and Bennett produced a number of satires showing camp life and other titles include *The Military Man Trap* which showed a woman of ill repute reclining on a sofa in a tent and *The Charms of a Redcoat* which shows a young lady on horseback flirting with a soldier in an encampment. Several museums, including the Metropolitan and the British Museum have these prints in their collections and it is known that *The Camp Laundry* was also produced as a glass picture. The *Camp Laundry* published as the Act directs 14 Febr 1782.

Framed size is given