

# Le Vaillant and the King's Map

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# Some warnings!

- Not collectables
- Military archive
- French, Dutch and British at the Cape
- Military and diplomatic records



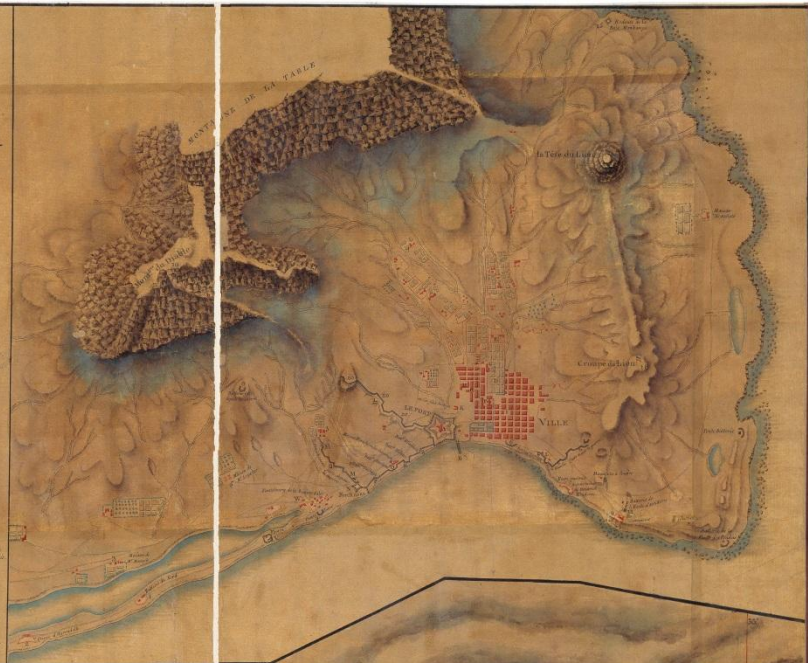
# How sensitive was the information?

- Collaboration between the Dutch and French
- Role of Col Robert Gordon
- Dan Sleight's suspicions



Légende

- [illegible]

[illegible]

# Artistic and sociological interest

- Compared to Dutch and British art of the Cape?
- Sociological and historical interest





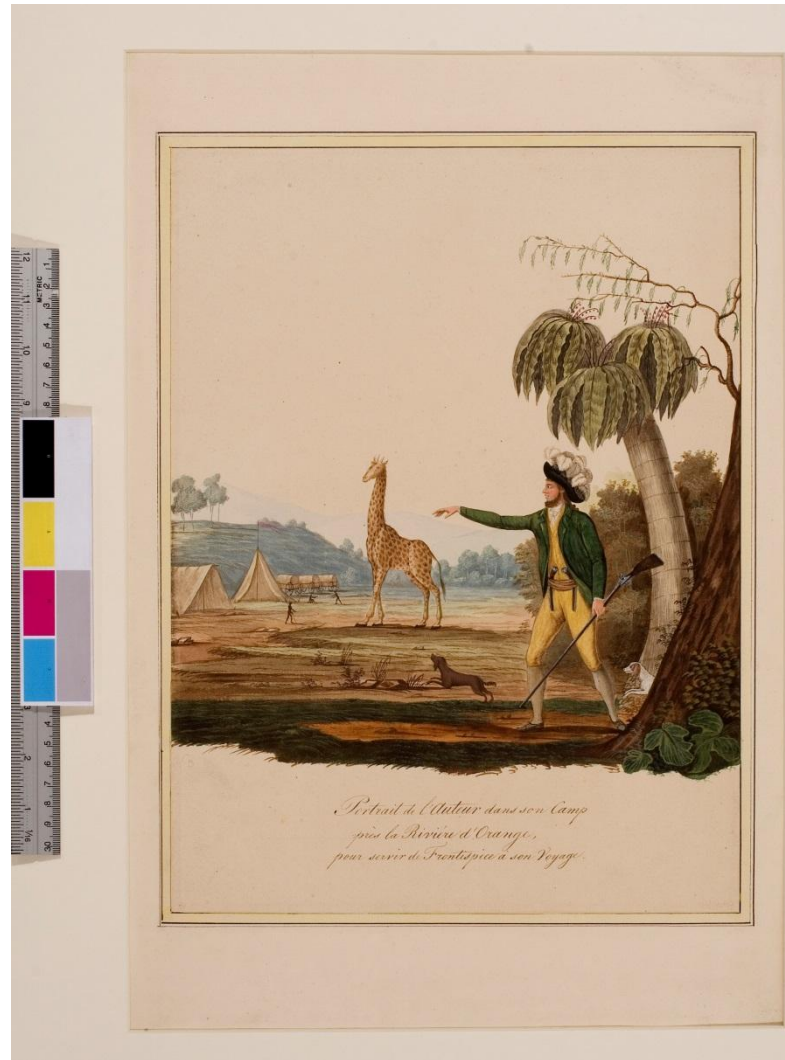








# Le Vaillant



# The sensation of the text

- Translated across Europe
- Best seller
- 1789/90 publication
- Warm response from King and Revolutionary Parliament alike
- Review in the Journal des Scavans complains that there is no map



# De Laborde and the royal court

- All round genius of the age: music theorist, translator, map-maker
- Had produced educational maps for the Dauphin
- His wife a reader for Marie-Antoinette

# Look at the map in detail: I

- Map of his travels marked in red
- Reminder of major features of his books
- Map of animal distribution
- Innovative in botanical illustration

# Look at the map in detail: II

- Why so large and how Louis XVI would have viewed it
- Louis XVI and travel
- Papillons or butterflies inserted afterwards
- Produced on cloth, not silk
- Top artists and geographers of the day involved
- Inaccuracies!

# The map and how it survived

- Why is Le Vaillant in the military map section?
- Best map of its time?
- Laborde executed during the Revolution
- To preserve the map?
- Le Vaillant never wrote about the map directly
- During World War I and II
- Exhibition in 2013/14 in Cape Town first showing for 222 years



