

# December 1, 2010 Frame Posting

## *French Matting*

*Early European artists printed engravings on paper and would then hand embellish the same paper with ink lines and watercolor panels. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century matting was created and the lines and panels moved onto the mat surface, this design element is called French matting. French lines are drawn by hand using a straight edge and a ruling pen with either watercolors or inks. Panels are made with papers, pastels or watercolors.*



Small decorations within the lines repeat the details in both the frame and Moroccan map.

Multiple watercolor lines and a pastel panel join the photo and Mexican document as one.



The little basket vendor print has a lot of color. Several different colored lines were drawn, with the spacing between the lines getting wider towards the frame, helping to draw the eye back to the basket vendor.

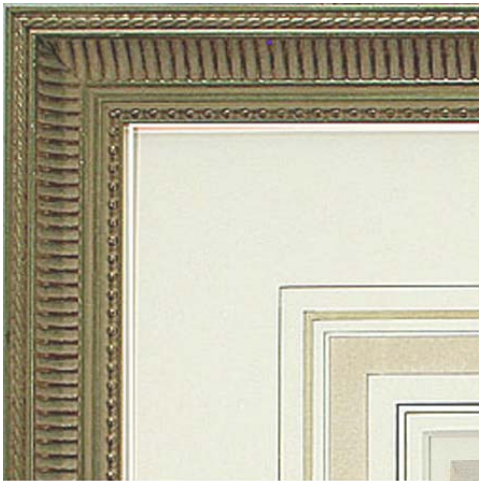
The dot detail and the multiple colored lines become part of the art. The two outside lines stop the eye, causing the viewer to return to the art.







Singular gold and black lines give a soft, elegant look to this delicate etching.



The degree of detail and complexity of the artwork dictates the number and thickness of the lines and panels.



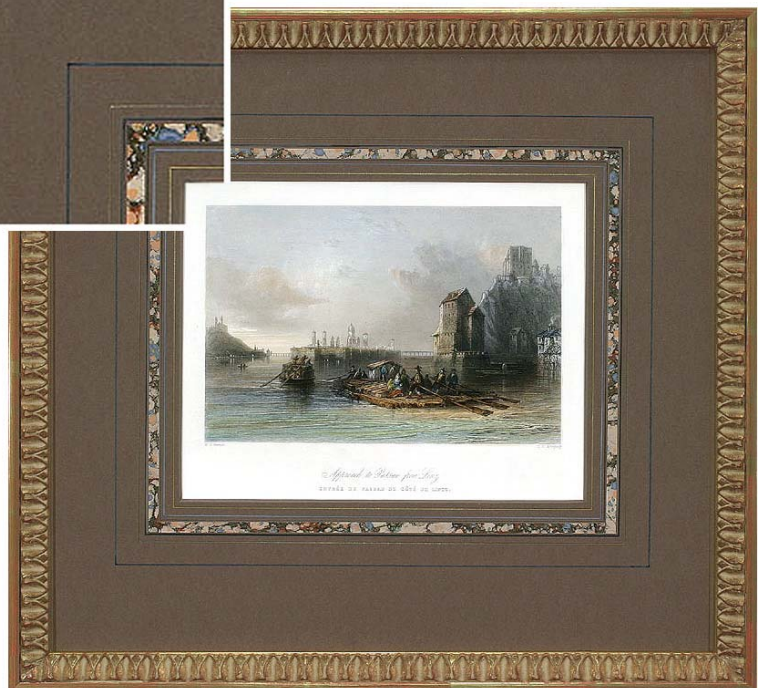


Strong etchings can handle strong French matting designs. Two marbled papers blend the many grays and browns

in this etching. The pop of a turquoise line between the papers helps to draw your eye to the headdress of the oxen.



Small, marbled paper widths enhance delicate etchings.





Classic, period style framing of botanicals can be very dramatic. The bottom green mat has its own marbled paper and gold lines. A gold fillet separates it from the beige top mat. Additional marbled paper, gold lines, and a gold frame finish this traditional botanical.

Maps are another classic use of French matting. Lines of varying thickness and a strong marbled paper accent and enhance the many detail and colors of the map.

