Road Map Britannia No 15 London to St Davids John Ogilby Brown Gilt Frame

£1,800

John Ogilby

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REF: 11820

Height: 56 cm (22")

Width: 66.5 cm (26.2")

Depth: 1.5 cm (0.6")

Description

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The continuation of the road from London to St Davids, commencing at Abingdon Com Berks and extending to Monmouth By John Ogilby Esq, His Majesties Cosmographer. From Abingdon to Farringdon, toLechlade, to Fairford, to Barnsley to Gloucester showing Monmouth as the destination. A road map fromBritannia, 1675/6. No 15.

Hand coloured and floated on a cream mount within a brown painted and gilded ogee frame. Some foxing and creasing, uneven edge of sheet, all commensurate with age

Provenance : purchased as pair from a collector with no 25 London to Lands End. Framed as a pair.

Sheet width 46.5cm., 18 ¼ "., height 37.5cm., 14 ¾ "

Frame width 66.5cm., 26"., height 56cm., 22 "

In a remarkable life John Ogilby pursued, several careers, each ending in misfortune, and yet he always emerged undeterred, to carry on. His modern reputation is based on his final career, started in his sixty-sixth year, as a publisher of maps and geographical accounts.

Ogilby was born outside Dundee, in 1600, the son of a Scottish gentleman. While he was still a child, the family moved to London. When the elder Ogilby was imprisoned for debt, the young John invested his savings in a lottery, won a minor prize, and settled his father's debts. Unfortunately, not enough money was left to secure John a good apprenticeship; instead, he was apprenticed to a dance master. Ogilby was soon dancing in masques at court but, one day, while executing a particularly ambitious leap, he landed badly. The accident left him with a permanent limp, and ended his dancing career. However, he had come to the attention of Thomas Wentworth, later Earl of Strafford, Charles I's most senior minister. Ever one to exploit his contacts, Ogilby became a dance instructor in Strafford's household.

When Strafford was sent to Ireland, Ogilby accompanied him as Deputy-Master of the Kings Revels, and then Master of Revels. In Dublin, he built the New Theatre, in St. Werburgh Street, which prospered at first, but the Irish Rebellion, in 1641, cost Ogilby his fortune, which he estimated at £2,000, and almost his life. After brief service as a soldier, he returned to England, survived shipwreck on the way, and arrived back penniless.

On his return, Ogilby turned his attention to the Latin classics, as a translator and publisher. His firstfaltering attempt, in 1649, was a translation of the works of Virgil, but after his marriage to a wealthy widowthe same year, his publishing activities received a considerable boost. One means by which Ogilbyfinanced these volumes was by subscription, securing advance payments from his patrons, in return forincluding their name and coats-of-arms on the plates of illustrations. Another approach was to secure apatron, preferably in the court circle. Ogilby's first patron was Strafford, who found out too late that allleading ministers are dispensable when Charles I assented to his execution in 1641. As he re-establishedhimself, Ogilby sought a new patron, the King himself.

In 1661, Ogilby was approached to write poetry for Charles II's coronation procession; he later published 'The Relation of His Majesties Entertainment Passing Through the City of Lond...

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