Road Map Britannia No 25 London to the Lands End, John Ogilby Brown Gilded Frame

John Ogilby

£1,800

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REF: 11821

Height: 56 cm (22")

Width: 66.5 cm (26.2")

Depth: 1.5 cm (0.6")

Description

The road from London to the lands end. Commencing at the Standard in Cornhill and extending to Senan in Cornwall. By John Ogilby His Majesties Cosmographer. A road map from Britannia, 1675/6. No 25.

Continuing 308 miles, 3 furlongs.

London Southwark to Brentford, to Hampton Court, to Hounslow, to Windsor, to Cobham, to Farnham, to Basingstoke to Winchester

The handcoloured sheet free floated. In a brown painted and gilded, ogee moulded frame. Some foxing and creasing, uneven edge of sheet, all commensurate with age

Provenance : purchased as pair from a collector with no 15 London to St David's. Framed as a pair.

Sheet width 48cm., 19 "., height 38cm., 15 "

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 i

Black Linear Border around Map Length 44cm., 17 1/8" Height 32cm., 12 1/2" Full Sheet Length 58cm., 22 3/4" Height 38cm., 15" Frame Length 66cm., 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 first faltering attempt, in 1649, was a translation of the works of Virgil, but after his marriage to a wealthy widow

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the same year, his publishing activities received a considerable boost. One means by which Ogilby financed these volumes was by subscription, securing advance payments from his patrons, in return for including their name and coats-of-arms on the plates of illustrations. Another approach was to secure a patron, p...

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