Road Map, John Ogilby, No 54, London, Yarmouth, Britannia

John Ogilby

£1,800

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REF: 11818

Height: 38 cm (15")

Width: 50 cm (19.7")

Depth: 1.5 cm (0.6")

Description

The Road from London to Yarmouth com. Norfolk. By John Ogilby, His Majesties Cosmographer. Containing 122 miles, 5 furlongs. No 54.

From Standard in Cornhil London to Colchester. In Harwich Road thence to Stratford, to Ipswich, to Woodbridge, to Saxmundham, to Blyborough, to Beccles, to Hadseo to Yarmouth.

Hand colored and floated in the original black and gold frame, circa 1961. Some creasing commensurate with age.

Provenance : Private Collection, acquired circa 1961, along with No 74 Ipswich to Norwich & No 75 Kings Lyn to Harwich. All in the original black and gold frames.

Measures: Sheet width 45 cm, 17 ¾", height 34.5 cm, 13 ½ "

Frame width 50 cm 19 ½ ", height 38 cm, 15"

Literature: 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 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, preferably in the court circle. Ogilby's first patron was Strafford, who found out too late that all leading ministers are dispensable when Charles I assented to his execution in 1641. As he re-established himself, Ogilby sought a new patron, the King himself.

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In 1661, Ogilby was approached to write poetry for Charles II's coronation procession; he later published 'The Relation of His Majesties Entertainm...

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