

Hand-coloured engraved map, on four sheets joined and mounted on linen, some minor areas of loss to margins skilfully repaired in facsimile.

AINSLIE’S RARE LARGE-SCALE MAP OF ANGUS

Map of the County of Forfar or Shire of Angus From an Actual Survey by John Ainslie Landsurveyor & Engraver No.8 Hanover Street Edinr. To the Nobility and Gentry of the County of Forfar. This Map is most humbly inscribed by their most obedient Servt. John Ainslie.

Author
AINSLIE, John

Publication date
August 20th, 1794.

Publisher
Published as the Act directs, Sold by Mrs Ainslie, No.11 Rose Street Newton, & Mr Faden Geographer to the King Corner of St. Martins Lane,

Publication place
Edinburgh & London,

Physical description
Hand-coloured engraved map, on four sheets joined and mounted on linen, some minor areas of loss to margins skilfully repaired in facsimile.

Dimensions
1180 by 1040mm (46.5 by 41 inches).

Notes
John Ainslie (1745-1828) was, without doubt, the outstanding Scottish cartographer of his generation, producing a vast range of town plans, estate surveys and county and national maps and charts in a very prolific career. He is best remembered for his nine-sheet map of Scotland and his travelling map of Scotland, however, he also surveyed numerous Scottish counties including Selkirk, Fife and Kinross, and Wigton. In 1812, he produced a comprehensive treatise on land surveying based on his practical experience.

The present map of Forfar was drawn and engraved by Ainslie, upon a scale of one inch to one mile. To the upper left of the map is a table giving details of the distances of the principal towns in the county, the number of inhabitants in each parish, and an advertisement for his other large-scale maps. The map itself is superbly detailed and shows borough towns, parish towns, seats and noted houses, farms and cottages, open roads, inclosed roads, rivers, burns, hills, woods, and turnpike roads. Below the map is a short text giving information upon a proposed canal from Arbroath (Aberbrothock) to Forfar. The surveying was undertaken by Robert Whitworth in 1788, who estimated the cost of the canal to be £17,778. The survey was review but Robert Stevenson in 1818, and eventually rejected in 1825 in favour of the construction of a railway line.

Rare we are only able to trace three institutional examples: the National Library of Scotland, Glasgow University, and the National Library of Spain.

Scale one inch to one statute mile.

Bibliography
NLS EMS.s.356.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 2559

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