

Large scale engraved map, on 12 sheets, mounted on linen, fine original hand colour, inset plans of the Plymouth, Plymouth docks, Exeter, and Lundy Island, margins to a few sheets with loss, minor tear to inset of Lundy.

DEVON – BENJAMIN DONN'S PRIZE-WINNING MAP OF DEVON

A Map of the County of Devon, with the City & County of Exeter. Delineated from an actual Survey by Benjamin Donn. To John Baring of Mount-Radford, & to Matthew Lee, of Ebford near Exeter Esq[ui]rs. This Map, as a grateful acknowledgement of the great and generous Assistance which they have given hereto, Is humbly Inscribed, By their most obedient Serv[an]t Benjamin Donn.

Author
DONN, Benjamin [engraved by] JEFFERYS, Tho[ma]s

Publication date
January 1st, 1765.

Publisher
Entered in the Hall Book of the Company of Stationers, and Published according to Act of Parliament,

Publication place
[London],

Physical description
Large scale engraved map, on 12 sheets, mounted on linen, fine original hand colour, inset plans of the Plymouth, Plymouth docks, Exeter, and Lundy Island, margins to a few sheets with loss, minor tear to inset of Lundy.

Dimensions
1830 by 1890mm. (72 by 74.5 inches).

Notes
The first county to be mapped on a scale of one inch to the mile.

The best known of all large-scale county surveys due to the 100 guineas award from the Royal Society of Arts; the first map to receive the award that was conceived by the society in 1762, i.e. the first county to be mapped upon a scale of 1 inch to the mile. Donn's map was the model of its kind, the result of a five year survey during which he claimed to have actually measured over 6000 miles of roads rivers together with the angles of towers and hills. Detail includes towns, churches, villages, seats and noted houses, parks, farms and cottages, copper and tin mines, Roman and Danish forts and escarpments, turnpikes, fenced and unfenced roads and the distance between towns.

Benjamin Donn was a teacher of mathematics and in his preface to the map he acknowledges the use of trigonometry and astronomy in his survey. His large-scale map of Devon was sold for one and half guineas uncoloured with an extra five shillings for it to be coloured. It was also bound as an atlas with a title page and list of subscribers for two guineas.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 1206

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