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OXFORD FROM ABOVE EXTRA-ILLUSTRATED WITH RICHARD RALLINGSON'S 'ICHTNOGRAPHIA OXONIAE', 1648 PLAN OF THE DEFENCES OF OXFORD DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Oxonia Illustrata

Author

LOGGAN, David

Publication date

1675.

Publisher

E Theatro Sheldoniano,

Publication place

Oxoniae,

Physical description

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Dimensions

Notes

First edition of Loggan's work with views of Oxford and the University.

The first illustrated book on Oxford and one of the major works of the seventeenth century, the product of several years devoted and conscientious effort in which Loggan was assisted by his pupil Robert White.

David Loggan (1634-1692) was originally of Anglo-Scottish heritage, but lived in Gdansk for the first two decades of his life. He trained there under Willem Hondius and under Crispijn van de Passe in Amsterdam. He moved to England around 1657. By 1665 he was living in Nuffield near Oxford and in 1669 was appointed engraver to the University. He sold a printing press to the university, and was also commissioned to produce title pages and plates for books produced by the tutors, as well as a book on academic robes. In 1675 he got married and became a naturalised Englishman.

His *Oxonia Illustrata* was intended as a companion work to *Historia Antiquitates Universitatis Oxoniensis* by Anthony Wood with whom Loggan had become acquainted some years earlier. The list of plates in the *Index Tabularum* in the *Illustrata* shows page references for binding into Wood's volumes and the work is sometimes found in this state. Apart from the first depictions of the colleges and halls there are fine views of the major buildings including the Bodleian Library and the Sheldonian Theatre, and a spectacular folding view of Christ Church on two copper-plates. The latter often results in the two parts not matching in either register or depth of impression - in this instance it is a perfect impression of the plate. There is also a double-prospect of the city (two of the earliest views of Oxford), a plate of the costume of the University and a superbly engraved plan of the city containing an extraordinary amount of accurate detail and with a numbered key to the colleges, churches, and major buildings.

Bibliography

Brunet III 1145; Wing L-2837; Clary 147; Cordeaux & Merry (Univ.) 284.

Provenance

Provenance:

1. Inscribed by John Fitzwilliam in iron gall ink to front free endpaper.

The inscription is probably that of John Fitzwilliam (d1699). Fitzwilliam was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he entered as a servitor in 1651, and was elected to a demyship in the same year. At the Restoration, according to Anthony à Wood, 'he turned about and became a great

complier to the restored liturgy.' In 1661 he was elected fellow of Magdalen, and held his fellowship until 1670. He was made librarian of the college in 1662, being at the same time university lecturer on music. In 1666 he was recommended as chaplain to the Duke of York, and, afterwards, James II, to whose daughter, the Princess Anne, he became tutor.

Price: £27500

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