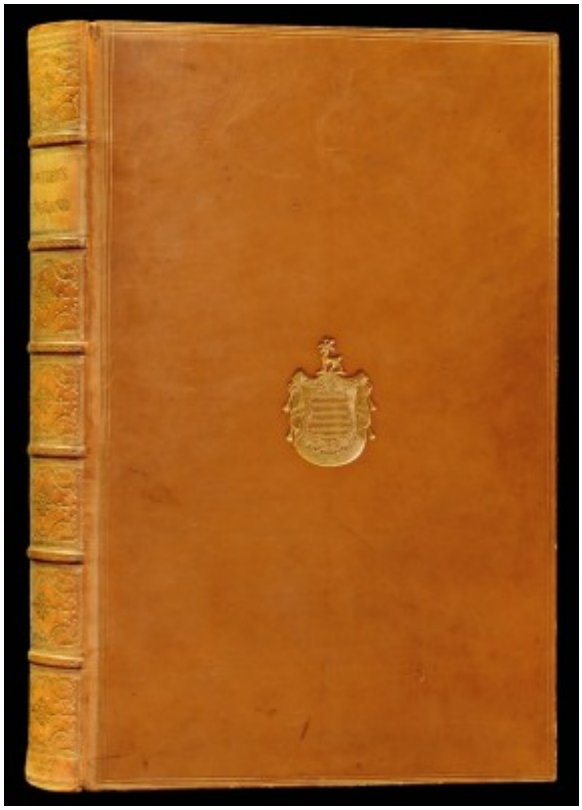


First edition. Folio (412 by 265mm). Engraved frontispiece by Wenceslaus Hollar, Letterpress title, 3 page dedication to Charles II, 5 page Preface, 3 page List of Post Roads, 8 page Introduction to the City of London, 4 page catalogue of the roads, folding general map of the British Isles, and 100 double-page engraved maps showing the roads of England and Wales, 200pp text, 4 page Index table at end, nineteenth-century polished calf gilt with the Botfield arms, spines panelled in gilt, morocco lettering-pieces, speckled edges.

THE FIRST ROAD ATLAS

Britannia, Volume the First. or, an Illustration of the Kingdom of England and Dominion of Wales: By a Geographical and Historical Description of the Principal Roads thereof.

Author
OGILBY, John.

Publication date
1675

Publisher
Printed by the Author at his House in White-Fryers.

Publication place
London,

Physical description
First edition. Folio (412 by 265mm). Engraved frontispiece by Wenceslaus Hollar, Letterpress title, 3 page dedication to Charles II, 5 page Preface, 3 page List of Post Roads, 8 page Introduction to the City of London, 4 page catalogue of the roads, folding general map of the British Isles, and 100 double-page engraved maps showing the roads of England and Wales, 200pp text, 4 page Index table at end, nineteenth-century polished calf gilt with the Botfield arms, spines panelled in gilt, morocco

lettering-pieces, speckled edges.

Dimensions

Notes
A fine, tall example of the first edition of Ogilby's famous road book; the first national road-atlas of any country and a landmark in the mapping of England and Wales.

Ogilby's work was composed of maps of seventy-three major roads and cross-roads, presented in a continuous strip form, not unlike a modern satellite navigation system. For the first time in England, and atlas was prepared on a uniform scale, at one inch to a mile, based on the statute mile of 1760 yards to the mile. Ogilby claimed that 26,600 miles of roads were surveyed in the course of preparing the atlas, but only about 7,500 were actually depicted in print.

"In its comprehensiveness, its incorporation of new devices of computation and delineation, and its opulence of paper, design and decoration, it immediately set a new standard for mapmaking in England… this volume was an attempt at a scientific study not only of the roads, but also the terrain and habitations on either side of the roads." (K.S. Eerde, 'John Ogilby and the Taste of his Times', 1976, p.137.

ESTC identifies two issues of the first edition, one with 34, and the other, like the present example, with 28 preliminary pages, omitting the dedication to Archbishop Gilbert.

Bibliography
Chubb C; Lowndes 1719; Wing 0-168.

Provenance
Provenance: from the library of Beriah Botfield (d.1863)

Beriah Botfield was a British member of Parliament representing Ludlow in Shropshire. An book collector in the mould of the third Duke of Roxburghe, the second Earl Spencer, and especially his contemporary, the sixth Duke of Devonshire, Botfield went as far as to set up a private printing press in his home. The books were collected at Norton Hall, Northamptonshire, and were moved to the family seat of Longleat in the middle of the twentieth century.

Price:

Inventory reference: 2591

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