Large engraved map with fine original handcolour, dissected and mounted on linen, housed within original calf slipcase, defective.

ROCQUE'S FINE SEPARATELY ISSUED MAP OF MIDDLESEX

A Topographical Map of the County of Middlesex.

Author
ROCQUE, John

Publication date
1754.

Publisher

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Large engraved map with fine original handcolour, dissected and mounted on linen, housed within original calf slipcase, defective.

Dimensions
975 by 1410mm. (38.5 by 55.5 inches).

Notes
Rocque's finely engraved map of Middlesex.

The map extends from Staines in the west to Leytonstone and from Harefield in the north to Kingston-upon-Thames in the south. To the upper centre is a fine title cartouche with depictions of a

Georgian surveyor holding a waywiser, and a putti using a plane. The text to the upper right gives details on the extent of the county, together with the extent of London, which is said to be 6 and a half miles in length, 2 and a half in breadth, has a circumference of 8 and a half miles or 5455 acres.

It would appear that John Rocque, a French Huguenot, emigrated with the rest of his family to London in the 1730s, where he began to ply his trade as a surveyor of gentleman's estates, and with plans of Kensington Gardens, and Hampton Court. However, in 1737 he applied his surveying skills to a much greater task, that of surveying the entire built-up area of London – a survey that would make his name. Begun in March of 1737, the map would take nine years to produce, eventually being engraved upon 24 sheets of copper and published in 1746.

Bibliography

BL Cartographic Items Maps 3455 (1).

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 13037

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