

Engraved map.

THE RIVER COLNE

A Plann of the Design for makeing the Rivr. Coln from Watford in Com Hertford Navigable Cut from ye Cowly-Stream, below ye Town of Uxbridge; for ye better Supplying ye Cities of Londn. & Westminster w.th water w[hi]ch tis propos's shall be likewise made Navigable to some Convenient place in, or near, Cavendish Square, in ye Parish of Mary le Bone.

Author
ACHERLEY, Thomas

Publication date
c1723.

Publisher
Thomas Acherley

Publication place
London

Physical description
Engraved map.

Dimensions
529 by 485mm. (20.75 by 19 inches).

Notes
This is the largest of the various maps associated with the various proposals for the River Colne Navigation. The map was first published as a single-sheet (with a different title) and then

subsequently revised and updated reflecting the ebb and flow of the successive proposals, objections and counter-proposals placed before Parliament and the public between 1719 and 1723. This is the third identified state of the map, now on two sheets, with the new title as above.

In the text, ‘An Explanation of the Plan….’, Acherley gives a relatively detailed discussion of his own proposals, clearly directed towards a knowledgeable reader, presumably therefore to be distributed as part of his application to Parliament. However, he was also unable to resist a criticism of the rival scheme (and its proposer):
“Note Mr. Blackmore finding his former attempts impracticable has at last thought fitt to Pirate upon this our design, which before he so much Exploded__ [rule] Note also Mr Blackmore conspicuous of his [erasure] Ill concerned Schemes, has more then once sent persons to Mr. Osmond, to Importune him to lay aside this design, and come into some measurs in concert w.th himself, w[hi]ch Mr. Osmond, could not in honour & justice agree to.”

In this state, the existing ‘The new intended River’ from ‘The Old Cut’ west of Hounslow to the reservoir below ‘Marybone Church’ has been completely erased and ‘The new intended River’ inserted, extending from ‘Cowley Stream’ to a reservoir below ‘Marybone Church’.

Within London there are many new names, ‘The L[or]d. May[o]rs. Banqueting House’, ‘Tottenham Court’, ‘Knight-bridge’, ‘Wasborne green’, ‘Noding hill’, ‘Sheparrds Bush’, moving to the west; the place names north-east of London are new, including ‘Pancras’, ‘Kentish Town’, ‘Bellsize’, ‘Islington’, ‘Hanstead’, Wilsdon’ and ‘Wilsdon Green’.

Bibliography
Hanson, Contemporary Printed Sources for British and Irish Economic History, 3548; Kress, Kress Library of Business and Economics. Catalogue Supplement, 1628; BL, Maps 181.a.2. II.(138); BL, Maps 181.a.2. II.(169); BL, Maps Crace Port. 18.59.(1.): all mounted on a BM/BL backing obscuring the printed title on the verso.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 11342

© Daniel Crouch Rare Books Ltd | 2025