



Early map of the roads from Towcester to Lichfield

OGILBY, John.

The continuation of the Road from London to Holy Head...

London, c.1675. Coloured. 330 x 445mm.

£230

The second of four sheets covering the route from London to Holyhead on Anglesey, showing from Towcester in Northamptonshire to Lichfield in Staffordshire, via Daventry & Coventry. Plate 22 from Ogilby's 'Britannia', the first national road-atlas of any country in Western Europe. It was composed of maps of seventy-three major roads and cross-roads, presented as trompe-l'oeil scrolls, each with a decorative title cartouche. It was the first English atlas on a uniform scale, at one inch to a mile, and the 'mile' Ogilby used became the national standard, the statute mile of 1,760 yards. Ogilby claimed that 26,600 miles of roads were surveyed in the course of preparing the atlas, on foot using the surveyor's wheel depicted in the cartouche, but only about 7,500 were actually depicted in print. It was only after the 'Britannia' that roads started being shown on county maps.

Second state, with plate number bottom right.

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