



An uncommon issue of Speed's map of Warwickshire

SPEED, John.

The Countie of Warwick, The Shire Towne and Cite of Coventre described.

London: Roger Rea, 1665. Coloured. 390 x 510mm.

£750

An important map of Warwickshire, engraved by Jodocus Hondius in 1610 and published in John Speed's 'Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain', first published 1611-12. It is decorated with two town plans, Warwick & Coventry, strapwork cartouches for the title and panel of the arms of nine nobles, the Bear & Ragged Staff emblem of the Dukes of Warick, and a vignette battle scene. The English text on the reverse gives a brief history and a gazetteer. This example comes from the Roger Rea issue, which was beset with disaster: according to an advert for the 1676 Bassett & Chiswell edition, "the greatest part of an Impression, then newly Printed, [was] destroyed by the late dreadful Fire, 1666". Surviving examples of any Rea map are thus rare.

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