



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster and Borough of Southwark; with the Contiguous Buildings; From an actual Survey, taken by John Rocque, Land-Surveyor, and Engraved by John Pine, _ Bluemantle Pursuivant at Arms, and Chief Engraver of Seals, &c. To His Majesty.

Stock#: 104256
Map Maker: Pine / Rocque
Date: 1746
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 150 x 80 inches (if joined)
Price: SOLD



Description:

A Fantastic Impression of the First State of the Grandest of All London Maps

John Rocque's 1746 *Map of London, Westminster, and Southwark*, commonly referred to as the 24-sheet map, represents a monumental achievement in the field of cartography. This mammoth plan, officially titled *A Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster, and Borough of Southwark*, is an intricately detailed depiction of Georgian London. It was conceived as a response to the city's rapid expansion since the last significant map by John Ogilby and William Morgan, published in 1676, following the Great Fire of London. The map was surveyed by Rocque himself and engraved by John Pine, measuring a substantial 12.6 by 6.6 feet. The creation of this masterpiece took almost a decade and is lauded as 'a magnificent example of cartography' and 'one of the greatest and most handsome plans of any city.'

The coverage of Rocque's map is both expansive and meticulous, extending from Knightsbridge and the Serpentine in the west to just shy of Canary Wharf in the east. This range encapsulates the very heart of London, taking in the bustle of the City and the elegance of the West End. In the south, the map reaches down to Elephant and Castle, including what are today the vibrant, multicultural communities of South London. To the north, the map stretches up to the districts of Marylebone and Clerkenwell, taking in the grand townhouses, tranquil garden squares, and the burgeoning commercial and industrial establishments of the time. This geographical span underscores the map's value as a comprehensive representation of mid-eighteenth-century London, showcasing both the wealth and breadth of the city's urban landscape.

Surveying the Map

Drawer Ref:

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Rocque's method of surveying for this map combined two techniques: ground-level surveying with a compass and metal chain for measuring lengths, and triangulation via readings from prominent high points, such as church towers, using a telescopic-sighted theodolite made by Jonathan Sisson. This approach required careful reconciliation between the two techniques, as there were discrepancies between the more accurate triangulation and the initial ground surveys.

Detailed Condition:

Engraving on 24 sheets of mid-18th-century laid paper, joined as four columns (each 2x3 sheets). Minor expert restoration in the vicinity of St. Johns Church Yard and that part of the Thames. Each column backed with thin archival tissue to add to the stability and durability of the map, as opposed to correcting for any major damage.