



A scarce issue of John Speed's famous map of Yorkshire

SPEED, John.  
 York Shire.

London: Roger Rea and Son, 1665. Coloured. 390 x 515mm.

£850

An important map of Yorkshire, engraved by Jodocus Hondius for John Speed's county atlas, 'The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain', first published 1611-12. It is one of the most decorative maps of the county, with ornate cartouches for the title, scale and publication line, the Royal Arms, a compass rose and vignette galleon. An English text on the reverse gives a history of the county and an extensive list of towns and villages. This example comes from the Roger Rea issue of the atlas, 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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