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## HOLLAR'S 'BEFORE AND AFTER' VIEWS OF THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

**£6,500.00**

A True and Exact Prospect of the Famous City of London, from S. Marie Overs Steeple in Southwarke in its Flourishing Condition before the Fire. designed by W.m Hollar of Prague, Boh.cn. Another Prospect of the Sayd City from the Same Place as it Appeareth now after the Sad Calamitie and Destruction by Fire. In the Year M.DC.LXVI. Wenceslaus Hollar delin: et sculp: 1666. Cum Privelegio.

<b>Cartographer</b>	HOLLAR, Wenceslaus.
<b>Date</b>	1669
<b>Stock #:</b>	25193
<b>Publication:</b>	London: John Overton, c.1670. Etching on two sheets conjoined, total 225 x 680mm.
<b>Condition:</b>	Trimmed within plate, paper toned.

### DESCRIPTION:

A rare London panorama, showing two prospects on one sheet: London before and after the Great Fire of 1666. Drawn and etched by Hollar immediately after the event. Many of the famous buildings are still standing, including the stone walls of the Norman St Paul's Cathedral, but are only shells. London Bridge has one end burned, the rest saved by an open space that acted as a firebreak.

Hollar, a Bohemian, is renowned for the quality of his etching. Born in 1607 he was brought to England in 1637 by the Earl of Arundel, a well-known connoisseur, and started working with Stent that year, engraving a view of Greenwich nearly a yard long. This began what has been described as his 'slavery to the publishers'.

During the English Civil War his Royalist sympathies forced him to flee to Antwerp, where he completed his most famous work, the 'Long View' of London. After his return in 1652 he worked for many of the most famous names in London publishing, including Ogilby, Overton, Blome and Morden, and became Iconographer to the King in 1660. This did not stop him dying almost penniless in 1677. His last words were addressed to the bailiffs asking them not to remove the bed on which he lay dying.

This example has Overton's address as 'the White Horse at the corner of the little old Baly neare the fountaine tavern without Newgate', which were his premises from 1668. The high quality of the impression suggests an early printing.



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