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RARE EDITION OF SPEED'S MAP OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE

£650.00

Huntingdon both Shire and Shire Towne with the Ancient Citie Ely Described.

Cartographer	SPEED, John.
Date	1665
Stock #:	23819
Publication:	London: Roger Rea, 1665. Coloured. 380 x 510mm.
Condition:	A good example.

DESCRIPTION:

One of the most famous maps of the county, engraved by Jodocus Hondius in 1610 for John Speed's county atlas, 'The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain', 1611-1612. The decorations include: an elaborate strapwork title cartouche featuring figures of huntsmen (with one holding a falcon); inset plans of Huntingdon & Ely; engraved text on two open books, the Royal Arms and armorials of nine local nobles. On the reverse is a letterpress description of the county 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.