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A SCARCE ISSUE OF JOHN SPEED'S MAP OF LEICESTERSHIRE

£700.00

Leicester both Countye and Citie described, The Honorable Famylies that hasve had the titles of Earls thereof. With outhur accidents therein observed.

Cartographer	SPEED, John.
Date	1665
Stock #:	24021
Publication:	London: Roger Rea, 1665. Coloured. 380 x 510mm.
Condition:	A good example.

DESCRIPTION:

An important map of Leicestershire, 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 an inset town plan of Leicester, a royal crest and armorials, and a vignette scene of the Battle of Bosworth. 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.