



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

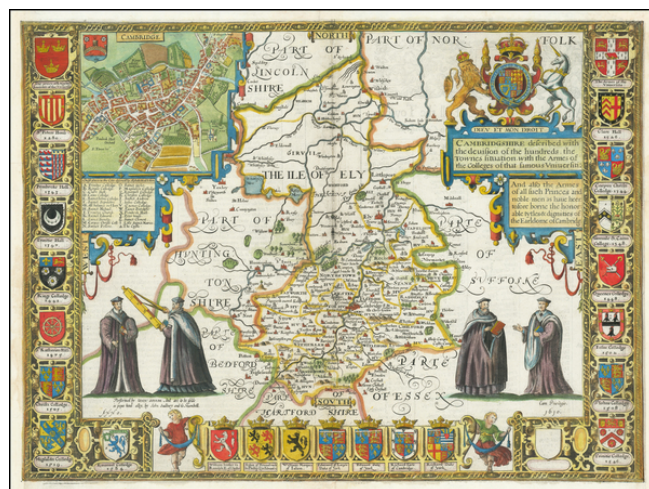
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Cambridgeshire described with the devision of the hundreds, the Townes situation with the Armes of the Colleges of that famous Universiti:

Stock#: 62193
Map Maker: Speed
Date: 1611 circa
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An attractive full color example of Speed's map of Cambridge, from an early edition of Speed's *Theatre of Great Britain*, first published in 1611. The map includes large inset plan of Cambridge and 25 different coats of arms. The verso contains English text.

The map shows a Cambridgeshire more limited than in its present day extent. The fens are sparsely populated, still labeled the Isle of Ely. These would be drained in the 1630's after the map was made. The Fyrth Dyke is shown, apparently in the place of the New Bedford River. The hills and forests to the south of Cambridge are drawn, including at Gogmagog though Coton is omitted. Cherry Hinton [Hynton], Chesterton, Girton, Grantchester, and Trumpington are all portrayed independent from Cambridge. The source of the Cam can be traced to Henxworth more easily than on modern maps. It joins first the Granta before Cambridge, then the Great Ouse between Cambridge and Oxford. Parts of Lincolnshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, Hartfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingtongshire are all shown. Shows Toft.

An inset map of Cambridge is shown. The crest shown is of the city of Cambridge, designed in 1575 to represent both Cambridge Castle and the navigability of the River Cam. The layout of the Medieval part of the city has changed little since this map was created. Magdelene College is the only college with buildings west of the Cam. St. John's College's Second Court does not appear, though it predates this map by several years. All Saint's Garden is occupied by a church. Trinity's [Trinitie] Great Court is misshapen and the Paddocks are unvegetated, unlike the rest of the Backs. King's [Kinges] comprises little more than a chapel. Queen's has gardens where Cripps Court now stands. Pembroke [Pembrok] owns an Orchard, now Downing Site and Downing College. Emmanuel backs onto what appear to be fields of wheat.



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Crests related to the university and constituent colleges are shown along the sides of the map. A blank crest is drawn, perhaps left to be filled in as the number of constituent colleges grew. This was an unnecessary precaution as the map was published at the start of a two hundred year hiatus in the founding of colleges between the foundation of Sidney Sussex and Downing. The crest of Sigebert, King of the East Saxons and legendary founder of Cambridge, is shown and described as the coat of arms of the founder of the University. While his crest can be found around the present day university and in literature, Bishop Balsham of Ely normally is accepted have founded the University. Coat of arms of various powerful figures are shown below the map: note the similarity between the recently founded colleges St. John's, Christ's and King's to those belonging to the House of York. In addition, the crest of the monarch of the United Kingdom is shown on the figure of a unicorn and eagle. This is nearly identical to the crest of St. John's College, and the motto "Dieu et mon Droit" is the motto of this college, and of Christ's College.

Drawings throughout the map portray scholars of the University. Academics in robes discuss texts to the right of the map and hold an oversized sextant to the left.

It is interesting to note that so much attention is paid to the University in a time that predates what it is known for in modern times. Overall, a very attractive and detailed map of Cambridge and Cambridgeshire.

Detailed Condition:

Minor restoration and old evidence of misfolding at the centerfold. Top, right, and left margins extended with some reinstatement of the image at the left side (just touching neatline - see illustration).