

WD6016046

Set of Elizabeth Blackwell Botanical Engravings

£8,400.00

W: 36.5 cm (14 3/8")
H: 46.5 cm (18 5/16")
D: 0 cm

Set of 12 botanical engravings by Elizabeth Blackwell.

These stunning engravings come from the rare first edition of *A Curious Herbal*, published in London between 1737 and 1739.

Elizabeth Blackwell undertook the work at the encouragement of Sir Hans Sloane and with the intention of paying off her husband Alexander's debts.

She took a house opposite the Chelsea Physic Garden in order to draw and engrave the plants where many of these were under cultivation.

Abridging the text of Miller's *Botanicum Officinale*, her husband helped by supplying the common names of the plants in various languages and the scientific information.

Elizabeth made not only the drawings, but also etched and engraved the copper plates and hand-coloured the 500 illustrations by hand. and afterwoods coloured the 500 printed illustrations by hand. The result fulfilled her intentions - to create the first medicinal handbook.

The prints are done on wonderful handmade and watermarked paper. The fine quality of the hand-colouring gives them an almost watercolour-like quality.

These prints are in excellent condition. They are presented in bespoke frames behind UV70 glass which cuts reflection and affords the prints some protection.

This set is of immense historical and scientific significance, let alone an enormously decorative addition to any interior.

Materials & Techniques: Paper
Condition: Good
Period: 18th Cent and Earlier

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