

Double-page engraved map, fine contemporary outline hand colour, upper left and right margins skilfully repaired.

RARE ROGER REA EDITION OF SPEED’S MAP OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Kingdome of Great Britaine and Ireland.

Author
SPEED, John

Publication date
[1665].

Publisher
Are to be sold by Roger Rea the Elder and younger at the Golden Crosse in Cornhill against the Exchange

Publication place
[London],

Physical description
Double-page engraved map, fine contemporary outline hand colour, upper left and right margins skilfully repaired.

Dimensions
410 by 550mm (16.25 by 21.75 inches).

Notes
The map bears the imprint of Roger Rea the Elder and Younger. The Reas had purchased the rights to Speed’s work from William Garrett in 1659, who had previously purchased them from the widow

of William Humble in the same year. Skelton suggests that the father and son intended a new edition of the atlas for the Restoration of 1660. However, the atlas would appear not to have been published until 1665. This is borne out by an advertisement in the Term Catalogue by the subsequent owners of the plates, Thomas Bassett and Richard Chiswell, in 1675:

“Mr John Speed’s… Geography of the Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland… together with his Prospect… all in one entire Volume, hath been, for seven Years past, out of Print, the greatest part of an Impression, then newly Printed, being destroyed by the late dreadful Fire, 1666”. This is borne out by the rarity of the Rea edition of the atlas. There is evidence that they planned an edition of 1666, as there are impressions of Sussex, Buckingham and Derby, with Rea’s imprint, which bear that date. Rea would later sell the plates to Bassett and Chiswell, who would publish a new edition in 1676.

Bibliography
Skelton 81.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 1716

© Daniel Crouch Rare Books Ltd | 2025