

Double-page engraved map.

SPEED’S MAP OF BOHEMIA

Bohemia

Author
SPEED, John

Publication date
1626, [but 1627-1632].

Publisher
Are to be sold in pops-head Alley by G. Humble,

Publication place
[London],

Physical description

Double-page engraved map.

Dimensions
405 by 525mm. (16 by 20.75 inches).

Notes

A map of Bohemia, one of the kingdoms that made up the Holy Roman Empire, now the Czech Republic, from the first atlas compiled and published by an Englishman, Speed’s ‘Prospect’. The

upper border contains city views of Prague, Chomutov, Slaný, Louny, and Polná; the side borders show figures dressed in regional costume.

Accompanying text in English, 'The Description of the Kingdome of Bohemia', is printed on the reverse.

John Speed (1552-1629) was the outstanding cartographer of his age. By trade a merchant tailor, but by proclivity a historian, it was the patronage of Sir Fulke Greville, poet and statesman, that allowed him to pursue this interest in earnest. His 'Theatre of Great Britain', first published in 1611 or 1612, was the first large-scale printed atlas of the British Isles. The 'Prospect of the Most Famous Parts of the World', from which the present work is drawn, appeared in 1627, bound with the 'Theatre', and is the first world atlas compiled by an Englishman to be published in England. Engraved in Amsterdam, many of the maps are anglicized versions of works by Dutch makers in distinctive carte-à-figure style, featuring borders with figures in local costume and city views.

Bibliography

Chubb, XXV; Shirley [Atlases], T.SPE-2a.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 21918

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