

Double-page engraved map with hand-colour.

SPEED’S MAP OF ‘LOW GERMANIE’

A New Mape of Ye XVII Provinces of Low Germanie, mended a new in manie places. by I. Speed.

Author
SPEED, John

Publication date
[1676].

Publisher
Are to be sold by Thomas Bassett in Fleet Street and Richard Chiswell in St. Pauls Churchyard,

Publication place
[London],

Physical description
Double-page engraved map with hand-colour.

Dimensions
420 by 540mm. (16.5 by 21.25 inches).

Notes
A map of ‘Low Germanie’, the modern-day Netherlands, from the 1676 edition of the first atlas compiled and published by an Englishman, Speed’s ‘Prospect’. A decorative border along the top of the map depicts views of major cities, among them Amsterdam and Utrecht. Along each side of the map are illustrated figures in regional costume.

Accompanying text in English, ‘The Description of Belgia’, 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.

This map is from the 1676 edition of the ‘Prospect’, published by Thomas Bassett and Richard Chiswell. While not as rare as the earlier publications, this edition is perhaps the most important, given that it is the first to include the nine new maps: among them, Virginia and Maryland, Barbados, and Russia. It is also the last time that the ‘Prospect’ was printed as an atlas.

Bibliography
Shirley [Atlases], T.SPE-2f.

Provenance

Price: £800

Inventory reference: 21920

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