

Double-page engraved map, hand-colour.

SPEED’S MAP OF NORFOLK

Norfolk A Countie Florishing & Populous Described And Devided With The Armes Of Such Noble Familes As Have Borne The Titles Thereof.

Author
SPEED, John

Publication date
[1616].

Publisher
Are to be sold in popes head Alley by J.S. & G.H. cum privil.,

Publication place
[London],

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

Dimensions
380 by 510mm. (15 by 20 inches).

Notes
A map of Norfolk from 1616 Latin edition of the first large-scale atlas of the British Isles, Speed’s ‘Theatre’. Inset top-left is a battle-scene, with a note below describing two rebellions that have featured in the history of Norfolk: the first, the 1381 Battle of North Walsham, the second Kett’s Rebellion, of 1549. Inset top-right is a plan of Norwich, with an alphabetical key below noting points

of interest, from “S. Peters Permantigate”, to “Hell gate”. Down the right-hand side of the map are represented the arms of prominent Norfolk families.

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’, from which the present work is drawn, was first published in 1611 or 1612 and is “the earliest English attempt at atlas-production on a grand scale” (Skelton). Drawing heavily on the work of Saxton and Norden, little of Speed’s cartography is original (he acknowledges, “I have put my sickle into other mens corne”), instead it is his blend of cartography and history, incorporating town-plans, vignettes, and genealogy, that makes Speed an innovator.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 24169

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