



Double-page engraved map with hand-colour.

SPEED'S MAP OF PERSIA

The Kingdome of Persia

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 with hand-colour.

Dimensions

395 by 515mm. (15.5 by 20.25 inches).

Notes

A map of 'the Kingdome of Persia' (encompassing much of modern-day Iran, and parts of Saudi Arabia and Iraq), from the first atlas compiled and published by an Englishman, Speed's 'Prospect'.

A decorative border along the top of the map depicts major cities. Along each side are illustrated people of different status and from different regions.

Accompanying text in English, 'The Description of the Kingdome of Persia', 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: £1800

Inventory reference: 21926