

Engraved map with hand colouring.

SPEED’S MAP OF RUSSIA

A Newe Mape of Tartary Augemented by John Speede

Author
SPEED, John

Publication date
[1631].

Publisher
And are to be sold in pops head alley by George Humble,

Publication place
London

Physical description
Engraved map with hand colouring.

Dimensions
405 by 515mm. (16 by 20.25 inches).

Notes
A map of Russia, with a decorative border showing the native costumes of different regions and views of principal cities. One of the cartouches at the top shows the house built on Nova Zembla by the crew of Willem Barentsz’s 1596 expedition, when they were stranded there after being stuck in pack ice. The crew spent the winter on the ice, trapping Arctic foxes for food and sleeping with warmed cannonballs to survive. One of their encounters with polar bears is shown in the vignette.

John Speed (1552-1629) was the outstanding cartographer of his age. His ‘Theatre of Great Britain’, first published in 1611 or 1612, was the first atlas of Great Britain: Speed prepared the maps himself about two years before they were published. This map is from the ‘Prospect of the Most Famous Parts of the World’, produced in collaboration with Speed to accompany the ‘Theatre’ and published in a joint edition by George Humble in 1631. Many of the maps were anglicized versions of works by Dutch makers, who introduced the carte-à-figure style, with borders of figures in local costume and city views.

Bibliography
Chubb XXV.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 11406

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