



Double-page engraved map.

SPEED'S MAP OF WALES

Wales.

Author

SPEED, John

Publication date

1610 [but 1616].

Publisher

are to be sold by John Sudbury and George Humble in Popes head Alley,

Publication place

[London],

Physical description

Double-page engraved map.

Dimensions

385 by 520mm. (15.25 by 20.5 inches).

Notes

A map of Wales, from the first large-scale atlas of the British Isles, Speed's 'Theatre'. Running down each side of the map is a decorative border, with a series of city views, including Cardigan, Carmarthen, and Cardiff. Within this, in each corner of the map, is illustrated a cathedral: Bangor, St Asaph, Llandaff, and St David's.

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: £2750

Inventory reference: 24166