

Double-page engraved map, false margins to left and right.

SPEED’S MAP OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridgeshire described with the devision of the hundreds, the Townes situation, with the Armes of the Colleges of that famous Universiti.

Author
SPEED, John

Publication date
1610 [but 1610-1616].

Publisher
And are to be solde in popes head alley, by John Sudbury and G. Humbell,

Publication place
[London],

Physical description
Double-page engraved map, false margins to left and right.

Dimensions
385 by 530mm. (15.25 by 20.75 inches).

Notes
A map of Cambridge from the first large-scale atlas of the British Isles, Speed’s ‘Theatre’. In the top left-hand corner is an inset plan of Cambridge, including details such as “Pithagoras house”, “Pembrok Hall Orchard”, and “Iesus colledg walkes and groves”. Down each side of the map are represented the arms of the Cambridge colleges, with royal arms depicted along the bottom, and

four figures in academic dress above, one of whom is holding a compass that acts as the scale-bar.

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

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