

Engraved map with hand colouring.

SPEED’S MAP OF ESSEX

Essex devided into Hundreds, with the most antient and fayre Towne Colchester Described and other memorable Monuments observed. Anno 1610.

Author
SPEED, John

Publication date
[1627].

Publisher
Described by Iohn Norden, augmented by I. Speede, And are to be solde by G. Humble,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Engraved map with hand colouring.

Dimensions
385 by 510mm. (15.25 by 20 inches).

Notes
A map of Essex, with an inset map of Colchester, and reproductions of three Roman coins or medallions showing Constantine the Great in his dual role as chief priest and emperor, and his mother Saint Helena. Saint Helena is the patron saint of Colchester; some British medieval sources claimed she was British, and that Constantine was born in the city. Colchester’s coat of arms, shown

at the upper right corner of the inset map, show the relics of the True Cross and the crowns of the Magi which she supposedly found in Jerusalem.

John Speed (1552-1629) was the outstanding cartographer of his age. His ‘Theatre of Great Britain’ was the first atlas of the British Isles: Speed prepared the maps himself about two years before they were published. His maps and books dominated the seventeenth-century English market. The present map is taken from the 1627 English edition published by George Humble.

Bibliography
Chubb XXV.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 11799

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