



Double-page engraved map, trimmed to lower neatline.

SPEED'S MAP OF OXFORD

Oxfordshire described with ye Citie and the Armes of the Colledges of yt famous University. Ao. 1605.

Author

SPEED, John

Publication date

[1616].

Publisher

are to be sold in popes head alley against the Exchange by I.S. & G.H. Cum Privilegio,

Publication place

[London],

Physical description

Double-page engraved map, trimmed to lower neatline.

Dimensions

390 by 530mm. (15.25 by 20.75 inches).

Notes

A map of Oxfordshire from the 1616 Latin edition of the first large-scale atlas of the British Isles, Speed's 'Theatre'. In the top right-hand corner is an inset town-plan of Oxford, with points of interest including 'The Castle' and 'All Soules Colledge' marked using an alphabetical key. Along both the left and right-hand side of the map are depicted the arms of the university colleges. At the

bottom of the map, a globe has been drawn around the scale bar, with a scholar standing on each side, one of whom is measuring the scale bar with a compass.

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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