



Double-page engraved map.

SPEED'S MAP OF SCOTLAND

The Kingdome of Scotland.

Author

SPEED, John

Publication date

1610 [but 1610-1616].

Publisher

and are to be sold in Popes head alley by John Sudbury and George Humbell Cum Privilegio,

Publication place

[London],

Physical description

Double-page engraved map.

Dimensions

385 by 515mm. (15.25 by 20.25 inches).

Notes

A map of Scotland, from the first large-scale atlas of the British Isles, Speed's 'Theatre'. Running down the left of the map is a decorative border, with portraits of James VI of Scotland (and I of England), and of his son and heir, Henry, Prince of Wales and Ireland (who would die in 1612), while, running down the right of the map are portraits of James's wife, Anna, and of James's second son, Charles, Duke of York and Albany, who would go on to become King Charles I. Top-right is an

inset map of the Orkney Islands.

Speed's map of Scotland is famous for the radical alterations made to its borders during the Interregnum. For the 1652 edition of Speed's 'Theatre', the royal portraits and coats-of-arms would be erased, replaced by figures of Scottish characters ("A Scotch Man"; "A Highland Man"; "A Scotch Woman"; and "A Highland Woman".)

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: £3500

Inventory reference: 24168