

Double-page engraved map, fine original hand-colour, bunch of grapes watermark, lower-margin reinforced.

THE FIRST PRINTED MAP OF SHROPSHIRE

[Shropshire] Salopiae comitatus. summa cum fide, cura et diligentia descriptionem haec tibi tabula refert. A.Dm. 1577

Author
SAXTON, Christopher

Publication date
1579].

Publisher

Publication place
[London,

Physical description
Double-page engraved map, fine original hand-colour, bunch of grapes watermark, lower-margin reinforced.

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

Notes
This map of Shropshire, or “Salopia”, is the earliest detailed map dedicated solely to the county, and the second county map in Saxton’s ‘Atlas of England and Wales’, the first national atlas ever produced. Courtiers of Queen Elizabeth I, Thomas Seckford and Lord Burghley, sponsored Saxton to

survey and map the counties. The resulting atlas was originally intended to provide Burghley, as Secretary of State, with a detailed record of the countries' domestic arrangements for the purposes of defence, with Shropshire included as a Welsh border county. To this end, Saxton produced this precise survey of the towns, estates and landscape of Shropshire, with the surrounding counties labelled in Latin. Each element within Shropshire is labelled with its English name in its sixteenth century form, for example, 'Showesbvrye' for modern Shrewsbury, with major towns identified in larger script. Rivers, forests and the county's distinctive hills are all also illustrated and labelled, along with 31 deer-parks, used to signify the land owned by local gentry.

As on all of Saxton's maps, the county name is enclosed within a cartouche surmounted by the royal coat-of-arms, which here features in the top right corner. Similarly, the distinctive Seckford crest, with its later Latin motto, is featured on the left, below which there is the scale, complete with banners identifying Saxton as the cartographer and Remigius Hogenberg as engraver. Additionally, like all the maps in Saxton's 'Atlas of England and Wales', this map bears his watermark, a bunch of grapes, to identify the work as original.

Bibliography

'Salopiae Comitatu f.86' (The British Library Online Gallery, 2009); Evans, 'A Cartographic Evaluation of the Old English Mile' (The Geographical Journal, 1975); Morris, 'Shropshire Deer Parks c.1500 – c.1914 Recreation Status and Husbandry' (University of East Anglia, 2015).

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 24372

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