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Wales

Stock#: 54416mp2
Map Maker: Speed
Date: 1676
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A beautifully hand-colored example of Speed's highly decorative map of Wales.

This attractive map is one of the most historically important and artistically virtuous maps of Wales. It is richly embellished with 16 town views, 4 coats of arms and a sailing ship, 2 sea monsters and an elaborate compass rose.

John Speed (1552-1629) was the most important English mapmaker of the first half of the 17th Century, being the first to produce grand folio atlases. The present map is from Speed's *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine* (1611), the first atlas focusing on the British Isles. Speed later produced a world atlas, *Prospect of the Most Famous Parts of the World* (1627). He set a high standard for cartography that English mapmakers would not rival for three generations.

The fine quality of engraving evident on the map is due to the fact that Speed hired Jodocus Hondius (1563-1612), Amsterdam's leading mapmaker to engrave the plates for the *Theatre*. No English engraver of the period had such skills, and Hondius was well known in London, having worked there as a map designer and engraver from 1583 to 1592. Notably, the wavy lines which embellish the seas were a trademark of Hondius's engraving style.

Bassett and Chiswell published Speed maps during the 1670s, after acquiring his copper plates from Roger Rea the elder and younger.

Detailed Condition: