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Europ, and the cheife Cities contained therein, described with the habits of most Kingdoms now in use . . . 1626

Stock#: 70547
Map Maker: Speed
Date: 1626
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Speed's Stylish, Striking Map of Europe

Fine, decorative example of the 1626 George Humble edition of Speed's notable map of Europe.

This map was featured in the first atlas of the world published by an Englishman, *Prospect of the Most Famous Parts of the World* (1627).

Europe is framed by Northern Africa, Turkey ("Lesser Asia"), and part of Greenland. The mythical island of Frisland is just to the west of Iceland. The Black Sea is labeled as the Euxine Sea, the Greek name for the body of water.

The landmasses are thickly covered with towns, cities, rivers, forests, and mountains. Sea monsters patrol the waters of the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The sea beasts are well clear of the ships on patrol, however, and the ships involved in a pitched battle off the west coast of Ireland.

Two cartouches are in the upper right and lower left corners. At top is Speed's name and the date, 1626, while the printseller's information is in the lower cartouche. George Humble can be found at the Popeshead Alley, near the Royal Exchange.

Some of the most notable features of the map are its decorative borders in the *carte-a-figures* style. Along the top are a mixture of plans and bird's-eye-views of Europe's most prominent cities. From left to right



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are London, Paris, Rome, Constantinople (Istanbul), Venice, Prague, Amsterdam, and Lisbon.

Along the side borders are examples of the dress of several societies. These include, at left, an English woman, a Venetian man, a German woman, a Polish man, and a Hungarian woman. At right are a Spanish man, a French woman, a Belgian man, a Bohemian woman, and a Greek man.

Speed died in 1629, and George Humble passed in 1640. The copperplates from the *Prospect*, including this map's plate, passed to George's son, William Humble. Humble reissued the maps on an ad hoc basis before passing the plates to William Garrett, who passed them to Roger Rea. This is the initial state of the map, with the date of 1626.

Detailed Condition:

Minor restoration at lower centerfold.