



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
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## A Prospect of the Most Famous Parts of the World.

**Stock#:** 59544  
**Map Maker:** Speed  
**Date:** 1627  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:**  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### ***The 1627 First Edition of the First World Atlas Published by An Englishman.***

Folio. Letterpress title and contents leaf, 22 double-page engraved maps, text leaves for Bermuda and "A Briefe Description of the Ciuill VVarres..." (complete). Expertly rebound to style in full calf, centerpiece and corner arabesques tooled in gilt.

Speed's *Prospect* is not only the first world atlas by an Englishman but also the most famous. We can only trace one other copy of the 1627 first edition on the market in the last 50 years: the Lord Wardington Copy (lot 484), which made £90,000 (\$177,300 at the time of the Wardington Sale).

Wardington concluded that the 1627 *Prospect* was first issued as a separate atlas (as here), not accompanied by Speed's *Theatre*:

*As the title states, it was to be accompanied by a copy of the Theatre. However, I think it was issued separately here and the Theatre to go with it was a hastily re-printed version of the 1616 (1623) edition with the general title-page altered to 1627 and the type reset. This edition of the Theatre was not large and was again reprinted to accompany the 1631 edition. The prospect was reprinted no less than twelve times in the 50 years to 1676, the date of the last edition.*

We concur with this finding; the present atlas bears no evidence that it was bound with the *Theatre*.

### Contents



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## A Prospect of the Most Famous Parts of the World.

The atlas includes the following maps:

1. A New and Accurat Map of the World Drawne according to ye truest Descriptions latest Discoveries & best Observations yt have beene made by English or Strangers.
2. Asia with the Islands adioyning described, the atire of the people, & Townes of importance all of them newly augmented by I. S.
3. Africae, described the manners of their Habits, and buildinge: newly done into English by I.S.
4. Europ, and the cheife-Cities contayned therin, described: with the habits of most Kingdoms now in use.
5. America with those known parts in that unknowne worlde both people and manner of buildings Discribed and enlarged
6. Ελλάς | Greece
7. A New Mappe of the Romane Empire newly described by John Speede
8. A. Newe Mape of Germany Newly Augmented by John Speed.
9. Bohemia Newly described by John Speed
10. France revised and augmented, the attires of the French and Situations of their chiefest cities observed by John. Speede.
11. A New Mape of Ye XVII Provinces of Low Germanie, mended a new in manie places.
12. Spaine Newly described, with many adictions, both in the attires of the people & the Situations of their cheifest Cities.
13. Italia Newly augmented by I. Speede
14. The Mape of Hungari newly augmented by John. Speede
15. The Kingdome of Denmarke augmented by John Speede
16. A Newe. Mape of Poland
17. The Kingdome of Persia with the cheef Citties and Habites described.
18. The Turkish Empire. Newly Augmented by John Speed 1626.
19. the Kingdome of China newly augmented by I.S.
20. A Newe Mape of Tartary augmented by John Speede and are to be sold in pops head Alley by George Humble.
21. Mappa Aestivarum | A Mapp of the Sommer Islands
22. The Invasions of England and Ireland With al their Ciuill Wars Since the Conquest.

### Detailed Condition:

Some minor soiling and marginal faults expertly mended.