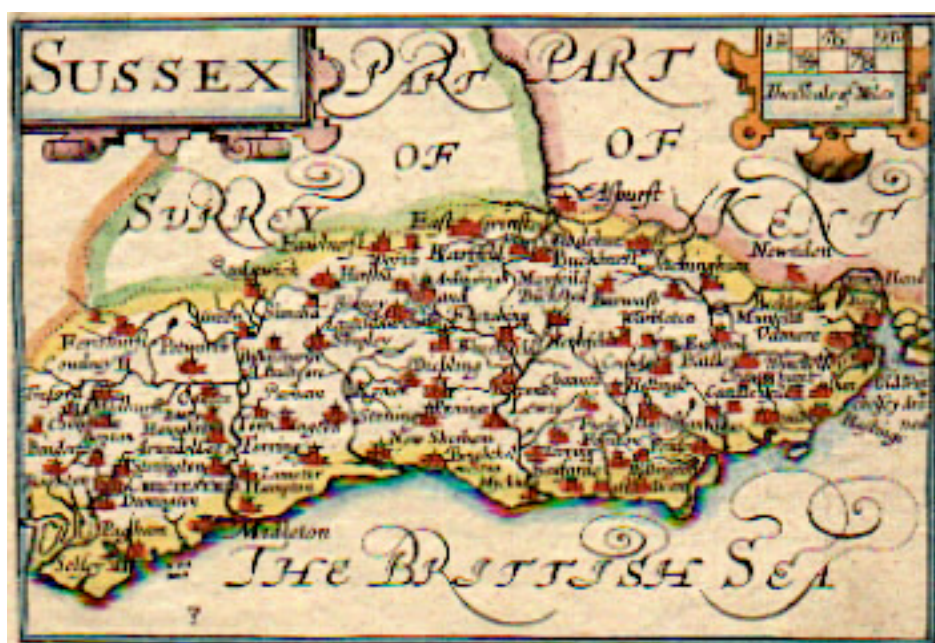




The very rare undated first edition of the pocket version of John Speed's Theatre was published by George Humble between 1619 and 1627: likely close to 1627. It contains fifty-seven maps numbered mostly at lower left (see below). Thirty-nine of them were printed from Pieter van den Keere's plates (see 1617) and two more were the small ones of the British Isles and Yorkshire added by Willem J, Blaeu in 1617, all now with English titles. The rest were a completely new set.



George Humble's sixteen new miniatures, of English counties after Speed, replaced five of Keere's plates having grouped counties but are not as well engraved as his. All are unsigned and it is unknown who produced them for Humble. These maps have chequer-board scales in unusually large cartouches, some even larger than those for their titles:

*Kent; Sussex; Surrey; Barkshire; Middlesex; Cambridge Shire; Bedford Shire; Buckingham Shire; Oxfordshire; Warwicke Shire; Northampton Shire; Huntington Shire; Rutlandshire; Leicester Shire; Lincolne Shire; Nottingham Shire.*



This first edition was described by Helen Wallis: *Atlas of the British Isles by Pieter van den Keere*, Lympe Castle, Harry Margary, 1972. From 1627 the 'miniature Speed' now had sixty-three maps, with yet another new set of seven added, but the one of Meath was no longer included in the atlas. They have new larger plate numbers at lower right (see above) and the text from the folio atlas is added. They are listed by R.A. Skelton: *County atlases of the British Isles, 1579-1703*, London, Carta Press, 1970. Forty are also described and illustrated, but minus their plate numbers, by Eva G.R. Taylor: *Atlas of Tudor England and Wales*, London, Penguin Books, 1951.

Humble's new miniature maps were again largely after Speed but the three of the kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland closely resemble the ones engraved by Salomon Rogiers for Jodocus Hondius Junior (see 1616). Those in this second set are also unsigned, nor is it known who produced these plates for Humble but they are very different in style from the earlier ones:

*The Kingdome of England; Wight Island; The Isle of Man; Holy Iland/Garnsey/Farne/Iarsey; Wales; The Kingdome of Scotland; The Kingdome of Irland.*





The work was usually issued from 1646 with a similar pocket version of Speed's *Prospect* or world atlas (see 1646). In 1662 *Oxfordshire* was replaced and by now all the plates were very worn, including the title-page. This was much retouched and its imprint erased for the 1666 edition, with just the date altered for the final one (see above).

The Burden collection of county atlases contains three rare variant issues, each bound with the *Prospect* (see 1646):

- the only recorded copy of a 1646 edition but with the *Prospect* dated 1626, has printed labels pasted over Keere's signature on two plates: 'by In Speed.' on the world and a decorative pattern on America;
- the only recorded copy of a 1646 edition with printed labels pasted over the imprints, stating Roger Rea's name and address and, in the case of the *Prospect*, the date 1662;
- a second copy of what was once thought to be an untitled 1665 edition, as that is the date of the *Prospect*, but in fact dated 1666.

*England, Wales and Ireland.* London, George Humble, (1619/27).

*England Wales Scotland and Ireland described.* London, George Humble, 1627, (1632); William Humble, (1646); Roger Rea, 1662, 1666, 1666, (1668); Thomas Bassett & Richard Chiswell, 1676.

