Robert Sheringham, himself a learned antiquary, styles John Speed "a very great and learned antiquary *summus et eruditus antiquarius*."

Anthony Wood, in his book entitled *Athenæ Oxonensis*, says: "For style and industry Speed had not many fellows in Europe."

Bishop Nicholson, an early historian, says: "He must have had a head the best disposed toward history of any of our writers." He also says "Speed's History is the largest and best we have extant." Also, "Our author's maps are extremely well and make a noble apparatus, as they were designed to his history."

Dibdin, who is the highest authority in such matters, says: "Speed's History of Great Britain was first published in 1611 in a splendid folio volume, of which five editions appeared before the expiration of the same half century." "Whoever," says he, "was the projector of the mode of publication is not known. If it was Speed himself he deserves the warmest thanks of posterity, for it is, of all others, the most tasteful and useful plan ever carried into effect."

The "plan" so much admired by Dibdin has reference to the publication of the maps in connection with the history already referred to.

The work in that form consisted of two parts, each being a separate volume. The first part consisted of four books, and was called "The Chorographical Part," being the maps. The second part consisted of six books and contained the history.

Dibdin says the dates of the editions were 1611, 1614, 1623, 1627, 1632, 1650. He says the first edition is the favorite one. "Of this," says he, "large paper copies are, by no means, uncommon. They are in most of our celebrated public and private selections." "One of the most gorgeous copies," says he, "with which I am acquainted is that in the archiepiscopal library at Lambeth, in two volumes, bound in red morocco with plates colored."

He says Speed's maps were published more frequently than the history, having been published as late as 1743.