RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Department of Printed Books

Selected acquisitions, mainly from the period 1979–1985
Map Library

By Tony Campbell

A previous article (British Library Journal, v (1979), pp. 181–97) provided partial coverage for the period 1968–78, with the promise of a further instalment to include those items which were unavoidably omitted. This article completes the listing for the earlier period, but can give only a partial account of acquisitions over the past six years. These will be brought up to date in a later issue. The items selected are of particular bibliographical interest or rarity.

Atlases


In 1654 Blaeu added a fifth volume, covering Scotland and Ireland, to his steadily expanding atlas. Versions were previously known with Latin, Dutch, French, or German text but no Spanish edition had been traced with a date earlier than 1659. The preliminaries to this hitherto unrecorded edition are dated 11 August and 16 June 1654. This first use in any part of Blaeu’s world atlas of the language of Holland’s former Hapsburg overlord helps to explain why, four years later, he started publication of his Atlas Mayor in Spanish rather than Latin.

Maps C.5.d.4.


Prepared by R. K. Dawson under the direction of his father Robert Dawson, instructor in surveying and drawing for the Royal Military Engineers, these comprise twenty pages of sketches together with a plan and geometrical view of Snowdon. The work was carried out in connection with the Ordnance Survey’s earliest 1-inch map of the area and is noteworthy for its treatment of relief.

Maps C.21.e.7.

In the 1630s the publishers of the Mercator-Hondius *Atlas*, Joannes Janssonius and Henricus Hondius, decided to expand the work by issuing a succession of supplementary volumes, covering France (1631), Germany (1632), and Italy (1636). This is the second edition of the atlas of France, hitherto known in only one copy.

Maps 187.g.1.

**Keulen, Johannes van, the Elder.** [Maritime atlas for navigating from the Cape of Good Hope to the Far East.] *Amsterdam: Johannes van Keulen, 1722.* Forty-six maps, 65 cm.

A composite maritime atlas of manuscript and printed charts, compiled in 1722 or later, probably by Gerard van Keulen (fl. 1704–26), Hydrographer to the Dutch East India Company, for use on the Company's ships navigating between southern Africa and Japan. Detailed charts of this region were kept in manuscript form, as in this atlas, until publication in 1753 of volume six of Johannes van Keulen the younger's *De Nieuwe Groote Lichtende Zee-Fakkel*.

The frontispiece, with the 1722 imprint of Johannes van Keulen, is followed by twelve manuscript charts drawn over an engraved rhumb line base and thirty-four engraved charts. The hand-drawn charts cover Table, False, and Algoa bays (South Africa); Anjouan, Réunion, and Perim islands; Nias Island (Sumatra); Prinsen Island, Schildpadden, and Mauritius bays (Java); Saparua (Moluccas); and Pescadores Islands (Formosa Strait). The engraved charts bear the imprints of Johannes van Keulen the Elder (two charts), Gerard van Keulen (eight), Valk and Schenk (thirteen); van der Aa, P. Mortier, J. Ottens, N. Visscher's widow (one each).

Maps C.12.f.3.

**Moule, Thomas.** The English counties delineated; or descriptive view of the present state of England and Wales; illustrated by a new map of London, and a series of forty county maps. *London: G. Virtue . . . Simpkin and Marshall . . . Jennings and Chaplin . . . and may be had of all booksellers, 1830–5.* Atlas in fifty-six parts, each with a map; 29 cm.

Moule's two-volume historical gazetteer of 1837 contains the last series of decorative English county maps. The acquisition of the first fifty-six monthly numbers (out of an estimated total of sixty-seven) throws new light on its history. The wrappers to each number combine comments on the actual and anticipated progress of the work with advertisements for other part-works of the period.

Each number contains a map. The decision of the original subscriber, the 5th Viscount Galway, to record the month of receipt has enabled many of these to be precisely dated for the first time. Only a few single examples of the monthly numbers have been traced elsewhere. The work has been analysed in detail in T. Campbell, 'The Original Monthly Numbers of Moule’s “English Counties”', *The Map Collector, 31* (1985), pp. 26–39.

Maps C.27.c.5.


An early state of the first edition 1-inch Geological Survey of Devon and Cornwall (based on sheets 20–7 and 29–33 of the 1-inch topographical survey). Work was started by the Ordnance Survey in 1832 and continued by the Geological Survey at its inception in 1835. Watermark evidence and the state of the copperplates suggests a pre-1840 printing. No comparable set can be traced in the British Isles.

*2121.(24.)*
PRICE, Charles. [A set of English charts of the coasts of the British Isles and Europe, together with Hispaniola, engraved by Charles Price.]
London: Charles Price, [c.1730]. Twenty-one charts, 50 cm.

An unrecorded collection without title-page, with a note on one chart announcing the author's intention of publishing 'a Compleat Sea Atlas', to remedy 'the Great want of a good set of Sea Charts now extant in Great Britain (excepting for our own Coasts)'. The project proceeded no further. By 1731 Price had to sell off his charts cheaply, and he ended the year in the Fleet Prison. Many of the charts are based on those of Greenville Collins and most are dated 1729 or 1730. The named collaborators were teachers of mathematics, or, like Price, mathematical instrument makers.

Maps C.8.b.16.


Seller planned publication of his The English Pilot in four books but ran into difficulties with the third volume, designed for Asian waters. This is the sixth recorded example of the truncated form in which the work was issued, comprising a 1675 title-page, twenty-four text pages, and between seven and thirteen charts. The earliest identified gathering is BL Maps C.8.b.10. This version, with the added imprints of the partners Seller co-opted in 1677, Colston, Fisher, Atkinson, and Thornton, is different from all the others.


No set with more than fifty-four parts was previously known. This set lacks part eighty-two and a hypothetical group of eight which probably completed the work by December 1843—the latest date found on any map. The original wrappers are rich in bibliographical information and show how an atlas conceived in twenty-five bi-monthly parts expanded to four times that size.

Maps 177.j.1.

Maps and Charts

[FORDE, Richard]. A new map of the Island of Barbadoes wherein every parish, plantation, watermill, windmill & cattlemill, is described with the name of the present possessor, and all things els remarkable according to a late exact survey thereof. London: By Phillip Lea at ye Atlas & Hercules in ye Poultry over against ye ould jury, [1685]. 45 × 40 cm.

The only identified example of the first systematic map of Barbados in its second state. Completed in 1675 and published the following year, the map is notable for the suppression by the Quaker surveyor Richard Forde of all mention of churches or coastal fortifications. This reissue can be dated by reference to an advertisement in the Term Catalogues for February 1685.

Maps 185.m.1.(17.)

GASTALDI, Giacomo di. Cosmographia universalis et exactissima iuxta postremam neotericorum traditio[n]em. A Iacobu Castaldio nonnullisqve aliis huius disciplinae peritissimis nunc [p]rimum revisa ac infinitis fere...
in locis correcta et locupletata. [Venice: Matteo Pagano, c. 1561.] Nine sheets, together forming an oval map; 91 x 180 cm.

The only known example of one of the most important maps to be produced in the sixteenth century, Gastaldi’s large woodcut map of the world. Its date is derived from a booklet by Gastaldi, *La Universale descrittione del mondo*, of 1561, in which a similar map is described. The booklet’s publisher, Matteo Pagano, is assumed to have issued the map as well. This is the earliest map to show the ‘Strait of Anian’ separating Asia and America. On this example the seven cartouches are left blank.

Maps C.18.n.1.

Gourmont, Jérôme de. Nouvelle description dangleterre. *Imprime a Paris par Hierosme Gourmont*, 1545. 30 x 38 cm.

The third known example of a woodcut map, of which all three impressions are significantly different. Rodney W. Shirley, *Early Printed Maps of the British Isles: A Bibliography 1477–1650* (1980), describes an unsigned version, titled in Latin and dated 1545, in Leiden University Library (no. 40) and a 1548 state with French text and Gourmont’s imprint in the Bibliothèque Nationale (no. 48). This hitherto unrecorded version—signed and dated 1545—contains a glowing account of England and its people in notes within and beneath the map.

Maps CC.2.b.8.


Printed in eight impressions of which six were from colour plates and two from movable type. The map of France was produced to illustrate a multicolour map-printing process patented by Firmin Didot in 1823.

Maps CC.2.b.7.


Maps C.20.b.2.(1.)


Maps C.20.b.2.(3.)

Lily’s map of 1546 was the first separately published map of the British Isles. Successive reissues appeared up to the early seventeenth century, variously cut in wood or engraved in copper, oriented to the west (like the original) or to the north. Acquisition of these two variants gives the British Library nine out of the fifteen versions so far identified. The first is one of two issued at Rome in 1556 with the I.H.S. monogram; the second gives indications of its own history by means of the earlier imprints which it retains: ‘Romae Anglorum studio et diligentia, 1558’, ‘Claudii Duchetti formis’, and ‘Sebastianus a Regibus Clodiensis in aes incidebat’.

Quarter Master General’s Office. [Sketch of the battle of 21 August 1808 between the British and French forces near Vimieiro, Portugal.] [London, Horse Guards]: *Quarter Master General’s Office*, 5 September 1808. 50 x 38 cm.

It was the military arm which first applied lithography to maps in England, in May 1808. This example was produced four months later and only a year after the Assistant Quartermaster General, Colonel Brown, had bought the secret of lithographic printing from the German licence-holder, along with the necessary equipment.

No other early proof is known. A contemporary annotation points to continuing problems with the new technique: ‘This
Experiment has failed in these impressions, another Drawing will be made, & Distributed'.

Maps CC.5.a.3.

ROQUE, John. A plan of the cities of London and Westminster, and Borough of Southwark... to which is added all the new buildings and alterations to the year 1761. [London: Sayer & Bennett, c.1775, but watermark date of 1825.]

Twenty-four sheets, each 48 × 68 cm.

The final state of Rocque's large-scale plan of 1746. Amendments, including a reference to Portland Place, whose construction began in 1774, provide a link with a reissue promised in Sayer & Bennett's catalogue of 1775. The 1825 watermark date on this set, and the sections where erased detail has not been replaced, indicate that the 1775 reissue never materialized.


SAXTON, Christopher. [A copper-plate bearing the engraved outlines of part of a wall map of England and Wales, covering Northern England, most of the Isle of Man and a small part of North Wales. London?, c.1580.]

40 × 53 cm.

Saxton's wall map of England and Wales appeared in 1583. One of the two surviving copies of the twenty-sheet map in its original form is already held in the Library (Maps C.7.d.7.). This newly discovered copperplate shows that another version of the wall map was planned—at the same scale but probably in a twelve-sheet arrangement.

Toponymic differences between the plate and the corresponding sections of the completed map indicate that the plate's engraver was working from Saxton's manuscript and not from the published map. The plate's slight incompleteness suggests that it should be considered as the only surviving evidence of an early, abandoned attempt to produce the wall map.

Maps 177.j.2.


The herald and topographer William Smith (c.1550–1618) embarked on a systematic survey of the English counties which would have superseded Christopher Saxton's atlas of 1579 had it not been abandoned, apparently in the face of expected competition from John Speed's series, in about 1603. Contemporary documents as well as reissues by Peter Stent (c.1641–65) show that only twelve maps were published.

The British Library already holds the maps of Essex, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Surrey (Maps C.2.cc.2. (2–4, 9–11)). This purchase gives the Library the only complete set of Smith's maps in their original form, through the addition of Cheshire, Lancashire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire.

Jodocus Hondius probably engraved the series in Amsterdam and Hans Woutneel, a Dutch bookseller resident in London c.1580–after 1604 (whose imprint appears on the map of Essex), was apparently the publisher. The maps of Cheshire and Worcestershire were previously unrecorded in their original forms. The Map Library already holds the engraver's fair drawings for four counties (Maps C.2.cc.2. (12–15)) and the Department of Manuscripts has Smith's drafts of the maps of Cheshire and Lancashire (MSS. Harl. 1046, 6159).

Maps C.2.cc.2. (19–24)

WELCH, Andrew. [A Chart of the Isles of Scilly and West Cornwall from St Ives Bay to the Lizard.] Andreas Welch delineavit, [London]: 1680/1. Manuscript in coloured inks and washes on two joined pieces of vellum; 57 × 124 cm.

Andrew Welch belonged to a seventeenth-century school of chartmakers, apprenticed one to another in the Drapers' Company, whose
members worked beside the Thames. Welch gave his address as 'At the Signe of the Platt' [i.e. sea chart] near Radcliffe'. This becomes the latest of Welch's identified productions. Until they were adequately charted in the nineteenth century, the Isles of Scilly presented considerable difficulties to chartmaker and navigator alike. There are clear indications, for instance, that Welch has had to move his plotting of the Seven Stones.

Maps 183.s.2.

Maps 183.s.2.

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A New Celestial Globe. By R. Cushee 1730.

A pair of globes, 30 cm. in diameter, mounted on four-legged wooden stands with brass meridian and wooden horizon circles.

The 3-inch (7 cm.) globes by the estate surveyor and globemaker Richard Cushee are relatively common, but no other pair of his 12-inch (30 cm.) globes can be traced in the British Isles.

Maps G.14.

The Dissected Globe. [London ?, c.1868.]

On the principle of a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle, the thirty-eight pieces join to form a globe. Divided horizontally, the planes of the sections bear maps of the continents on one side, pictures and statistical information on the other. The device would probably have been used as an educational aid in a Victorian schoolroom.

Maps G.3.


Pocket globes habitually consisted of a solid terrestrial sphere in a case lined with the celestial hemispheres. Homann’s version is unusual in that the globe is hollow, designed to open at the equator in order to reveal an armillary sphere demonstrating the motions of the heavenly bodies.


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A Correct globe with ye New Constellations of Mr. Hevelius. [London: H. Moll], 1710.

Terrestrial globe, 7 cm in diameter, in a shagreen case bearing representations of the celestial hemispheres on its inner surface. An early and rare English pocket globe, whose terrestrial outlines incorporate William Dampier’s discoveries to New Holland (Australia) and the Pacific on voyages of 1686–91 and 1699–1701, as well as his observations about the trade winds. Moll had earlier compiled the official maps for Dampier’s Voyages and would later feature in Gulliver’s Travels.

Maps C.4.a.4.(1.)


One of the few surviving examples of an English table globe of the early eighteenth century, a type known from contemporary announcements to have been produced in some quantity. No other example of this particular globe can be traced.

Maps G.15.

Russell, John. A Globe representing the visible surface of the Moon constructed from Triangles measured with a Micrometer and
Maps G.45.
accurately drawn and engraved from a long series of Telescopic Observations by J. Russell R.A.... This Globe being part of the Apparatus named the Selenographia... Published by the Author, Newman Street, London, 1797. Height 52 cm.

The earliest extant English lunar globe, drawn and stipple engraved by the artist John Russell, 'Painter to the King and Prince of Wales'. Only six other examples can be traced. The Library already holds the accompanying Description, which explains how the rotating brass hemisphere surrounding the globe demonstrates the orbital motion of the moon and its position relative to the earth.

Maps G.45.

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