



ENCOMPASS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR DISCERNING ANTIQUE MAP COLLECTORS

BRITAIN IN MAPS - WHERE ARE THE ROADS?

Although many map collectors focus on specific areas in Britain, more general maps of England and Wales, or of the British Isles, provide a fascinating source of information regarding the social development of the country, as well as the history of mapmaking.

As a group of two large (and innumerable smaller) islands on the edge of the known world in Roman times, Ptolemy's outlines of the British Isles, along with later medieval delineations, form the starting point for Britain's cartographic presentation in print. As the science of printed cartography develops, so the outline becomes more recognisable - but not before Scotland is considered, by some, to be an island and Brazil appears as an island off the west coast of Ireland (such quirks were acceptable in pre-modern times).

Apart from the established network of Roman roads and references to Pilgrims' routes, no maps prior to the late 17th century actually show roads around the country. Today it is inconceivable to imagine a world without easy travel by road, rail, air or sea. A 17th century map shows a world in which missionaries, merchants and empire-builders were the only tourists and, if a place was marked on the map, it was to indicate where it was, not how to get there.

Until recently, Sir Herbert Fordham's 1924 treatise, *Road-Books & Itineraries Of Great Britain*, remained the standard reference on the subject. Recently revised (in part) by Francis Bennett, this was the catalyst for our forthcoming exhibition of maps of Britain - from Watling



Street to the A1. Please see our Events Diary for further details of this exhibition and visit www.jpmaps.co.uk to order copies of Francis Bennett's book. The selection of maps to be

exhibited and offered for sale here at 125

New Bond Street makes no claims to present all the major maps of these islands (few could achieve that), but does include many decorative, rare and interesting maps and atlases illustrating the development of cartography as an art and a science.



AMERICA'S 400TH ANNIVERSARY

SHOWCASED ON JONATHAN POTTER LIMITED'S WEBSITE

In 1607 three ships set sail from the UK at the behest of the Virginia Company of London, finally depositing 104 male survivors in the New World after a long and arduous journey. These survivors were to establish Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in North America.

The settlers' initial difficulties in establishing crops to trade, as well as the complications they experienced with the Native Americans, has made their achievements and actions the stuff of legends. Captain John Smith's efforts to keep the settlement alive, and his explorations up the Chesapeake River, are tales as notorious as that of Pocahontas.

Jonathan Potter Limited is very excited to see the commemorative events planned to celebrate this settlement - further details may be viewed at www.americas400thanniversary.com. To celebrate the anniversary, we are also pleased to be able to offer a stimulating selection of maps of Virginia, all closely related to the Jamestown events. Take a look at our showcase page at www.jpmaps.co.uk/showcase.

A VIEW FROM THE GALLERY...

Welcome to the second issue of *Encompass*. We were pleased to see so many of you visit our website to investigate further some of the topics we touched upon in the last newsletter. We hope you enjoy more of the same this time - remember to look at our website for more information.

We were pleased to receive many comments after the first *Encompass*, and one concerned our illustrated compass rose. So, always happy to accommodate your enquiries and suggestions where possible, we now hope to illustrate an image of a different compass rose in every issue. For those of you who are able to identify the mapmaker of this month's compass rose correctly, we shall enter you into a draw, to take place at the end of September (and in time for the winner's name to be published in the next issue), for a copy of *Collecting Antique Maps* by Jonathan Potter. We look forward to receiving your emails!

For those of you who wish to explore the meaning and history of compass roses a little more, we can recommend *Cartographical Innovations - An International Handbook Of Mapping Terms To 1900*, edited by Helen M. Wallis and Arthur H. Robinson (Map Collector Publications, 1982) and *Leo Bagrow's History Of Cartography*, revised and enlarged by R.A. Skelton (C.A. Watts & Co. Ltd., 1964). A copy of the Bagrow is currently being offered for sale on our website at www.jpmaps.co.uk, along with a selection of other cartographic reference books, many of which are now out-of-print.

For your information, the compass rose began life (BC) as a windrose - the centre from which lines radiate indicating the directions of the winds. The earliest references, according to Wallis and Robinson, list the winds as boreas (N) and notos (S), with euros (E) and zephyros (W) added shortly afterwards. By the 16th century, when cartographers such as Pedro Reinel (fl. c.1485-1519) were active, multi-directional windroses developed an indicator for the northern point; the Italian charts of the period might have shown a wedge-shaped pointer, Catalan charts showed a triangle of spheres, and Portuguese charts used a helmet-spike. However, some started to depict a lily on the northern pointer, and this was to be copied by other mapmakers in the form of the fleur-de-lis for years to come.

Happy compass rose spotting!

Kate Marshall
Editor

NEW DISCOVERIES

SOME OF THE LATEST ITEMS ADDED TO OUR PORTFOLIO

Visit www.jpmaps.co.uk/recentadditions to view the full range of newly added maps to our website. Here are just a few interesting excerpts:

G.F. Camocio (Venice, 1572)
'Rodi Citta'
- 21 x 15.5cms
- Copperplate
- Uncoloured
- **£280** (ref. 11551)

A pleasing and scarce plan of Rhodes City by Camocio, one of the so-called 'Lafreri School' mapmakers. A good, clear and strong impression from a carefully engraved copperplate. Ships sail in the foreground whilst behind, the city walls and harbour are clearly shown.

A central mosque is surmounted by a crescent moon. At the time of publication the city was under the control of the Ottoman Empire, having fallen to the large army of Suleiman the Magnificent in December 1522. North is oriented to the right of the page and the map's title sits in a small scroll across the top of the page. An attractive map from a most sought-after school of cartographers.



G. Blaeu (Amsterdam, 1640-1649) **Virginiae Partis Australis Et Floridae Partis Orientalis...**
50 x 38cms - Copperplate - Coloured - **£1,750** (ref. 28430)

Based on the Hondius map of 1606, although here incorporating many new geographical features, Blaeu's map covers from the mouth of the Chesapeake in the north, to Cap Francois in the south. On this map Blaeu depicts the shape of the Chesapeake correctly



- an improvement on Hondius' depiction of the river as just a small bay. This is state two of the map (as identified by Burden in his *Mapping Of America*) as the cherub to the left of the mileage scale is exhibiting a tail and thus was first published in 1640. The first state of the map is dated by Burden as c.1638. The title cartouche is boldly flanked by six figures in local dress - a most decorative embellishment. On the map itself, Blaeu shows the Royal Arms of both England and France, indicating their claims to the regions given. This is a Dutch text edition of the map, printed on page 82 of the atlas and with a letter 'H' imprint at the bottom of the verso text, indicating the map is from a 1649 or later edition of the work. A good example of this sought-after map with attractive original colour and particularly wide margins.

J.Seller (London, c.1685)
**A Chart Of The Sea Coast From
 ...England To Cape Bona Esperantia**
 - 14 x 11.5cms - Copperplate - Coloured
 - **£200** (ref. 18269)

A geographically wide-ranging map showing much of Western Europe and Africa. The map is oriented with north to the left of the page and the equator and tropics thus cross the map vertically, rather than horizontally, as one might normally expect to see. A decorative compass rose adorns the Atlantic. John Seller was the first English man in England to compete with the Dutch chartmakers (Sir Robert Dudley had published his maps in Florence some years earlier). His maps and charts, from any publication, are relatively scarce and sought after. This is an attractive, miniature map from the renowned English mapmaker.

We would also like to draw your attention to an important map of the British Isles currently showing on the website and intended for exhibition at our forthcoming Britain in Maps event:

J.Speed (London, 1610-1616)
The Kingdome Of Great Britaine And Ireland
 51 x 38.5cms - Copperplate - Uncoloured - **£3,000** (ref. 31627)

A good example of one of the best known and most distinguished maps of the British Isles. Jodocus Hondius engraved this map for John Speed's atlas just three years after the union of Scotland with England and Wales. He, accordingly, celebrates this union with panoramas of London and Edinburgh in each upper corner. Cartographic detail is a combination of Saxton's (for England and Wales) and Mercator's (for Scotland), providing a most up-to-date outline. Thoroughly detailed, the map is enhanced with numerous vignette illustrations showing ships, sea monsters, coats of arms and so on.



Prominent depictions of ancient coins showing Britannia and 'Cunobelin', Shakespeare's Cymbeline or King Coel, are also given. Silk-effect shading gives the sea an effective 'wavy' appearance, while cherubs support each frame of the mileage scale, and an inset of the Orkneys is also given. Overall a fine copy, in the only Latin text edition, of one of the landmark maps of the British Isles.

A VIEW FROM THE TOP...

Maps are "an inexhaustible fund of interest for any man..."

Nineteen years ago the first edition of my introduction to *Collecting Antique Maps* contained the above quote within the jacket notes. It was attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson as an excerpt from *Treasure Island* and more than one eagle-eyed collector has scoured that great adventure and asked just where the quote appeared. A fair question, but one I couldn't answer at the time as these jacket notes, I had to admit, had been compiled by the publisher rather than myself.

Niggled by this inaccuracy, and reminded a short time ago by the original questioner, I was recently astounded by the ease with which the internet, at a click, resolved the debate. Stevenson states in his *Art of Writing* how, whiling away a wet and gloomy afternoon, he: "made the map of an island; it was elaborately and (I thought) beautifully coloured; the shape of it took my fancy beyond expression; it contained harbours that pleased me like sonnets; and with the unconsciousness of the predestined, I ticketed my performance 'Treasure Island' ...here is an inexhaustible fund of interest for any man with eyes to see or twopence-worth of imagination to understand with!"

The concept of a map of the imaginary *Treasure Island* is (for many who understand and enjoy maps) as real a perception of location as a 17th century depiction of Africa, an 18th century city plan, or a 19th century survey map of the Scottish Highlands.

Maps of any period remain an inexhaustible fund of interest - with a little imagination they become fascinating reflections on the period in which they were produced, as well as pictures of the places they depict.

Jonathan Potter
 Managing Director



SOMETHING DIFFERENT

A REGULAR FEATURE THAT HIGHLIGHTS ITEMS OF INTEREST AND NOTE IN THE CARTOGRAPHIC WORLD

This Staffordshire printed jug of Wedgewood creamware dates from c.1790, when creamware production was at its height. Printed in black and reaching 18.6cm tall, the jug is decorated on one side with 'A Map of the World', and with a map of North and South America on the other.

During the mid-18th century, it was not uncommon to use maps as ceramic decoration and this particular jug shows up-to-date cartography of the period.

The featured 'Map of the World' details Europe, Africa and Asia, and highlights areas of new interest such as 'New Holland', 'Hottentots' and 'Eastern Tartary'. Allegorical figures of the continents flank the map: the feather-shorn, arrow-wielding lady of the Americas (joined by stag and snake); reclining Asia, with camel and smoking vial; robed Africa, seated on a lion and with cornucopia, and Europe, regally, with temple, crown, horse, and a cornucopia of her own. The four figures, one in each corner, gaze into the map and are mirrored by figures of 'The Seasons' on the reverse of the jug, who gaze at the 'latest discoveries'.

Creamware was a result of 18th century experimentation by Staffordshire potters to find a British substitute for much-coveted Chinese porcelain. Its characteristic colour was actually considered a fault when it was first produced (c.1750), though the ceramic was eventually a huge commercial success. Josiah Wedgewood even attracted royal approval for the line: in 1765, after gifting a creamware tea-set to Queen Charlotte, he was appointed Potter to Her Majesty. Creamware was immediately renamed the 'Queen's ware'. Catherine II the Great of Russia was also a Wedgewood creamware customer.

Though the lip of the jug is reduced and there are some fine cracks to the body and base, the item remains in good condition and is of considerable charm. For further information, including a price, please email info@jpmaps.co.uk.



EVENTS DIARY

EXCLUSIVE EVENINGS - 'BRITAIN IN MAPS'

Jonathan Potter Limited will host our first **Exclusive Evening Event** here at the gallery on Thursday September 20th at 6.30pm.

We are pleased to be able to confirm the evening's theme as **Britain in Maps** and we are delighted to be able to welcome Rodney Shirley as our guest speaker for this first event, whose many publications have enriched cartographic knowledge and who was the founder president of the International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS).

Mr Shirley will deliver a short talk on the theme of **Britain in Maps**; guests will then be invited to preview Jonathan Potter Limited's exhibition of items for sale including maps of the British Isles and British Road Atlases, and refreshments will be served.

The exhibition will continue to run until the end of September during gallery hours - Monday to Friday from 10am until 6pm. Please do contact us if you would like to attend this evening event (where places are limited) or if you would like to receive a special exhibition catalogue.



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125 New Bond Street
London
W1S 1DY

Tel: +44 (0)20 7491 3520
Fax: +44 (0)207 491 9754



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