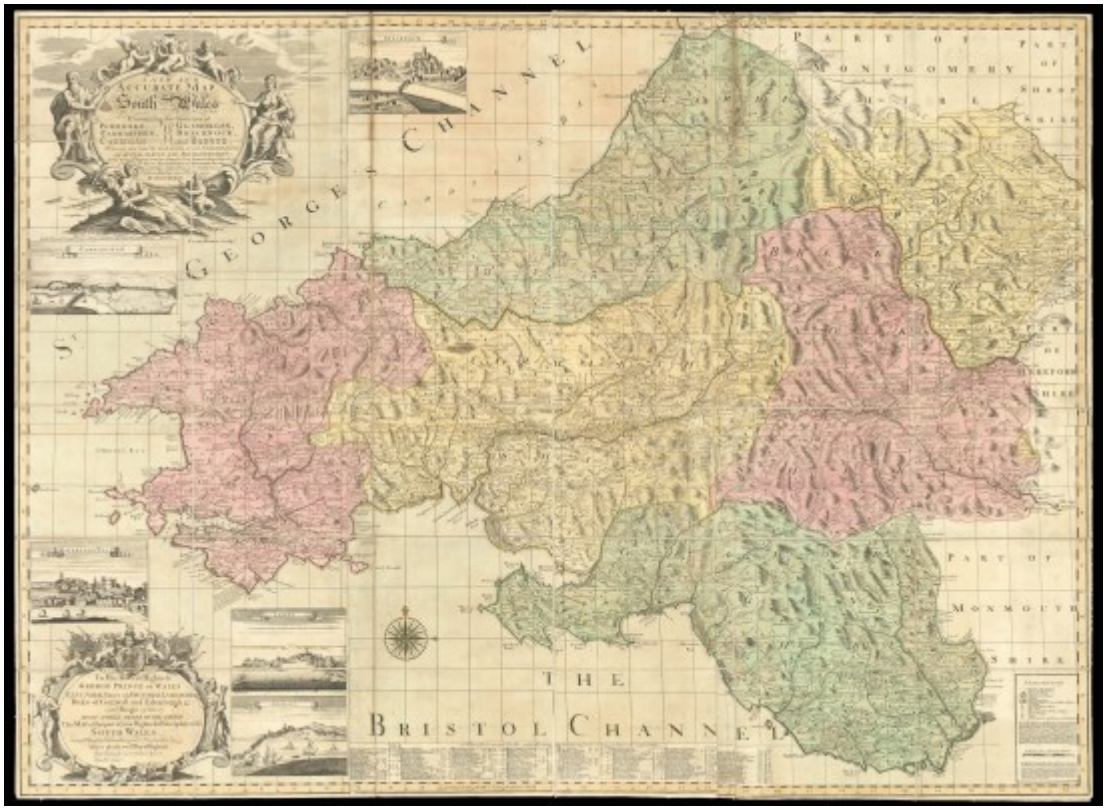


Engraved map on six sheets, original hand colour in full-wash, dissected and backed on linen, folded and contained with marbled paper slipcase.

BOWEN’S LARGE-SCALE MAP OF SOUTH WALES

A new and accurate map of South Wales containing the counties of Pembroke, Glamorgan, Carnarthen, Brecknock, Cardigan, Radnor, wherein are exactly laid down and delineated from an actual survey and admeasurement: all the towns, villages, churches, chapels, gentlemen’s seats together with the rivers, roads, divisions, mountains, forests, mines, bridges, lakes, fens &c. In their true position, situation and dystances. By Eman Bowen.

Author
BOWEN, Eman[uel].

Publication date
[c1766].

Publisher
Printed for Carington Bowles, in St. Paul’s Church Yard, and Robert Sayer No. 53 Fleet Street,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Engraved map on six sheets, original hand colour in full-wash, dissected and backed on linen, folded and contained with marbled paper slipcase.

Dimensions
1150 by 1580mm. (45.25 by 62.25 inches).

Notes
This is the most detailed map of the South Welsh counties available in the eighteenth century, and even into the nineteenth, it was one of the main sources of information for Welsh travellers, land-owners and administrators alike. Although large-scale maps were being made for almost every English county, the Welsh counties generally received less attention individually, and are instead grouped together or depicted on smaller-scale representations. In 1720, Bowen had published an illustrated road atlas, his 'Britannia Depicta', in which he compiled, added to and commented on the British maps of previous cartographers. This atlas included each of the Welsh counties, equipping Bowen with a detailed familiarity of the region. This is evident from his later map of South Wales, which contains a wealth of information beyond routes and roads. Along with the "Table of Principal Road", it includes annotations about the geology of certain regions, labelled settlements, relief represented with illustrated hills, and an "Explanation" key which discusses the distances displayed in longitude and latitude.

The map is as decorative as it is informative, with elaborate cartouches, five inset vignettes of important towns, and bold colours used to distinguish the counties. One impressive cartouche in the upper left corner contains the title, while in the lower corner a slightly smaller one presents the dedications, which runs as follows: "To his Royal Highness George Prince of Wales Electoral Prince of Brunswick Lunenburgh Duke of Cornwall and Edenburgh and Knight of the most noble order of the garter. This map of that part of your Highness's Principality call'd South Wales is most humbly dedicated and presented by, may it please your Royal Highness, your highness's most obedient & most humble servt. Eman Bowen". Such an extensive dedication demonstrates the importance of the patronage system to cartographers of the eighteenth century. Bowen was a prolific map engraver and publisher, and was appointed to the service of George II of England and Louis XV of France. He worked with his son to produce several county atlases, but ended his days in rather less grand fashion, dying in a workhouse in Clerkenwell.

Roger lists only five institutional examples, and we are able to trace another example appearing at auction in the last 40 years.

Bibliography
Bowen, 'Britannia Depicta', (1720); Morley, 'Genealogy of the Morleys in South Wales: Glamorgan and the Vale of Neath from 1700 to 1800', (Annals of Genealogical Research, 2012); Kentish, 'A Catalogue of Large-Scale County Maps of England and Wales published between 1705 and 1832', (Parchment Press, Oxford, 1997); Roger, 'The large scale county maps of the British Isles, 1596-1850: a union list', (Bodleian Library, 1972).

Provenance

Price: £5000

Inventory reference: 14988

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