



Quarto (150 by 100mm), title, 46 engraved maps (of which the general map of England and Wales, and the map of Yorkshire are folding), library stamp to title, contemporary vellum over boards, title in manuscript to spine.

THE FIRST ATLAS OF THE ENTIRE BRITISH ISLES

Guilielmi Camdeni Viri Clarissimi Britannia sive Florentissimorum Regnorum Angliae, Scotiae, Hiberniae, & Insularum adjacentium...

Author

CAMDEN, William and Pieter van den KEERE

Publication date

1617

Publisher

Willem Blaeu,

Publication place

Amsterdam,

Physical description

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Dimensions

Notes

A fine example of the miniature Latin edition of Camden's Britannia.

The maps that accompany this work were engraved by the leading Dutch engraver Pieter van den Keere. The maps were originally commissioned by the Amsterdam publisher Cornelis Claesz in around 1599, who had intended to produce a miniature atlas of the British Isles as a companion piece to his successful miniature world atlas the *Caert-Thresoor*. However, the pocket atlas of the British Isles was never completed, probably due to the progress of John Speed's *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine*. No title was engraved and no text printed. The 44 maps were subsequently sold by Claesz in 1609 for 10 stuivers.

The plates would not appear in a fully published work until Willem Blaeu, in 1617, published the present work. For his miniature *Camden*, Blaeu has added two folding maps, one of England and Wales, and the other of Yorkshire. He also added Latin text to the verso of the maps. Forty of the plates would later be used by George Humble for his miniature atlas of England, Wales, and Ireland, who had the plates reworked, titles changed into English, and plate numbers added.

Bibliography

Skelton 12; Van der Krogt IIIB 373:02.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 2506