



Two parts in one volume. Folio. Two engraved title pages, 47 engraved charts, all in fine original colour in full, lacking 36pp. text to first part; contemporary calf, blind-stamp fillet roll border, and corner arabesques, large central arabesque with lions head, spine in six compartments separated by raised bands.

THE FIRST PRINTED SEA PILOT

Teerste Deel vande Spieghel der Zeevaert... [and] Der ander Theil. Dess Spiegels der Seefart

Author

WAGHENAER, Lucas Janszoon

Publication date

1589.

Publisher

Christofel Plantijn and Cornelius Claesz,

Publication place

Amsterdam,

Physical description

Two parts in one volume. Folio. Two engraved title pages, 47 engraved charts, all in fine original colour in full, lacking 36pp. text to first part; contemporary calf, blind-stamp fillet roll border, and corner arabesques, large central arabesque with lions head, spine in six compartments separated by raised bands.

Dimensions

Notes

Superb example of Waghenaer's sea pilot in fine original full wash colour.

"Waghenaer's work was a milestone in the development of West European navigation. His charts brought together the pictorial silhouettes that had been a standard feature of traditional rutters used by pilots, and combined these with updated coastal outlines. In addition, there were compass roses and lines of navigational direction, as well as soundings to help navigators make their way into ports and havens" (Schilder).

After a long career at sea, Waghenaer became collector of maritime dues in his hometown of Enkhuizen in 1579. Losing this post in 1582, he began work on what was to become one of the most successful maritime books of its age: a pioneering synthesis of information from manuscript charts, rutters, ships' logs, all of which he systematized for the first time, illustrated with informative and beautifully engraved charts.

The demand for Waghenaer's charts required translations for foreign pilots, and this Latin version was only the first, with subsequent translations into English, German, and French. The atlas was "the greatest single advance in the history of hydrographic publication. Within the covers of a single work it provided the seaman with a manual of practical navigation, a set of printed charts on a common scale, covering the coasts and waters of northern and western Europe, and sailing directions which were otherwise only to be found in rutters unaccompanied by charts" (Skelton). Published charts of the coast of Europe were based on Waghenaer's work for at least a century, and all such later collections of sea charts were called after him "waghenaers" or "waggoners" in English and "chartiers" in French.

The present example conforms in part to Koeman Wag 6 - the first German edition - though with a few exceptions: the title and dedication of the first part is taken from first Dutch edition - dated 1584 - but with the 36 text pages omitted. All charts in the first and second part bear German text above the charts, an are in state 'D', having been reworked by Claesz. The distribution of the charts, is also slightly different, with 21 in the first part, and 26 in the second. These amendments, due to the contemporary binding, and the consistency of the colour, would appear to have been intentional

Bibliography

Kpeman Wag 1B and Wag 6

BM STC, Dutch Books S. 209; Goedings Kunst in Kaart, Utrecht 1989, p.104-106, 110-113; Koeman, Wag 5A; Nederl. Scheepvaart Mus. I, 44. (see Van Mander 1604 p.258); Phillips/Le Gear 3980; Schilder Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica, Vol VII; Tiele 1191 Anm; Skelton, "Bibliographical note" in the facsimile edition, Amsterdam, 1966.

Provenance

Provenance

Manuscript inscription in a nineteenth century hand, to the front paste down: "Exlibris des a Geizkofler Zacharias 1605 b) Brösamer Augustin 1706". The two ex-libris have been removed.

Zacharias Geizkofler (1560-1617) was born in Brixen in 1560 and he died in Prague in 1617. A Lutheran active in literature. He was a lawyer, diplomat and imperial councillor. He came from an old Tyrol family settled in Jáchymov and in Augsburg. He studied in Strasbourg and in Basel; from 1597 until his death, he was the Master of the Imperial Mint as well as a councillor to the emperors Rudolf II and Matthias. During the reign of Emperor Rudolf II, G. cooperated with large banking houses and participated in the organization of the so-called anticipation loan. His agenda included

i.a. securing the funding for the Turkish wars. Like other members of the family, he also worked as a diplomat in the service of the Fuggers. In the town of Haunsheim, he built a magnificent Renaissance residence. He was famous for his charitable work for the poor and the abolition of serfdom. In 1603, Geizkofler acquired the library of Anton Fugger, a German merchant, banker, and member of the Fugger family. He was a nephew of Jakob Fugger.

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