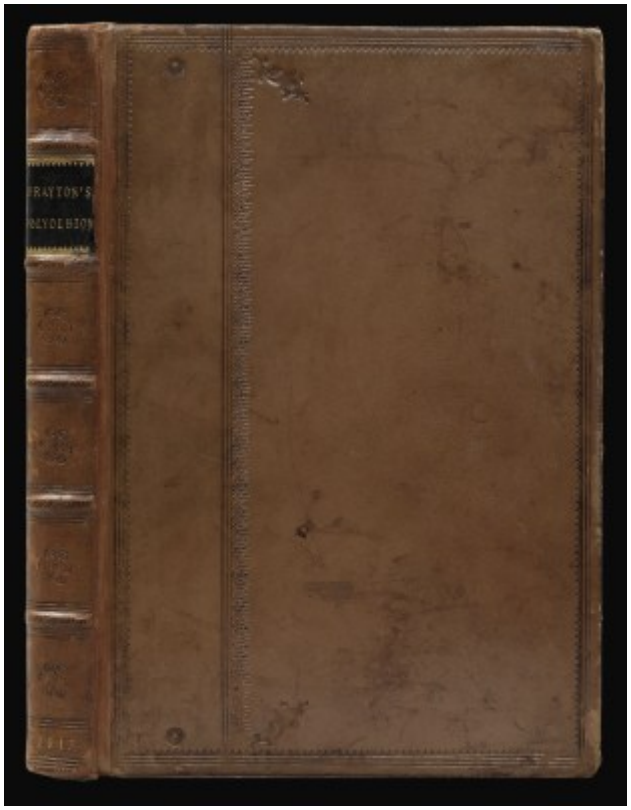


Folio (276 by 193mm), preliminary page to frontispiece, engraved frontispiece, dedication to Prince Henry of Wales, table of contents, note to the reader, note on illustrations, pp. 303, 18 double-paged engraved maps, contemporary calf, spine in six compartments, gilt title.

THE POLY-OLBION

Poly-olbion or A Chorographicall Description of Tracts, Rivers, Mountaines, Forests, and other Parts of this renowned Isle of Great Britain...

Author
DRAYTON, Michael

Publication date
1613.

Publisher
Printed for M. Lownes, I. Browne, I. Helme, I. Bushee.

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Folio (276 by 193mm), preliminary page to frontispiece, engraved frontispiece, dedication to Prince Henry of Wales, table of contents, note to the reader, note on illustrations, pp. 303, 18 double-paged engraved maps, contemporary calf, spine in six compartments, gilt title.

Dimensions

Notes
Michael Drayton (1563-1631) spent much of his life producing poetry, from 'The Harmony of the

Church', a volume of spiritual poems that appeared when he was in his mid-20s, to 'The Muses' Elizium' which he produced at 67 years of age, shortly before his death. Like many Elizabethan poets, Drayton also wrote for the theatre, although his plays, which number around 23, are not as well-regarded as his verse. The 'Poly-Olbion' is generally considered to have been his magnum opus. Consisting of 15,000 lines of verse in Alexandrine couplets, divided into thirty songs, the 'Poly-Olbion' is a topographical poem describing the land, traditions and history of the English and Welsh counties. Each song, which typically describes between one and three counties, is accompanied by maps by William Hole, with key places illustrated anthropomorphically. Combining ancient history, mythical tales and accurate factual information, the Poly-Olbion was certainly popular, although not usually read as a whole. Historical and philological summaries were appended to the first book. Although Drayton intended to compose more verse to cover Scotland, this part of the project never came to fruition.
The present example of the 'Poly-Olbion' was printed one year after the first edition, and contains 18 maps.

Bibliography
Skelton 8.

Provenance

Price: £15000

Inventory reference: 12702

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