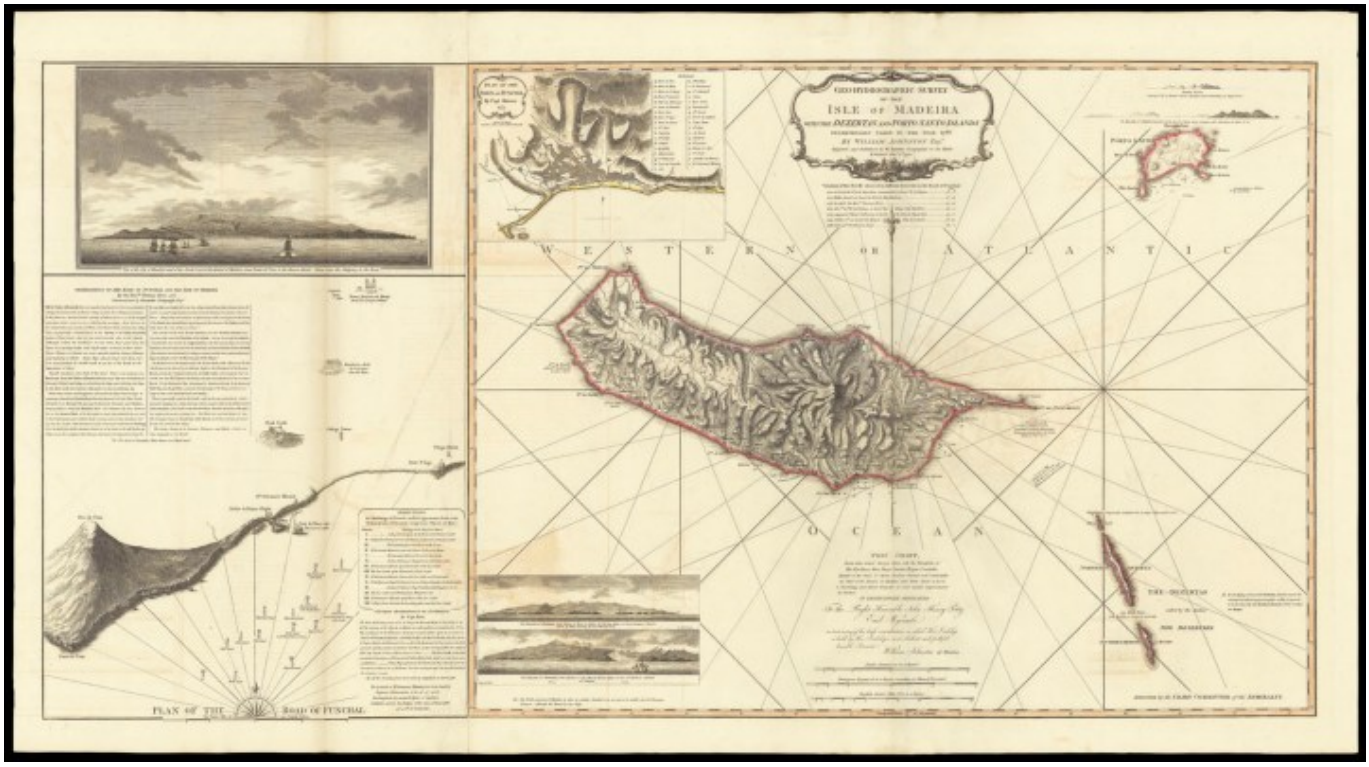


Two engraved charts, on two joined sheets, with contemporary hand-colour in outline

WILLIAM JOHNSTON'S PLAN OF MADEIRA, WITH A VIEW OF FUNCHAL

Geo-Hydrographic Survey of the Isle of Madeira with the Dezertas and Porto Santo Islands geometrically taken in the year 1788. By William Johnston Esq[ui]r[e]. This Chart drawn from actual Surveys taken with the Permission of His Excellency Don Diego Perreira Forjas Coutinho, Knight of the Order of Christ, Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Island of Madeira and Porto Santo &c. &c. &c. a discerning and liberal Promoter of every useful improvement in Science. Is respectfully dedicated To the Right Honourable John Henry Petty Earl Wycombe in testimony of the high consideration in which His Lordship is held by His Lordship's most humble and faithful humble Servant William Johnston of Madeira.

Author
JOHNSTON, William

Publication date
Jan[uar]y 1st, 1791.

Publisher
Digested and Published by W. Faden, Geographer to the King,

Publication place
London

Physical description
Two engraved charts, on two joined sheets, with contemporary hand-colour in outline

Dimensions
1160 by 620mm (45.75 by 24.5 inches).

Notes
The British had particularly strong links with Madeira. The island had been under Portuguese rule since its discovery in 1418 – Portugal being the country with which England had (and still has) its oldest diplomatic alliance – based on the Treaty of Windsor of 1386. This alliance was further strengthened when, in 1662, Charles II married Catherine of Braganza. As a result Englishmen were allowed to settle on the island. Many of the new arrivals would later become involved in the lucrative Madeira port trade. It is likely that William Johnston, the author of the present chart, was involved in the industry, as one William Johnston is recorded as a partner in Newton, Gordon, and Johnston from 1777-1791. The company – now trading as Cossart, Gordon & Co. – was established by Francis Newton in 1745 and is the oldest company in the Madeira wine trade. These strong links were coupled with the island's strategic significance as a principal port of call for the burgeoning transatlantic trade.

To the left of the main chart is a 'Plan of the Road of Funchal' (Johnston's is the first chart to include one) with detailed soundings, anchorages, and observations made by Thomas Howe in 1762, communicated by Alexander Dalrymple to the admiralty; above is a coastal profile 'View of the City of Funchal…'.

We are aware of only one other recorded example where the charts are joined, in the British Library.

Bibliography
BLMC Maps * 68165.(6.); Maps * 68165.(9.).

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 1078

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