WILLIAM HACK’S MANUSCRIPT ATLASES OF “THE GREAT SOUTH SEA OF AMERICA”

Listed here are the known copies of Hack atlases based upon the Spanish derrotero captured by Bartholomew Sharpe in 1680 (see pages 22 to 23 in this Report), of which HM918 in the Huntington Library is thought to be the Spanish original. There are in addition a number of other Spanish derroteros in Spanish, British, and American collections which should be considered in connection with any study of the subject. Excluded from this list are other manuscripts bearing Hack’s name, among which are six copies of Sharpe’s own journal (British Museum MS Sloane 46A, 46B; Naval Historical Library, Ministry of Defence MS. F. 4; Marquis of Bute, H.M.C. Appendix to 3d Report, p. 208; Arthur Houghton, Jr., two copies); two copies of Basil Ringrose’s journal (British Museum MS Sloane 48 and 3820); one copy of an atlas of North America (British Museum K. Mar. VII 3); three copies of an atlas of the East Indies (British Museum K. Mar. VI 1 and K. Mar. VI *1; Library of Congress, Phillips 3162); a number of separate manuscript maps, mostly of the West Indies, of which the British Museum has ten, with another of New England in Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth, Massachusetts. There are also a number of related English maritime manuscripts listed by Mr. Christopher Lloyd in his article cited in the bibliography, in addition to which is a Ringrose South Sea Wagoner in the National Maritime Museum (MS P. 32).

The Atlas of the Great South Sea of America ex-
ists in seven different forms. To list these clearly their contents have been divided into five components. No copy contains all five, which are designated as follows:

A Maps of the west coast from Acapulco south to the Strait of Magellan. Additional maps were added in later copies but their nature and source have not been determined.

B Maps of the west coast from Acapulco north to the Gulf of California. These appeared in the original derrotero but for some reason were omitted from the first copies made.

C Maps of the Galápagos Islands made from charts brought back by William Ambrose Cowley in 1686.

D Maps of certain West Indian islands by Salmon and Jenifer. These may be associated with Hack’s North American Atlas (K. Mar. VII 3) and some of the separate maps.

E The English translation by Philip Dassigny of sailing directions in the original derrotero which first bore the title “Journall from the harbour of Calo.”

An attempt has been made to arrange the list chronologically. Placement of undated copies is based on several factors, the number of maps being the most prominent. The figures given for the number of maps cannot be considered final because some of the data have been taken from secondary sources, but they are within one or two of being accurate. The number of leaves is given only in those cases where Dassigny’s translation of the sailing directions is present. All atlases except numbers one and five bear

Hack’s name although undoubtedly he did not do all the work himself.

Without the advice and help of Mr. R. A. Skelton this list would never have been attempted. Not only did he make available his notes on the British Museum copies but his advice was essential in determining the form and content of the list itself. Miss Helen Wallis of the Map Room of the British Museum, Mr. A. W. H. Pearsall of the National Maritime Museum, Mr. Howell Heaney of the Free Library of Philadelphia, Mr. H. C. Schulz of the Huntington Library, and Mr. Robert H. Becker of the Bancroft Library all provided additional information, and Mr. Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., graciously arranged for questions concerning his copies to be answered by Mr. Robert F. Metzdorf.

References:


The chapter on Hack was first printed separately for Orion Booksellers Ltd. in 1946.

Schulz: Ten Centuries of Manuscripts in the Hun-


1. Hack’s transcript of the maps in the Spanish _derrotado_ captured by Bartholomew Sharpe. The last chart has the following legend translated from the original, “Surveyed by order of the King of Spain and finished at Pannama Anno Doñj 1669.” Unsigned and undated, but made between March and October of 1682.

   147 maps.
   Components: A, B.
   Location: British Museum, Ms. Harleian 4034.
   References: Skelton BM Hydro, p. 329; Skelton Ex Map, p. 198, 204.

2. ... _Waggoner of the Great South Sea ..._ dated 1682. Dedicated and presented to Charles II by Bartholomew Sharpe.

   130 maps, 60 leaves.
   Components: A, E.
   Location: British Museum, K. Mar. VIII 15.
   References: Skelton BM Quart, p. 64, BM Hydro, p. 329; Lynam, p. 107-108;

3. ... _Waggoner of the South Sea ..._ dated 1683. Dedicated and presented to Charles II by Bartholomew Sharpe.

   131 maps.
   Component: A.
   References: Heaney no. 169; Skelton BM Quart, p. 64, BM Hydro, p. 64.

4. _A description of the South Sea Coasts in the South Sea of America ..._ Undated, probably made in 1683 or 1684 prior to no. 5 in this list. Purchased from Hack by William Hill of Lincolns Inn (ca. 1693?) and sold by him to the South Sea Company in 1711 when “S.S.C.” was stamped on the cover.

   131 maps.
   Component: A.
   Location: Henry E. Huntington Library, HM 265.

5. “Sharp’s South Sea Waggoner,” without a title page and not signed by Hack but in a style which makes it extremely likely that it came from his work-
shop. Contains a note in Dutch dated 1692 signed by Nicolaas Witsen. The maps are numbered from 1 to 129 but 56 are missing and probably never were present. In addition there are two maps of Juan Fernandez Islands by Witsen.
75 maps, 73 leaves.
Components: A, E.
Location: Bancroft Library, University of California, MM-224.

6. Capt. Bartholomew Sharp's South Sea Waggoner . . . dated 1684 and presented to Charles II.
135 maps.
Component: A.
Location: British Museum, Ms. Sloane 44.
References: Skelton BM Hydro, p. 329.

7. A Wagoner of the South Sea dated 1685 and dedicated to James II.
149 maps.
Component: A.
References: Skelton BM Hydro, p. 329.

8. An Appendix to the South Sea Wagoner . . . undated, probably done about 1685 or 1686 but before 1688. Dedicated to James II.
17 maps, 83 leaves.
Component: B, E.
References: Heaney no. 169.

9. i Part. Containing sundry draughts describing
13. *An Accurate Description of all the Harbours [&c.]... in the South Sea of America...* undated, possibly done after 1698. Contains the bookplate of John Clevland of Tapley, Devon. Captain William Clevland, R.N. (d. 1735), served in the Channel Fleet or on a store ship, or was in England without a command from 1693 to 1704. Both his son (ca. 1707-1763) and grandson (1734-1817) were named John Clevland and both held posts in the Admiralty.

183 maps.

*Components:* A, B, C.

*Location:* John Carter Brown Library, Codex Eng. 53.

*References:* Sotheby Catalogue, 20 June 1966, no. 87.

14. *...A Description of all the Ports [&c.]... in the South Seas of America...* undated, possibly done after 1698. Contains bookplate of Rt. Hon. George Grenville.

184 maps.

*Components:* A, B, C.

*Location:* Arthur Houghton, Jr., New York City.

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Reprint from the
John Carter Brown Library
Annual Report for 1965-1966