

Comparison List of identified Bevis's Uranographia Britannica 'sets'

UPDATED 29th May 2013

Intended Uranographia Britannica, ca. 1750 : Incomplete but offered for sale at auction 1785	1786 Title Page	Frontispiece	Star charts	Tables	Catalogue A,B,C,D,E,F,G	Index	Notes
American Philosophical Society (APS copy), Philadelphia. (1)	Not applicable	Yes	Complete, 51	Yes, 32 pages	Yes, 7 double-sided pages	No	1
Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire UK. Henry Cavendish collection. Library Cat 1. 65 shelf C. Private collection, The Duke of Devonshire	Not applicable	Yes	Complete, 51	Yes, 29 pages	Yes, 7 double-sided pages	No	36
St. Johns College, Cambridge. P2.61.34 Title page dated 1786 and possibly the original draft of 'Atlas Celeste' (2)	Hand scripted in black ink	Yes	Incomplete, 49	Yes, 29pages	Yes, 7 double-sided pages	No	2
Atlas Celeste, ca. 1786: Unpublished but offered for sale anonymously 1786. (References are in parenthesis.)	1786 Printed Title Page	Frontispiece	Star charts	Tables	Catalogue	Index	Note
Manchester Astronomical Society. Available for reference in Chetham's Library, Manchester	1786 Original print	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	3
Offered for sale at Bloomsbury Auctions, London, March 2008. Sold to an anonymous buyer and now in private collection.(11)	1786 Original print	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	30
University of South Carolina. OCLC# 22768440. Thomas Cooper Library Special Collections copy. Gift of Robert B Atrial.(13)	1786 Original print (repaired)	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	35
British Library Map collection, London. C.21 c.5	1786 Original print	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	4
From the library of the late Gerald F. Fitzgerald, Chicago. Anonymous buyer. £9375 Hammer Price with buyers premium Sothebys, London, May 2013.(15)	1786 Original print (unbound)	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes (unbound)	38
St. Johns College, Cambridge. P2.61.35(2)	Top half only (page repaired).	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	5
University Library, Cambridge, UK Adams 1.81.1 ex Woollgar, 1818(2)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	6
Private collection of Prof. J.M. Pasachoff, Oct 2001. Available for reference in the Chapin Library, Williams College, Massachusetts..	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	22
Royal Astronomical Society ex. Woollgar, 1824(7)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	7
Private collection of Robert Gordon , New York. Bought from Dominic Winters Book Auction Ltd, Swindon, June 1996. (Lot 451. Ind. £6000-£9000)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	23
Museum of the History of Science, Oxford. University Observatory Collection [1982-132](10)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	8
Royal Greenwich Observatory collection, National Maritime Museum, London.(6)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	9
Linda Hall Library, Kansas City(1)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	10
St. Johns College, Cambridge. P2.61.36(2)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	11
St. Johns College, Cambridge. (unbound set) (2)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	12
Houghton Library, Harvard University.(3)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	13
Detroit Public Library. Burton Historical Collection(4)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	14
Lund Observatory, Sweden. Deposited at Lund University Library.(9)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	15
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library. Rare Book & Special Collections. XF523.8903 B468U	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	16
Adler planetarium, Chicago.	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	26
From the Richard Green Library. Sold to an anonymous buyer for \$64,000 (\$80,500), Christies NY 17 June 2008. Lot 33/Sale 2013(12)	No	No	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	34
Astronomical Society of Victoria. Old Melbourne Observatory, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.	No	No	Complete, 51	No	No	No	27
Stanford University. Barchas Collection 1999, Copy 2. Imperfect. (Plates only)(4)	No	Yes	Incomplete, 49*	No	No	No	17
Stanford University. Barchas Collection 1999, Copy 1. Imperfect. (Unbound in box)(4)	Top half only (page torn).	Yes	Incomplete, 38*	No	No	Yes	18
Deborah Jean Warner Collection, Washington D.C.	No	?	?	No	No	?	24
MISSING, PRESUMED IN PRIVATE COLLECTION. Owned by Prof. R.A.Gregory ca 1906.(7)	1786 Original print	Yes	Incomplete, 50*	No	No	Yes	20
MISSING, PRESUMED IN PRIVATE COLLECTION. Offered for sale for £2600 by J.A.L.Franks Ltd, London c1981 .(8)	1786 Original print. repaired	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	21
INDIVIDUAL PLATES IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS / DEALERS.							25
Proof charts. British Library Map collection. C.21 e.8	Not applicable	N/A	34 proofs	No	No	No	19
Old World Auctions. February 2008 offering Bevis Plate XXIX Scorpius and XXXII Aquarius. Both hand coloured. Lot 82 and 83 \$1500 each. UNSOLD			2				31
Hand-coloured Plates XLII Crater, XVI Delphinus and VIII Lyræ, are in the collection of Robert D Cathcart, Southern California			3				32
Hand coloured Plates XXVIII Libra (bought from Glaser in NY) and XVI Delphinus (bought in London) are owned by Prof. N Kanas in California.			2				33
George Glaser Gallery, New York: Hand coloured plates: XVII Delphinus; XVIII Equuleus; XXI Triangulum; XXIV Gemini; XXXIII Pisces			5				28
Hand-coloured. Plate XI, Perseus. Strong colours to Perseus figure only, rest of plate uncoloured. Owned by Andrew Stephens, Gloucestershire. UK			1				37
Government Arts Collection, UK : Hand coloured plates II Ursa Major, III Draco, IX Cygnus, XXX Sagittarius, XXXI Capricorn, XXXVII Lepus			6				29

Additional notes: Atlas Celeste is so rare that bound sets can be considered to be uniquely identifiable.

1. APS copy bought at the Sotheby & Wilkinson sale, London, 21 Jan 1856 for 8 Guineas. Formerly owned by Sir George Shuckburgh-Evelyn (1751-1804). Binding damaged h.f. leather. Frontispiece soiled. (APS catalogue description, Ref. 2575, e-mail comm. to KJK from Roy E. Goodman. December 2011)
2. Likely to have been another of the partially complete atlases sold at auction in 1785. Poorly bound. Plates XXXVII and XXXVIII missing. Some clean plates, most very dirty and ragged. Catalogue and Tables heavily printed with deep embossment through paper. Hand drafted title pages (2) may be original draft from which 1786 printed title sheet was copied. Additional notes probably by Woollgar.
3. In V. good condition. Re-bound 1998 (oil, red). Original 1786 format.

4. Beautifully bound, red leather spine and corners. However, plates are folded. Honi Soit Qui Mal y Pense Knight of the Garter on the cover.
5. Reasonable condition. Cover (solid green), embossed gold 'Atlas Celeste Bevis 1744'. Title page faded. See 11 below.
6. In v. good condition. Binding and cover probably c1818 (oil, green). This atlas contains a title page commissioned by Woolgar in 1818. Has sometimes been mistakenly identified as an 1818 'edition'. Index appears before the plates. Otherwise very similar to MAS copy. Several plain sheets of unwatermarked paper bound into atlas at end. One sheet has two drawings. A section of Milky Way; and a star field, showing the path of an asteroid c1815.
7. Includes a hand written transcription of a 1786 title page copied from that in an atlas owned by Prof. R.A.Gregory. This and additional notes penned by W.H. Wesley, Assistant Secretary to the R.A.S. and dated 31 Oct 1906. See below. RAS atlas was examined by Kilburn in Feb 2008. Re-boxed in 2006. Red-brown covers, red oil-swirl endpapers. Frontispiece and some plates rather grubby.
8. Good. Beige cloth boards, embossed gold 'Uranographia Britannica John Bevis 1745'. Contains several loose pages of notes by W.H. Wesley, dated December 20 and 27, 1907. Includes notes about the Bevis atlas taken from the 'Observatory' p361, 1886.
9. In good condition. No other details available.
10. In good condition. No other details available.
11. Reasonable condition. Cover (solid green) embossed gold 'Uranographia Britannica Bevis 1744'. Front cover detached and loose.
12. In poor condition. Plates very dirty, torn edges.
13. Purchased for \$7250 from Douwma Ltd
14. Bound in red library binding with the title ATLAS CELESTE embossed on the cover. Individual star charts interleaved with plain paper.
15. Good condition. Cover 20th C., black cloth. Bought from Henry Sotheran, London (for eight guineas) in 1929. Nils Hansson to Ashworth, Feb 1980.
16. No other information is available.
17. Plates XXVIII and LI missing. Bound to 35 x 43cm.
18. All plates in this very incomplete set, including the frontispiece, are hand coloured. The set contains two copies of Plate III, Draco. Plates I, V, VI, XI, XXI, XXIV, XXV, XXXVII-XXXIX, XLII, XLVI and XLVII missing.
19. Many of these proof copies are star charts without dedications.
20. Plate LI missing. This atlas was described by W.H.Wesley, Assistant Secretary, Royal Astronomical Society, in October 1906. His notes accompany the RAS atlas. Present whereabouts of this atlas is unknown.
21. Possibly the same one sold at Sotheby's in October 1991 for c£14,000 to a buyer in San Francisco. Present whereabouts unknown.
22. Offered by Bloomsbury Book Auction (London) for £7.5k, bought for c£14k by R Watson 2001. Sold October 2001 for c£26000. Presently owned by Prof. J.M. Pasachoff, Massachusetts.
23. Described as Uranographia Britannica c1750. A little soiled and some marginal soiling throughout, two short closed-tear repairs to index, modern brown calf by Period Binders, gilt lettering to upper cover. This is the same atlas that according to Ashworth was in the possession of John Booth, Cambridge House Books. Westbury, Wiltshire ca 1981. ***** According to Dominic Winter Ltd, Booth was their agent. Pers. comm. Kilburn Jan 2005.
24. This atlas is in a private collection and has not been available for examination.
25. Individual Uranographia plates are occasionally offered for sale. According to Ashworth, (per comm Aug 2002) at least two atlases have been broken up, possibly from the Map House, London, 1976. In 1981, J.A.L. Franks Ltd, London, offered for sale individual plates depicting Aries, Corona Borealis, Ara, Delphinus, Auriga, Perseus, Sagitta, Virgo, Canis Major, Libra, Ursa Minor, Andromeda, Orion, Equuleus, Cassiopeia and Lyr a at between £60-£70 each. There are currently (2002) at least ten other plates in private collections but the provenance of these is largely unknown.
26. Brought to our attention by Bruce Stephenson, July 2003. Cataloged at Adler Planetarium c1994. Condition average. No further details.
27. Communicated by Perry Vlahos, president, Astronomical Society of Victoria. September 2003. Dark blue hard covers protected with self-adhesive plastic, otherwise in excellent condition. All original plates are marked by water staining at top LH corner. The frontispiece and index have been replaced with photocopies, thought to be from the RAS atlas. The designation 231, μ ζ MG, has been hand written on the back of the last plate. The number 231 also appears on a diamond-shaped label in the back of the atlas. Two blank pages are bound in before, and two after, the star plates.
28. Offered at \$2800 the pair, January 2002
29. The GAC prints are currently framed and on display in the British Embassy in Paris. They were all purchased in early 1978 from Baynton-Williams (Map and Print dealer, formerly in London, now in Arundel). Given this date, it could be they are from one or other of the atlases broken up by the Map House in 1976. See note 25. The line on one of the invoices from the dealer (they were bought in 2 batches, first four and then another two) reads "After Bevis. 2 Celestial Charts. c.1786". GAC paid £25 each! Per comm. Roger Golding, 19 May 2006. Government Art Collection, UK
30. Purchased by William Gibson (d.1969). Owned by the Heller family of the late Mrs Jean Heller, nee Gibson, Oxfordshire, until March 2008. Sold at Bloomsbury Auctions 27 March 2008 for £21,000. Anonymous buyer. 19th C half blue calf over marbled boards, rubbed, edges worn, spine gilt letters. Distinctive stain in lower margin of the frontispiece. A few oil spots to lower margins, only, of title, frontispiece, plate III and plate IV, a printer's crease to plate XI and plate LI. Dust staining to plate XLII. A repaired tear to the index leaf, otherwise a clean copy. ***** *
31. Old World Auctions. Sedona Arizona. E-mail from J Pasachoff 5 Feb 2008
32. Per. Comm. Plates \$90 each bought c 1950s from an interior decorator in Cleveland, Ohio by Mr Cathcart's grandmother. For sale at Bonham and Butterfield's
33. E-mail from Prof. Nick Kanas, February 2008.
34. Offered for sale Christies NY June 2008 from The Richard Green Library. [Previously sold Christies London, 24 October 1990, Lot 9, for £14,000] Hand-coloured plates. Some slight marginal soiling to some. Coloured prints 'remarkably fresh, with colors bright'. Contemporary red half morocco (rebacked). Contains hand-drafted 'manuscript' index at end on watermarked 1809 paper. Some individual plates are annotated in the same hand.. NB: Dr Green is a physician and amateur astronomer. He began collecting rare books and atlases in the early 1970's
35. Communicated by Prof Owen Gingerich via Prof Jay Pasachoff, 25 September 2011. USC description; Contemporary or near contemporary marbled boards, with black morocco spine, and gilt leather label on front board. Distinctive large stain on paste down endpaper. Repaired tear to title page.

36. Cover mottled brown polished leather with gilt-embossed edging of vines and flowers. Spine, tooled darker leather with gilt embossing. Title 'Bevis's Uranographia'.
Inside plain leaf stamped 'H Cavendish' (Scientist and FRS 1731-1810). General condition excellent but some star plates show ink 'strike through' to reverse of the paper. Some tables opposite star plates show ink bleed from star plate to table. Catalogue is printed double-sided (14 sides) on 7 leaves identified as A,B,C,D,E,F and G. Viewed by prior appointment 11 Nov 2011. KJKilburn *****
37. Bought off Ebay ca Euro 300, December 2011, from seller in France. Mr Stephens is a member of the Society for the History of Astronomy.
38. Blue, yellow, pink and black oil-patteredened, calf-backed boards. Housed in cloth box. Light marginal browning. Both the title page and index are unbound which makes this atlas unusual.

References for descriptions communicated to KJK unless otherwise indicated.

- (1) Prof. William B Ashworth, University of Missouri. (Ashworth 1981). Roy E Goodman, Curator of Printed Materials Library, American Philosophical Society. December 2011.
- (2) Nicholas Smith, University Library, Cambridge and Dr Jonathan Harrison, St. John's College.
- (3) Prof. O. Gingerich, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics / revision by Prof J.M Pasachoff
- (4) John E Mustain, Special Collections, Stanford University. (and personal comm. to JMP updated 7 Feb 2003)
- (5) Janet Whitson, Detroit Public Library. Personal comm. July 1998.
- (6) Emily Winterburn. Curator of Astronomy, Royal Observatory, Greenwich. Personal comm.
- (7) Peter Hingley, Royal Astronomical Society, London.
- (8) Antique Celestial Charts. J.A.L Franks price list, c1981. 7 New Oxford St. London
- (9) William B Ashworth. Pers. comm. to JMP and KJK, Aug 2002. .
- (10) Shona Marran. Librarian. Museum of the History of Science Library, Old Ashmolean Building, University of Oxford.
- (11) Robert Hall. Bloomsbury Auctions. March 2008. Confirmed NOT the USC atlas, 21 October 2011. See note 30.
- (12) Michael Hardy, Archivist Assistant. Christies London. Description of the atlas sold 24 October 1990 sale. Lot 9
- (13) Elizabeth Sudduth, Dr. Patrick Scott. Irvin Dept. of Rare Books & Special Collections, Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, University of South Carolina. See <http://library.sc.edu/ariai/>
- (14) James Towe, Archivist Librarian. Chatsworth House, Bakewell, Derbyshire, UK
- (15) Catherine Slowther, Director. Senior Specialist Books & Manuscripts. Per e-mail comms to Kilburn.

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