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

UPDATED 27 June 2014

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		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Atlas Celeste, ca. 1786: Unpublished but offered for sale anonymously 1786.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	Voo	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	3
invariousete Astronomical Society. Available for reference in Centrality Eulary, wartchester Offered for sale at Bloomsbury Auctions, London, March 2008. Sold to an anonymous buyer and now in private collection. (11)	1786 Original print	Yes Yes	Complete, 51	No	No No	Yes	30
University of South Carolina. OCLC# 22768440. Thomas Cooper Library Special Collections copy. Gift of Robert B Ariail. (13)	1786 Original print (repaired)	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	35
University of count Caronina. Collect 2276440. Hindrina Couper Library Special Collections copy. Gill of Robert B Arian. (13) British Library Map collection, London. C.21 c.5	1786 Original print (repaired)	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No No	Yes	33
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)		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
St. Johns Conlege, Caribridge, 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 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. (Linbourd set) (2)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	12
d. Johns College, Carliningse, Carlinonia Sety (2) 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
Astronomical cockety of victional. Grant Membourne of Seast Valory, Membourne, Victoria, Australia. Stanford University. Barchas Collection 1999, Copy 2. Imperfect. (Plates only) (4)	No	Yes	Incomplete, 49*		No	No	17
Stanford University. Barchas Collection 1999, Copy 1. Imperfect. (Unbound in box) (4)	Top half only (page torn).	Yes	Incomplete, 38'		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	Yes	20
MISSING, PRESUMED IN PRIVATE COLLECTION. Offered for sale for £2600 by JAL.Franks Ltd, London c1981. (8)	1786 Original print. repaired	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	21
INDIVIDUAL PLATES IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS / DEALERS.							
INDIVIDUAL PLAI ES IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS TUBALERS. Collection of unfinished proof prints at the London Science Museum. Item reference (Wroughton) OB FLA FF (Bevis's) Flamstead (sic). (16)	Not applicable	No	Incomplete, 36	Yes, 1 page	No	No	39
Collection of unlimitistice priori prims at the London Science Museum. Item reference (Wroughton) OB FLA FF (Bevis's) Frantstead (sic). (16) Proof charts. British Library Map collection. C.21 e.8	Not applicable	N/A		, 1 . 3 .	No No	No No	19
Proof charts. British Library wap collection. C.21 e.8 Old World Auctions. February 2008 offering Bevis Plate XXIX Scorpius and XXXII Aquarius. Both hand coloured. Lot 82 and 83 \$1500 each. UNSOLD	ivot applicable	IN/A	34 proofs	No	INO	INO	31
Uid World Autonitis. February 2006 orienting. Bevis Prate AAA Scorpius and AAATI Aquantus. Bourn natio coloured. Date 2 and 63 \$1500 each. UNSOLD Hand-coloured Plates XLII Crater, XVI Delphinus and VIII Lyra, are in the collection of Robert D Cathoart, Southern California			2				32
nanot-coloured Plates Acti Crater, AVI Depinitios and o'ill cyte, are in the collection of Robert D Canticat, southern California. Hand coloured Plates XXVIII Libra (bought from Glaser in NY) and XVI Delphinus (bought in London) are owned by Prof. N Kanas in California.			3				32
nano coloured Prates XXVIII Libra (bought from Glaser in NY) and XVI Delphinus (bought in London) are owned by Prot. in Nanias in California. George Glaser Gallery, New York: Hand coloured plates: XVII Delphinus; XVIII Gaudleus; XXI Trianqulum; XXIV. Gemini; XXXIII Pisces							
George Glaser Gallery, New York: Hand coloured plates: XVII Delpninus; XXVII Equuleus; XXI Frangulum; XXIV, Edwint; XXIV, Edwint			5				28 37
Hand-coloured. Plate XI, Perseus. strong colours to berseus figure only, rest or plate uncoloured. Owned by Andrew Stepnens, Gloucestershire. UN Government Arts Collection, UK: Hand coloured plates II Ursa Major, III Draco, IX Cygnus, XXX Sagittarius, XXXI Capricorn, XXXVII Lepus			1				37 29
Sovernment Arts Conection, Ort. Hand Coloured plates in Orsa Major, in Draco, in Cygnus, AAA Sagittanus, AAAI Capricom, AAAVII Lepus			О				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)

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 Woollgar 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 altas was examined by Kilburn in Feb 2008. Re-boxed in 2006. Red-brown covers, red oil-swirl endpapers. Frontispiece and some plates rather grubby.
- 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 quineas) 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.
- 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-XXXXIX,XLII,XLVI and XLVII missing.
- 19. Many of these proof copies are star charts without dedications.
- 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 wherebouts 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.
- 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, Massachussetts
- 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. "************ Carodring 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, Equilleus, Cassiopeia and Lyra 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.
- 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

- 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-patterened, calf-backed boards. Housed in cloth box. Light marginal browning. Both the tite page and index are unbound which makes this atlas unusual.
- 39 An incomplete set of proof plates taken before the copper plates were finished. May be Lot 770, from the 1785 auction.

Cover plain, green-blue boards with black spine. Gold embossed label on black background on front cover, 'Flamstead's (sic) Celestial Atlas'.

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, Greenwhich. 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/ariail/
- (14) James Towe, Archivist Librarian. Chatsworth House, Bakewell, Derbyshire, UK
- (15) Catherine Slowther, Director. Senior Specialist Books & Manuscripts. Per e-mail comms to Kilburn.
- (16) Mr John Underwood, Site Librarian, Wroughton. With prior permission from Mr Nick Wyatt, Acting Head of Library. London Science Museum

Compiled by Kevin J Kilburn, Manchester Astronomical Society and Prof Jay M. Pasachoff, Williams College Observatory, Massachusetts. With acknowledgement to Assistant Prof. William B. Ashworth, University of Missouri and Prof. Owen J. Gingerich, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and to all those who have kindly taken time to communicate information regarding specific items.