

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

UPDATED July 2023

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Atlas Celeste, ca. 1786: Unpublished but offered for sale anonymously 1786.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 Title Page or 'advert'.	Frontispiece	Star charts	Tables	Catalogue	Index *	Notes
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 Anail. (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
Martayan Lan Rare Books & W P Watson Antiquarian Books. Offered for sale \$50,000 March 2019 (21)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	Yes	44
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 B46U	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	16
Adler planetarium, Chicago. (6)	No	Yes	Complete, 51	No	No	No	26
From the Richard Green Library. Sold to an anonymous buyer for \$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
Offered sale June 2020 for \$45,000 (c£36,000) at Argosy Gallery, 116 East 59th Street NYC 10022 (18)	No	No	Complete, 51	No	No	No	41
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
Unfinished sets of 'proof prints' ca1748							
Collection of unfinished proof prints at the London Science Museum. Item reference (Wroughton) OB FLA FF (Bevis's Flamstead (sic). (16)	Not applicable	Not applicable	36 proofs	Yes, 1 page	No	No	39
Collection of unfinished proof charts. British Library Map collection. C.21 e.8 (20)	Not applicable	Not applicable	34 proofs	No	No	No	19
Loose prints used or offered for sale as wall ornamentation. The constellation depiction and plate (Fig) number in Roman numerals are shown in that order. NB: The index* lists the star charts using Arabic numerals and may be a later addition ca 1786 [KJK].							
UK Government's art collection: Ursa Maj II, Draco III, Cygnus IX, Sagittarius XXX, Capricornus XXXI, Lepus XXXVII			6				29
Mendillo Collection: Corona Australis XLVII, handcoloured; also Crater XLII and Convus XLIII, coloured; Sagitta XV, Ara XLVI uncoloured			5				40
Old World Auctions. February 2008 offered for sale Scorpius XXIX and Aquarius XXXII. Both hand coloured. Lot 82 and 83 \$1500 each			2				31
Hand -coloured plate Tab I Ursa Minor offered for sale as Lot 207, 13 January 2020 by Revere Auctions St Paul, Minnesota. Guide price \$100-\$200			1				45
Hand-coloured plates Crater XLII, Delphinus XVI and Lyræ VIII, are in the collection of Robert D Cathcart, Southern California			3				32
Hand coloured plates Libra XXVIII (bought from Glaser in NY) and Delphinus XVI (bought in London) are owned by Prof. N Kanas in California.			2				33
George Glaser Gallery, New York: Hand coloured plates: Delphinus XVII; Equuleus XVIII; Triangulum XXI; Gemini XXIV; Pisces XXXIII			5				28
Hand-coloured plate Perseus XI. Strong colours to Perseus figure only, rest of plate uncoloured. Owned by Andrew Stephens, Gloucestershire. UK			1				37
Hand coloured plates of Scorpius XXIX, Capricornus XXXI and Serpentarius XIII (purchased Seattle 1980's) Virgo XXVII (from Connecticut 2018) owned by Rick Libsack, Seattle WA. (19)			4				43
A unique hand-coloured set of zodiac plates; Taurus; Aquarius; Aries; Cancer; Capricornus; Gemini; Leo; Libra; Pisces; Sagittarius; Scorpius and Virgo. Barry L. Ruderman Antique Maps Inc, La Jolla, California (22)			12				46
Hand-coloured plates of Hydra-Crater and Virgo-Scorpius regions. We bought the set of 4 at Lyon & Turnbull in January 2015. Barry L Ruderman per com to KJK. As yet not known what the other two were. KJK 7 Sept 2020.			2				47
Hand coloured plates of Bootes, Cygnus, Aquila, Sagittarius and Eridanus owned by Mr Martin Wood,UK but formerly by a UK academic living in Greece			6				48
Hand coloured plates Cygnus IX; Pegasus XIX; Virgo XXVII, Cetus XXIC. Offered for sale 28 Jan 2015 by Lyon& Turnbull, Edinburgh. Lot 20. listed at £1000-£1500			4				42

NOTES: Atlas Celeste is so rare that bound sets and individual plates 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. Dis-bound set [last examined by KJK April 2018]. Plates XXXVII and XXXVIII missing. Likely one of the three nearly completed *Uranographia* atlases sold at auction in 1785. A separate two-page, hand drafted title 'Atlas Celeste' is probably the original for the 'advert' in some *Atlas Celestes*. Some clean plates, most very dirty and ragged. Catalogue and Tables heavily printed with deep embossment through paper.
3. 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'. Oxford atlas includes 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 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 (2010) 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 XLI. 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 (rebaked). 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-pattered, calf-backed boards. Housed in cloth box. Light marginal browning. Both the title 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'.
40. From the Mendillo Collection of Antiquarian Astronomical Charts and Maps [Michael Mendillo, Professor of Astronomy, Boston University, USA].Two in colour from Andrew Potter Gallery in London, three B&W prints from a bookstore in San Francisco. All purchased in 1970s-1980s. (17)
41. Oblong folio (19 1/4" x 14 7/8"), leather spine over marble boards. "Table of the Stars" in gilt on spine. 51 uncolored engraved celestial charts. No frontispiece, title or index page. Individual charts with printed arms of the dedicatees (either academic institution or nobleman) beneath each image. Each annotated with pencil, possibly by Richard Alexander, the previous owner. Plates are generally in good condition with foxing and minor staining. First and last plates exhibit comparatively more foxing. First fly leaf and plate I detached from binding with tape residue. Includes signature and embossed seal of the possible previous owner, Richard Alexander, Madison Square Post Office, New York City and the 'Philosopher's Library of New York', possibly his own private library.

Pasted book plate with engraved shield for Bateman and another with a globe. Faded pencil markings reads "John Bevis 1745 Mr. Wesley Secretary of the the Royal Astronomical Society" who knew of three, one in the R.A.S library, one which belonged to the late Professor Adams and this one.
42 Unknown buyer.

43 All four plates have a green band (added later for decorative purposes?) at the edge of the plates. The interiors of the stars on all four plates are covered with what appears to be gold leaf (giving them a beautiful, shimmering appearance) and then surrounded with similar colored paint.

44. Oblong folio [49.2 x 38.1 cm], (1) f. engraved frontispiece, LI engraved star charts, (1) f. letterpress index. Bound in modern calf and marbled boards, title and author gold stamped on spine *Uranographia Britannica (sic) London 1750 John Bevis* s. Only very minor rubbing to spine and boards.

45 This hand-coloured plate has an irregular left hand edge suggesting it may have been torn out of a bound copy. That could explain the unusually low. auction guide price. As of 31 January 2020, It has not been possible to determine the actual selling price.

46 This set of beautiful and considerably executed hand-coloured zodiac plates thought to date from mid-19th C, was purchased in France, June 2020 by Ruderman business partner Olivier Pingel. Offered individually by Ruderman Inc, prices from \$975-\$1400 each or preferably as a set.

47 These two plates are not part of the zodiac set referred to above. Their hand-colouration is brighter and less well executed. Offered at \$750 and \$1200.

48. These six hand coloured plates became rather light-damaged when they were owned by an English academic then living in Greece. Personal communication from Tim Ardem to A.W. Cross and KJK July 2023.

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/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

(17) Prof. Michael Mendillo, via e-mail to Pasachoff and Kilburn, 24 July 2015.

(18) Initially communicated in confidence by Laura Ten Eyck, Argosy New York City in February 2016 with the request that details were not to be released. Permission and fuller details finally given to include on this list July 2018.

(19) E-mail from Rick Libsack to Pasachoff and Kilburn April 2018 together with images of the four plates.

(20) Examined by Pasachoff August 2015.

(21) Per. Comm from Richard Lan to Pasachoff and Kilburn 22 March 2019. Martayan Lan Rare Books & Maps. 70 East 55 St. New York.

(22) Per comms from Barry Ruderman, August 2020.

Compiled by Kevin J Kilburn, Manchester Astronomical Society and the late Prof Jay M. Pasachoff, Williams College Observatory, Massachusetts. (d Nov 2022)

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