



First edition, two parts in one volume, folio atlas (522 by 345mm), engraved frontispieces to both parts, titles in red and black, 49 plates (of which 42 double-page, three folding, three full-page and one in the text) engraved by J. Collins, J. Harris, F. Lamb, H. Moll, James Moxon, F. W. Oetjes, and N. Yeates, all COLOURED IN OUTLINE IN A CONTEMPORARY HAND, occasional faint discolouration, manuscript index to free endpaper, Narcissus Luttrell's cipher stamped to title page with 1693 in manuscript below, titles in manuscript to verso of each chart, contemporary blind-panelled calf, worn, rebacked.

## **NARCISSUS LUTRELL'S COPY OF THE FIRST SYSTEMATIC SURVEY OF BRITISH COASTAL WATERS BY AN ENGLISHMAN**

**Great Britain's Coasting Pilot. Being A New Survey of the Sea Coast By Capt. Greenville Collins Hydrographer to their Majestys 1693.**

### **Author**

COLLINS, Captain Greenville

### **Publication date**

1693.

### **Publisher**

Printed by Freeman Collins and are to be Sold by Richard Mount Bookseller, at the Postern on Tower-Hill,

### **Publication place**

London,

### **Physical description**

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## **Dimensions**

## **Notes**

Greenville Collins's work was not only the first systematic survey of British coastal waters, but also the first marine atlas of these waters engraved and printed in London from original surveys. Prior to its appearance English sailors relied on often out-dated Dutch materials. The survey was carried out between 1681 and 1688, beginning with the south coast, and covering all of the British coasts except western Ireland and western Scotland. Although the complete atlas appeared in 1693, some charts had been available for sale as separate sheets sometime between 1689 and 1693.

As noted by Verner, a few early copies contain charts in their earlier forms: the present example contains at least three of these. They are (in sequence): (1): plate 12 (Verner 5: Portland Bill), which appears to be an intermediate state between 1 and 2 showing the sandbanks mentioned, but with the alteration of the lower left corner of the plate; (2): [unspecified plate] (Verner 45: St George's Channel), in state 1; (3): [unspecified plate] (Verner 46: River Avon), which appears to be an earlier form still of Verner's state 1 before the addition of the dedication cartouche, and thus possibly a proof state. The large folding chart of the English Channel (chart 6 in this copy) appeared in this edition only.

The atlas also includes Philip Lea's rare, separately issued map of England and Wales in its preliminary state, with many of the lesser inland towns marked, but not named.

## **Bibliography**

NMM 3:335; Shirley, *British Isles*, Lea 2, state 1; Tyacke 236; Coolie Verner, "Captain Collins's Coasting Pilot", *Map Collectors Series* no. 58 (1969).

## **Provenance**

Once the property of Narcissus Luttrell (1657-1732), diarist, bibliographer, and, briefly, Member of Parliament. He wrote a chronicle of Parliament from 1678 to 1714, distilled from his diary.

## **Price:**

**Inventory reference:** 1024