



Two parts in one volume, folio sea atlas (415 by 280mm), two engraved titles, volvelle, 46 double-page engraved charts, sixteenth century vellum over boards, with ties, gilt central arabesque, spine gilt, with title in manuscript, remboitage.

THE FIRST PRINTED SEA ATLAS

Speculum Nauticum super navigatione maris Occidentalis...

Author

WAGHENAER, Lucas Janszoon

Publication date

1591

Publisher

Jean Bellère,

Publication place

Antwerp,

Physical description

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Dimensions

Notes

Fine example of the first printed sea atlas.

Not only was Waghenaeer's great work the first sea atlas, it was also the first book to standardize symbols of buoys and beacons. All 46 charts are finely engraved by one of the leading engravers of the day, Johannes van Doetecum, and are embellished with, windroses, rhumb lines, sea monsters and numerous sailing ships. Although the sea monsters were purely for decoration, the ships were useful to the mariner in determining location, as the vessels depicted correspond to the stretches of coast shown. As Koeman justly states "[the work] outranks any other rutter of its period, with its splendid presentation of charts and text; as such it stood as a model for the folio-sized charts and pilot guides with charts in the seventeenth century" (Koeman). Such was the popularity of the atlas in that all subsequent sea atlases and pilots became commonly known as waghenaers or waggoners (English) or (in French) chartiers.

Bibliography

Koeman, Wag 9A.

Provenance**Price:**

Inventory reference: 11474