

DESCRIPTION OF ATLAS CONTAINING CHARTS Nos. 3 & 4.

Charts Nos. 3 and 4 are those described as Nos. 10 and 20 respectively in the following extract from
“Catalogue of Maps and Drawings in the British Museum,” Vol. i. page 23. Old Royal Libr. MS. 20 E. IX.

“‘John Rotz, his book of Hydrography, so called; being an account of the compass, elevation of the pole, latitude, sea coasts, &c., finely painted; anno. 1542.’ Casley’s Catalogue of the MSS. in the King’s Library, p. 306.

This book is dedicated by the author to King Henry VIII., and the diagrams and maps have illuminated borders, and are other-wise ornamented in gold and colours. It is mentioned by Malte-Brun in his *Histoire de la Géographie* (ed. Huot, tom. i. p. 631), who, on one point, compares it with the additional MS. 5413,* and adds:—

‘Ce curieux et important manuscrit est écrit en Anglais sur velin; mais la dédicace est Française. Peutêtre l’auteur était-il un des Flamands qui passèrent en Angleterre avec Anne de Clèves, en 1540. Outre un Calendrier et quelques instructions sur la navigation, il s’y trouve plusieurs cartes exécutées avec exactitude et élégance, en particulier un planisphère qui termine la collection. La Nouvelle-Hollande y est dessinée presque comme dans les cartes du XVII. siècle, avant la voyage d’Abel Tasman: elle porte le nom de *Terre de Java*.

‘En comparant cet ouvrage avec la mappemonde dont il a été parlé plus haut, on est porté à croire que les cartes de Rotz sont les originaux; car elles contiennent beaucoup de noms portugais qui, dans l’autre, sont traduits en Français. Dans toutes deux la côte occidentale de Bornéo est située comme elle doit l’être, avec les noms de *Porto de Borne* et *Paxos de Borne*. Au nord de Bornéo on voit *Palaouan* ou Palawan; à l’est sont les Moluques. Ces détails rendent inadmissible l’opinion de ceux, qui ont prétendu ne voir, dans la Nouvelle-Hollande de ces cartes, qu’une repetition erronée de l’île de Bornéo, nommée *Grand Java* chez Marco-Pol. Dans la mappemonde, Bornéo est a la vérité représentée par un carré oblong beaucoup trop petit; mais cet erreur est commune à toutes les cartes du même siècle. M. Coquebert-Monbret a vu une collection de cartes qui a appartenu au nommé Jean Valard, de Dieppe, et qui est de l’an 1552; on y trouve à peu près les même choses que dans les deux cartes du Muséum Britannique.’

This volume contains:—

1. The Arms of King Henry VIII., emblazoned on a large scale. Underneath is written, ‘This boke of Idrography is made be me Johne Rotz, sarvant to the Kingis mooste excellent Majeste. Gode save his Majeste.’ Fol. 1 b.
2. The author’s dedication of his work to Henry VIII., in which he mentions his original intention to dedicate it to the King of France, who was then his sovereign and natural lord; in *French*. Fol. 2.
3. ‘The Introduction of the thingis, the quhitche are conteint in this booke. For to know the thingis conteint in this booke, it is to be wnderstand, that in the first thair is one figure for to know the maner of the pointces or routtis of all the wyndes of the Sey compas; and efter thair is one uther figur that doys teche the maner for to tak the eslevation of the poll in every region, and this be the Norht Starr. Item more efter is declarit in one other leff the maner for to take the latitude in every region be the moyens of the sonne, and of one tabil of his declination from the equinoctial. Than cummis nixt efter in the leffes following the landes and sey costes of the Worlde, in so furr as be marinares and other saillarres it is knowin; the quhitche descripsion of landis is set be ordorr, so that every leffe doys begynne thair quhair the precedent of it did leif, and so dois proccid quhil all the knowin partes of the sey costes be shawin in partiallitez. Quhair than thair doys cum in one leff the hoole description of the sey carte, made in rondnes efter the maner of cosmography, for in it al the costes ar ordaint wnder the meridiens and degrez of latitud, that be experiens ar fonde corresponding to thame.

* See Chart No. 1.

‘Item in the bordorres of the leffes of the booke ar set the tabilles, quhar the leigges are merkit and writin with cyfres be thair nombres, efter the proportion of xvij legges and one halfe for every degre of latitud, as be al saillars it is acoustumit.

‘Item longes the bordorres of the said leffes ar markit the degrez of latitud efter thair proportiouns and distances, be soche maner, that those that be benorth the equinoctial ar writtin in thair nombres with blak lectrez of cyfre, and those that be the southe partes of the said equinoctial, ar writtin with reid lectrez of cyfre. So that be this lytil introduction may be al thinges clerly wnderstond.’ Fol. 2.

4. ‘The maner for to knowe the wyndis of all the pointes of the sey compas.’ Fol. 3 b.

5. ‘The maner for to knowe the elevacyon of the polle be the Northe Starr.’ Fol. 4.

6. A kalendar. Fol. 5 b.

7. ‘Tabil of the nombir of the degrez of the equinox, that every paralele of latitud doth contene of thame.’ Fol. 6.

8. ‘The extration of radices.’ Fol. 6.

Then follow eleven charts drawn on a plane scale, each 1 foot 10½ inches by 1 foot 9 inches, viz.:

9. Chart of the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean, from 34° north to 11° south.
- 10.* Chart of the Indian Ocean, from Cape Comorin on the west to Aimoe Bay in China on the east, and from 25° north to 19° south, including ‘Lytil Java.’ [See the extract from Malte-Brun.]
11. Chart of the coasts of Asia and Africa from Cape Comorin to Cape Delgado, including the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.
12. Chart of the eastern coast of Africa, from the Line to the Cape, with Madagascar and the Ethiopian Archipelago.
13. Chart of South Africa from 15° south on the east coast to 6° north on the west coast.
14. Chart of the western coast of Africa, from the Gulf of Guinea to the Straits, with the adjacent isles, and a small part of the coast of South America.
15. General Chart of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, and the coasts of Europe, with the North Sea and the Baltic.
16. Chart of the western coast of Europe, with the opposite coast of North America, from 74° to 29° north.
17. Chart of the eastern coast of America from 51° to 6° north, the West Indies and Gulf of Mexico.
18. Chart of the Atlantic Ocean, with the western coast of Africa from 27° to 9° north, and the opposite coast of South America from 9° north to 10° south.
19. Chart of the eastern coast of South America from 6° south to the Straits of Magellan.
- 20.† The Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

Then follow:—

21. The motto and badge of Henry VIII., viz., the red and white roses intermixed and surmounted by a crown. On the last page is this inscription:

‘Heir endeth this booke of Idrography, made be me Johne Rotz, sarvant to the Kingis mooste excellent Majeste, in the 3er of owr Lord Gode j^m v^e xiiij. and of his mooste triumphant regne the xxxiiij. yere. Excludit. Gode save his majeste.’”

* Chart No. 3, now reproduced.

† Chart No. 4, now reproduced.