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The first pocket version of Abraham Ortelius' folio *Theatrum* was published in Antwerp by Philip Galle, with text by Pieter Heyns. Between 1577 and when Ortelius died in 1598, Galle issued eleven editions with Dutch, French, Latin or Italian text. All but that of 1595 were printed by Christopher Plantin. The Dutch edition published in Amsterdam by Heyns' son Zacharias in 1596, was a reissue of the 1583 pages.



The first two editions contain seventy-two maps reduced from those of Ortelius, all being drawn and engraved by Galle. There are six small folding maps: Europe, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and the one of the world dated 1574. The sixty six miniatures have Latin titles, mostly much longer than usual for maps of this size:

*Americae siue noui orbis noua descriptio; Asiae noua descrꝫ; Africae tabula noua;
 (Anglia); Scotiae descriptio; Irlandia; Regni Hispaniae post omnium editiones locupleissima;
 Portugalliae que olim Lusitania nouissima et exactissima descriptio; Regionis Biturigum
 exactisꝫ descriptio; Limaniae Descriptio; Calebensium et bononiensium ditionis accurata;
 Veromāduorum eorumque cōfinium; Galliae Narbonensis ora marittima receh descꝫ;
 Sabañdiae et Burgundiae Comitus descrip; Heluetiae descriptio Aegidio tschudo auctore;
 Tipus vindeliciae siue utriusque bauariae; Salisburgensis Iurisdictio; Palatinatus bauariae
 descriptio Erhardo reüch tirolense auctꝫ; Wirtenbergensis ducatus vera descriptio tubingae
 edita; Franciae Orientalis (vulgo franckenlant) descriptio auctore Sebast:a Rotenhan; Gelria;
 Brabantiae recens descri; Flandria; Zelandicarum Insularum descrip; Hollandt; Descript.
 frisiae; Monasteriensis et Osnaburgensis Episcopatus Descriptio; Thietmarsiae Holsaticea reg;
 Daniae regni tȳpus; Pomeraniae Wandalicae regionis tipus; Saxoniae misniae thuringiae noua
 exactiss descri; Silesiae typus descriptus et editus a Martino heiluig Neisense et nobili viro
 nicolao Rhedinger dedicat Anno 1561; Regni Bohemiae descriptio; Austriae Descriptio; Fori
 July vulgo friuli tȳpus; Larii Lacus vulgo Comensis Descriptio auct Paulo Jouio; Ducatus
 Mediolanensis finitimarumque regionis; Pedemontanae Vicinoruque; Thusciae descriptio
 auctore hieronimo bellarmato; Regni Neapolitani verissima secundum antiquorum et
 recentiorum traditionem descriptio pirrho ligorio aucꝫ; Siciliae descriptio; Sardinia; Malta
 olim. Melita Insula; Corfu; Candia olim Creta; Cyprvs Insula; Graeciae vniuersae secundum
 hodiernum situm neoterica descrip; Slauoniae Croatiae carniae istriae bosniae descr.;
 Hungariae descriptio Wolfgango Lasio descrꝫ; Transiluania; Poloniae Descrip.; Ducatus
 Oswiczensis et Zatoriensis descriptio; Prussiae descripꝫ; Liuoniae noua descriptio Ioanne
 Portantio auctore ; Septentrionalium regionum descriptio; Russiae moscouiae et tartariae
 descriptio autore Antonio jekenson; Tartariae siue magni Chami regni tȳpus; Indiae
 orientalis insularumque adiacientium tȳpus; Percici Siue Sophorum Regni Tipus; Turcici
 Imperii descriptio; Natolia quae olim asia minor noua descriptio; Palestinae siue totius terrae
 promissionis noua descriptio auctore tilemāno Stelia sigenens; Aegiupti recentior descriptio;
 Presbiteri Johannis siue abissinorum imperij descriptio; Carthaginis celeberrimi sinus tȳpus;
 Barbariae et biledulgerid noua descriptio.*



With narrow decorated borders, they are about 105/110 x 75/80 mm. and printed on the recto, with text on the verso in varying type sizes to suit the amount. It has to be said that Galle's first attempt at miniaturization resulted in overcrowding. From 1583 he gradually introduced a new set of maps (see 1583), both adding to and replacing the originals, so that only nineteen survived by his last edition of 1598. Eventually, these were replaced by Jan B. Vrients who published the final editions in 1601/02 (see 1601).

Galle's epitome was very influential and the maps were much copied by others. The story of 'Abraham Ortelius in Miniature' is complicated and these various miniature versions of his maps can be rather confusing. Because Galle produced two versions of many maps and as the derivatives copied both, the diversity is even greater for these:

- Philip Galle Antwerp, 1577 & 1583-98
- Pietro M. Marchetti Brescia, 1598
- Jan B. Vrients Antwerp, 1601
- Arsenius Brothers Antwerp, 1601
- Arthur Hopton London, 1611
- Giacomo Sarzina Venice, 1623
- Gabriel Bucelin Ulm, 1650 & Augsburg, 1658 & Frankfurt, 1664
- Domenico Lovisa Venice, 1697

Spieghel der werelt. Antwerp, Philip Galle, 1577, 1583; Amsterdam, Zacharias Heyns, 1596.

Le Miroir du monde. Antwerp, Philip Galle, 1579, 1583.

Theatri orbis terrarum enchiridon. Antwerp, Philip Galle, 1585.

Epitome du théâtre. Antwerp, Philip Galle, 1588, 1590, 1598.

Epitome theatri Orteliani. Antwerp, Philip Galle, 1589, 1595.

Theatro del mondo. Antwerp, Philip Galle, 1593.

