

1599

*Benjamin Wright*



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Benjamin Wright was something of a rolling stone, who at first found employment in London and then later on the continent. While in Amsterdam he worked for Cornelis Claesz on plates for both of Lucas J. Waghenaer's maritime atlases (see 1603).



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He also engraved four new miniatures for Claesz's *Map-treasury* (see 1598a). The original ones, in the first edition, were used by Barent Langenes in a 1598 account of the first Dutch expedition to the East Indies (see 1598c). Seemingly, the plates were not returned to Claesz, who was obliged to have new ones engraved for the next edition. Presumably Pieter van den Keere was busy producing his miniature set of the British Isles, for each of these was precisely copied from the originals and signed by Wright:

*Iava maior; I.S. Lauretij; Sancta Helena; Sumatra insula.*

Wright may well have been also responsible for retouching many of the original plates for the new edition, adding degrees of latitude only to their borders. He subsequently produced more miniature plates while he was in Amsterdam (see 1603, 1611 and 1649a), before moving on to Italy. Although he was a contemporary of Keere, he is much less well known. With the exception of the above four, his miniature maps are very rare today, whereas Keere's are readily available to collectors.

*Thrésor de chartes.* Amsterdam, Cornelis Claesz, (1599), 1602; Henry Laurentz, (1610).

*Caert-thresoor.* Amsterdam, Cornelis Claesz, 1599.

*Tabularum geographicarum contractarum libri.* Amsterdam, Cornelis Claesz, 1600, 1602 i.e. 1603, 1606; Claes J. Visscher, 1649.

*Hand-boeck; of cort begrip der caerten.* Amsterdam, Cornelis Claesz, 1609.

*Petri Bertii geographischer eyn oder zusammengezogener tabeln.* Frankfurt, Henry Laurentz, 1612.

*Petri Bertii Beschreibung der gantzen welt.* Amsterdam, Jan Jansson, 1650.

