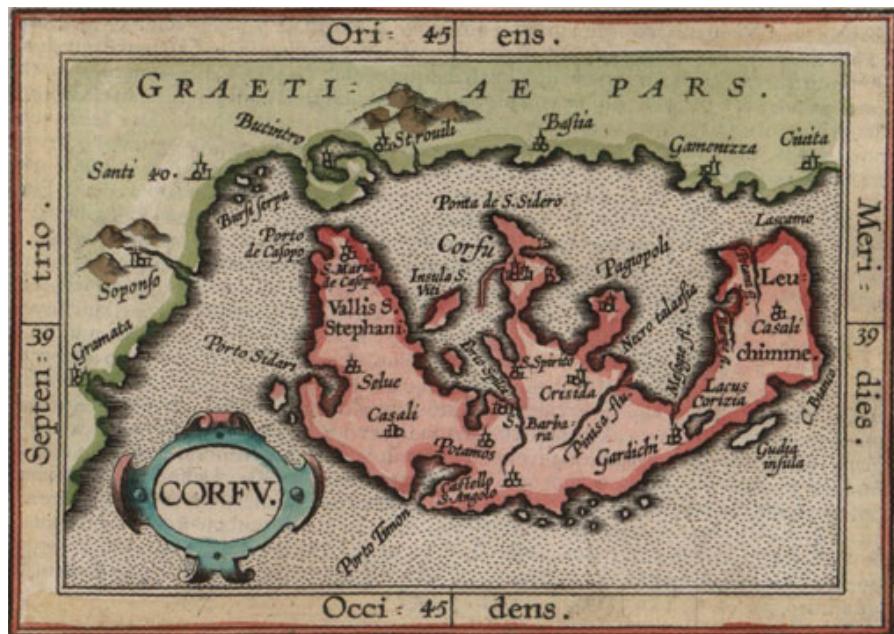


1601a

Ambrose & Ferdinand Arsenius



[oldworldauctions.com](http://oldworldauctions.com)

In 1601 Jan Keerbergen published the first edition of a world atlas with all the plates engraved by Ambrose and Ferdinand Arsenius. They mostly measured about 120 x 80 mm. This work, with text by Michael Coignet, was the third epitome of Abraham Ortelius' *Theatrum*. Latin, French, English, German and Italian editions were published between 1601 and 1612.



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Although inferior to the *Map-treasury* series (see 1598a), the maps were all nicely drawn and engraved and easily recognized, as they have wide borders showing latitude and longitude. The 123 plates were for the most part copied from those in the 1601 Jan B. Vrients' edition of Philip Galle's version, though not arranged in the same sequence:

*Typus orbis terrarum; Europa; Asia; Africa; America; Anglia; Scotia; Hibernia; Tercera; Hispania; Portvgallia; Andalvzia; Valentiæ Regnvm; Gades; Gallia; Gvasconiaæ descriptio; Poictov; Britannia; Normandia; Aniov; Bitvrigivm; Limania; Avriacvs princip.; Savoia; Provincia; Bvrgvndia comitatvs; Bvrgvndiae dvc.; Lotharingia; Caletvm et Bononia; Veromandvi; Picardia; Germania; Gallia Belgica; Leodiensis episcopatvs; Lvtzenbvrg; Hannonia; Artesia; Namvrcum; Brabantia; Flandria; Geldria; Zelandia; Hollandia; Frisia; Westfalia; Thietmarsia, Dania; Saxonia, Thuringia, Misnia; Brandebvrgens, Marcha; Pomerania; Silesiae typvs; Avstria; Bohemia; Salisbvrgensis archiepiscopatvs; Bavaria; Palistinatvs Bavariæ; Franconia; Wirtenberg, Duc.; Tirolis comitat.; Helvetia; Italia; Forvm Ivlivi; Histria; Zara, & Sebenic; Dvcatus Mediolanensis, cum vicinis Regionibvs; Pedemontana regio; Romanvm territorivm; Siena; Pervsia; Oropitvm; Marca Anconitana; Larivs lacvs; Patavinum; Bressiano; Veronensis Ager.; Cremonensis Ager.; Cremae Ager.; Tuscia; Typvs Regni Neapolitani; Aprvtivm; Siciliae descriptio; Sardinia; Corsica; Ischia insula; Malta olim Melita; Corfv; Candia olim Creta; Cyprvs insula; Græcia; Illyricvm; Hngaria; Oswiecz, et Zator; Transilvania; Prussia; Polonia; Livonia; Septentrionales Reg.; Russia; Tartaria; China, Regio Asiæ; India Orient; Persia; Tvrccum Imperivm; Terra Sancta; Natolia; Aegyptvs; Carthaginis celeberrimi sinvs typvs; Presbiteri Iohannis sive Abissinorvm Imperivm; Barbaria, et Biledvlgerid; Fessæ, et Marocci Regna.*

*Lemovicum; Campania; Tvronensis dvcatus; Blesiense territorivm; La Mans, Cenomanorvm typvs; Langvedoc; Franciae insula; Delphinatvs; Florentinvm dominivm; Apulia; Islandia; Iaponia insula; Romania, Bulgaria, Walachia et Syrfa.*



An exception was Galle's oval world, which was not copied. The first miniature world map on Gerard Mercator's projection was substituted instead. This was a much reduced version of the 'Christian knight' map of Jodocus Hondius, though without the figures (below).



It is thought that the plates for the English edition were printed in Antwerp by Henricus Swingius and the sheets then sent to London, where the letterpress was added. It may be the first world atlas published in England or with text in English, as the exact date of the other version, also printed by Swingius but for John Norton, is uncertain (see 1601).

The map of England was replaced during the production of the 1604 German edition, which included some of Levinus Hulsius' own maps (see 1604). It was replaced again in 1609, when Jan B. Vrients increased the numbers (see 1601) and also retouched some of the plates.

*Epitome theatri orbis terrarum.* Antwerp, Jan Keerbergen, 1601; Jan B. Vrients, 1609; Plantin Press, 1612.

*L'Epitome du théâtre.* Antwerp, Jan Keerbergen, 1602; Jan B. Vrients, 1609 (Latin text).

*Abraham Ortelius his epitome.* London, James Shawe, 1603.

*Ausszug auss des Abrahami Ortelij theatro.* Frankfurt, Jan Keerbergen & Levinus Hulsius, 1604.

*Compendio dal theatro.* Antwerp, Plantin Press, 1612.