

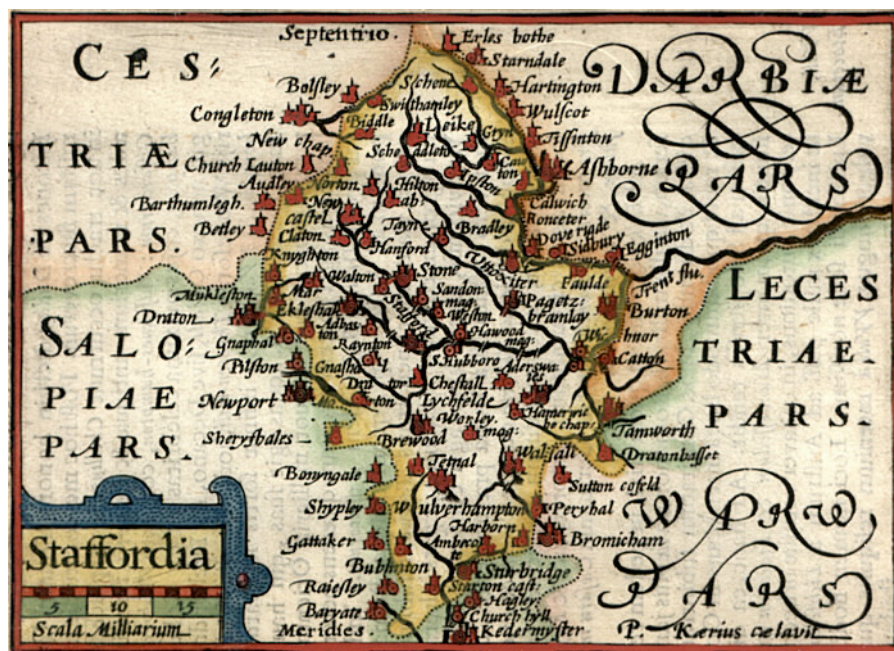
About 1599 Pieter van den Keere engraved a set of forty-four maps, of which three† are dated 1599 and twenty-two* are signed. They are described by R.A. Skelton: *County atlases of the British Isles, 1579-1703*, London, Carta Press, 1970. There are thirty-three of English and Welsh counties after Christopher Saxton, with some counties grouped just as on those maps (see above). Keere was not a stranger to England having spent his teenage years in London with Jodocus Hondius as a Protestant exile. Six of parts of Scotland and five of Ireland complete the series:

Cornuwallia; Devoniam; Dorcestria; Somersetia; Wiltonia; Southamtonia; Cantii. Southsexia. Surria. et Middlesexia. cō.; Glocestria; Oxonij Buckinghamia & Berceria comitatum descriptio; Hartfordia Comitatus; Essexia Comitatus; Suffolcia; Norfolcia; Northamtonia Bedfordia Cantabriga Hâtigdonia et Rutlandia Com.; Lincolnia et Notingham; Derbiensis Comitatus; Warwic. & Lecestria†; Wigorniensis comitatus; Staffordia; Salopia; Cestria; Herefordia Comitatus; Radnor Breknok Cardigan et Caermarden descript. †; Monumethensis Comitatus; Glamorgan; Penbrok; Montgomery ac Merionidh Comit. descriptio; Mone ins. et Carnarvan; Denbigh ac Flint comitatuus descriptio; Dunelmensis Episcopatus; Lancastria; Westmorlandia et Comberlâdia; Northumbria;

*Scotia pars Australior in qua Edenbergum Regia, S. Andrae et Glasco Archiepiscopatus; Scotia pars australissima in qua admirandus Lacus Lomundus; Scotia pars Orientalior in qua diversi Comitatus & Academia Aberdyn; Scotia pars quae incolis Stratnahern vocatur cum circumsinys†; Momonia; Lagenia; Timea; Connacia; Ultonia; Hebrides Insula cum circumfinys; Cathnes. et Orcades. in.**

At this time, Keere had recently engraved a large number of plates for the Amsterdam publisher Cornelis Claesz. It is probable that these very similar miniatures, with dimensions about 123 x 85 mm., were to be in an English edition of this pocket world atlas, which was licensed in 1600 but never produced (see 1598a).

This series is sometimes described as incomplete because of the lack of general maps and one of Yorkshire too. Why England's largest county was missing is unknown but the reason for the lack of general maps would have been because Cornelis Claesz's *Map treasury* already contained them: *Anglia* (Pe. Kaerius fecit), *Cambria*, *Scotia* and *Hibernia*.



The plates were not published until 1617, but several sets of bound proofs dating from 1600/10 have survived in England. A facsimile of one of these was issued with an introduction by Helen Wallis: *Atlas of the British Isles*, Lympe Castle, Harry Margary, 1972. The backs of these proofs are plain, whereas Willem J. Blaeu's 1617 prints have Latin text. He changed the title of the Meath map from *Timea* to *Midia* and added two new small ones, which were twice the size: one of the British Isles and one of Yorkshire.

Keere's plates were subsequently acquired by the London publisher George Humble. Excluding five of the six having grouped English counties, they were retouched and used by Humble for his pocket version of John Speed's *Theatre* (see 1619). The titles were changed from Latin to English and English words replaced the Latin wording for the scale on just four maps. Plate numbers were also added, mostly at lower left. These numbers were erased for the 1627 edition and the plates renumbered at lower right. As well as these clumsy alterations, the map of Meath was discontinued but the remaining thirty-eight continued in print for many years:

Southampton; Dorcet Shire; Devonshire; Cornwaile; Somerset Shire; Wilt Shire; Essex Countie; Suffolck; Norfolcke; Hartforde Shire; Glocester Shire; Hereford Shire; Worcestershir; Darby Shire; Staffordshir; Shropshire; Chester; Lancaster; The Bishoppricke of Durham; Westmorland and Comberlād; Northumberland;

Pembrok Shire; Radnor Breknok Cardigan and Caermarthen discribed; Glamorgan Shire; Mounmouth Shire; Montgomerie-Merionidh Shires; Denbigh and Flint discribed; Anglesey and Carnarvan;

The South pt of Scotlād wherin are contayned Edinbrough St. Andrew and Glasco Archbisho; The Southren parte of Scotland, wherin is ye strange Lake Lomund; The Eastern part of Scotland wherin ther are diuers Shires and the Vniuersity of Aberdyn; Part of Scotland it is called of the inhabitance Stranauerne with his borderers; The Iles of Hebrides wth ther borderers; Cathanes. And Orknay ins;

Mounster; Linster; Connack; Ulster.

In 1662 south-east Scotland was replaced and by now all the plates were very worn.

Guiliemi Camdeni Britannia in epitomen contracta. Amsterdam, Willem J. Blaeu, 1617.

England, Wales and Ireland: the seuerall counties. London, George Humble, (1619/27).

England Wales Scotland and Ireland described. London, George Humble, 1627, (1632); William Humble, (1646); Roger Rea, 1662, 1666, 1666, (1668); Thomas Bassett & Richard Chiswell, 1676.

