



Publication of Daniel Meisner's emblem book, with 830 illustrations of towns all over the known world, began at Frankfurt in 1623. It was initially issued in parts in the spring and autumn of the year, with each one having fifty-two unnumbered plates.

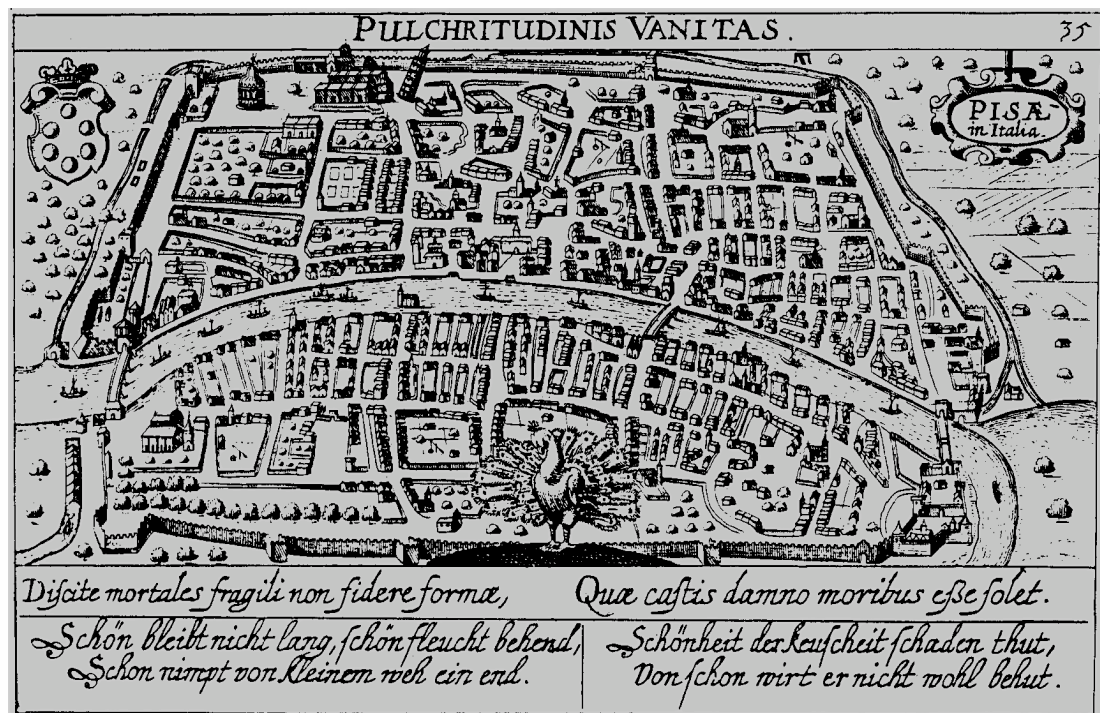
Following Meisner's death in 1625, his publisher Eberhard Kieser was helped by Johann L. Gottfried to complete parts 7 & 8, which were issued in 1626. Cumulations of parts 1/3 & 1/4 are dated 1624. In 1625/6 there was a cumulated edition with Latin preliminaries and the plates in parts 2/8 numbered 1/52. There is also a copy of the first part dated 1628, with plate numbers added.

The plates are fairly uniform in size and style, about 145/50 x 90/5 mm., with a Latin motto at the top (German in parts 4 & 7 only). They include allegorical figures, usually in the foreground, interpreted by proverbs or sayings in Latin and German verse below. The initials of the engraver are sometimes in the foreground too. Unfortunately for the collector of miniature plans and bird's-eye views, the illustrations of towns are for the most part just views. Although the British Isles is poorly represented, with only eleven plates out of 830, most of these are bird's-eye views.



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Johann L. Gottfried and Kilian Liebolt then continued Meisner's work and Kieser published a second volume of eight parts 1627/31. Those prints are numbered 1/52 at top right, except for part 3 in 1629, which alone was the work of Heinrich Kornmann and contains only fifty. Sixteen of these have outer border lines, which then appeared on all but seventeen of the plates printed afterwards in parts 4/8.



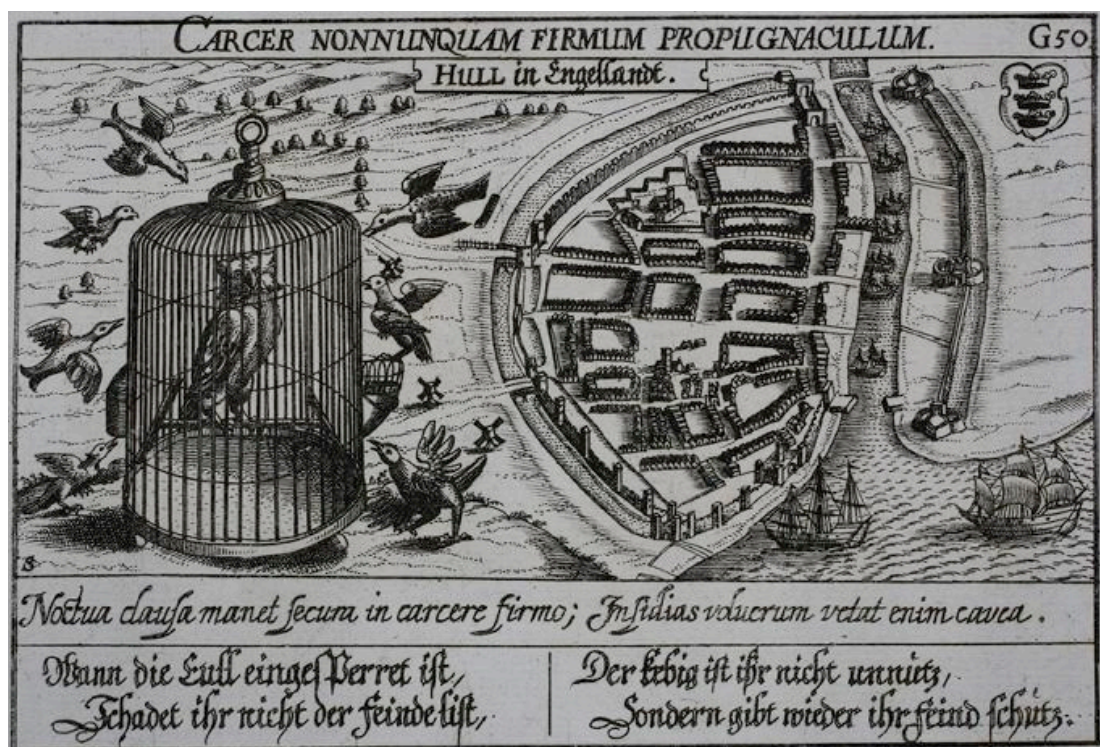
Some parts of volume two are known with Latin preliminaries dated 1628, 1629 and 1631. Nearly all the plates in part seven feature a bird and the initials 'EL', that is Johann E. Löffler. Some of the other engravers have been identified:

Sebastian Furck; Johann Hoffmann; Georg Keller; Matthäus Merian; Caspar Sauter; Balthasar Schwan; Christian Stimmer.

Most of the plates were later reprinted at Nuremberg, but in eight parts (A/H) of 100 each and all newly numbered alphanumerically (A1/100 etc.). For example the eleven relating to the British Isles were now all together and numbered G45/55. These were originally published 1626/31, as follows:

		<i>date</i>	<i>volume</i>	<i>part</i>	<i>plate</i>	<i>initials</i>
G45	<i>Bristol</i>	1631	II	6	8	CL
G46	<i>Exeter</i>	1631	II	6	16	H
G47	<i>Carlisle</i>	1631	II	6	9	CL
G48	<i>Oxford</i>	1626	I	7	35	
G49	<i>Norwich</i>	1631	II	8	28	EL
G50	<i>Hull</i>	1631	II	6	24	S
G51	<i>Edinburgh</i>	1629	II	3	11	W
G52	<i>Cork</i>	1631	II	6	12	CL
G53	<i>Nonsuch</i>	1626	I	8	32	
G54	<i>Windsor</i>	1626	I	8	48	
G55	<i>Chester</i>	1627	II	1	9	W

There were not many other alterations to the plates but there are a few examples of additional place names or heraldry and of newly engraved replacements.



Several complete facsimile editions in two volumes were published in Germany between 1927 and 1992.

Thesaurus philo-politicus. Frankfurt, Eberhard Kieser, vol. 1, 1623/6, 1624, 1625/6, 1628; vol. 2, 1627/31, 1628/31.

Sciographia cosmica. Nuremberg, Paulus Fürst, 1637/8, 1642.

Sciagraphia cosmica. Nuremberg, Paulus Fürst, 1678.

Politica-politica. Nuremberg, Rudolf J. Helmer, 1700, 1704.

