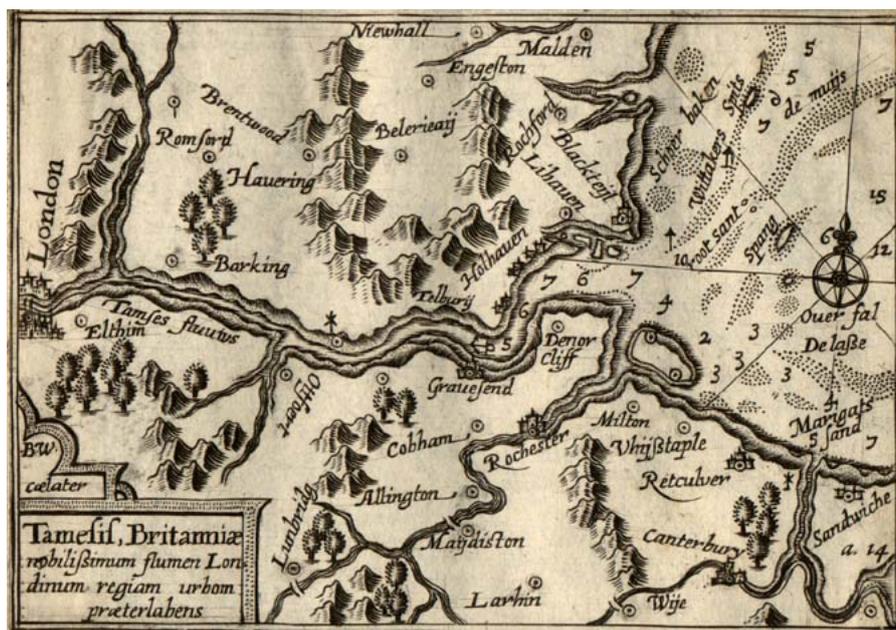


J.A.L. Franks &amp; Co.

Just before or after 1600, when he had left London and was now living and working in Amsterdam, Benjamin Wright engraved and signed twenty-four little plates, which appeared in three works published between 1599 and 1611 (see 1599, 1603 & 1611a). Just four of these plates were subsequently reprinted in the atlas of Claes Jans Visscher (a.k.a. Nikolaus) with alphanumeric plate numbers added (see 1649): maps of Sumatra, Madagascar and St. Helena first issued in 1599 and the chart of the English West Country, *Promontorium Angliae Cornubia ...*, first issued in 1603.

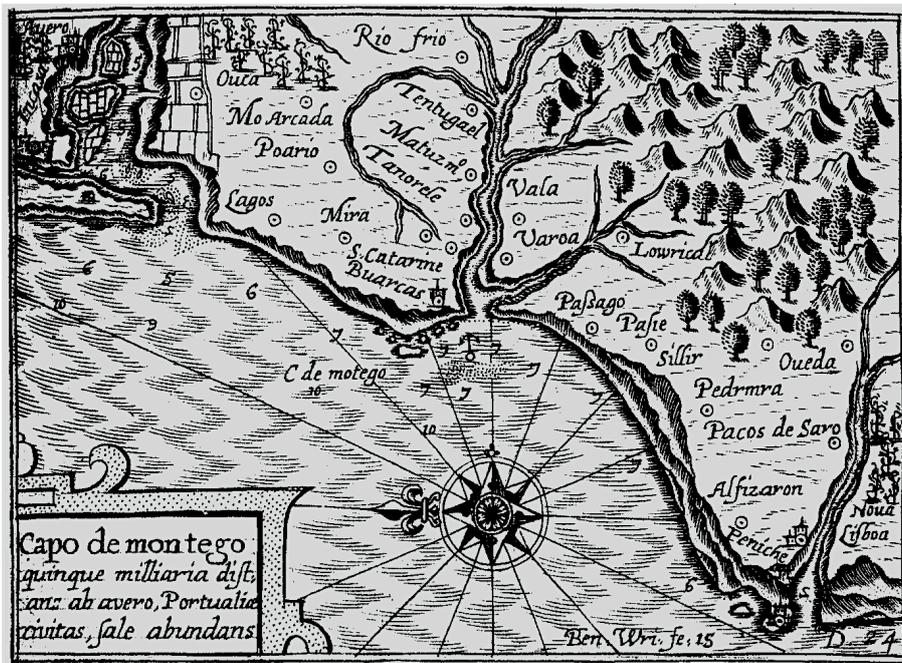


J.A.L. Franks &amp; Co.

In addition to this last item, thirty-six other very rare little gems, presumably also engraved for Cornelis Claesz by Wright early in the seventeenth century, do not seem to have been used until they too appeared in 1649. All but eight\* of these charts have his signature in one of its many forms. Half relate to European waters and Havana (h.6), Puerto Rico (h.9) and Rio de Janeiro (h.17) feature among the far away places:

*Alata castra Scotiæ Regia urbs et Metropolis Vulgo Edimburgum; Milfort extreus Angliæ portus in Cambriæ provincia; Tamesis, Britannia nobilissimum flumen Londinum regiam urbem præterlabens; Vera deliniatio et situs insulæ Wardhuysia ... per Ioannem Hugonis Linschotanum Anno 1594; Delineatio vera Insulæ Kilduyn; Fretum hoc Sondæ nomine celebre ...; Fretici Danici or Sundt accuratis delineatio; Topographia Insulæ Huenæ in celebri porthmo Regna Daniae ...; Situs Opidi Gedani Vulgo Dantzick ...; Vrbs Riga ab exteris longe expetua ob diversarum ibidem mercium æbundantiam; Mara ostia fluminum fluentorumq̃ Weseræ saluet ...; Duijnkercke; Sinus Austracicus ...; Wielingen, quasi dicas Vorticas, Optimus Europæ totus, portius mirabilisq̃ Zelandiæ Situs; Fluuius Amasus navium ditissimus, cum delineatione Insularum frisiarum ambientium\*; Capo de monte go quinque milliaria distans ab a vero ...; Venetia; Isle de Ladrones\*; Baye la Bay\*; Insulæ Ternati / Insulæ Tidore; Borneo insula; La Baye de Isle et Cito de Borneo\*; Ciuitas Madura ducta Risbaia; Ins cÿgnaea Lusita nostris Maurity noimine indigitata ... detecta Decima octava die mensis Septembris anō 1598; Isola del Principe\*; Insulæ Canariæ ... descripta cum a classe ordinum. 26 Iunij 1599 occuparetur; Havana portus; Diui Ioannis de porto Ricco ... per G. de Veer, a 1601; Effigies promōtorij Port' regij ... Insulæ quoq̃ Margarita et insulæ Albæ ...; Commenogata, ubi optima crescit Nicotiana ...; Fernambuco ... Perna mb' Portus Brasiliæ celeberrimus delineatus per Gerardum Veriū 1601; Rio Ianero\*; Exquisita ... Fret fff Magellanici Facies; La Moche en Chili\*; Ins. S. Mariæ ... 2. Iuly a.o 1599; I.S. Clara\*.*

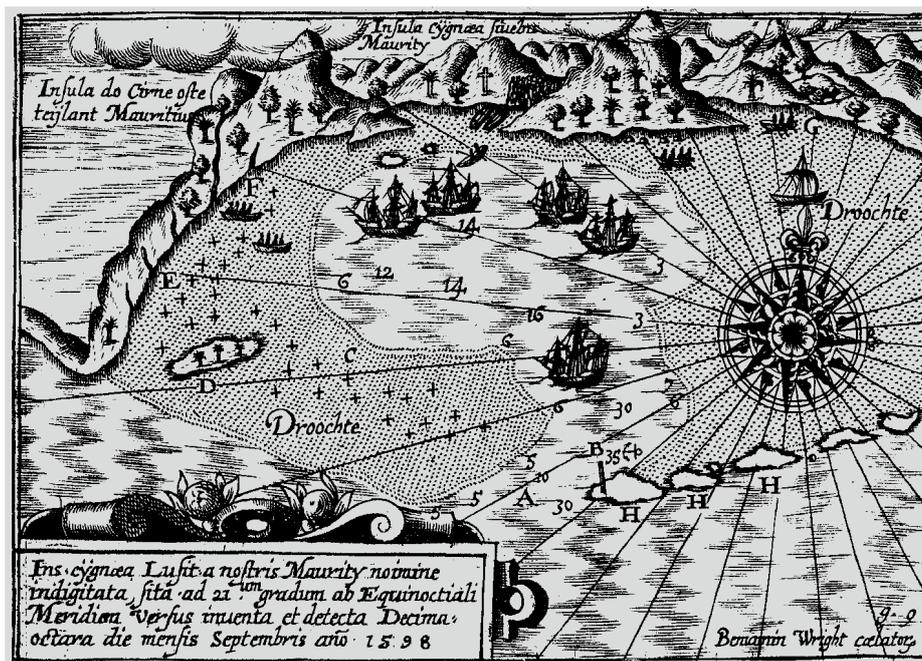




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One can only conjecture as to their original purpose, but most have a maritime theme and the long Latin titles characteristic of Wright's miniature charts. It may well be that Claesz intended to expand his *Map-treasury*. His probable plans for an enlarged English edition were also unfulfilled (see 1598a & 1617). Alternatively, he may have planned to issue a pocket maritime atlas as a companion volume to it, or the charts may have been produced to illustrate a totally different work, e.g. a Lucas J. Waghenaer maritime atlas.

*N.J. Visscheri Tabularum geographicarum contractarum libri quatuor.* Amsterdam, Claes J. Visscher, 1649.



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