

It was not until 1676 that the second pack of playing cards to feature maps of the fifty-two counties of England and Wales appeared. They are described and listed by both R.A. Skelton (*County atlases of the British Isles, 1579 - 1703*, London, Carta Press, 1970) and Sylvia Mann and David Kingsley (*Playing cards depicting maps of the British Isles and of English and Welsh counties, Map Collectors' Series*, no: 87, 1972).



The cards measure about 55 x 90 mm. and are found with and without colour. They have three panels with the maps in the central one and on the title card is *A Mapp of England & Wales*. Another extra card is titled 'The Explanation of these Cards'. The attractive and uncommon little maps are quite detailed for their size, 55 x 50/60 mm., with roads after John Ogilby and for most counties, these were the first indicating roads. The suit marks were stencilled and hearts related to the eastern counties, diamonds to southern, clubs to northern and spades to western ones (I-X & jack, queen, king):

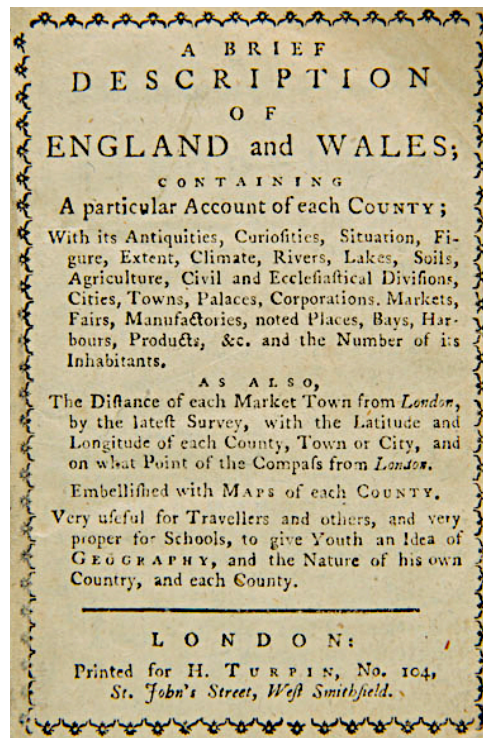
*Northampton Sh.; Buckingham Sh.; Bedford Sh.; Cambridg Sh.; Norfolk; Suffolk; Essex; Hartford Sh.; Kent; Surrey; Rutland; Huntington S.; Middlesex.*

*Warwick Sh.; Oxford Sh.; Barke Sh.; Sussex; Hant Sh.; Wilt Sh.; Dorset Sh.; Somerset Sh.; Devon Sh.; Cornwall; Gloucester Sh.; Worcester Sh.; Hereford Sh.*

*Westmorland; Cumberland; Lancaster Sh.; Cheshire; Darby Sh.; Northumberland; Nottingham Sh.; Lincolne Sh.; Stafford Sh.; Shrop Shire; Leicester Sh.; Durham; York Sh..*

*Flint Shire; Carnarvan Sh.; Denbigh Sh.; Merionet h Sh.; Montgomery Sh; Cardigan Sh.; Brecknok Sh.; Glamorgan Sh; Carmarthen Sh.; Penbrok Sh.; Anglesey; Radnor Sh; Monmouth Sh.*

The plates are known in several different states. On the first edition the adjacent counties are not named, whereas on the second, which was published the same year, they are. The boundaries between them are also marked. In 1972 a facsimile pack was issued by Harry Margary at Lympne Castle, Kent. From about 1680 the plates were retouched again with the signs for many places changed from circles to pictorial symbols, additional roads shown and some towns added. The suit marks were stencilled and the maps were also issued without them, mounted and bound in a small volume, to create a pocket atlas.



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They made their next appearance about a century after they were first published, still in the third state of about 1680 but without suit marks (see above). As illustrations, they were pasted onto the pages of a little undated volume, which has been described as ‘an adaptation by Homan Turpin of Robert Morden's *The New description and state of England*’. Turpin, the publisher, was a second-hand bookseller at 104 St. John's Street and more likely to have acquired a pile of old printed sheets rather than the actual plates, probably long melted down. John Lenthall could not acquire them and issued a close copy instead (see 1717). The title is not present, nor called for, but the explanation is sometimes included and this also appeared in a new edition of 1796. This was published by Robert Bassam, whose premises were also on St. John's Street, but at number 53. The maps now had a leporello format, that is, the sheets were cut into strips and folded up concertina style. It is a very rare work today and £34,000 was the hammer price for an imperfect copy sold at Dominic Winter's salerooms in March 2018 (lot 196, see below).

*The 52 counties of England and Wales, geographically described in a pack of cards.* London, Robert Morden & others, 1676, 1676.

untitled atlas. London, Robert Morden, (1676), (1680).

*Pocket book of all the counties.* London, Robert Morden, (1680).

*Brief description of England and Wales.* London, Homan Turpin, (1764-1787); Robert Bassam, 1796.

