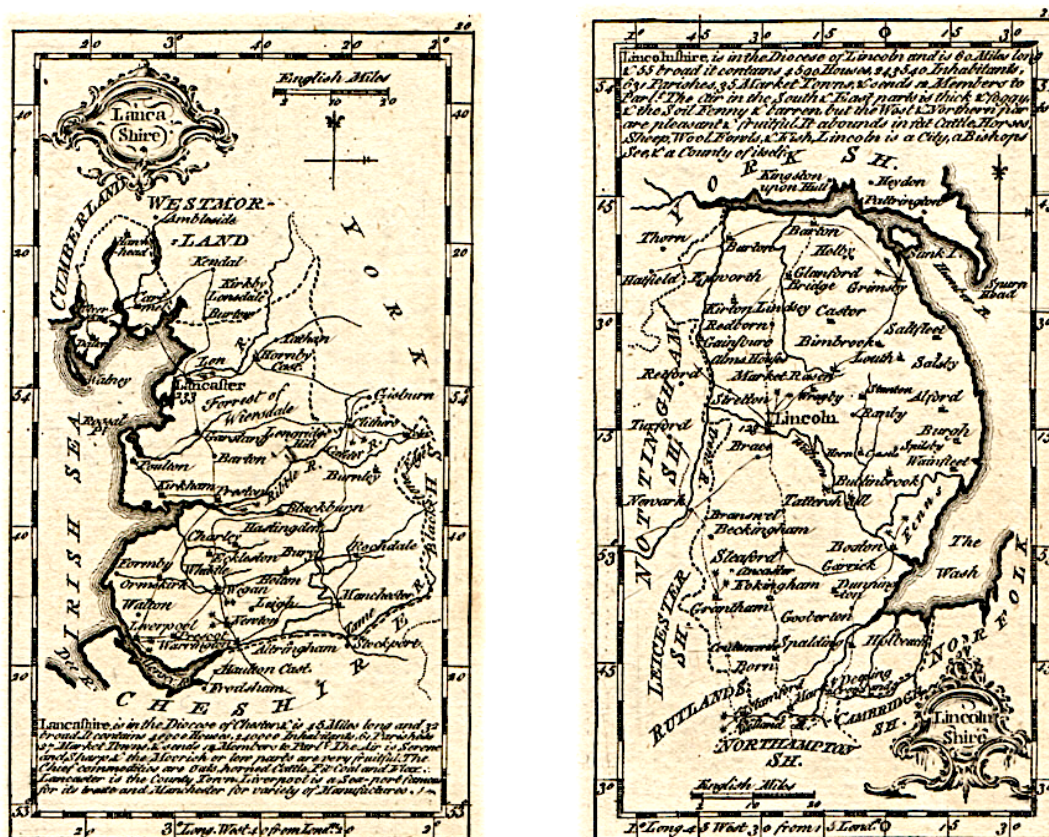


Notwithstanding he spent quite a lot of time in prison for debt, John Gibson was a fairly prolific engraver of maps of all shapes and sizes, though he is probably best known for his two miniature atlases. In May 1759 the publication of his second one was advertised in various newspapers for four shillings or five and sixpence with outline colour. However, the number of extant copies suggests that this would not seem to have been as popular as his first one, even though they were the same price. Coloured ones are also much less common.



This companion volume to *Atlas minimus* (see 1758) is an undated atlas of England and Wales. Unlike the earlier one there is no frontispiece, preface or index and no statement that it was intended for 'young Gentlemen & Ladies', though it was likely meant for children too.

An 'explanation of the characters in the maps' is inserted at the foot of the title-page rather than appearing on a separate leaf. A detailed description is provided by Donald Hodson: *County atlases of the British Isles, volume ii*. Welwyn, Tewin Press, 1989 (pages 93/6).

As with his world series, these pretty little maps were engraved several per plate, but they are slightly (17 mm.) higher than those. They again feature tiny intricate cartouches for the titles and topographical notes which are surprisingly detailed given the space available.

The only change in the later Thomas Carnan reprint is to the publisher's imprint on the title-page, but he used wove paper whereas Newbery's edition was printed on laid paper. Because of this, individual loose maps may be easily assigned to their correct source.

The atlas contains a general map and fifty-two of the counties:

*England & Wales.*

*Bedford Shire; Berk Shire; Buckingham Shire; Cambridge Shire; Cheshire; Cornwall; Cumberland; Derby Shire; Devon Shire; Dorset Shire; Durham; Essex; GloucesterShire; Hampshire; Hereford Shire; Hertfordshire; Huntingdon Shire; Kent; Lanca Shire; Leicester Shire; Lincoln Shire; Middlesex; Monmouth Shire; Norfolk; Northampton Shire; Northumberland; Nottingham Shire; Oxford Shire; Rutland Shire; Shrop Shire; Somerset Shire; Stafford Shire; Suffolk; Surry; Sussex; Warwick Shire; Westmoreland; Wilt Shire; WorcesterShire; York Shire.*

*Island of Anglesey; Carnarvan Shire; Denbigh Shire; Flint Shire; Merioneth Shire; Montgomery Shire; Brecknock Shire; Cardigan Shire; Carmarthen Shire; Glamorgan Shire; Pembroke Shire; Radnor Shire.*

*New and accurate maps of the counties of England and Wales drawn from the latest surveys.* London, John Newbery, 1759; Thomas Carnan, (1780).



Doreen M. Green