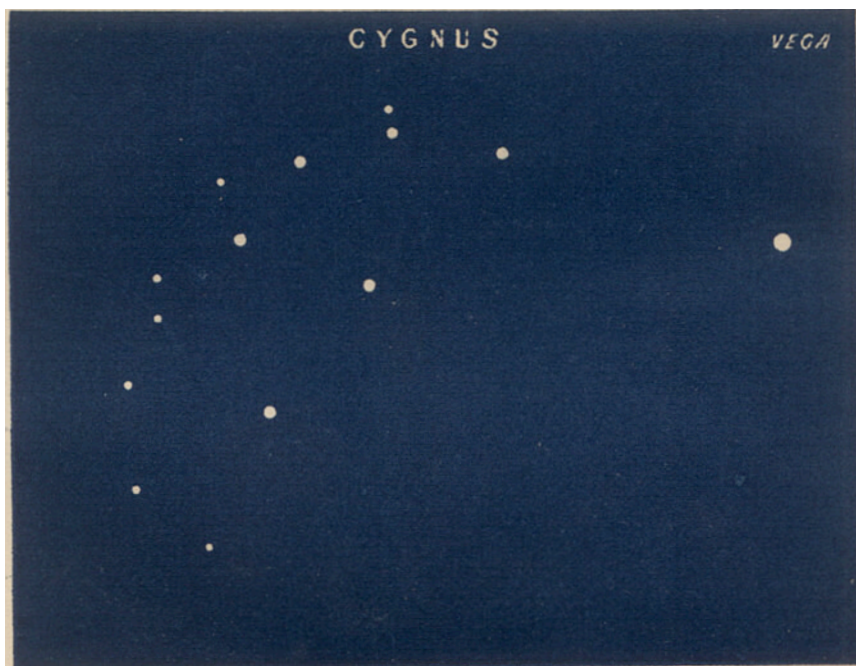


James Gall Junior, (1808-1895), was the son of the founder of the publishing firm of Gall & Inglis but was only involved in the business from 1838-47. He was very interested in astronomy and was the author of a miniature celestial atlas. This first appeared about 1855, according to an article by David Smith in the *Journal of the International Map Collectors' Society* (issue 73, Summer 1998): *Gall & Inglis, c. 1810—c. 1910*. In publishing history, the celestial charts in this atlas are a very early example of the use of cyanotypes or blueprints: a photographic printing process invented by Sir John Herschel in 1842.

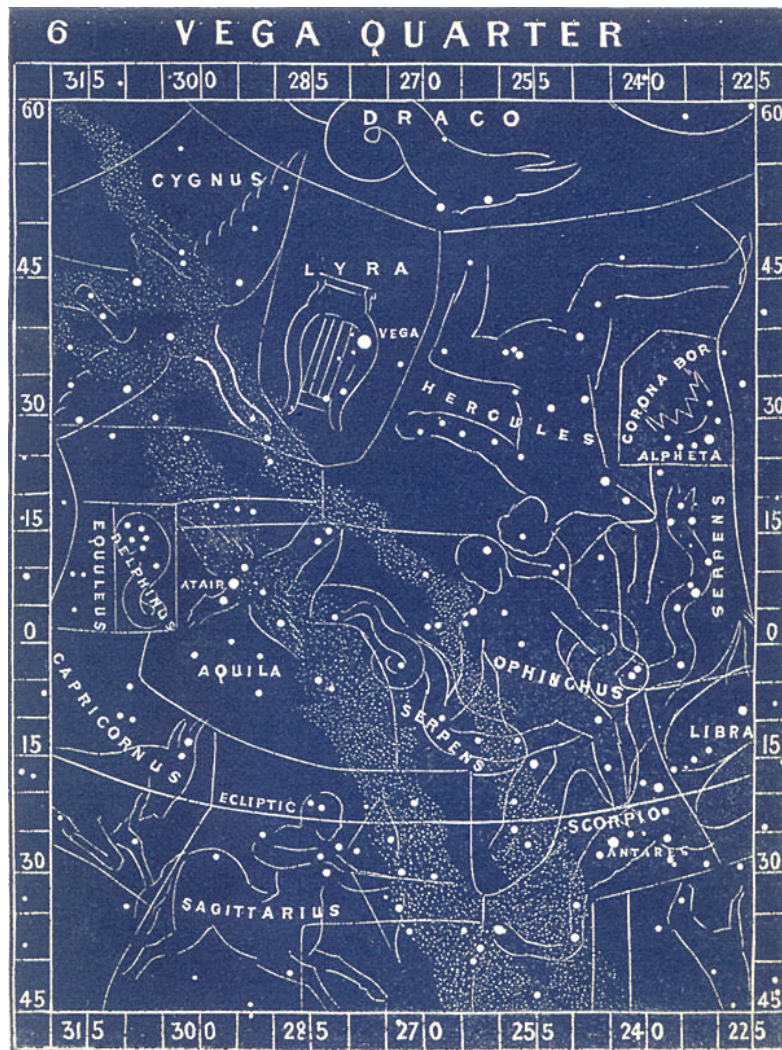


The work was in print for over a hundred years, going through many major and minor revisions. In the nineteenth century there were three completely different editions with a number of variant issues, which were published in both hard and soft covers but hardly ever dated. However, ownership inscriptions, information printed on the soft covers and changes in the address of the publisher, provide some clues. Contents, Index, Preface and Introduction are followed by charts of constellations, each with a page of descriptive text on the verso, and finally six star charts with index maps on the recto but no text.

The first edition measures 150 x 115 mm. in embossed cloth with gilt on the front title lettering only. The printed soft cover version is 145 x 110 mm. with the rear cover plain without advertising and was priced at one shilling. The nineteen charts of constellations, about 87 x 113 mm., are followed by six star charts, each with a blue ground key map without number or title, and both about 104/107 x 135/140 mm:

Plough and Pole Star; Cassiopeia; Capella and Vega; Ursa Minor Ursa Major; Draco; Cassiopeia's Guards; Pegasus; Aquila; Perseus & Andromeda; Aries Musca & Triangulum; Cetus; Taurus; Gemini Auriga; Orion; Leo; Virgo; Bootes Corona; Hercules; Cygnus.

1 Northern Heavens; 2 Southern Heavens; 3 Plough Quarter; 4 Capella Quarter; 5 Cassiopeia Quarter; 6 Vega Quarter.



After the first issue of the first edition, the six star charts were reduced in height, with the numbers and titles removed from above the top border to below it. Their key maps were replaced with completely different ones. These were reduced to about 95 x 120 mm. and the colouring reversed, with the stars in blue on a plain ground. A soft cover version with an ownership inscription dated January 1856 has 'Third Edition' printed at the foot of the front cover and no borderlines around the key maps. Another soft cover issue, with borderlines now added to the key maps, has 'Fourth Thousand' at the foot of the front cover and an advertisement printed on the previously blank rear cover includes the words: 'on 1st November 1856 will be published in Royal Quarto The People's Atlas of the Stars.'

On the soft cover version the imprint of Houlston and Stoneman was unchanged throughout, whereas the title-page imprint of both versions changed to Houlston and Wright from 1857. In the same year the address of Gall & Inglis was changed from North Bridge to George Street. Dublin's Trinity College library has a soft cover version with 'Ninth Thousand 1861' at the foot of the printed front cover. The latest ownership inscription noted for this first edition is dated 1863 and a completely new edition probably appeared just a few years later (see 1866).

An Easy guide to the constellations; with a miniature atlas of the stars, and key maps.
Edinburgh, Gall & Inglis; London, Houlston & Stoneman, (1855-1857); Edinburgh,
Gall & Inglis; London, Houlston & Wright, (1857-1866).

