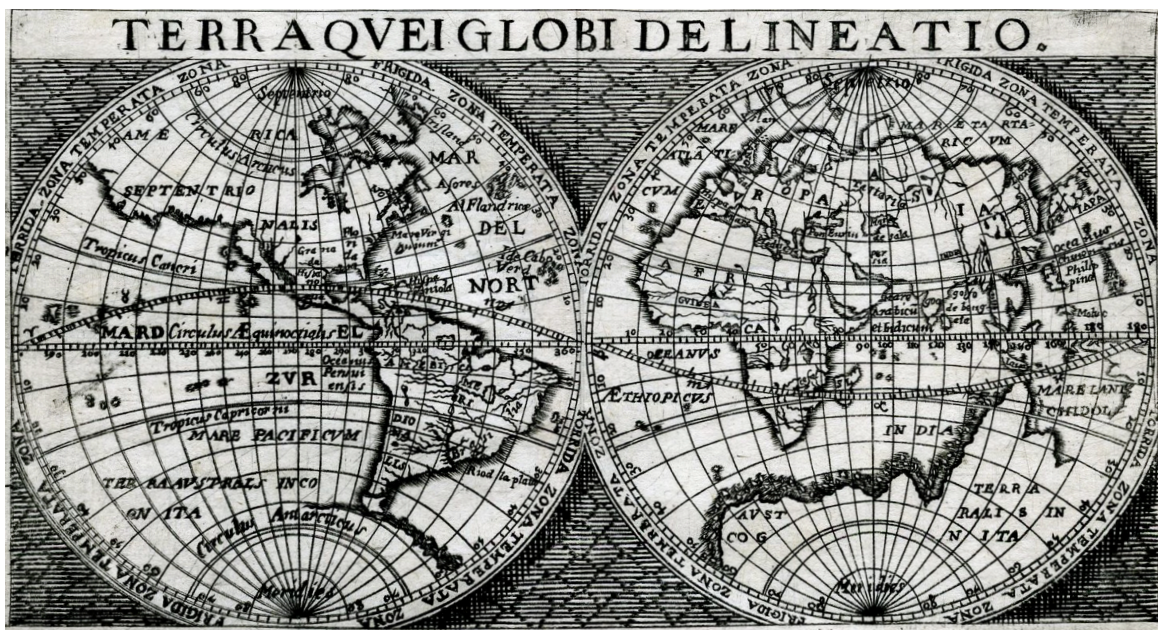


Cartographers, the authors of maps, were surveyors, draughtsmen, engravers, scholars, booksellers, printers or publishers also. Little is said here about their life, work and importance, because all this information is readily available elsewhere. The majority of maps are to some extent derived from others and some are outright imitations, as plagiarism was rife everywhere. This is particularly true of miniatures, many of which are much reduced versions of larger maps or copies of other miniatures, and the relationship may be clearly indicated in the attribution, for example: by Philip Galle, after Abraham Ortelius (see 1577).



New collectors should be aware that there is some misinformation out there. For example, many miniature maps are said to be by Ortelius, Speed or Bertius, even though they had nothing at all to do with their production. This is not a result of intentional economies with the truth but of long-standing traditions, which are unlikely to change any time soon. Miniature versions of larger ones are often referred to by the names of the original mapmakers, and those used to illustrate books, by the names of the authors of these books.

A problem only arises when the word 'by' is used instead of 'after' or 'from'. This casual approach may seem rather remiss given the very different attitude to accuracy elsewhere, in other areas of collecting. It is also unfortunate that because of this careless nomenclature, the mapmakers of some of the finest series of miniatures, Pieter van den Keere (see 1598a), Jodocus Hondius II (see 1616) and Tobias Lobeck (see 1744), do not usually get the credit due to them.

It is also ironical that the miniature versions of Saxton's county maps of England and Wales produced by Keere (see 1617), are usually referred to as 'miniature Speeds', whereas the miniature versions of Speed's county maps (see 1619) are often described as being by Keere, when they very clearly are not. There is another well established if somewhat illogical tradition where the Latin form is commonly used for some names, for example Jodocus Hondius, but the vernacular for others, such as Pieter van den Keere. The spelling of names was not standardized anyway and Anglicized ones are also met with, giving rise to further variations. For different forms of names, the lists of cartographers in books on map collecting can be useful.

Titles, imprints (place, printer/publisher, date) and signatures in Latin are common with early atlases and maps, baffling most people today. Half remembered schooldays Latin goes a long way and avoids the mistake of quoting names in the accusative or genitive case, as they often appear on title-pages. Many of the Latin place names in imprints are not recognizable but the information about their modern names is available online. Latin signatures, which are sometimes abbreviated to fit the space available, often include terms indicating cartographers, draughtsmen, engravers, printers and publishers:

- cartographer/draughtsman: auctore; delineavit; descripsit; invenit
- engraver: coelavit; fecit; incidit; sculpsit
- printer/publisher: apud; ex officina; excudit; formis; sumptibus; typis; impensis

Maps still occasionally come to light which cannot be identified and one of the world in twin hemispheres measuring 155 x 83 mm. is illustrated here (see above). Another of the ancient world, 128 x 77 mm. (see below), is one of a series of eight numbered plates of unknown source:

*Descriptio orbis; Hispania; Italia; Pelopponesus; Macedonia; Archipelagus; Epirus; Asia.*

