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Galicia from the first English Edition of the 'Atlas Minor'

HONDIUS, Jodocus. Gallicia.

London: Michael Sparke and Samuel Cartwright, 1635. Coloured. 170 x 235mm, set in English letterpress.

£300

A small format map of Galicia. The map was published in the 'Historia mundi, or, Mercator's Atlas. Containing his Cosmographical Description of the Fabricke and Figure of the World', in which all the maps were printed perpendicular to the text. The 'Atlas Minor', the pocket version of the Mercator atlas, was first published in 1607, with several editions up to 1621. Soon afterwards the printing plates were sold to a London publisher, and were used to illustrate 'Hakluytus Posthumus, or Purchas his Pilgrimes' by Samuel Purchas in 1625. A decade later this 'Historia mundi' was the first English edition of the 'Atlas Minor', with text translated into English by Wye Saltonstall. However this is a new map (perhaps engraved by either Jacob van Langren or Ralph, who signed other new plates), copied from the Cloppenburg map of 1630 and first issued in this edition. The larger size of the plate caused the narrow margin and overlapping.

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