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South West England from the first English Edition of the 'Atlas Minor'

HONDIUS, Jodocus.
Cornub. Devonia, Somerset etc..

London: Michael Sparke and Samuel Cartwright, 1635. Coloured. 130 x 180mm, set in English letterpress.

£160

A small format map of South West England, with Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somserset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and South Wales. Decorations include a strapwork cartouche for the title and scale and a sea battle. It 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 laterally 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'.

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