

John Lawson's virtually unknown published map of "Ocacock Inlet"

Categories: 18th Century

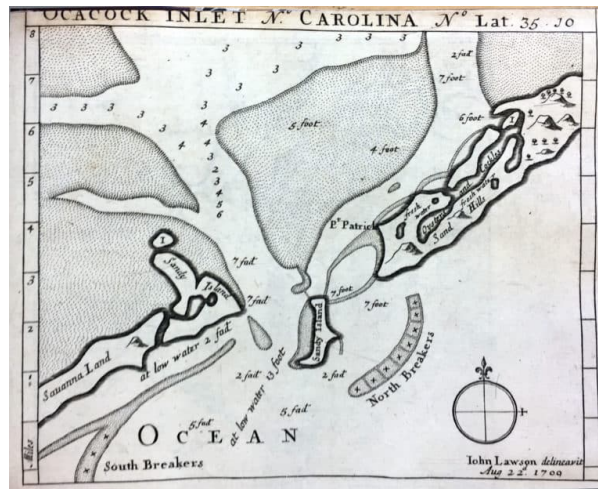
Tags: Herman Moll, John Lawson, John Senex, Ocacock, Ocracoke, Philip Burden, Philip Lea

Renowned British map dealer, scholar, and author Philip Burden made an exciting discovery at the Admiralty Library in Portsmouth, UK. Burden discovered four previously unrecorded small charts of locations on the east coast of North America, bound within an extremely rare small atlas by Philip Lea.

Burden recorded this discovery in an on line document, "[Corrigenda and Addenda](#)", that serves as an occasional update to his monumental two volume cartobibliography, [The Mapping of North America](#). Burden documented his find in an earlier "Corrigeda and Addenda", but this blogger did not notice it until the update published in January 2018.¹

The four small maps depict Charleston harbor and Port Royal in South Carolina; St. John's Bay in the vicinity of St. Augustine, Florida; and Ocracoke Inlet in North Carolina. Even more exciting, the map of Ocracoke Inlet, titled "Ocacock Inlet", includes an engraved statement, "John Lawson delineavit Aug 22d. 1709."

Although John Lawson served as surveyor general of North Carolina during the first decade of the 18th Century, only one published map had been attributed to Lawson prior to Burden's discovery. I obtained an image of the "Ocacock Inlet" map on a recent visit to Portsmouth.



John Lawson's 1709 map of "Ocacock Inlet"

There is no engraver, printer, or location imprint on the map. However, Lawson was in London in 1709, overseeing the publication of [A New Voyage to Carolina](#), and it's apparent from the date on "Ocacock" that he drew the map while in London. In 1709, John Senex engraved the [general map of Carolina](#) for Lawson's book, so it is reasonable to assume that he also engraved the small map of "Ocacock Inlet". In Lea's atlas, Herman Moll's name is found on some maps; therefore, he cannot be discounted as engraver of "Ocacock". Perhaps someone with a more intimate knowledge of the engraving styles of Senex and Moll can offer support for one or the other. Questions? Comments? Corrections? Please use the "What's on your mind?" comment box below.

REFERENCES

1. 726 – Philip Lea. c.1696

A fifth example of the Hydrographia Universalis was discovered by the author in the Admiralty Library, Portsmouth (Vg3). Although this example includes four unrecorded charts of America we can date it to c.1702 from the events depicted. Therefore it is likely they were all issued after 1700. Amongst the new charts is one entitled 'A New Map of the Harbour of Charles Town' derived from the John Thornton and Robert Morden c.1695 map of South Carolina. The remainder illustrate Port Royal, St. John's Bay recording the attack of Governor James Moore on the town of St. Augustine in 1702 and finally Ocacock Inlet which notes 'John Lawson delineavit Aug 22d. 1700'. Further

research needs to be undertaken on the latter as it appears Lawson only reached Charleston from London on 15 August that year. From Burden, Philip: UPDATE TO 'THE MAPPING OF NORTH AMERICA' Volumes I and II ([Entry 726 is found on p29 of the January 2018 version of the pdf](#)). Burden mistakenly transcribed the "Ocacock Inlet" date; it is actually Aug 22d. 1709. Therefore, the Admiralty Library's copy of *Hydrographia Universalis* was issued no earlier than 1709.