

# Re-prioritizing Blome's Description

There are 3 issues of the 1672 first edition of *A Description of the Island of Jamaica; with the other Isles and Territories in America...* published by Richard Blome, varying in the seller listed on the title page, as follows:

*Printed by T. Milbourn, and sold by the Book-sellers of London and Westminster, 1672 ([view](#))*

*Printed by T. Milbourn, and sold by J. Williams Junior, in Cross-Keys-Court, in Little-Brittain, 1672 ([view](#))*

*Printed by T. Milbourn, and sold by Robert Clavel in Cross-Keys-Court, in Little-Brittain, 1672 ([view](#))*

There is no agreed upon priority for these 3 issues. For example, the *Book-sellers* imprint is “listed second by European Americana, but first by ESTC, and third by New Wing” (Howard S. Mott, Inc., Catalog 261, #10, p4).

Recently, an observation was made that [there are 3 different states of the map of Carolina](#) contained within copies of Blome's *Description*. In an effort to determine if the state of the Carolina map contained within each copy could be useful in establishing priority of the 3 first edition issues, inquiries were sent to a number of institutions. The North Carolina Map Blog is extremely grateful for the time and information provided by:

Boston Athenaeum – Stanley Cushing

Clements Library – Diana Sykes

Duke University – Sarah Carrier

Georgetown\* – Stephanie Hughes

Harvard – James Capobianco

John Carter Brown Library (JCB) – Kim Nusco

King's College London – Stephanie Breen

Library of Virginia\* – Audrey McElhinney

New York Historical Society (NYHS) – Joseph Ditta

New York Public Library (NYPL) – Kyle Triplett

Princeton – Stephen Ferguson

St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) – Celia Rabinowitz

Trinity College-Dublin (TCD) – Shane Mawe

University of North Carolina (UNC-CH) – Robert Anthony, Claudia Funke

University of Virginia – Heather Riser

Virginia Historical Society\* – John McClure

Wake Forest University (WFU) – Megan Mulder

Yale – Francis Lapka, George Miles, Elisabeth Fairman

Ashley Baynton-Williams

Philip Burden

Rusty Mott / Michael Buehler

Barry Lawrence Ruderman

Additionally, copies from the following institutions were viewed on line:

Bodleian Library

British Library (BL)

University of Pittsburgh

Huntington Library\*

\* The books at these institutions did not contain the map of Carolina, or contained a facsimile.

The occurrence of each state of the map of Carolina with respect to each of the three issues of the 1672 first edition, and to the 1678 second edition of Blome's *Description* is summarized in the following table:

	<b>Map State</b>		
<b>Edition - Issue</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>
1672 – Williams	BL JCB NYPL	Duke King's College SMCM UNC-CH Virginia	P. Burden Clements Harvard WFU Yale
1672 – Book-sellers		Mott/Buehler Swann Galleries	BL NYHS Pittsburgh Princeton Yale ex-Craige Collection
1672 - Clavel			Bodleian Boston Athenaeum Trinity College Yale
1678			Bodleian Clements Princeton Ruderman Yale (2)

The data may be insufficient for a statistically valid analysis, but that's not going to stop the North Carolina Map Blog from proclaiming the following order of priority for the three issues of the 1672 first edition of Blome's *A Description of the Island of Jamaica...*:

1. J. Williams Junior

2. Book-sellers

3. Clavel

We would be most appreciative if any library, collector, or dealer with a copy of this book would send us their data concerning title page imprint and state of the Carolina map in their copy. Also, any corrections or comments would be greatly appreciated via the “What’s on your mind?” box below the comment section.

One final note... Shortly after this post was published, I was informed of the supposed existence of two “J. Williams Junior” title page imprints, one with and one without a hyphen between “Williams” and “Junior.” However, the only copy that [appears to have a hyphen](#) also shows stray ink blobs above the “r” of Brittain and partially obscuring the “s” of Keys. I do not believe any copies have an actual hyphen, and that any catalog entries indicating the presence of a hyphen have been copied from an erroneous catalog description. Indeed, two institutions whose catalog entries showed “Williams–Junior” have confirmed that “Williams Junior” is not hyphenated on the title pages of their books.