

Appendix D

The British Library “King’s” edition

In the British Library is a series of collected works under the listing of “King’s Topographical Collection” (Maps K.Top.1.58). Volume I has two parts devoted to astronomical maps and prints: Part 1 includes numbered entries 50–69, and Part 2 includes numbered entries 70–91. Some of these entries are from well-known sources, others are not.

A list of items in Part 1 includes: celestial prints by Barlow, Watson, Nicholas de Fer, de la Fosse, None, Senex, de Vaugondy, Chrysologue, and Wollason; two unusual German celestial planispheres in conic projection, with unidentified authorship; and two other unidentified German planispheres. A list of items in Part 2 includes celestial prints by de l’Isle, Lalande, Ferguson, and others (both named and unnamed) showing: planetary orbits; transits of Mercury and Venus; the paths of comets in the sky; solar eclipse paths on the Earth; and volvelles, one with an accompanying booklet.

The researcher of celestial maps would do well to investigate this collection in addition to the better-known celestial atlases and books in the British Library, which are readily accessed by title or author in the computerized catalog.