

" Villare Cantianum:  
OR  
K E N T  
SURVEYED and ILLUSTRATED.  
By THOMAS PHILIPOTT Esq;  
formerly of *Clare-Hall* in *Cambridge*.  
LONDON ,  
Printed by *William Godbid* , and are to be sold at his Houfe  
over againft the *Anchor* Inne in *Little Brittain*.  
M. DC. LIX

In 1927 the Hon Henry Hannen noted in *Archaeologia Cantiana* for that year, the existence of what he referred to as a 'second impression' of the 1659 Villare Cantianum, also mentioning Dr Cocks copy with the cancel t.p. for 1664. It has since come to light that these references were only a hint as to what remained to be uncovered. These bibliographical notes are an attempt to create a detailed picture of the presently known variant issue history of this book.

The first edition of Villare Cantianum struggled and failed throughout it's life for accuracy. It appears that even whilst in the process of being printed, major corrections /additions seem to have become apparent to the author/publisher, necessitating the inclusion of additional preliminary pages and/or the addition of numerous side margin notes. At no time throughout it's life did a single issue ever catch up with the corrections. Of well over 100 identified errors/corrections/additions 77 appeared in the earliest edition of the book so far discovered [BL. 578.i.21] and continued to be present in all copies up to and including the 1664 issues, although odd spelling corrections and side margin notes were incorporated in reset pages from time to time. It took a second edition published over a 100 years later to incorporate all these amendments, either within the body of the main text or as footnotes, and finally issue a 'clean' complete copy inclusive of an 11 page Index. Even then judging by the numerous Mss side margin notes added by previous knowledgeable owners to many of the copies checked, it remained incomplete/incorrect. The whole subject must have been a nightmare to research and convert into print, hence it is not surprising that it contained so many errors.

By the normal practices of printing at this time and later, the full print run must have taken place more or less at the same time in 1659. Disappointingly, it quickly became obvious that the variants caused by the additions and apparent contradictions were simply manifestations not of intended formal reissues, but of ongoing sales, complete with prior and new errors,[see illustration noted below\*]. These errors being compounded by careless compilation, and poor stock control in the storeroom of the Printers bindery. The book's life was certainly blighted by inattention to detail in this respect, with erratic contents, and copies with mixed updates of some pages. In addition, since all the preliminary pages are unidentified by roman numerals as would be usual, they can and sometimes do appear in an inconsistent order within the books. There was therefore only ever one intended reissue of this book, that of 1664 with the cancel title page, yet still, even for this planned issue there was no attempt to correct its early major flaws.

\* e.g. A post 1659 variant, has on p79 a 5+2 line side margin note with the 2 lines added within the text, later, this side margin note is removed and incorporated within a 3 line addition to the page text, this incorporation appears in only 2 variant copies before it reverts to a 5+2 line side margin note again.

The original object was a medium to long term project to continue checking variant forms of VCs until the results indicated a clear chronology. In an initial attempt to find this chronology, it was accepted that the presence of additional and/or new preliminary pages, or the extension of existing ones would be a prime indication of the order in which the book appeared. Secondary to this, would be the appearance of a text variation. In view of the impossibility of exact dating, the method chosen to arrive at a close chronological sequence, was, to apply a prime weighting to the number of

Preliminary pages related to, 'Table of ADDENDA', 'A fecond Table to be inferted' and 'Additional fupply of things to be inferted.' i.e. **0.2.4.6.8.8+2** and then a fractional secondary weighting to the total number of possible text changes appearing in the copies inspected e.g.[85/115]. These 'Key Designators', when they were present, would appear to confirm the 'variant forms' place in a chronological sequence. This method would not of course overcome the poor stock rotation of pre printed pages, but would go some way to evening out such errors. This attempted chronology was abandoned when it was realised, that the contradictions proved there simply was no chronology to the variants forms' found. At this point it became necessary to be content with a crude chronological 'grouping' based on the preliminary pages alone. **Six major groupings** of 'variant forms' have been identified, none of which, with the exception of the first & last, glve a clear indication of issue date, simply that they were sold between 1659 and 1664.

The dating related to the states of the Symondson map when this was still present, were subject to similar problems of poor stock control, and possible later insertion by Publisher, Bookseller or Owner, and therefore of no real assistance to the attempted dating sequence. Copies inspected so far, vary from state ii to state vi, the majority being correct, containing either the state iii or iv Symonson map. This ignores all the other maps that have no proper place within this book, Speed, Lea, Drayton/Hole, Andrews Dury & Herbert Index, Blome, Bowen &c.

Further reading-

1. For more information on the Symonson 1596-1775 map read Map N° 4 in the Carto-bibliography.
2. For a greater understanding of both the Printing process and mans capacity to introduce errors into a printed book, the reader is directed to 'Books as History by David Pearson. Published by the British Library & Oak Knoll Press. 2008.' pages 78-80.

Finally, my thanks to the Bodleian and College Libraries of Oxford, British Library, several Dealers and Private Collectors for their co-operation in allowing me to study in detail their copies of Villare Cantianum.

Printed Maps of Kent

[www.oldkentmaps.co.uk](http://www.oldkentmaps.co.uk)

Tony Burgess 2009.

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