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Robert Morden occupied premises in New Cheapside and Combill where he carried on business as a map and bookseller and maker of instruments and globes. It cannot be claimed that he was an outstanding cartographer and his work was often much criticized, but he produced interesting sets of geographical playing cards, maps of various parts of the world and the county maps for Camden's Britannia, for which he is best remembered. These were issued in 1695 as part of a new translation of the Britannia by Dr Edmund Gibson and subsequently were re-issued a number of times up to 1772. Camden's Britannia, a work first published in 1586, was an historical composition of England and Wales and maps by William Hole and William Kip were added to editions only after 1607. Robert Morden was invited to prepare maps for Edmund Gibson, Bishop of Lincoln, for his revised edition of the Britannia which was published in 1695.

Morden based his maps on manuscript sources, as well as the work of a variety of different surveyors. His work in this respect was not particularly original, but his maps are notable for the inclusion of lines of longitude measured from the meridian of St Paul's Cathedral. This was a noteworthy attempt to clarify local time differences during an age when "time" was not standardised.

The 1695 map of Guernsey is virtually identical to the earlier Speed, Blaeu and Jansson versions.



The Smaller Islands in the British Ocean by Robert Morden. Sold by Abel Swale Aw'nsham and John Churchill. (From Camden's Britannia).



FACT FILE 1695 - Morden, Robert / Ricoux #18 / Copper plate engraving / Size 380 x 431mm

The coronet is invented in Germany

The Salem Witch hunts begin

The first woman's magazine, 'The Ladies' Mercury' is published in London

The Bank of England receives a Royal Charter as a commercial institution

Robert Morden map

Peter the Great orders Russian New Year changed from 1 September to 1 January