

# THE KING'S SURVEY OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 1680

## THE LEGGE REPORT

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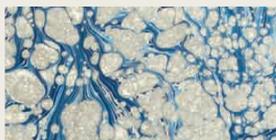
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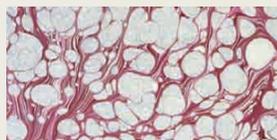
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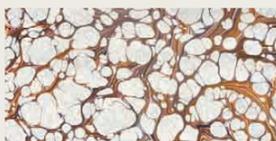
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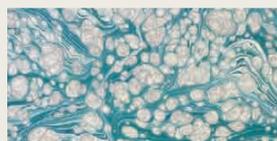
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<b>Fortress Version</b> (£1,500)				

Please contact us for delivery costs outside mainland UK and the Channel Islands

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# THE KING'S SURVEY OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 1680

## THE LEGGE REPORT

by Colonel George Legge  
 Lieutenant General of His Majesty's Ordnance  
 Anno Domini MDCLXXX



A handmade, limited, first edition of the most beautiful book about the Channel Islands ever made

# THE KING'S SURVEY OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 1680

## THE LEGGE REPORT

In 1679 King Charles II ordered a survey of the Channel Islands and their defences, harbours and forts. He was concerned that there should be "a consultation of all the ablest pilots of Normandy and Brittany to know what ports the King of France might make useful to his fleet".

George Legge, later Earl of Dartmouth, and his fellow engineer Sir Bernard de Gomme set off from Portsmouth, taking with them the artist, cartographer and military engineer Thomas Phillips. The lavishly illustrated work they created for the king became known in the Channel Islands as The Legge Report.

The book, part report and part pictorial atlas, contains numerous carefully crafted watercolours of the Channel Islands, their approaches, forts and harbours, executed by Phillips as he sailed between the islands.

Thomas Phillips was hugely ambitious and this was a great opportunity to impress the King. He transformed what should have been a standard military survey into a stunning manuscript, ideally suited to the theatricality and flamboyance of Charles' court. His use of colour washes, his eye for detail and his extraordinary bird's-eye views make this the most beautiful of all Channel Island books.

Legge's report itself is concise and to the point, outlining the action the Crown must take to safeguard the Islands. He also includes documents entitled "Brief State of Guernsey" and "Some short observations on the Island of Jersey".

The text covers the ecclesiastical, legal and civil administrations of the Bailiwick including the Royal Charters, the Papal Bull of 1480, the roles of the Crown Officers and the standing orders for manning the garrison. There are lists of the clergy, the masters of all vessels belonging to the Islands, the officers of the court and the governors to the year 1680. The result is a fascinating collection of old Channel Island names many of which we recognise today: de Sausmares, Guille, Le Mesurier, Gosselin, de Beauvoir, Falla, Mansell, Le Marchant, Carey, de L'Isle, Mahy and many more which resonate down the ages.

### THE ORIGINALS

There are three known copies of The King's Survey. The artist's originals are held by the National Maritime Museum in London, the King's copy resides in the British Library, and Guernsey's Royal Court has the third. Recently this copy was unbound for preservation and restoration. While laid flat each individual page was filmed using a large-format digital camera at a resolution of over 80 million pixels.

Thanks to this far-sighted work and with the kind permission of the Royal Court, it has been possible to create a limited edition facsimile of The King's Survey. A proportion of the money raised from sales of this edition will be used to set up a fund dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the manuscript collection held by the Royal Court.



Each of the three known copies is different, and both the British Library and the National Maritime Museum have given permission for illustrations from their copies to be used in the compiling of this limited edition. Consequently it will be both unique and as comprehensive as it is possible to make it.

### THE FIRST EDITION

Each finished book measures approximately 21" high x 15" wide and over 2" deep and includes some 38 reproductions of Thomas Phillips' watercolour illustrations, which fold out from twice page size to over three and a half page size, an impressive 51".

The book has been printed on specialist archive-quality, acid-free paper, with the foldouts on a heavier stock. This has enabled our printer to recreate the original images in all their detail and with stunning clarity. Each volume is then quarter-bound by hand in top-grade leather and finished with a handmade marbled paper, created especially for this edition and which will be a different colour for each version.

### LIMITED TO 275 IDENTICAL COPIES OF THE BOOK AVAILABLE IN FOUR DIFFERENT VERSIONS

- The **Pilots Version**, as described above and covered in a blue marbled paper, limited to **75 copies**.

The other three versions each come complete with a set of additional half-size prints, approximately 11.5" x 16.5", taken from the illustrations in the book and numbered to match the number of the book.

- The **Jersey Version**, as described above and covered in a red marbled paper, comes complete with 5 additional half-size prints of Thomas Phillips' illustrations of Jersey including a triptych of The Prospect of the Bay of St Hilary, held in an archival pocket within the book cover.

**The Jersey Version will be limited to 75 copies.**

- The **Guernsey Version**, as described above and covered in a green marbled paper, comes complete with 4 additional half-size prints of Thomas Phillips' illustrations of Guernsey including maps of Guernsey and Sark, held in an archival pocket within the book cover.

**The Guernsey Version will be limited to 75 copies.**

- The **Fortress Version**, as described above and covered in a brown marbled paper, comes complete with 4 additional half-size prints of Thomas Phillips' illustrations of Fort Elizabeth and Castle Cornet and their ground plans, held in an archival pocket within the book cover.

**The Fortress Version will be limited to 50 copies.**



The Jersey Prints



The Guernsey Prints



The Fortress Prints

