



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

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**To His Sacred & Most Excellent Majesty George by the Grace of God King of Great
Britain France & Ireland &c. This Map of Great Britain and Ireland. . .**

Stock#: 79762
Map Maker: Willdey
Date: 1715
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 26.25 x 37.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Celebrating the Hanoverian Succession

Striking example of George Willdey's rare map of the British Isles, celebrating the ascension of George I, the Elector of Hanover, to the throne of England.

This lavishly decorated map is dedicated to George I, in the year after he succeeded Queen Anne as ruler of Britain. It is filled with symbols and vignettes that underline George's legitimate claim to the throne, a claim that was hotly disputed at the time.

The King himself is shown in a portrait in the upper left corner. The dedication to him is in a cartouche



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just below the portrait. This cartouche is flanked by suits of armor and battle flags, suggesting George I as a martial and manly leader. The crown and scepter are nearby, as is a slogan associated with the Hanoverians, *nec aspera terrent*, or undaunted by difficulties.

Just below these is a classical scene of heroism. Hercules slays the many-headed hydra while a regal soldier in a crested helmet trumpets his valor. The hydra was meant to represent rebellion—a reference to the Jacobites who wanted to restore the Stuarts to the throne.

In the upper right corner is a large royal crest. Below this is a huge ship of the line, surrounded by smaller vessels in a triumphant procession—an imagining of George I's arrival at Greenwich. The poem accompanying the image underlines George's legitimacy as King:

Hail George! the Bulwarks of thy Realm Survey,

Both Land & Sea thy Sovereign Power Obey!

What Rival dares dispute thy Lawful Claim

Since they give Strength to Thee, and thou to them?

The map itself is quite informative. It shows the British Isles, including Ireland, as well as the Orkneys and the Western Islands. Notes offer historical and economic information. For example, the Western Islands have "Plenty of Cod & Ling all about." The island of Iona has St. Oran's Church (St. Oran's), "Famous for ye Buruing place of 8 Kings of Norway 48 of Scotland 4 of Ireland and many other Persons of Distinction."

An explanation in the Atlantic lists all the information contained in the map. It shows major and minor roads and tells the distance between towns and cities. There are symbols to denote universities, bishoprics, archbishoprics, towns that elect Members of Parliament, and post towns.

The map also includes an elaborate advertisement at the bottom left corner showing the wares offered by George Willdey. Willdey operated "the Great Toy Shop next to the Dog Tavern in Ludgate Street." His [trade card](#) employed similar imagery. Willdey's shop was well known and had many famous clients, including the Prince and Princess of Wales—the future George II and his wife, Caroline.

The Hanoverian Succession

In 1714, Queen Anne died; she had no children, leaving no heirs to the British throne in Britain. This



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problem was a long time coming. A century earlier, in 1603, Elizabeth I died with no heirs after reigning for 45 years. She chose her closest living relative, King James VI of Scotland, to succeed her. They were both direct descendants of Henry VII; Elizabeth was Henry's granddaughter, while James was his great-great grandson.

James I of England and VI of Scotland was the first monarch of the Stuart dynasty. He and his wife, Anne of Denmark, had three children, Henry Frederick, Elizabeth, and Charles. After Henry Frederick's premature death in 1612, Charles became heir to the throne. Charles I married Henrietta Maria of France and they had three children: Mary, Charles, and James. Charles I was deposed following the English Civil War and executed in 1649.

After the Interregnum (1649-1660), the Stuarts regained power, with Charles II taking the throne. Although Charles had at least a dozen illegitimate children, his marriage to Catherine of Braganza yielded no legitimate heirs. When he died in 1685, his brother was crowned James II.

James II lost his first wife, Anne Hyde, in 1671, and he then married Mary of Modena. His first marriage resulted in the birth of two daughters, Mary and Anne. His second marriage produced a son, James Francis, and a daughter, Louisa Maria Theresa.

Mary of Modena was a devout Catholic and James had converted to Catholicism in 1669. After the religious upheaval of Henry VIII's reign, which resulted in the creation of the Church of England, English monarchs had been Protestant (with the exception of Mary I, Henry VIII's daughter with Catherine of Aragon, who remained a Catholic). The country too became predominantly Protestant, with Catholics held in suspicion of their loyalties. Thus, when James took the throne in 1685, many feared a return of Catholic influence. Indeed, while King, James II sought to grant civic equality to Catholics and Protestant dissenters, stances that made him unpopular with Parliament. When James Francis was born in 1688, the English nobility feared that a Catholic succession was inevitable. Rather than accept the situation, they sought another alternative.

James' daughter, Mary, had been raised a Protestant. She had married William of Orange, who was also the son of James II's sister. At the behest of many of the English nobles, William landed an army at Devon in November 1688. The army and navy did not resist and James fled the country. Parliament later decided that his abandonment of the throne was the same as abdication and named William and Mary as joint monarchs. They also passed a Bill of Right that clarified the line of succession. If either spouse died, the other would continue to rule alone. As William and Mary were childless, the crown would pass to Mary's sister, Anne, and her children upon their deaths. It also explicitly excluded Catholics and those married to Catholics from the throne.



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Although Anne had borne many children, none of them survived childhood. In 1701, Parliament passed the Act of Settlement to further clarify the succession. It bestowed the crown on the family of Sophia, Dowager Electress of Hanover. James VI and I's daughter, Elizabeth, had married Frederick V, the Elector Palatine. They had thirteen children. Of these, only one was left alive and not a Catholic in 1714: the twelfth child, Sophia. She pre-deceased Queen Anne by only six weeks, which meant that the next heir was her grandson, Georg Ludwig, the Elector of Hanover.

In crowning Georg as George I, Parliament passed over more than fifty closer blood relatives that were Catholics. The Elector of Hanover and now King of England spoke very little English when he took the throne. His coronation took place on October 20, 1714, ushering in the rule of the House of Hanover, which stayed in power until Queen Victoria died in 1901.

States of the Map

The present map is Willdey's second map of the British Isles. There are 3 states of the map:

- State 1 (1715): Dated 1715 in the title cartouche and bearing only Willdey's imprint.
- State 2 (after 1750): Date in the title cartouche erased and the imprints of Thomas Jefferys and William Herbert added above the bottom neatline. (one copy known, private collection)
- State 3 (1778): Plate heavily reworked, with Richard Marshall's imprint appears in both the newly engraved title cartouche and above the bottom neatline, where the date 1778 is also engraved. (one copy known, private collection)

Detailed Condition:

Left margin extended. Remnants of framing tape on verso.