

Samuel and Nathaniel Buck
[Six views of cities and towns in Kent, Sussex and
Surrey]
London
1738

In parallel with their "Abbeys and castles", the Bucks published a series of views of "Cities and towns" (1728–49). At the time they sold for half a crown each (12.5 pence); the asking price now is around £400.

The publication history of this series is not as well documented (there are no frontispieces to tell the story), and the ESTC entry is vague; so I reproduce the listing of the whole series as it appears in an advertisement issued by the Bucks. The advertisement is not dated, but the statement that they have been at work "upwards of thirty Years" puts it between 1755 and 1765. It starts by listing the views of "Palaces, monasteries, castles, &c." – fourteen sets for England (1726–39), three sets and a half for Wales (1740–2). Then it goes on to say this:

Also the following Prints of Cities and Towns, at Two Shilling and Sixpence each; being two Feet nine Inches in Length, and thirteen Inches in Depth.

1st SET are the City of Chester, and the Towns of Derby, Lancaster, Manchester, Liverpool, and Preston. <1728>

2d SET are the Cities of Oxford, Peterborough, and Coventry; and the Towns of Warwick, Birmingham, and Northampton. <1731>

3d SET are the Cities of Worcester, Hereford, and Litchfield; and the Towns of Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, and Burton upon Trent. <1732>

4th SET are the Cities of Bath, Gloucester, Salisbury, two Views of Bristol, and the Town of Reading. <1734>

5th SET are the Cities of Winchester, Wells, and two Views of Exeter, the Town of Plymouth, and Plymouth Dock. <1736>

6th SET are the Cities of Canterbury, Rochester, and Chichester; and the Towns of Guildford, Maidstone, and Chatham Dock. <1738>

7th SET are the Towns and Ports of Dover, Sheerness, Gravesend, Woolwich, Greenwich, and Deptford. <1739>

8th SET are the City of Norwich, the Towns of Lynn-Regis, Great Yarmouth, Ipswich, St. Edmondsbury, and Colchester. <1741> <There are two views of Norwich, both dated 1741. The north-east prospect is part of set 8; the south-east prospect is one of the additional plates (see below).>

9th SET are the Cities of Lincoln and Ely, the University and Town of Cambridge, Stamford, Nottingham, and Leicester. <1743>

10th SET are the City of York, and the Towns of Kingston upon Hull, Scarborough, Leeds, Sheffield, and Rippon. <1745>

11th SET are two of the Town of Richmond in Yorkshire, the Cities of Durham and Carlisle, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Berwick upon Tweed. <1745?> <In the copies which I am looking at, the Richmond plates are dated 1749, but I suspect that they may have been reworked or reengraved. The other plates in this set are all dated 1745.>

12th SET are five of the Cities of London and Westminster, and one of Portsmouth in Hampshire. <1749>

13th SET are the Towns of Cardif, Swansea, Carmarthen, Pembroke, Haverford-West, and Wrexham. <1748>

Likewise two Prints of St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall <1739>, and one of Bristol Cross <1734>; with three additional Views, viz. Norwich

<1741>, [Oxford](#) <1752>, and [Birmingham](#) <1752>. <The dates of the additional views of Oxford and Birmingham are not legible in the copies which I have seen; I take them from the article about the Bucks in ODNB.>

From the copy which I am using (which has many of the plates out of order), I have supplied the date of publication for each set.

Sets 6 and 7 are the ones which relate to Kent. The plates in set 6 are as follows:

<1> [The south-west prospect of the city of Canterbury.](#)

<2> [The north-west prospect of the city of Rochester.](#)

<3> [The south-west prospect of the city of Chichester.](#)

<4> [The south west prospect of Guildford, in the county of Surry.](#)

<5> [The north-west prospect of Maidstone, in the county of Kent.](#)

<6> [The west prospect of his majestys dock-yard, at Chatham.](#)

The imprint varies slightly from plate to plate, but looks more or less like this:

[Saml. & Nathl. Buck delin. et Sculp. Publisht according to Act of Parliament. March 25th. 1738.](#)

Plates <6> and <2> are so designed that they can optionally be joined together to make a panorama.

The original drawings were presumably made in 1735 (Kent) and 1736 (Sussex and Surrey).

For set 7 see the following file.

C.F. May 2011.