

For many years some of the scarcest and smallest of English county maps, 59 x 86 mm., were usually referred to as 'Orlando Hodgsons', notwithstanding the fact that an earlier and rarer version of the atlas was known, by another publisher. An even earlier one, John Allen, was eventually discovered and reported by Yasha Beresiner in *The Map Collector* (issue 30, March 1985): *A New source for Orlando Hodgson's county maps*. Subsequently, in the *Journal of the International Map Collectors' Society* (issue 58, Autumn 1994), a notice by Kit Batten provided further news, including the information that this publisher was not John but Joseph Allen: *Second edition of Allen cards*.

In 1811 Allen published a set of forty-three cartographical cards, about 63 x 93 mm. It is thought they were engraved by his joint publisher, Robert Rowe and they are similar to those Rowe engraved for John Fairburn (see 1798b). The cards have foliate borders with panels in the upper and lower ones: the titles in the upper borders with Allen's imprint just below and Rowe's imprint in the lower panels. Their backs are plain:

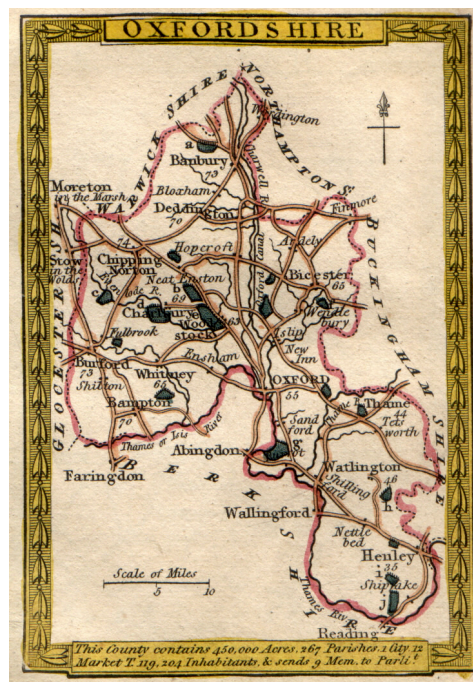
*England & Wales; Bedfordshire; Berkshire; Buckinghamshire; Cambridgeshire; Cheshire; Cornwall; Cumberland; Derbyshire; Devonshire; Dorsetshire; Durham; Essex; Gloucestershire; Hampshire; Herefordshire; Hertfordshire; Huntingdonshire; Kent; Lancashire; Leicestershire; Lincolnshire; Middlesex; Monmouthshire; Northamptonshire; Norfolk; Northumberland; Nottinghamshire; Oxfordshire; Rutland; Shropshire; Somersetshire; Staffordshire; Suffolk; Surrey; Sussex; Warwickshire; Westmoreland; Wiltshire; Worcestershire; North Wales; South Wales; Yorkshire.*



The cards were issued in a slip-case with printed labels on front and rear. The front one has a foliate border like the cards, with the title and sub-title, followed by the date of publication and 'Rules for playing'. 'Geographical Game' is in the upper panel and the lower one contains Allen's imprint, followed by the names and addresses of three sellers, the first of whom is Rowe. The plain rear label has a contents list having *Yorkshire* last.

A second edition was issued in 1813 with the date changed on the front label. It has a new rear label with a foliate border having 'New Edition' at its head and a note of the additions to the maps at the foot. On the maps, 'Pub' and '1811' are deleted from Allen's imprint and the distance of towns from London is shown near their names. Rowe's imprint is replaced by statistical information in the 1 mm. deeper lower panels. Rather oddly, the England card now has the original state of that map also printed on its back.

A decade later the plates were retouched, with Allen's imprint being removed. Parkland, some roads and the names of the adjacent counties were added. In this third state the plates were used to produce two pocket atlases. In the second of these the title ends with the words 'including a copious topographical account of each county' but none is known. The plate marks indicate that, unusually for cards, Rowe had engraved them on individual plates.



*Allen's English atlas, being a set of county maps on cards.* London, Joseph Allen & Robert Rowe, June 4th 1811; Joseph Allen, Feby. 20th, 1813.

*The New English atlas, being a complete set of county maps, neatly coloured.* London, J. Thomson, 1823.

*The Pocket tourist & English atlas, being a new and complete set of county maps.* London, Orlando Hodgson, (1827).