



Nicolas Maire was often referred to as ‘M. Maire’, that is ‘Monsieur Maire’, which can cause some confusion over his name. He is best known for producing both large and thematic maps and for the use of templates in cartography. However, he did issue a pocket atlas which appeared in three versions, usually with attractive hand-colouring.

The first of these was a six franc almanac entitled *Petit atlas*, which he published himself for four consecutive years. It was about 130 x 80 mm. and contained twenty-eight double-page maps, averaging 105 x 95 mm. Their plate marks reveal that these were all printed from single plates. Longitude was based on a Paris prime meridian, with boundaries after the 1815 Vienna Congress.

The second version was an *Atlas de poche*, about 140 x 90 mm. and now with thirty-two maps. The four new plates were of Switzerland, the Low Countries, the Austrian Empire and the island of Réunion in the Indian Ocean, then called Bourbon.

The final one was an *Atlas portatif*, in an oblong format and about twice as large as the previous atlases, which had engraved title-pages and contents lists whereas this has letterpress ones. The thirty-two maps are now unfolded and with large margins:

*Mappemonde suivant la projection de Mercator; Hémisphère oriental; Hémisphère occidentale; Europe; France; Espagne et Portugal; Italie; Angleterre; Écosse; Irlande; Suède et Norwège; Danemark; Rép. de la Suisse en 22 cantons; Pays-Bas; Allemagne; Autriche; Confédération. Germanique et Royaume de Prusse; Russie d'Europe; Turquie d'Europe; Asie; Turquie d'Asie; Perse; Empire Chinois; Inde en-deçà et au-delà du Gange; Afrique; Égypte et Barbarie; Ile Bourbon; Amérique Seple.; États-Unis; Îles d'Amérique; Amérique Méridionale; Océanique.*

They are preceded by *Un précis élémentaire de géographie moderne* by Madame Tardieu-Denesle, the wife of the publisher of both of the later versions and an author of children's books. These 142 pages of text were printed on rather poor quality paper subject to foxing, but fortunately the maps were not.



*Petit Atlas de l'an MDCCCXVI.* Paris, Nicola Maire, (1815).

*Petit Atlas de l'an MDCCCXVII.* Paris, Nicolas Maire, (1816).

*Petit Atlas de l'an MDCCCXVIII.* Paris, Nicolas Maire, (1817).

*Petit Atlas de l'an MDCCCXIX.* Paris, Nicolas Maire, (1818).

*Atlas de poche de geographie moderne.* Paris, Henri Tardieu-Denesle, (1820).

*Atlas portatif, composé de trente-deux cartes coloriées, dressées d'après les derniers traités de paix.* Paris, Henri Tardieu-Denesle, 1821.



