



A scarce French pocket atlas was published in 1834, with thirty numbered maps and longitude based on a Paris prime meridian. The first sixteen have 'Atlas universel' above the border at top left and their numbers preceded by 'Pl.'. They are all uniform in size and style, measuring about 100 x 95 mm. but many dividing lines indicate that they were printed several to a sheet and then cut up:

*Planisphère 1834; Mappemonde premier hémisphère; Mappemonde deuxième hémisphère; Europe; France; Espagne et Portugal; Italie; Angleterre; Écosse; Irlande; Suède et Norvège; Danemarck; Suisse; Allemagne; Autriche; Confédération Germanique et Royme. de Prusse; Russie d'Europe; Turquie d'Europe et Grece; Asie; Turquie d'Asie; Perse; Chine; Inde en-deçà et au-delà du Gange; Afrique; Barbarie / Egypte; Amérique septentrionale; États-Unis; Iles d'Amérique; Amérique méridionale; Océanie.*

This atlas, which sold for one franc, measures about 110 x 135 mm. and has a nice frontispiece featuring portraits of 'Gerardus Mercator / Iudocus Hondius' and an undated, engraved title-page. The maps are followed by a dated letterpress title-page and twenty-six letterpress pages of statistical and other information. A decade later an Italian copy of the atlas was published in Naples (see 1844).

The atlas was reissued in 1836 but with no half-title or advertisements. The engraved frontispiece and title-page are followed by thirty-two pages of text, reset and by a new printer. The maps now follow the text, with the date on the first one changed to 1836.

Little is known about the publisher, Michel, elder son, but in the first issue of this work he also advertised a road map of France together with an atlas of France containing ninety-four maps, which he published in 1835: *Atlas départemental: La France et ses colonies*. He may have been related to Claude-Sidoine Michel (see 1771) and two plans of Nancy are known, dated 1822 and 1834, which are signed ‘Réduit et dessiné par Michel’.



*Atlas universel: dédié au Général Baron de Richemont, ex-Commandant de l'École de Saint-Cyr. Paris, Michel, fils aîné & Lecoite et Pougin, 1834, 1836.*

