1770a *Louis-Charles Desnos*

Louis-Charles Desnos (1725-1805) was the official geographer and bookseller to His Danish Majesty Christian VII, King of Denmark and Norway. He was also Jean Lattré's principal rival in Paris and they had a fraught relationship.

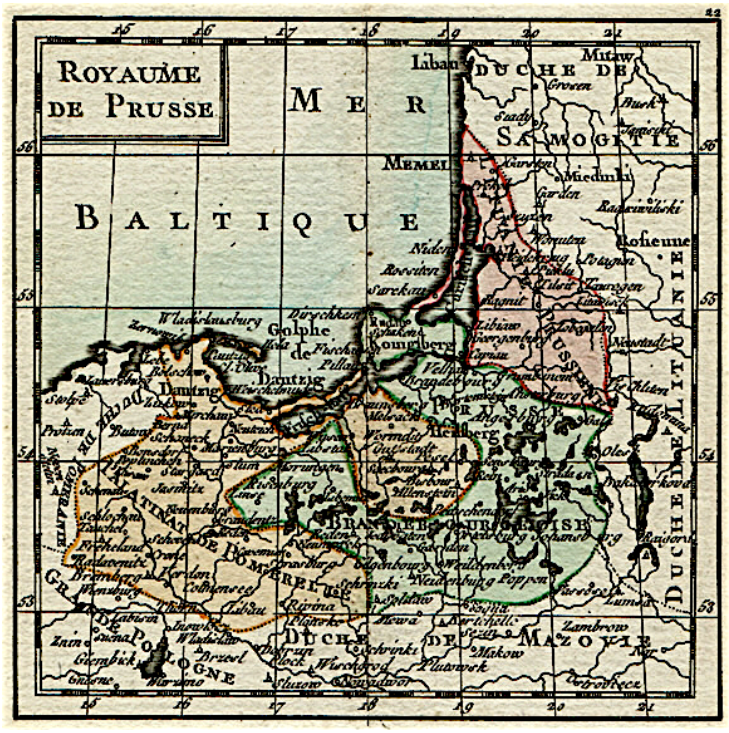
Desnos' world atlas was the first of three miniature ones that he published, usually found in contemporary red morocco with gilt decoration. The preliminaries, including a portrait of King Christian VII with a letter of dedication in highly obsequious language, and a perpetual calendar, vary between copies. The thirty-two double-page maps of the world with full hand-colour are square, measuring about 95 x 95 mm. Their dividing lines may be occasionally seen, indicating that the maps were not printed from individual plates:

Hemisphere Orientale; Hemisphere Occidentale; Europe; Asie; Afrique; Amerique Septentrionale; Amerique Meridionale; Royaume de France; La Suisse divisée en ses xiii cantons et ses allies; L'Italie; Duchés de Savoye et Piemont; Le Royaume de Naple et de Sicile; Royaume de Sardaigne; Royaume de Corse; Espagne et Portugal; Royaume de Portugal; Les Isles Britanniques; Pays Bas septentrionaux; Pays Bas meridionaux; L'Empire d'Allemagne; Royaume de Boheme na. les 16 cercles portent le nom de leurs capitales; Royaume de Prusse; Le Royaume de Hongrie; Royaume de Pologne; Royaume de Danemarck; Suede et Norwege; Suede et Norwege septentrionales; Suede et Norwege meridionales; Russie d'Europe; Turquie d'Europe; Russie d'Asie partie occidentale; Russie d'Asie partie orientale.

The first edition is dated 1770. The next edition of 1770/1 differs from all the others because it includes text and is in two volumes, which unfortunately are rarely found together. The first volume is dated 1770 and contains seventeen of the maps:

Hemisphere Orientale; Hemisphere Occidentale; Europe; Asie; Afrique; Amerique Meridionale; Amerique Septentrionale; Royaume de France; Pays Bas septentrionaux; Pays Bas meridionaux; Espagne et Portugal; L'Italie; Royaume de Corse; La Suisse divisée en ses xiii cantons et ses allies; L'Empire d'Allemagne; Les Isles Britanniques; Royaume de Danemarck.

The date in the cartouche at the foot of the engraved title-page is changed to 1771 in the second volume, which contains the other fifteen maps. The next edition is like the first except it is dated 1771. The existence of two different atlases dated 1770 and two more dated 1771, is rather confusing.



Subsequently the atlas appeared with this date, 1771, imperfectly erased and plate numbers added to the maps at top right, though map 30, *Turquie d'Europe,* is numbered 35. It is thought that it was in print for two decades. In later issues the preliminaries are deleted from the list of maps (*Catalogue des cartes contenues dans ce volume*) and both plate 12, *Le Royaume de Naple et de Sicile,* and 13, *Royaume de Sardaigne,* lack numbers. Additional maps are sometimes included. Desnos' other two miniature atlases both related to France: a road atlas (see 1771) and a general one (see 1775a).

Almanach géographique ou Petit atlas élémentaire. Paris, Louis-Charles Desnos, 1770, 1770/1 (two volumes), 1771, (1772-1789).