

Paris author and publisher of both playing cards and educational cards, Bourrut-Le Meri issued a set of hand-coloured cartographical ones relating to the French departments. These are housed in a publisher's cardcase designed in imitation of a thick, leather-bound duodecimo book.



The cards measure about 85 x 135 mm. and have plain backs. Four preliminary ones are numbered I-IV: title-card, *Exposé de l'ouvrage*, *Distribution* and *Ordre des départemens*. Eighty-six cards numbered No.1-86 feature circular maps of the departments, 75 mm. in diameter and these may possibly have been based on those of Aristide M. Perrot (see 1821). They occupy the upper three fifths of the space, with several lines of descriptive text in the panels below. The titles are in the style of 'Dept. of the' just inside the top of the single-line border:

Oise; Somme; Pas De Calais; Nord; Aisne; Ardennes; Moselle; Meuse; Meurthe; Bas Rhin; Haut Rhin; Vosges; Hte. Marne; Hte. Saône; Doubs; Jura; Côte D'Or; Saône et Loire; Ain; Isère; Htes. Alpes; Bsses. Alpes; Var; Bches. du Rhône; Vaucluse; Drôme; Ardèche; Loire; Rhône; Puy De Dôme; Cantal; Hte. Loire; Lozère; Gard; Hérault; Aveiron; Tarn; Aude; Pyrenées Orientles.; Arriège; Hte. Garonne; Lot; Lot Et Garonne; Tarn et Garonne; Gers; Htes. Pyrenées; Bsses. Pyrenées; Landes; Gironde; Dordogne; Corrèze; Charente; Charente Infre.; Vendée; 2 Sévres; Maine et Loire; Loire Infèrre.; Morbihan; Finistère; Côtes du Nord; Ile et Vilaine; Manche; Calvados; Orne; Mayenne; Sarthe; Seine Infre.; Eure; Eure et Loir; Loir et Cher; Indre et Loire; Indre; Vienne; Hte. Vienne; Creuse; Allier; Cher; Nièvre; Loiret; Yonne; Aube; Marne; Seine et Marne; Seine et Oise; Seine; Corse.



The second edition was printed from completely new plates and the publisher had moved from Rue du Petit Lion St. Sauveur to Rue du Petit Harleur. The numbering of the cards is slightly different, with just the figures 1-86 at top left. The revised maps are now of various shapes and sizes and are surrounded with pretty little illustrations which often include the names of famous sons. Although they have been moved around, these are instantly recognizable as derived from the decorative vignettes of Aristide M. Perrot (see 1821). The map titles now consist of just the name of the department.

A slightly different title-card (see below) was pasted onto the front of the box in which the uncoloured cards of the third edition were issued by an anonymous publisher. These are unchanged except for their title-card which is yet another version of the original. It has a small spelling alteration and no publisher's name, address or edition statement.

The dating of the different editions is problematical. The first is usually assigned to about 1819 on unknown grounds, but it would have to be a bit later if the maps were in fact based on those of Perrot. There can be no doubt at all that the second edition has to be later than 1821 when Perrot's maps of the French departments first appeared.

Analyse géographique, sur les départemens de la France. Paris, Bourrut-Le Meri, (1819).

Analyse géographique des départements de la France. 2e édition. Paris, Bourrut-Le Merie, (1830).

Analise géographique des departements de la France. 3eme édition. Paris, (1836).

