

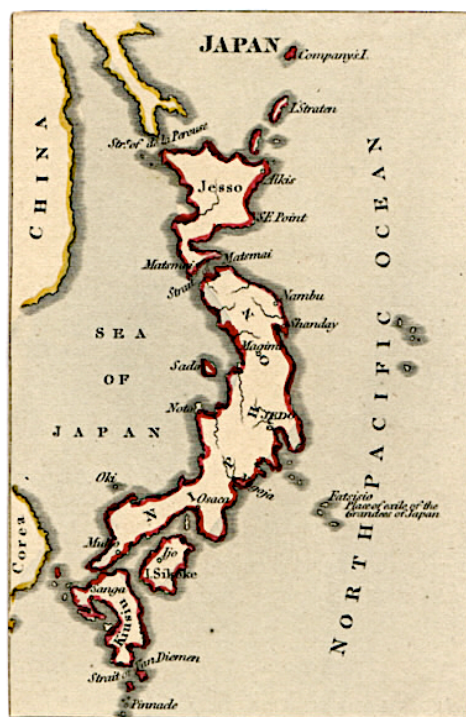
Hand coloured steel engravings of the countries of the world appeared on an English pack of playing cards, first issued by Charles Hodges in 1827. These beautifully produced cards were copied from some French ones: René Janet's *Boston de l'univers* (see 1825). There were several issues and all are scarce. The suits relate to continents with the suit marks stencilled. The court cards feature world leaders, for example George Washington and Catherine the Great. These do not have maps, but the other forty cards do:

Europe; Netherlands; Prussia*†; Turkey*†; Italy*; Spain & Portugal*†; Austria*†; France*†; Russia in Europe*†; British Isles*†.* (Hearts, 1/10).

Asia; Japan; Tibet; Tartaria; Arabia; Turkey in Asia*; Siberia*; Hindoostan*; Persia*†; China*†.* (Diamonds, 1/10).

Africa; Canary Isles; Soudan or Nigritia*; Interior of Africa*; Upper Guinea*; Lower Guinea*; Abyssinia*; Marocco; Barbary; Egypt*.* (Clubs, 1/10).

America; Colombia; Buenos Ayres*; Chili*; Brazil*; Peru*; Guyanna*; Mexico; Canada*; United States*.* (Spades, 1/10).



The following year a duty ace of spades was called for and *America* then lost its suit mark. This additional standard card has the imprint of Stopforth & Son, a London engraving and printing firm, which probably produced and printed the plates for Hodges. Later issues by the Rock Brothers had the latitude/longitude of capital cities on just thirty cards* (see below). This was a busy time for Hodges at 27 Portman Street, as he published four more sets of cards, including two companion packs of astronomical ones (see 1828a).

Another was a miniature world atlas of forty cards, 64 x 97 mm., without suit marks or the court cards. These had gilt edges and were sold in a stylish slip-case. They are the most attractive ones for the atlas/map collector. His geographical cards came with a booklet printed for him by W. Davy: *A Brief explanation of the countries, &c. represented by the new geographical cards.*



The fifth set, entitled *Astrophilogeon*, consists of sixty cards without pips. It is a complex educational game and came with an explanatory booklet, again printed by W. Davy. Thirty of the cards* are from the geographical series, at the foot of which the latitude/longitude of the capital cities was engraved and nine monarchies are indicated by crowns overprinted at top right†. The other thirty feature charts of constellations from the astronomical series, with declinations newly engraved at the foot. All sixty cards also have an abbreviated latitude/ declination overprinted at top left, e.g. N/51° (British Isles) and N/7° Orion).

Later issues by the Rock Brothers (see 1828a) included *The Globe*, an educational game costing two shillings. It consists of a title-card with directions, one with a key, forty cards with geographical questions and the forty maps printed on paper with an 1827 J. Whatman watermark. A variant issue has latitude/longitude on thirty cards* (see above).

New geographical cards. London, Charles Hodges, 1827, 1828.

New geographical cards. London, Charles Hodges, 1828.

Astrophilogeon: a game of science and amusement. London, Charles Hodges, 1828.

Court game of geography. London, William F. & Henry Rock, 1839.

Court game of astrophilogeon. London, William F. & Henry Rock, (1839).

The Globe; a geographical game with forty engraved maps. London, Rock & Co., (184?).