

A rather unusual pocket atlas was designed and produced for young French people by a Parisian, who described himself as Mallez the Elder. He was both an engraver and publisher of books and prints. Mallez had several addresses in Paris but was at rue Sainte-Avoye no. 39 when he published his atlas.



It consists of four numbered parts containing a total of thirty-two numbered pages in a leporello format, that is folded concertina style. Among these plates, which usually have hand colour, are twenty-three maps, 135 x 101 mm., with a variety of scales:

1^{re} partie (world), numbers 1/6: (Title-page); *Hémisphère Oriental; Hémisphère Occidental; (Accidens du globe); (Principales montagnes/principaux fleuves du globe); (Géologie de la terre)*.

2^{me} partie (Europe), numbers 7/15: (Européens); *Europe; France; Espagne et Portugal; Allemagne; Russie d'Europe; Iles Britanniques/Suède Norwège Danemarck; Italie; Turquie d'Europe Grèce Moderne.*

3^{me} partie (Asia), numbers 16/25: (Asiatiques); *Asie; Turquie d'Asie; Perse Caboul ou Afghanistan; Russie d'Asie; Inde en de ça et au de là du Gange; Empire Chinois et Japon; (Africains); Afrique; Barbarie/Égypte.*

4^{me} partie (America and Oceania), numbers 26/32: (Américains); *Amérique Septentrionale; Iles d'Amérique; États-Unis de l'Amérique; Amérique Méridionale; (Islandais); 5^{ème} partie du monde Océanie.*

These four parts, together with an extra one of descriptive text, were housed in a slipcase with a pictorial label titled: *Petit atlas de géographie physique & politique étrangères à la jeunesse*. The textbook has eighty pages of letterpress, including a title-page with the word ‘aperçu’, which is spelt ‘apperçu’ on the engraved title-page to the first part.



The atlas is undated but is thought to have appeared during the 1830s. Gumuchian & Cie's *Livres de l'enfance du XVe au XIXe siècle* suggests about 1825 whereas the British Library catalogues its copy as circa 1830. It is listed in the *Bibliographie de la France* on November 25th 1837, but is ‘sans cartes’, which seems to apply to the Bibliothèque Nationale copy too, and the Newberry Library’s catalogue of the Roger S. Baskes Collection has a publication date of 1840. However, in the atlas itself the map of Germany clearly has Belgium and Holland separate and Texas is shown on two of the American maps.

Atlas en miniature ou Léger apperçu de géographie physique et politique: à la jeunesse curieuse et qui désire s'instruire. Paris, Mallez Aîné, (1830/40).

