

The *Cabinet atlas* of Thomas Starling was by any measure an outstanding pocket atlas. It would seem that it was initially issued in parts, with the plates having appropriately dated imprints of the publisher Edward Bull: May 1st 1830 to April 1st 1831. The unusual engraved title-page was dated March 31st 1831 and features a thumbnail world map and the Royal Arms with patronage of William IV and Adelaide.



The atlas contains forty six miniature maps about 90 x 145 mm., well designed and finely engraved on steel by Starling, whose name follows the titles. Facing each map, except for the three of the world, is an engraved table of places with their coordinates and 'Printed by Perkins & Bacon' on one or the other. Together with seven preliminary ones, there are ninety six plates which, except for the first two, have roman numbers in the style 'PL.III. - PL.XCVI'. They are usually found in contemporary hand-colour:

*The World (on Mercators Projection); The World (Western and Eastern Hemispheres);  
The World (Northern and Southern Hemispheres);*

*Europe; British Isles; England & Wales; Scotland; Ireland; Spain; Portugal; France;  
Holland and the Netherlands; German States; Switzerland; Italian States; Naples or The Two  
Sicilies; Austrian Dominions; Turkish Empire; Greece; Poland; Prussian States; Russian  
Empire; Sweden and Norway; Denmark with Holstein;*

*Asia; Persia and Arabia; Hindoostan; Birman Empire with Anam, Siam & Cochin  
China; Chinese Empire and Japan; East India Islands; South Sea Islands; Australia;*

*Africa; Western Africa; Egypt; Southern Africa;*

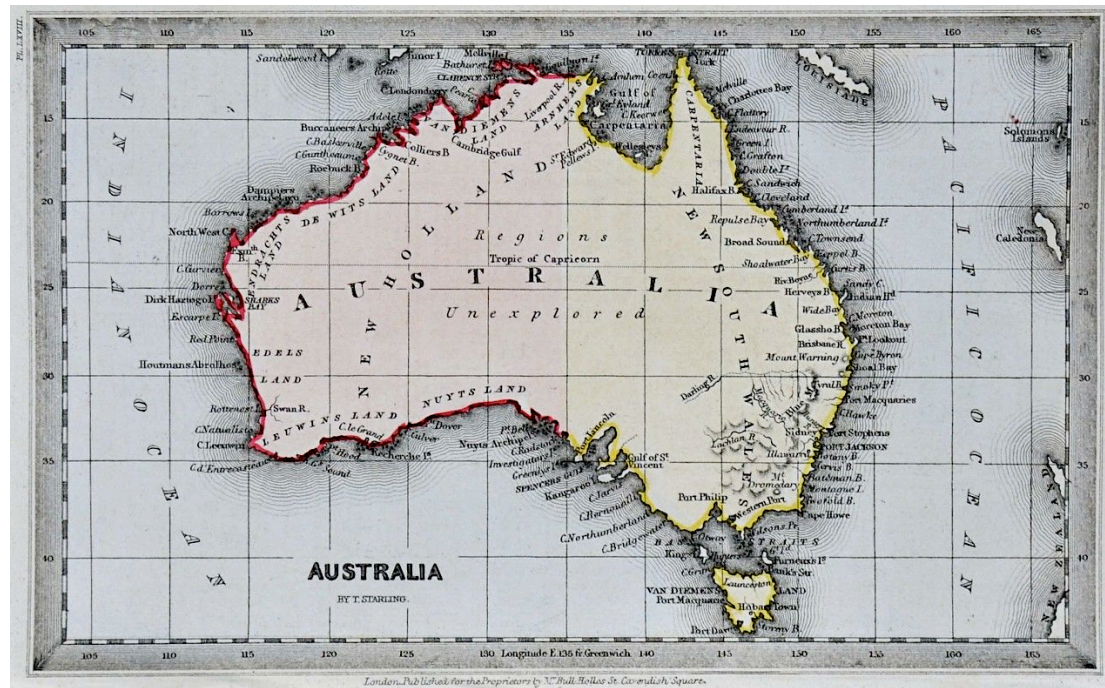
*North America; British Possessions in North America; Canada with New Brunswick, Nova  
Scotia & Newfoundland; United States; Mexico and Guatemala; West Indies;*

*South America; Colombia; La Plata, Chili and the Banda Orientale; Brazil, with Guiana  
& Paraguay.*





Following completion of the atlas 'after minute care, great exertion and a vast expense' it was decided to issue it annually and its title-page was modified accordingly. Also in 1832 an American version was published in Philadelphia (see 1832). An extra double-page plate of the British Isles (following the Reform Act of 1832) was added in 1833 and the Netherlands plate was retitled *Kingdoms of Holland & Belgium by T. Starling*, with the date deleted. The dates in the rest of the maps' imprints were removed for the 1834 edition.



Subsequently, the year was not given on the title-page and dating these later editions is tricky. With the Edward Churton issues, the title lettering on the spine of the first reads *Geographical annual 1835* and the second includes a gazetteer which is dated 1836. Thereafter the atlas had letterpress title-pages with the joint imprint of Bull and Churton. A copy of the first of these was added to the British Library in October 1839, so it predates them. The second is likely after February 1840 as it includes Starling's original engraved title-page, still with the undated imprint of E. Churton but the wording now 'patronized by Her Most Gracious Majesty and Prince Albert'.

For the penultimate edition James Reynolds (1817-1876) substituted his own imprint on the small British Isles map but removed the publisher's imprints on all the miniatures except for Scotland. There were two title-pages, one letterpress and the other newly engraved. The final edition had a different letterpress title-page but Starling's engraved one mentioned above was included as a frontispiece. Reynolds also changed the sequence of the American plates. The British Library's dating has been followed for want of other information.



At an unknown date just thirty one of the maps also appeared in a school atlas published by T. Allman, notwithstanding the 30 mentioned on its title-page. They are the same state as the Reynolds' issues:

*The World* (north and south hemispheres); *The World* (western and eastern hemispheres); *Europe*; *England & Wales*; *Scotland*; *Ireland*; *France*; *German States*; *Italian States*; *Russian Empire*; *Sweden and Norway*; *Denmark with Holstein*; *Spain*; *Portugal*; *Kingdoms of Holland & Belgium*; *Prussian States*; *Switzerland*; *Austrian Dominions*; *Turkish Empire*; *Asia*; *Hindoostan*; *Persia and Arabia*; *Chinese Empire and Japan*; *East India Islands*; *Africa*; *North America*; *United States*; *British Possessions in North America*; *West Indies*; *South America*; *Australia*.

*Family cabinet atlas*. London, Edward Bull, 1830-1831, 1831.

*Geographical annual or Family cabinet atlas*. London, Edward Bull, 1832, 1833, 1834; Edward Churton, (1835), (1836).

*The Royal cabinet atlas and Compendious universal gazetteer*. London, Edward Bull & Edward Churton, (1837/9).

*Royal cabinet atlas and Universal compendium*. London, Edward Bull & Edward Churton, (1840/2).

*The Geographical treasury and Royal cabinet atlas*. London, James Reynolds; Peacock & Mansfield, (184?).

*The Royal cabinet atlas of fifty maps*. London, James Reynolds, (1850).

*The London cabinet school atlas*. London, Allman and Co., (185?).