

1833a

Victor Levasseur



The French Société Nationale pour L'Émancipation Intellectuelle published a pair of paperback pocket atlases, 150 x 110 mm. They contain the same number of meticulously prepared plates and are often found bound together: one of France by Aristide-Michel Perrot (see 1833b) and this one of the world, both ancient and modern, by Victor Levasseur. His many maps are better known for their distinctive decorative style, rather than for their cartography.



However, this little work is an exception and has been described as one of the finest miniature atlases of its time. The eighty six quite plain maps are signed by Levasseur and numbered 2-87, with the engraved title-page counting as the first plate. They measure 86/9 x 121/5 mm., except for nine* larger folding ones, about twice the size. Numbers 7-29 are historical and Walter Goffart wrote well of some of them in his definitive book: *Historical atlases*. University of Chicago Press, 2003. All were drawn with exact elegance by Levasseur and were engraved on steel with careful precision by Frédéric Laguillermie:

Planisphère céleste; Système solaire; État du globe à ses différents ages; Tableau orographique; Mappemonde*.*

État présumé de la géographie au temps d'Homère et d'Hésiode; Système géographique d'Eratosthène; Monde connu des anciens; Géographie des Hébreux; Europe ancienne; Asie ancienne; Afrique ancienne; Empire d'Alexandre; Empire romain sous Constantin divisé en 13 diocèses; Empire grec; Gaules; Europe à la fin du 5e. siècle; Europe au temps de Charlemagne fin du 8e. siècle; Europe à la fin du 9e. siècle; Europe en 1074; Croisades; Europe en 1300; Europe en 1453; Europe en 1556 à la fin du règne de Charles-Quint; Europe en 1789; Allemagne en 1789; France en 1789; France en 1813.

Europe moderne; France en départemens; Iles Britanniques; Angleterre et pays de Galles; Écosse; Irlande; Suède et Norvège; Russie d'Europe; Allemagne ou Confédération Germanique; Wurtemberg Bavière et Bade; Danemark et Hanovre; Prusse; Empire d'Autriche; Hollande; Belgique; Suisse; Espagne et Portugal; Italie; États Sardes et royaume Lombard-Vénitien; États de l'Église et gd. duché de Toscane; Royaume des Deux Siciles; Turquie d'Europe; Grèce et république Ionienne.*

Asie; Turquie d'Asie; Turkestan; Perse Kaboul Hérat Béloutchistan; Inde en deçà du Gange ou Hindoustan; Inde Transgangetique; Empires chinois et japonais; Chine proprement dite; Sibérie ou Russie d'Asie.*

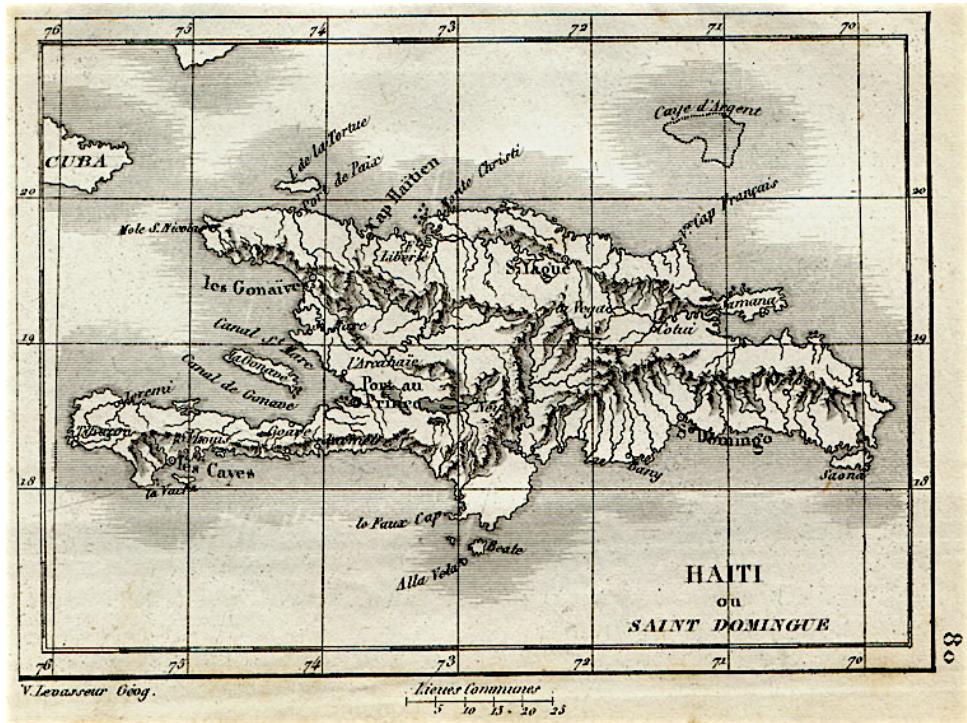
Océanie; Malaisie; Mélanésie; Polynésie; Micronésie.*

Afrique; Barbarie; Algérie; Egypte Nubie Abyssinie; Afrique occidentale / Sénégalambie; Afrique centrale; Afrique méridionale; Ile Maurice anciennement Ile de France / Ile Bourbon..*

Amérique septentrionale; Amérique anglaise; États-Unis; Mexique; Antilles et Guatemala; Haïti ou Saint Domingue; Guadeloupe et ses Dépendances / La Martinique; Amérique méridionale*; Colombie et Guyanes; Empire du Brésil; Pérou et Bolivia; Chili Patagonie La Plata Uruguay Paraguay.*

Carte des places fortes, pour servir à l'intelligence de l'histoire des guerres de l'Europe.*

Unfortunately the first edition of the atlas was issued undated and it is sometimes wrongly but understandably thought to be 1835. This is probably because the text to accompany it, which is mentioned on the engraved title-page, eventually appeared in 1835 with the title *Géographie Moderne*. There is also sometimes confusion over the publishers of the first two editions, and the offices where they were published cited in error.



It was a popular atlas and is not uncommon today, but copies with contemporary hand-colour are rare, as is the 1838 edition. This had an additional letterpress title-page and an extra folding map of France now became the first map. This had previously appeared in the new edition of the companion atlas by Perrot (see 1837).

From 1839 Didier replaced the engraved title-page with a letterpress one together with a table of the eighty-seven maps. A new atlas with the same title was later published, but it was a completely different work in a much larger format. The only copy traced of the 1865 edition is in the Bibliothèque Diderot de Lyon.

Atlas classique universel de géographie ancienne et moderne. Paris, La Société Nationale, (1833); La Société des Dictionnaires, 1837; Auguste Desrez, 1838; Didier, 1839, 1840, 1842, 1846, 1850.

Petit atlas classique universel de géographie ancienne et moderne. Paris, Ch. Meyrueis, 1865.

