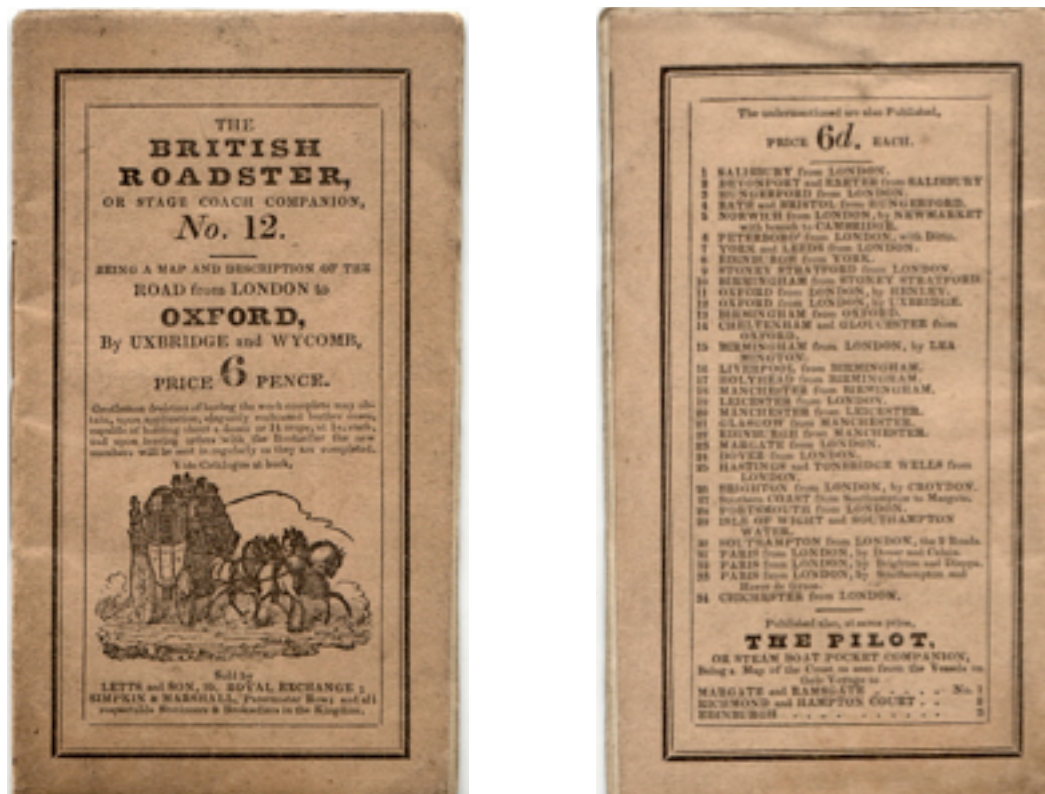


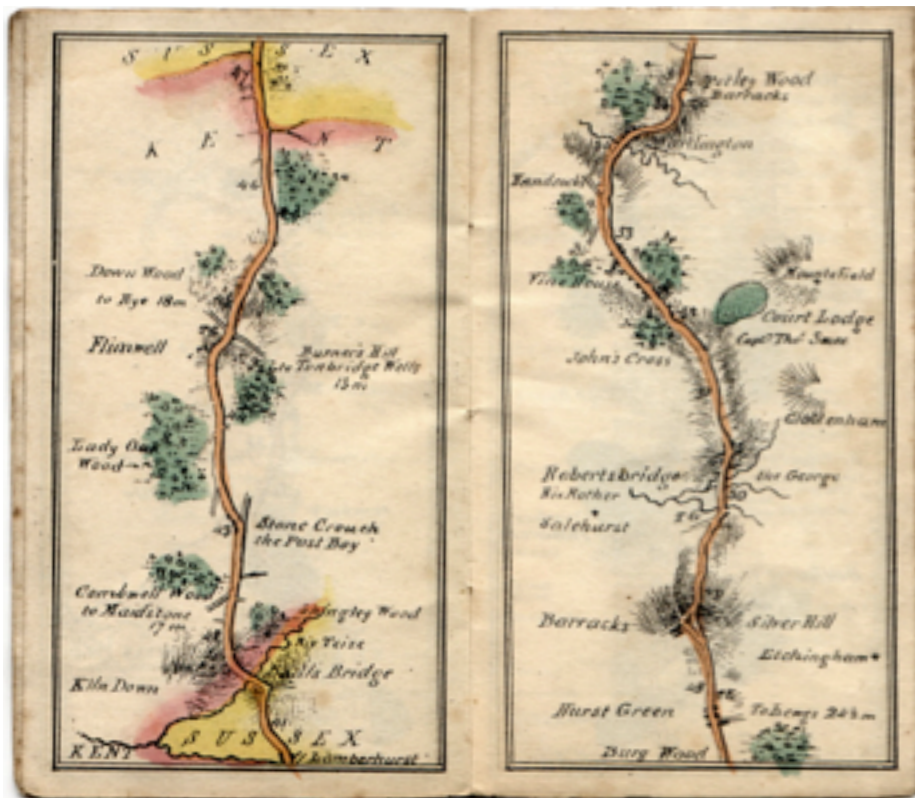
The London printing and stationery business of father and son, John and Thomas Letts, became famous for its diaries. However, a large range of other material was also printed including atlases and maps and among these was a series of over thirty little road atlases. Although miniature road atlases and maps had previously been published in Paris (see 1768, 1771 & 1826b), these would seem to be the first ones issued in England, even though many much larger ones had been published from 1675 onwards.



Each of these Letts' booklets is numbered and covers a different route. They have buff paper covers and their dimensions are 105 x 60 mm., with the undated title-page printed on the front and a complete list of the series on the back. Embossed leather cases, capable of holding twelve to fourteen copies, were also available at one shilling each.

There are typically eight pages of strip road maps, prefaced by a description of the road and a coach schedule dated 1834. The last leaf is a catalogue of the guides, books and maps sold by Letts and Son. The maps measure about 55 x 100 mm. and are all coloured by hand. They lack any numbers, compass pointers or scale but each mile along the route is indicated.

*The British roadster, or Stage coach companion, No. 1-.* London, Letts and Son, (1834).



A few years later another similar series was issued but these were mostly of folding maps, although at least two are known with the original format: Norwich from London and Worthing from London. These two atlases have printed covers without illustration and the eight maps are numbered and coloured. The publisher's imprint does not include a date but the firm's name and address indicate that they were issued about 1843.

