The first edition of the famous *Hand-atlas* of Adolf Stieler (1775-1836) was published by Justus Perthes of Gotha from 1817-1823. It was followed by the *Schul-atlas*, which was a smaller version, but a pocket edition did not appear until 1845, nearly a decade after Stieler’s death. This high quality little atlas was regularly published and revised for more than a century. Initially it contained twenty-four engraved maps with outline hand-colour, reduced from Stieler’s *Hand-atlas* to about 130 x 110 mm., or one eighth the size:

Oestliche Halbkugel; Westliche Halbkugel; Europa; Asia; Africa; Nord-America und West-Indien; Süd-America; Australien; Spanien und Portugal; Frankreich; Italien; Die Britischen Inseln. England, Schottland, Ireland; Deutschland, Niederlande, Kgr. Belgien und Schweiz; Nordwestliches Deutschland, Niederlande und Belgien; Nordöstliches Deutschland. Enthält die Preussischen Provinzen an d. Elbe u. Oder, Holstein, Mecklenburg, Kgr. Sachsen, Sachsen-Ernestinische, Schwarzburgische, Reussische u. Anhaltische Lande; Südwestliches Deutschland; Süd-Östliches Deutschland; enthält die Oesterreichischen Lande; Die Schweiz und das Fürstenthum Liechtenstein; Preuss. Provinzen Preussen u. Posen, Kgr. Polen; Galizien, Ungarn, Slavonien, Kroatien, Siebenbürgen und Dalmatien. Moldau, Walachy; Daenemark mit Schleswig, Holstein und Lauenburg nebst Island und den Faer-Öer; Schweden, Norwegen und Finnland; Europaeisches Russland; Des Osmanischen Reichs europaeischer Theil, Kgr. Griechenland und die Ionischen Inseln.
During four decades there were twenty editions with miniature maps, about one every two years. It was initially issued in oblong single-page format 160x 140 mm. In the first edition traces of dividing lines indicate that the maps were engraved more than one to a plate. From the second edition of 1847 the words ‘in kupferstich’ were added to the title after ‘karten’, but it was later printed lithographically. By 1866, and possibly earlier, the maps were signed by Carl Vogel (1828-97) below the border at left: ‘rev. v. C. Vogel’.

The thirteenth edition of 1874 came after a gap of several years and there were some quite significant changes. A slight modification to the title wording with ‘colorirten’ instead of ‘illuminirten’ relates to the introduction of chromolithography. The sequence of five maps was also altered: XVII=XX; XVIII=XIX; XIX=XVII; XX=XXI; XXI=XVIII. There were changes to some titles too and a new small format of 135 x 80 mm., with the maps now double-page. Standard embossed cloth covers were introduced later and from the nineteenth edition of 1882 there was no longer a reference to Stieler on the titlepage. However, of all the Justus Perthes atlases, this pocket one is today the most scarce.

The size of the atlas was increased from the twenty-first edition of 1885, with new and larger double-page chromolithographic maps by Hermann Habenicht.