

According to some research by Shapero Rare Books of London, an extremely rare set of maps of Russia appeared in 1760. These twelve plates were drawn and engraved by Mikhail Makhaev for a menology. This work was apparently compiled for the five year old son of Catherine the Great, by Iakov Shtelin, who told the president of the Academy of Arts and Sciences in St. Petersburg, that the academy would derive some profit from the calendar as it cost ten kopecks but would sell for twenty-five.



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The Shapero research also revealed that a very rare set of Russian maps subsequently appeared in 1773. However, it seems that these were specifically engraved after those of Makhaev, for the second edition of a geography of Russia by Hartwich Ludwig Christian Bacmeister (1730-1806). This work consisted of only forty-four pages, together with a pocket atlas of fourteen leaves of maps: a small general one of the Russian Empire measuring 160 x 100 mm., and thirteen miniature maps of the provinces, about 110 x 90 mm. and numbered at top right (see above).

*Karmanniy calendar ego Imperatorskogo ... 1761* [Pocket calendar for His Imperial Majesty ... 1761]. St. Petersburg, Pavel Petrovich, (1760).

*Kratkaya Rossiyskoy Imperii geografiya, s karmannym atlasom* [Brief Geography of the Russian Empire ...]. St. Petersburg, Pri Imperatorskoy Akademii nauk, 1773.