

1775

Louis Brion de la Tour

A tiny French almanac, about 95 x 60 mm., is the source of a set of seven miniature maps. The earliest edition would seem to be that for 1776 and it was issued annually for many years by Jacques-Denis Langlois and his son Philippe-Denis Langlois. The one for 1779 was published in 1778, the only year to have a publication date, but it is not unreasonable to assume that they were all issued late in the previous year, just as diaries are today. The almanac for 1808 was probably the last and the son died in 1809.

The maps were by the prolific French cartographer Louis Brion de la Tour (1756-1823), 'Ingénieur Géographe du Roi', who signed the world map. This is 150 x 80 mm. but the others are about 90 x 80. They were printed back to back on one strip which was bound in to provide two folding leaves: one each at the front and rear of this little book:

Mappemonde où sont tracées les nouvelles découvertes; L'Europe; La France divisée par gouverns. gaux. / L'Asie; L'Afrique; L'Amérique méridionale; L'Amérique septentrionale.



Over the years there were other versions of the maps with some variations in position, size, title, and quality. The routes of Captain James Cook's voyages were also introduced onto the world map. In the first half of the nineteenth century some other publishers produced their own editions of this almanac, notably Louis Janet of Paris (see 1822).

Étrennes intéressantes des quatre parties du monde ... pour l'année Paris, Langlois père & fils and F.G. Deschamps, (1775-1791); Langlois père & fils, (1792-1796); Langlois fils & Demoraine, (1797); Langlois fils, (1798-1807).

