

A scarce pocket road atlas is very significant for two different reasons. John Cary set up in business in 1783 and on April 4th the following year he published this work, which is his first book. It contains a general route map and fifty numbered single-page road maps, about 62 x 122 mm. Each one covers a ten mile section and was drawn and engraved by Cary, who produced another series of miniature maps a few years later (see 1789).



In 1782 the roads from London to Falmouth were surveyed by Aaron Arrowsmith, including some alternative routes, from Basingstoke to Salisbury, Salisbury to Axminster, Exeter to Truro and a branch from Dorchester to Weymouth. This little atlas is Arrowsmith's first signed work. Both men went on to become major figures in cartography. Charles Smith later issued a similar one for London to Brighton (see 1800).

*Cary's Actual survey, of the great post roads between London and Falmouth. ... ascertained by A. Arrowsmith land surveyor, 1782. London, John Cary, 1784.*