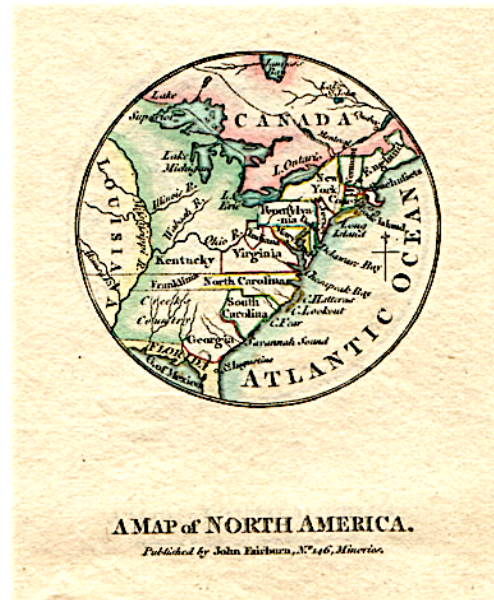


An extremely rare miniature atlas by London publisher, map and printseller John Fairburn is undated but, as the paper has a 1795 watermark, was probably published in or soon after that date. Its format and scope are very unusual, with twenty four roundels, each 46/49 mm. in diameter and no visible signs of plate-marks.

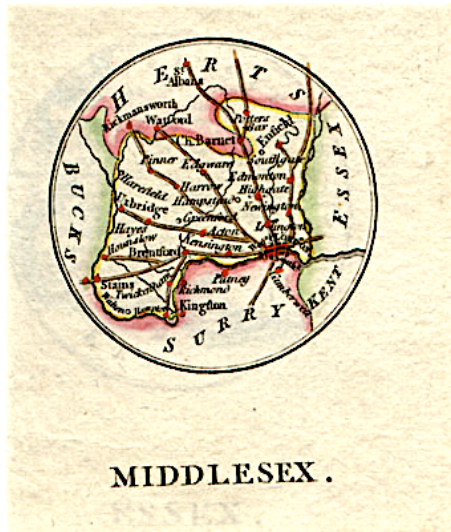


The atlas title is engraved in the first of them and *A Map of the World*, which is in hemispheres, uses two. The other twenty one contain a very remarkable series of maps: the five continents, seven showing countries, five of English counties and four of small areas of England. The one of North America for the most part relates to the U.S. and indicates the short-lived breakaway state of Franklinia. All of them are finely engraved and hand-coloured with the titles below and an imprint 'Published by John Fairburn, No. 146 Minories' or similar, below the titles:

A Map of the world; A Map of Europe; A Map of England; Five Miles round London; A Map of The County of Middlesex; A Map of The County of Kent; A Map of The County of Essex; A Map of The County of Sussex; A Map of The County of Hampshire; Twelve Miles Round Tunbridge Wells; Five Miles Round Bath; A Map of The Isle of Thanet; A Map of Scotland; A Map of Ireland; A Map of Spain & Portugal; A Map of Sweden & Norway; A Map of Italy; A Map of Asia; A Map of North America; A Map of the West Indies; A Map of South America; A Map of Africa.

Two individual maps are known with revised imprints: Bath has 'Published by T.Wise, Tonbridge 1803.' and Essex has 'Publish'd by Geoe.Wise, Tunbridge Apr.1807.' (Essex Record Office MAP/CM/59/1). A close copy of the Bath one, also of unknown source, has the imprint 'Publish'd Mar.7,1803, by Laurie & Whittle, 53 Fleet Street, London.'

A later edition of the atlas is known with the title-page still having a 1795 watermark. It contains the World in hemispheres and twenty five circular maps in contemporary hand-colour. First there is a set of twelve world maps with Fairburn's imprint, as above but lacking the one of the West Indies and in a more usual sequence: world, continents, countries.



Fourteen different county maps follow, 43/48 mm. in diameter and cut out and mounted over windows, with two* having the imprint 'Published by Saml. Darton, 5th. of December 1800'. Samuel Darton (1785-1840), the younger brother of William Darton, was apprenticed to his father in 1799 and in partnership with him from 1810. The position of the titles varies, sometimes below the maps and sometimes following their curvature, both above and below:

Middlesex; Essex; Suffolk; Gloucester Shire; Shropshire; A Map of the County of Derbyshire; Dorset Shire; Nottinghamshire; A Map of Cheshire; A Map of Yorkshire; Cumberland & Westmoreland; A Map of Huntingdon Sh.; A Map of Lincolnshire*; Northumberland.*

Fairburn's atlas in miniature. London, John Fairburn, (1795), (1800).

