

A world atlas 'composed principally for the use of schools', was published in London by William Faden just before the end of the eighteenth century. This is an early example of a school atlas, a type which was to proliferate in the following century. It is usually bound in oblong single-page but sometimes double-page and half the size, 150 x 110 mm.

There are fifty-five plates of which only the modern world* is not a miniature map about 120 x 100 mm., and they are often to be found in contemporary hand-colour. At the foot they all have Faden's imprint and the date January 1 1798, except for map 20, the departmental one of France, which has 'Jany. 15th 1790'. Another oddity is map 36 of Poland which is numbered 26 in error. Twenty-seven plates were engraved and signed by William Palmer, fifteen by John Hatchett, six by Thomas Foot, one by Thomas Conder (see below) and six are unsigned.



There are eleven ancient maps numbered 1-11:

Orbis veteribus notus; Orbis Romani pars occidentalis; Orbis Romani pars orientalis; Britanniae facies antiqua; Galliae antiquae conspectus; Hispania vetus; Italiae veteris delineatio; Graeciae antiquae et Aegaei Maris tabula; Brevis Asiae Minoris descriptio; Palestina quae et Chanaan et Terra Promissionis vel Terra Sancta; Aegyptus antiqua.

These are followed by forty-four modern ones numbered 12-55:

The Old World or The Eastern Hemisphere; The New World or The Western Hemisphere; Chart of the World on Mercator's projection; Northern Hemisphere; Southern Hemisphere.*

Europe and its general divisions; Spain and Portugal; France divided into military governments; France divided into departments; British Isles or Great Britain and Ireland with the adjacent islands; England and Wales or South Britain; Scotland or North Britain; Ireland divided into provinces and counties; VII United Provinces, Netherlands, and Principality of Liege; Denmark and Holstein; Scandinavia comprehending Sweden, Norway, and the Danish Isles; The Germanic States or Empire of Germany; The Thirteen cantons of Swisserland with their Allies and their subjects; Italy divided into its respective states; The States of Upper Italy; States of the King of Sardinia on the Continent before the dismembermt. in 1795; Turkish Dominions in Europe, or European Turkey; Greece and Archipelago with part of Anadoli; Hungary Gallicia and Transylvania, with Bukovina, Slavonia, and Croatia &c;c.; Poland with its dismemberments and Prussia; European Russia or Moscovy, or Russia, divided into its governments.

Asia from the latest observations regulated by Russian map of Siberia; Turkish Dominions in Asia or Asiatic Turkey; The Gulfs of Arabia and Persia with the adjacent regions; The Kingdom of Persia; The East Indies according to the general acceptation; Hind Hindoostan or India; China and Chinese Tartary, with Tonkin, Corea, and Japan; Siberia or Russian Tartary or Asiatic Russia from the Russian maps; New Holland, with the adjacent Polynesia.



Africa according to the latest explorations; Barbary including Morocco Algier, Tunis and Tripoly / Country of dates Fezzan &c; Nigritia and Guinea, with the African coast from Cape Blanco to Cape Lopo-Gonsalvez.

North America, including the West Indies; British possessions in North America and United States with Vermont, Kentucky and Tennassee; Western coast of North America, with Behring's Straits; West India Islands.

South America from the latest Spanish and Portuguese surveys; Nea-Polynesia or The Islands newly discover'd in the Pacific Ocean.

The atlas was reprinted about 1804 without any changes to the title-page engraved by William Palmer or the contents lists and the map of Poland is still numbered 26. However, map 20 has a different title: *France divided into one hundred and four departmts.* It is now dated 'Jany.6th.1804' with no signature and is either a new replacement plate or a re-engraving of Thomas Foot's original one. There is no doubt about map 31 which is a new replacement plate dated 'Jan. 6.1804' and signed by Benjamin Baker: *South Germany and upper Italy with its new divisions 1803.*

Faden published a second and completely revised edition in 1819. Although the title still says fifty-five maps, there are now fifty-eight. They are dated 1819 and there are many differences, including their sequence and plate numbers. The plates were much retouched and new and replacement ones introduced, sometimes of larger size, engraved and signed by Daniel Henwood and Thomas Starling. Map 35 of Spain and Portugal is an anomaly, still numbered 18. A reprint in 1821 had the title altered to read 'fifty-eight maps'.



The eleven ancient maps numbered 1-11 are followed by forty seven modern ones numbered 12-58:

Chart of the World on Mercator's projection; The Old World or The Eastern Hemisphere; The New World or The Western Hemisphere; Northern Hemisphere; Southern Hemisphere.*

Europe according to the Treaty of Paris, 1815; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland with the adjacent islands; England and Wales or South Britain; Scotland or North Britain; Ireland divided into provinces and counties; France divided into military governments as in 1790; The Kingdom of France according to the Treaty of Paris Novr. 20th. 1815; The Kingdom of the Netherlands 1818; Denmark and Holstein; Kingdom of Sweden including Norway; The Russian Dominions in Europe including the Kingdom of Poland 1819; The Kingdom of Poland, with its ancient & present limits 1819; The Germanic States or Empire of Germany as in 1800; The Kingdom of Hanover with the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg 1818; The Kingdom of Prussia as confirmed by the Treaty of Paris Novr. 20th. 1815; The Kingdoms of Saxony, Bavaria, and Wirtemberg, with the adjacent states 1818; The Empire of Austria by the Treaty of Paris 1815; Republic of Switzerland with the new limits; Spain and Portugal; Italy divided into its respective states 1815; The States of Upper Italy; Turkish Dominions in Europe, or European Turkey; Greece and Archipelago with part of Anadoli.

Asia with the latest discoveries; Russian Dominions in Asia; Turkish Dominions in Asia or Asiatic Turkey; Persia and Arabia; The East Indies according to the general acceptation; Hind Hindoostan or India; China and Chinese Tataria, with Tunquin, Corea, and Japan; New Holland, with the adjacent Polynesia.

Africa according to the latest explorations; Egypt / 1819; Barbary including Marocco Algier, Tunis and Tripoly / Country of dates Fezzan &c; Nigritia and Guinea, with the African coast from Cape Blanco to Cape Lopo-Gonsalvez; Colony of the Cape of Good Hope with the course of the Orange River.

North America, including the West Indies; British possessions in North America with the United States 1818; Mexico of Spanish Territories in North America; West India Islands.

South America from the latest Spanish and Portuguese surveys; Nea-Polynesia or The Islands newly discover'd in the Pacific Ocean.

James Wyld (1790-1836) took over Faden's business in 1823 and published a third edition of the atlas in 1825. All the plates were retouched with Wyld's dated imprint at the foot of the maps, which had an outer borderline added (see below). There was a reprint in 1836.

A rare continental atlas also entitled *Atlas minimus universalis* measures 135 x 210 mm., with maps about 160 x 110 mm. (neither miniature atlas nor maps), was published at Weimar in 1804 and 1805 and again in Amsterdam in 1806 and 1807.

Atlas minimus universalis, or A Geographical abridgement ancient and modern. London, William Faden, 1798, (1804), 1819, 1821; James Wyld, 1825, 1836.

