

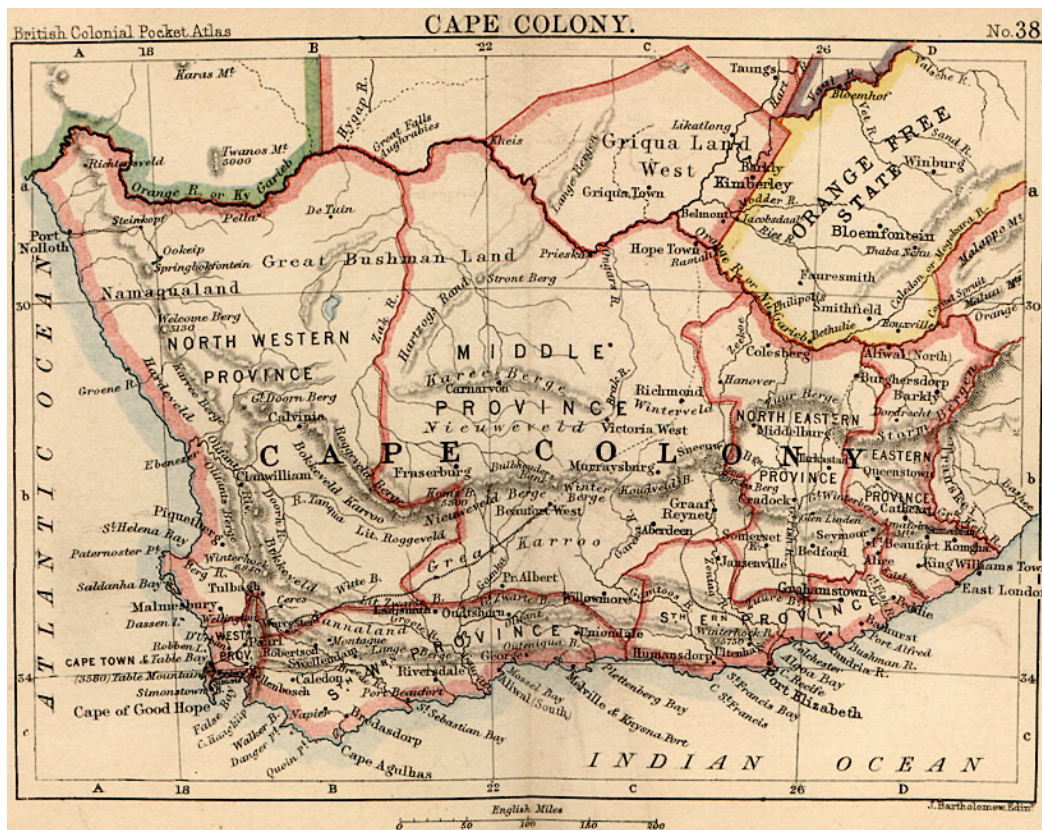
In the year following the publication of his pocket world atlas (see 1886), John Bartholomew (1831-1893) issued a similar one of the British Empire. It was the same size as the first, 125 x 85 mm., and also contained double-page chromolithographic maps about 130/5 x 100 mm. Although they are numbered 1-54, the map of the island of Socotra is perhaps an afterthought being numbered 14A, a total of fifty-five maps:

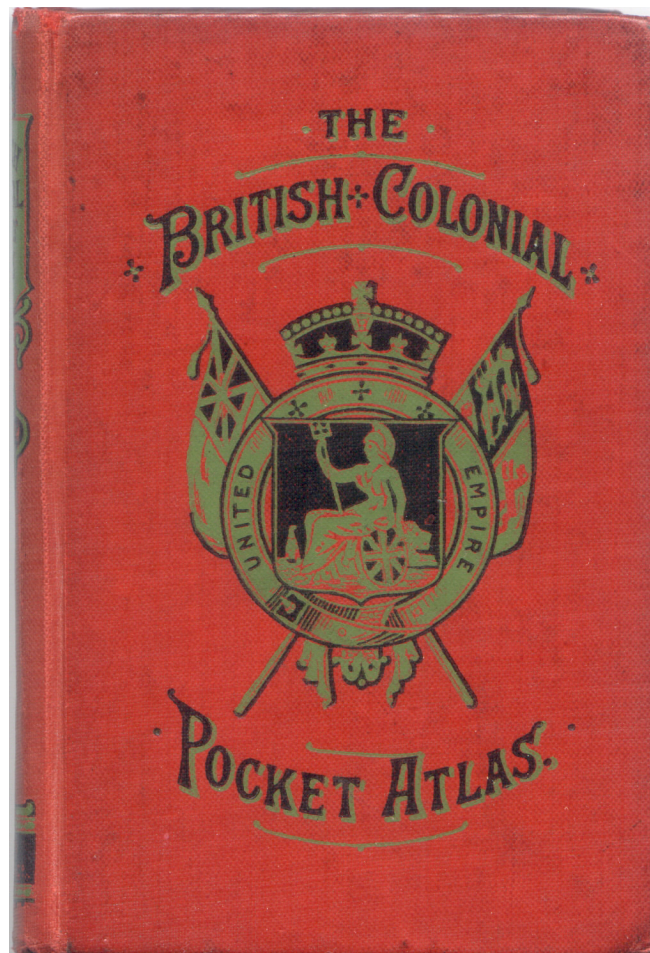
*Frontispiece (The British Empire throughout the World); Isochronic discovery chart; The British Empire; Time chart of the British Empire; Isochronic track chart; British Isles and continental connections; England; Scotland; Ireland; Gibraltar; Malta and Gozo, Heligoland; Cyprus; The Route to India; Aden, and Seychelles; Socotra; India; Bengal, &c.; Punjab, Rajpootana, &c.; Southern India; Bombay / Calcutta; Farther India; Burma; The Straits Settlements; Hong Kong, North Borneo, &c.; Oceania; Australia; Victoria, and New South Wales; Environs of Melbourne; Environs of Sydney; South Australia, and Adelaide; West Australia; Queensland; British New Guinea; Tasmania, and Victoria Land; New Zealand (South Island); New Zealand (North Island); Fiji Islands; South Africa; Cape Colony; Natal, &c. / Mauritius; Cape Town, St. Helena, and Bermudas; British Possessions in N.W. Africa; Routes to Canada and West Indies; Dominion of Canada; Province of Ontario; Toronto / Ottawa; Province of Quebec; Montreal / Quebec; Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, &c.; British Columbia, and N.W. Territories; Manitoba; Newfoundland; The British West Indies; British Guiana, and Windward Is.; Jamaica, Falkland Is., &c.*

As with the world atlas the preliminaries include a contents list, preface and statistical tables, but this book also has a dedication to the Earl of Rosebery and a descriptive list of the colonies. The maps are followed with a sixty-seven page index right from the first edition. Four bindings were available: neat cloth boards 2/6; limp French morocco 3/6; French morocco, gilt edges 4/6; Persian morocco with round corners and gold edges 5/0.

There were four editions in 1887, of which the second one was for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. In the next year Bartholomew handed over the famous Edinburgh firm to his son John George Bartholomew, who was only twenty-eight at the time. In the fifth edition of 1889, he replaced his father's signature on all the maps with 'J. Bartholomew & Co. Edinr.'

However, some interesting facts have come to light as a result of research into maps of South Africa by Roger Stewart, and reported in the *Journal of the International Map Collectors' Society* (issue 137, Summer 2014): *Bartholomew's miniature maps of Southern Africa: a scarce edition of The British colonial pocket atlas revealed*. It seems that the total print run for the four editions of 1887 exceeded fifteen thousand copies, but the fifth edition of 1889 had a much longer life, with reissues having both some additional maps and revised ones too. Roger Stewart's investigation has revealed that in January 1891 Bartholomew printed more maps and letterpress. By March 1902 John Walker & Co. still had 800 copies in stock and in November 1902 Bartholomew printed eight revised maps for another variant, presumably issued in the following year.





Bartholomew published three other pocket atlases in 1887 but these were about twice the size with mostly small maps and related to England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland. However, all five of these atlases sadly had one awful feature in common, irrespective of their size. They were issued in an early form of unsewn binding using gutta-percha. This adhesive eventually dried out and turned to dust, leaving the contents as loose individual maps and so the books were soon incomplete.

*The British colonial pocket atlas: a complete series of maps illustrating the geography of the British Empire.* London, John Walker & Co., 1887, 1887, 1887, 1887, 1889, (1891), (1903).

