

In 2020 two similar pocket atlases were sold at auction in Padua (Bado e Mart Auctions, 22nd April 2020, lot 284). Both had been issued by the publishing house of Francesco Vallardi in Milan and both had the stamp of the same Milan bookseller at the foot of their front covers. One was the third edition of a world atlas (see 1886b) but the other related to Africa and, unlike the former, the maps were without any text on their versos.



This second atlas is in the same paperback format as the first, with an illustrated title-page on the front cover and twenty-two portraits of Africans on the rear cover. Its dimensions are the same at 108 x 155 mm. and it contains twelve numbered chromolithographic maps relating to Africa and measuring about 140 x 95 mm., with their titles above the top border:

*Africa; Africa settentrionale; Africa meridionale; Il Mar Mediterraneo; Africa occidentale; Africa orientale - Il Nilo; Tripolitania - Cirenaica - Basso Egitto; Il Mar Rosso - Abissinia; L'Abissinia (Tigre) e i Possedimenti Italiani; L'Africa equatoriale - Stato del Congo; Basso Congo / Delta del Nilo; Africa australe - Terra del Capo - Isola di Madagascar.*



This unusual work seems to be unrecorded and there is no date on the title-page but it seems likely it was issued at about the same time as the world atlas. What at first sight looks to be the title is worded in the plural and so likely a series title, with the actual title being *Africa* on the silhouette of the continent (see above). However, it has not been possible to trace any similar atlases of the other continents.

*Africa. (Atlanti popolari diamanti).* Milan, Francesco Vallardi, (1887).

