

Little maps have a variety of sources including old books of all sizes and subjects, but usually those relating to geography, history and travel. Sometimes various editions of the same work had different maps; for example abridged versions of William Camden's *Britannia*, published in 1617, 1626 and 1639 (see 1616), each include a different series.



Wolfgang Kilian, Munich, 1647

Maps illustrating books are not always uniform in size and shape, so that miniatures are sometimes to be found amongst the larger ones (see map below). There are also many examples of single maps, which once removed from their books can be difficult to identify. Unusually, the one above contains a helpful clue to its source: Johann Bissel's *Argonauticon Americanorum*, Munich, Lukas Straub for Johann Wagner, 1647. Other sources include periodicals of various types, including almanacs and year-books (see 1744, 1759, 1760, 1762a, 1770a, 1775, 1790a, 1794 & 1815). There were even two emblem books issued in 1623 and 1640 with a few plans and maps.

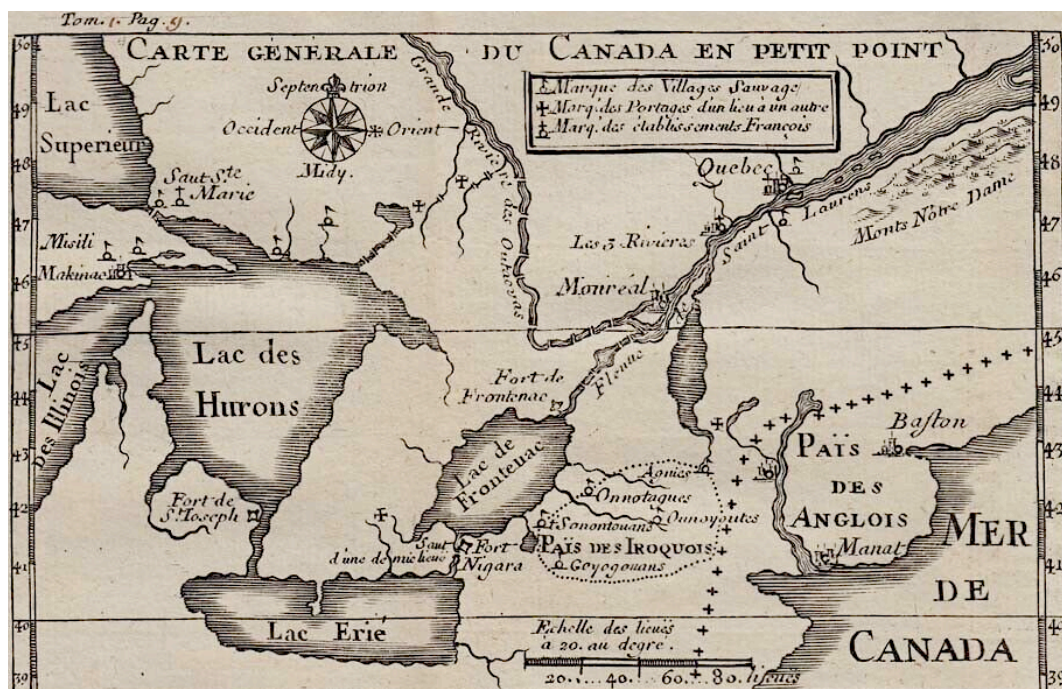
A common error with maps printed in books is to confuse page headlines, printed from type, with map titles which are usually engraved on the plate itself. Any such letterpress though may also help to date individual items, due to variations between editions. In addition to being printed within the text, maps were often printed separately, sometimes on better quality paper, and inserted as plates with plain backs. They were sometimes also used to illustrate title-pages.

However, most of the miniature maps available today come from pocket atlases, though many of them contain small maps, for example those well-known ones of Johann Honter, Giacomo Gastaldi and John Seller. Although sometimes produced for children, most were not and it is also mistaken to presume that these were intended for the poor.

An epitome of Abraham Ortelius' folio *Theatrum* (see 1577) was the first world atlas of miniature maps. Its smaller format and cost made it very successful and often imitated. A vogue for such atlases followed, often with miniature versions of the maps of other famous cartographers. The golden age of miniature atlases was in the second half of the eighteenth century when many were published in Paris, which was the centre of excellence because of strong competition. In the nineteenth century many taschen-atlases were issued in Germany and in the first half of the century these included a number of miniature world atlases (see 1801, 1831, 1831b, 1836a, 1849a, 1850 & 1851a).

Some packs of early playing cards feature maps and these are scarce and sought-after items. Rare examples are also known of the printed sheets from which cards were produced. A few also appeared as little pocket books or atlases and their survival rate has generally been higher (see 1676a, 1676c & 1779). Some London packs were decorated with maps of the counties of England and Wales (see 1590, 1676a, 1676b & 1717) and a pack from St. Petersburg with maps of Russian provinces (see 1830). Maps of countries of the world were engraved on numerous sets issued in different European cities (see 1676c, 1678a & 1680b, 1691a, 1715, 1770, 1779, 1790, 1825 & 1827). Scarce packs of astronomical playing cards are also known (see 1656, 1676d, 1719, 1828a & 1829a).

Maps later appeared on a variety of other types of cards: Tarot (see 1770, 1779 & 1790); visiting (see 1794a); games (see 1798b); atlas (see 1811, 1819 & 1835b); educational (see 1829a & 1885c); Sunday school (see 1850b). In the nineteenth century there was an explosion in business and trade cards produced by chromolithography, known as 'chromos'. Some featuring maps were issued in France (see 1880, 1883, 1885a & 1890b), and the U.S.A. (see 1880c, 1886a, 1888, 1889, 1890 & 1891).



Louis Armand, Baron de Lahontan, The Hague, 1703