



Folio (540 by 370mm), 60 double-page lithographed maps; contemporary tan calf, gilt, worn.

AN 8M GLOBE, AND THE FIRST WORLD ATLAS ON A UNIFORM SCALE

Atlas Universel de Geographie: Sixieme partie: Oceanique.

Author

VANDERMAELEN, Philippe

Publication date

1827.

Publisher

Publication place

Brussels,

Physical description

Folio (540 by 370mm), 60 double-page lithographed maps; contemporary tan calf, gilt, worn.

Dimensions

370 by 540mm (14.5 by 21.25 inches).

Notes

The sixth and final volume of Vandermaelen's 'Atlas universel de geographie physique, politique, statistique et mineralogique' (1827), including maps of Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania. Together, the six volumes make up the first map of the world on a uniform scale, constructed as a modified conical projection and, if assembled forming a globe with a diameter of 7.75 metres, although only one such was known to have been made, by the author himself, and requiring a specially designed room.

The mapmaker

“Philippe Vandermaelen was born in Brussels in 1795, the son of a rich soap manufacturer. After his father’s death in 1816, he devoted himself to maps and eleven years later produced this quite remarkable atlas. It was totally at his own expense, and like so many innovations in the past it came about through the single-minded efforts of a man who could afford failure... It offered the largest picture of the earth’s surface available in the nineteenth century, thereby giving the lesser known areas such as Australia, South Africa and the West coast of America, all developing countries, a much greater coverage than before. And, perhaps most importantly of all, it was the first atlas to be produced by lithography” (Wardington Catalogue).

Bibliography

Literature: Philips, ‘Atlases’, 749.

Provenance

Price: £5000

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