

Old Times Atlases - *What are they worth?*

THE TIMES WORLD ATLASES

When a lovely old atlas such as an early edition of the famous Times Atlas of the World is discovered in the loft or handed down from an elderly relative, one of the most frequently asked questions has to be — is it worth anything? Unfortunately the answer to this question depends on many factors.

As a general rule, the older and rarer the atlas, the more collectable it is likely to be. Therefore, the first Times World Atlas published in 1895 and based on a German atlas by Velhagen & Klasing is possibly the most collectable of all. Next in line would be the Times Survey Atlas & Gazetteer of the World. This was published in 1922 and was the first Times atlas produced by the Bartholomew firm. However, it must be appreciated that other factors come into play in determining the monetary value of an old atlas. The physical condition of the atlas is a significant factor and will have a huge impact on what people are willing to pay for it. As an example, poor examples of the Times Survey Atlas can sell for as little as £65.00, while very good examples can sell for several hundred pounds.

As Collins Geo, the cartographic division of HarperCollins Publishers, is not involved in the second hand or antique map trade it is not possible for us to provide valuations of old atlases or maps. In order to obtain a reliable valuation it is recommended that the item is taken to a reputable second hand book or map dealer. Your local business directory, or a quick search on the internet should identify a suitable local dealer.

As a rough guide to the sorts of prices being achieved by old maps and atlases the following web sites may be of use:

<http://www.biblio.com/>

<http://www.abebooks.co.uk/>

For information relating to the history of the Times atlases the following online resources should be consulted:

<http://www.timesatlas.com/>

<http://www.nls.uk/blogs/bartholomew/>

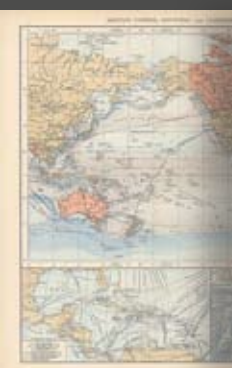
<http://www.johnbartholomew.com/>.

1895

1958

1967

1999



1895

1922

2008