The sheet folds into a card of one-fourth the area with the greeting inside, the citation on the back, and 1½ images of the world on the front. Vagaries of the borders reveal the contemporary state of technology: Four images of the world were cut out by hand and pasted up to make the master copy. The print shop could print in black ink or in a color of the day.

The American philosopher and cartographer Charles Saunders Peirce described this first wallpaper map in 1877, based on a formula published by H. A. Schwarz in 1869. In this aspect, the northern and southern hemispheres each map conformally onto a square. The entire globe maps onto a square of twice the area. Quincuncial means arranged like five dots on the face of a die.