

in the year following his journey in Auvergne, he spent the winter in Paris, and while there, laid before the Intendant of Auvergne the desirability of having the volcanic region mapped. His proposition was accepted, and Pasumot, one of the state surveyors, was entrusted with the task of making a topographical map of the region from Volvic to beyond Mont Dore. The whole of the summer of 1764 was taken up with this work. Desmarest accompanied the geographer, who himself had a large acquaintance with the mineralogy of his day. The final result was the production of a map which far surpassed anything of the kind that had before been attempted, in the accuracy, variety, and clearness of its delineations of volcanic phenomena.

At last, in the summer of 1765, after two years of reflection, Desmarest communicated to the Academy of Sciences at Paris the results at which he had arrived. But even then he showed his earnest desire for the utmost accuracy and fulness attainable. He kept back his paper from publication. Next year he returned to Auvergne, after a prolonged journey through the volcanic regions of Italy, from the Vicentin and Padua southwards to Naples and Vesuvius. In 1769 he once more revisited the volcanoes of Central France, extending his excursions into the Cantal. In the early part of the summer of 1771 he again brought before the Academy the results of his researches on the origin and nature of basalt, embodying in his Memoir the mass of material which his extended travel and mature reflection had enabled him to bring together. But it was not until three years later, viz., in 1774, that