



ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
- **ITM DISTRIBUTION**

**12300 Bridgeport Road
Richmond, BC
CANADA V6V 1J5
TEL: (604) 273-1400
FAX: (604) 273-1488
E-mail: Jack@itmb.com**

AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #2 OF 2019 – February – New Titles: see below for details

INTRODUCTION

We continue catching up on a backlog of updating cartography and printing. Like most industries, the map publishing one is changing to meet newly-forming market demands. For example, most of our new cartography is derived from satellite imagery GIS; something that would have been impossible as recently as a decade ago. Most of our updating information comes to us as well via electronic means, both in letters from users and by using source material that was not available just a few years ago on the internet. We tend to print smaller print runs than we did prior to the Great Recession, and we frequently combine two maps in such a way as to have two completely different maps sharing the opposite sides of the same sheet. What this means is that it takes longer to do the updating, or the creation of a new product, because it usually entails working on two separate mapping projects.

We also know that, when we run out of any particular title, lots of copies are still sitting in our distributors' warehouses, or on retail shelves, so we often deliberately delay sending artwork to press until our supplies deplete. This means that there will often be a time delay of up a few months between editions in some cases, but it gives editions time to sell through to end users. This minimizes returns (ITMB being one of the few publishers that accepts returns) but frustrates those who are marketing maps and can't get product. We understand the frustration, but the alternative is unaffordable, and that is to print a new edition before it is needed, then have tens of thousands of dollars' worth of stock on hand but not being able to sell it until the previous edition completes its print run. We simply do not have the financial strength to afford that luxury.

A TRIP TO TUSCANY

Lan and I enjoyed a brief, week-long, trip to Italy, thanks to a bargain offered by a tour firm. We had return airfare from New York, a rental car, and a four-star hotel in Tuscany for a week for \$599. We had to make our own arrangements to get to JFK airport, and had to pay for meals and other expenses while in Italy (except breakfasts), so the week still cost us a fair amount, but we used our time productively, researching a future map of Tuscany. We stayed in Montecatini Terme, a pleasant resort town halfway between Florence and Lucca, at a nice hotel in the city centre. We found Italy to be quite cold during our visit, making driving the most practical way to see the countryside, rather than walking. Each day, we headed in a different direction, and explored well-known destinations such as Abruzzi, Lucca, Pisa, San Gimignano, and Siena, and discovered mountaintop villages unchanged from medieval times. Of particular note was Poppi, site of a wonderful castle overlooking the plain where one of the few set-piece battles of the Middle Ages took place in what is now Italy. We learned a lot about this part of Italy and became quite numb to dates of the founding of churches. Anything after 1650 seemed modern! Tuscany has a lot to attract visitors. Florence, of course, is one of those must-see cities of immense cultural importance, and Siena's Campo plaza is wonderful to see, as is its cathedral.

The disadvantage of visiting Tuscany in January is obvious; it's cold, and gets dark enough by 4:00 that one tends to head home as it becomes difficult to take pictures. Thus, one is limited by the road network, which generally operates at an average of 60 km/hr and by hours of daylight. Thus, we spent the entire week without leaving Tuscany except to get to and from the airport. However, it did give us an opportunity to explore a relatively small geographical area fairly thoroughly. We happen to enjoy spending hours driving twisting mountain roads, and found wonderful out-of-the-way villages to explore as a result. We found restaurant food to be quite expensive, and the nuances of trattoria versus restaurant beyond our understanding. Fuel is also a lot more expensive in Italy than in Germany, for instance. We had a diesel BMW, so were quite comfortable and enjoyed economic fuel consumption. The trip was organized by Gate One Travel, an American firm based in Pennsylvania, and we feel that the trip was good value. Now we're back in harness and preparing for our next trip – to Sri Lanka, in March.

ITALY, BREXIT, AND THE USA

OFFICES IN: HANOI. PRAGUE. VANCOUVER

WWW.ITMB.COM



ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
- **ITM DISTRIBUTION**

**12300 Bridgeport Road
Richmond, BC
CANADA V6V 1J5
TEL: (604) 273-1400
FAX: (604) 273-1488
E-mail: Jack@itmb.com**

One cannot help but express concern about developments that affect travel. Italy is like a slow train wreck, gradually falling into economic bankruptcy. While it is not in imminent danger of collapse, even a casual visit such as the one we enjoyed in January points out glaring problems – empty and abandoned factories, shuttered stores, half-completed construction projects for sale, expensive food in restaurants, high VAT. These are not signs of a healthy economy, nor is the political rhetoric encouraging. The government seems to be taking a populist, nationalistic attitude towards perceived problems. In the short term, this is directed towards those crossing the Mediterranean looking for a better life in Italy, but there is a very fine line between kicking out migrants and kicking out ‘undesirable’ foreigners. Italy is a lovely country to visit, but it has problems that it does not appear to be addressing.

Brexit is a result of the same forces that brought a racist bigot to power in the USA. Anyone who claims to understand the innumerable convolutions of the negotiations between the EU and the UK simply has not been paying attention to the never-ending saga. One can understand British concerns about losing control of local affairs and concerns about unlimited access to the UK by Europeans. The EU has morphed into a pseudo-political merger and is no longer ‘just’ an economic union. Can the UK successfully reverse the trend towards globalization politically while retaining globalization economically? European talking heads are terrified that it might succeed and this would destroy their attempts to create one massive country out of 28. The situation supposedly comes to a head on March 31st when the UK either has a deal, crashes out of the EU without a deal, or negotiates some form of delay. Travel is very much affected because, theoretically, no Europeans would be allowed into the UK as of April 1st. Nor would anyone else, for that matter, or any goods. This would dramatically affect travel.

The American situation is fascinating to watch, but terrifying to witness. In essence, Trump is the American spokesperson for ending globalization. The majority of Americans forcefully expressed themselves as favouring globalization (led by the USA) in the 2018 mid-term elections. However, the Republican Party has been fairly completely taken over by Trumpites who either enthusiastically endorse Trump’s dictatorial tendencies or are too terrified of his gang of thugs that control the party to openly oppose him. Congress is starting to rein in his worst excesses. Thus, the USA, at the moment, is leading the charge away from globalization, both economically and politically. Carefully-crafted trade agreements have been cast aside without even reading them, anti-nuclear treaties have been torn up, military allies are berated endlessly, big-stick bullying has been used repeatedly against Iran, Canada, and now Venezuela, entire countries’ nationals have been banned from entering the USA, and a fictitious ‘crisis’ is being propagated related to the USA southern border. This bodes ill for the future of travel for you and for me. Strong borders work two ways; they make it much more difficult for legitimate travellers to enter, and they can even be crafted in such a way as to make it difficult for citizens to leave. Economic prosperity depends upon ease of access; so does travel.

TET AND CHINESE NEW YEAR

February is always a busy social month for us, because the Lunar New Year is followed by hundreds of millions of people around the world, particularly in China and Vietnam. Commercial dealings with China grind to a halt at this point in time each year, and socially, the hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese calling Vancouver home place heavy demands on Lan and her team of cultural dancers. We have been to the Vietnamese consulate, the Singapore Club, the Chinese Society, the Vietnam Education Society, and the Vietnamese Student Society’s functions during the ten-day period of Tet, the name for the celebration held to commemorate the advent of spring. Vancouver is very influenced by its Asian population. Each year, a huge parade occurs in Chinatown, with thousands of participants and tens of thousands of watchers. This year, 130 Vietnamese participated in our contingent, in minus 6c freezing cold – but we had fun. Happy New Year!

WHY USE A MAP?

It seems obvious to those of us in the trade as to why maps are important, but sometimes someone needs to articulate ‘WHY’. National Geographic has recently published a book called All Over the Map, authored by Greg Miller and Betsy Mason. Here are some points they made:

1. If you put it on a map, it looks true. That presumes that what one puts on to a map is actually there, but essentially, the supposition is correct – if it is on the map, it must be true.

OFFICES IN: HANOI. PRAGUE. VANCOUVER

WWW.ITMB.COM



ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
- **ITM DISTRIBUTION**

**12300 Bridgeport Road
Richmond, BC
CANADA V6V 1J5
TEL: (604) 273-1400
FAX: (604) 273-1488
E-mail: Jack@itmb.com**

2. Maps are meant to show a relationship. This is true, and computerized mapping has allowed us to relate such things as areas of poverty within a country, determine where underlying water could cause future problems, and of course to help travellers.
3. Maps are weapons. Mankind has used maps to conduct wars, establish colonial empires, or take away native rights. Maps used this way are 'useful' to those benefitting, but deprive others of rights. Beneficially, a survey is a map, whether for property delineation or for negotiating a border.

THE BUSIEST AIRPORT IN THE USA

It was reported on the radio yesterday that the busiest airport in the USA during 2018 was Chicago O'Hare. I assume that the news report was referring to passengers using the airport, rather than freight, but busy is busy. The second most used airport in the USA was Atlanta's main airport, which has a long name I can never remember. It was the busiest airport in 2017. Much of the 'busy-ness' is due to flight transfers, as both airports are hubs for major airlines, rather than for originating flights. I had reason to use New York's JFK Delta terminal twice during January, to change planes, and gained the impression that it was not a particularly busy terminal; perhaps I was there at a slow time. Airlines lost a lot of business, and money, during the recent US government shutdown, which affected air travel more than any other aspect of governmental activity during the Trump-imposed shutdown. The US economy suffered an 11 Billion dollar loss during the month-long standoff and shrank the US economy as a result.

DUMB CRIME, AGAIN

It never ceases to amaze me how some crimes are so dumb as to begger belief. Here's an example: a crook in Florida was surprised to be arrested for a robbery because he had worn gloves throughout the break-in and robbery. The idiot wore golf gloves – without fingertip covers – and left fingerprints all over the place!

Here's another example: a snatch and run thief stole a computer from a store and escaped. Unfortunately for him, his car had run out of gas, because he had forgotten to fill up before robbing the store. Undeterred, he carried the computer and a gas container to a nearby gas station, then returned to the scene of the crime, still carrying the computer, and proceeded to transfer gas from the container to his vehicle. Think of this stupidity for a moment. The store had already called the police, who were on the scene by the time this yahoo returned with his gasoline container and saw this character calmly filling his vehicle with fuel while protectively holding the stolen computer under one arm. Guess what happened next!

Then there was the not-so-bright counterfeiter who was arrested after trying to pay his hotel bill using two sixteen dollar bills. Think about it. Why would anyone in their right mind go to the effort of making a \$16 bill? Then, just yesterday, in Burnaby, BC, shop attendants thwarted a convenience store robbery by pelting the would-be thief with thrown bananas. The radio reports I heard did not provide much in the way of detail, but I have an image in my mind of some poor misbegotten idiot being pelted by well-aimed bananas thrown by irate staff and surrendering to police custody as a reprieve. Incidents like that give one hope that justice can prevail! I promise you; I don't make these articles up; I couldn't! Truth is weirder than fiction.

WHY ALL COMPUTER KEYBOARDS ARE THE WAY THEY ARE

OFFICES IN: HANOI. PRAGUE. VANCOUVER

WWW.ITMB.COM



ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
- **ITM DISTRIBUTION**

**12300 Bridgeport Road
Richmond, BC
CANADA V6V 1J5
TEL: (604) 273-1400
FAX: (604) 273-1488
E-mail: Jack@itmb.com**

I couldn't resist passing on this tidbit of trivia. In the early days when typewriters were being developed, which means in the early 1880s, the machines weren't all that reliable and kept jamming. For those of you too young to remember typewriters, each letter of the alphabet had a round 'key' that an operator would depress, causing a metal arm to raise up and hit a roll of black pre-inked cloth that would then make an impression on a sheet of paper that was firmly held in a roller. The original keyboard had the most commonly-used letters on the right-hand side of the keyboard. As most typists were right-handed, this resulted in a faster use of the right hand and a consequent jamming of the keys being pressed so quickly that they hit other keys on the way to the cloth inking ribbon and locked them in a tangle, thereby forcing the operator to stop typing and manually untangle the keys. The perceived solution at the time was to make a new keyboard with half the common letters on the left and half on the right, thereby theoretically slowing down a typist's ability to type quickly, under the assumption that the left hand is slower than the right. This is called the QWERTY keyboard and became standardly used on all typewriters. With the advent of computer keyboards, the same configuration carried over into a technology that worked so quickly that such an arcane concept as speed of typing had no purpose, but by this time, everyone was used to a system that no longer made sense. To this day, all computer keyboards use the same QWERTY system developed in the 1880s – and if you don't believe me, just look at the top left-hand alphabet row of your own keyboard. The first five letters from the left are Q, W, E, R, T, and Y. We are truly creatures of habit!

WORK IN PROGRESS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

We have 32 titles at the moment that have fewer than 100 copies left in stock or are completely out of stock. Most of these are being updated by Lan and her team of dedicated cartographers; others are being run down a bit further before we decide what to do. Please note the following:

Auckland/North Island is now out of copies. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Brisbane is out of stock. It will be out of print indefinitely as we re-work the artwork into a new format.

Chile is close to the end of its print run. A fresh edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Chile South & Patagonia is getting low on inventory. An update is underway for release this summer.

Hue and Central Vietnam is close to being out of stock. This title is being re-worked into a new title; no ETA.

Laos/Cambodia is almost out of print. This is being re-formatted into a new title called Cambodia and Mekong Delta; no ETA.

Madagascar is almost out of stock. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Malta/Goza is almost out of print. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA

Manning Park in BC is out of print indefinitely.

Mumbai is almost out of stock. A new edition is planned for the spring of 2019.

Norway is now out of print. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA

Paraguay is out of stock. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA

Quebec is recently out of stock. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA

Rio de Janeiro/East Coast of Brasil is out of copies. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Santiago de Chile is now out of print. A new edition is in preparation; no ETA.

Slovakia/Hungary is almost out of inventory. We are preparing a new edition; no ETA.

Somalia is almost out of print. We are preparing a new title called Somalia and the Horn of Africa for release in the spring of 2019; no ETA.

South Africa is out of inventory. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

South America is out of copies. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

OFFICES IN: HANOI. PRAGUE. VANCOUVER

WWW.ITMB.COM



ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS
- ITM DISTRIBUTION

12300 Bridgeport Road
Richmond, BC
CANADA V6V 1J5
TEL: (604) 273-1400
FAX: (604) 273-1488
E-mail: Jack@itmb.com

Surinam and Guyana is out of print. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Tweedsmuir Provincial Park in BC is out of print indefinitely.

West Coast Trail (BC) is getting low. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

NEW RELEASES IN FEBRUARY, 2019

India Travel Reference Map 7th Ed. 2018 1:2,400,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771293631 UPC 817712936318 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95 GBP – India is a vast country, and one of increasing touristic importance. We visited part of the country in 2018 and have a better understanding of the nature of the country as a result. India is modernizing, like China, but is considerably behind in the provision of modern services. However, the air network is excellent, as is the train service, and the road network is extensive and constantly being improved. Western-style hotels are commonplace, and it is a safe country for travel as long as one doesn't drink the local water. The attractions are too numerous to mention, but include enormous temple complexes, historic sites, beautiful architecture, protected game preserves, beach resorts, and lots and lots of people. India's popularity with visitors is growing rapidly, and we are pleased that our new map will assist that growth. ITMB also publishes maps of sections of India, along with detailed maps of Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai. **AVAILABLE**

Indonesia Travel Reference Map 5th Ed. on waterproof paper 1:2,400,000 ISBN 9781771293648 UPC 817712936486 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – The hundreds of islands making up the island nation of Indonesia make a double-sided map inevitable in order to show any significant amount of detail. Side 1 shows the western half, starting with Sumatra in the upper left and including Java and most of the island of Borneo (Kalimantan Province to the Indonesians). This side also includes a large inset map of central Jakarta (for better detail see our separate map of the city); ditto for Sumatra, Java, and Borneo. Bali, Lombok, and Sumbawa islands are in the lower right portion of the map, and most of Malaysia and all of Singapore are included, simply because they are there. The infamous volcanic island of Krakatoa is located just to the west of Java. The other side of the map covers the less-travelled and therefore more interesting eastern islands – Sulawesi, Flores, New Guinea (West Irian Province), and Timor are the best known. Komodo National Park, home of the fierce lizards called Komodo Dragons, is on the map. Ferry routes between the islands are shown and are quite reliable, but sailings are subject to weather conditions. Indonesia is a very large country, and this map shows it in good detail. However, it is also a country that covers a very large area. For this reason, ITMB has also published several sectional maps of islands within the country in order to show touristic areas with an improved scale. Bali & Lombok, Borneo, Java, Jakarta, and Sumatra maps are also available from ITMB. **AVAILABLE**

Morocco Travel Reference Map (WP) 1:1,100K/1:1,500K \$12.95 - Morocco is a haven of peace in a world beset by religious strife. The country has close ties to Europe, with the Strait of Gibraltar allowing easy ferry access, and the country is interesting, well-developed, and safe. The fabled cities of Casablanca, Marrakesh, Rabat, Sale, and Tangier are all included as insets, and the road and rail networks are clearly shown. Please note that it is still not possible to travel to neighbouring Algeria due to long-standing political differences, but the road to the south is well maintained and travellers can access Mauritania via the coastal road. Most visitors limit themselves to Fez and Meknes, but the far side of the Atlas Mountains is a fascinating landscape of desert-like oases. This is a country well worth visiting. **AVAILABLE**

North & South Korea Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2019 1:830,000/1:550,000 on stone paper ISBN 9781771294119 UPC 817712941190 \$13.95us/cdn, E9.50 8.95GBP – **NEW TITLE, due in May**

Russia's 'Golden Ring' Heritage Cities 1:500,000 ISBN 9781553415558 – I wish to remind customers that we still have a limited number of copies of this travel map of the heart of Mother Russia. One side is a regional map of the area surrounding Moscow, and the other is a series of urban maps of historic cities full of touristic value – Suzdal, Yaroslavl etc. We discontinued the title at the end of its print run due to lack of demand, but a few copies of this interesting title are still **AVAILABLE**.

OFFICES IN: HANOI. PRAGUE. VANCOUVER

WWW.ITMB.COM



ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
- **ITM DISTRIBUTION**

**12300 Bridgeport Road
Richmond, BC
CANADA V6V 1J5
TEL: (604) 273-1400
FAX: (604) 273-1488
E-mail: Jack@itmb.com**

Vancouver's North Shore Hiking Trails & Fraser Valley Travel Reference Map 7th Ed. 2019 1:40,000/1:250,000 ISBN 9781771298681 UPC 817712986818 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.96GBP – ITMB has, for many years, published a hiking trails map of the Northshore mountains of Vancouver. We are one of those cities blessed with having large mountains included within the city, including three ski resorts (one of which was the venue for the 2010 Winter Olympics). In summer, these mountains lose their snow cover and become popular recreational hiking trails. The Grouse Grind, the Baden Powell trail, and many others, are fully documented in this map. The map also provides a very good street map of the four Northshore municipalities, the Sea to Sky Highway, Indian Arm, and the Belcarra/Anmore recreational area. To make the map more appealing to a wider audience, in this edition we have added our ITMB Fraser Valley map to the reverse side of the sheet. The valley was created by sediment carried by the Fraser River, and extends from Hope to Vancouver and south to Bellingham in the USA. It is home to dozens of parks, lakes, recreational opportunities, and back roads to explore. – **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Grand Canyon and Arizona Travel Reference Map 1st Ed 2019 on waterproof paper 1:90,000/1:1,000,000 ISBN 9781771293167 UPC 817712931672 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – **AVAILABLE**

Mali, see Mauritania – AVAILABLE ALSO AS A SEPARATE MAP

Singapore & Malay Peninsula Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2019 on stone paper 1:10,000/1:730,000 ISBN 9781771297080 UPC 817712970800 \$11.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – **AVAILABLE**

USA Southwest Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. on waterproof paper 1:900,000 SBN 9781771293143 UPC 817712931436 \$10.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP

World Educational Map 1ST ED, 2019 1:40,000,000 or so ISBN 9781553410911 UPC 815534109125 \$5.95cdn/us/Euro/GB –, AVAILABLE– AVAILABLE

While we're noting educational mapping projects, ITMB also offers the following in the same format:

Canada Educational Map 9781553410928

Europe Educational Map 9781553414865

United States Educational Map 9781553414858

Each one consists of two separate small sheets of paper about the size of a legal-sized sheet, in a plastic sleeve, and sells for \$5.95 or its equivalent in differing currencies. For this reason, the items are sold with no price shown. They're fun, they're educational, and they will definitely be of benefit to anyone using them. Quick, what's the capital of Armenia, or the State of Kentucky? **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!**

Victoria & Vancouver Island South Half Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2019 1:10,000/1:270,000 ISBN 9781771298698 UPC 817712986986 \$9.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – **AVAILABLE**

OFFICES IN: HANOI. PRAGUE. VANCOUVER

WWW.ITMB.COM