



ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS
- ITM DISTRIBUTION

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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #10 OF 2018 – End of October – New Titles: see below for details

INTRODUCTION

We had an interesting, if somewhat hectic, trip to both England and to continental Europe in the first two weeks of October. We enjoyed meeting with Aaron at Stanford's Maps in central London, as we were re-arranging his shelves (a busman's holiday for anyone in the map trade!!!), and to renewing contacts at FBF. Details below. We also managed brief trips to Cambridge, Canterbury, Ulm, Zug, and Besancon. Yes, that means that we completed a fair amount of driving during a relatively brief visit across the pond. Now, we have three weeks to prepare for our next trip, to Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand, scheduled for early November. It never ends, does it?

THE FUTURE OF ITMB?

Any of you who have children, or grandchildren, are probably quite aware of something called Pro-D days. These are schooldays when teachers don't work. They claim that they need a dozen days off each school year, for professional training activities. Hence, parents of thousands of school age children have to struggle with finding some way of coping – taking a day off work to supervise them, turning them over to grandparents or trusted day care workers, or having them underfoot at work. My son grew up in my retail store and was adept at selling maps by the time he was five. Unfortunately, he was not focused on school or learning as a result. We have tried to provide our grandchildren the enjoyment of just being kids, but Johnny is now eight and too big for day care and too easily bored by hanging around the office so us adults can concentrate on running ITMB. Until very recently, he has showed no interest in our business, but boredom is also something kids don't enjoy. As an experiment, I put him to work (making a game out of it), filling picking boxes in our warehouse. He had to pick a bundle of maps from a carton, count out ten copies, and place them in the half-boxes we use to pick orders going to distributors, retailers, and libraries. He thought this would be fun! After the first box, he looked at me and asked what to do next. Well, I said, ITMB has 450 published titles, and there is a half-box for each title. I'd suggest that you start on Box #2! He thought this over for a few seconds, then started on Box #2 and completed a dozen boxes before I called a halt to the exercise, not wanting him to get too bored with the routine all adults know accompanies the daily work routine. Now, whenever he comes into the warehouse after school, he looks for boxes needing to be filled. We'll have to see if this burst of enthusiasm lasts, but we might just be looking at a future President of ITMB! Why not?



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A NORTH AMERICAN VIEWS EUROPE

It is always dangerous to wander into a different part of the world and make snap conclusions based on a visit of a couple of weeks. I travel to Europe several times a year, so I see it on a regular enough basis to be able pinpoint trends. On this most recent visit, I was baffled by the on-going angst in England regarding Brexit (the separation of the UK and the EU). There appeared to be little political will to reverse course and stay within the EU, but much news commentary pro and con, and varying opinions as to whether the EU was being obstructionist or helpful in the on-going negotiations. It appeared that the UK and the EU were close to a satisfactory settlement when I was there, but the issue of how to deal with the border between the Republic of Ireland and Ulster was not settled. This created a major political crisis in Britain, dominated the news, and ended the proposed agreement. Back to the negotiating table, everyone!

On the continent, Brexit did not appear to be an issue. The general consensus of opinion that I received was that, as the UK had never wanted to join the EU in the first place (not true), its leaving was neither regretted nor important. This rather surprised me, as Britain is the second largest economy in Europe and is the EU's biggest trading partner and one of the largest contributors to the EU budget. It is also the only country powerful enough to act as a brake on Germany. The people we met seemed to be much more focused on what to do about all the immigrants. This confused me at first, because no country in Europe has a cabinet-level Ministry in charge of immigration nor, as far as I could determine, any policies related to immigration. Then I realized that the word 'immigration' had been mis-applied to define those entering the EU improperly as migrants seeking a better life. There are many thousands of such people arriving weekly and, as in the USA with its 'illegal aliens' from Mars, such arrivals have created a significant political problem.

As I see it, the uncontrolled migration of people from the EU into Britain was the main reason Britain wanted out of the EU, so the fact that the EU was politically upset by migrants wanting to enter the EU was an amusement to me rather than a matter for concern. Few seemed aware that Italy is close to economic collapse, dismissing the issue as being akin to Greece's economic problems, yet Italy's financial crisis is far more serious and important an issue for the EU than Greece or migrants could possibly be, but Italy is apparently an issue that has not caught the public's attention. The seemingly never-ending exodus of people from North Africa certainly has attracted attention, and Canada's approach to immigration seemed to be a topic of great interest, but with the focus being on how to stop migrants from coming rather than how to pick those best suited to become productive. The recognition that Europe desperately needs millions of new people to maintain itself seemed to be lacking. Encouragingly, 'foreigners' seemed to be regarded differently than those from other parts of the EU: perhaps a sign that Europeans are thinking more continentally than was the case in earlier decades.

Upon my return to the relative sanity of Canada, where the only topic of conversation on the news appeared to be the legalization of marijuana, and the sole topic of conversation in the USA being the never-ending abuses hurled at everything by Donald Trump, the problems faced by Europe shrank into insignificance. Britain and the EU will reach an accommodation, simply because they need each other so much. Italy will stumble on somehow, because it always does, and nothing much will change or get better, because it never does in Italy, which continues to shrink in political as well as economic clout. Unwanted migrants will continue to flood into the EU because there appears to be no political will to deal with this situation, apart from voting into power single-issue right-wing parties promising to rid the continent of visible minorities. Compared with the turmoil inside the USA, Europe's problems are so secondary as to be irrelevant, but they are important within Europe. They just aren't important enough to make the North American news cycle. Sorry, Europe, but in comparison to the turmoil splitting America into extremely polarized opposing camps, your political issues fade into insignificance. At a time when a whole raft of political leadership is targeted for assassination, Jews are slaughtered in their temples of worship, and blacks are executed by white racists, nothing happening in Europe can penetrate the news cycle in America!

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WHERE TO START?

It is always dangerous for an outsider to comment on US elections, but it became abundantly plain to me while in Europe that most of the matters being hotly debated inside the USA seemed to be completely unknown in Europe. This newsletter goes to readers all over the world, so Americans, please keep in mind that your elections matter to those of us who aren't Americans and international readers don't get the intense media coverage considered normal within the USA. Since returning to Canada, I have encountered absolutely amazing activities underway in the USA that are not only improper, but are fundamentally undemocratic. For example, in Dodge City, Kansas, the Republican-controlled election person moved the city's one and only voting station (for 13,000 voters) outside of the city limits to a location a mile away from public transportation. This was done to make it extremely difficult for non-whites (who are the majority of the city's voting population) to be able to vote. Incredible! In North Dakota, the Republicans in charge of conducting the election in that state insist that only those with a street address are allowed to vote, thereby disenfranchising 10,000 native Americans who live on reservations in the State. Incredible! In Georgia, the Republican candidate running for Governor is also the person in charge of determining who can vote. He has tried very hard to disenfranchise more than 100,000 voters, alleging that if they didn't vote in the last election, two years ago, that such people had lost their citizenship by not voting. Incredible!

None of these activities are legal, but all happened within the past week. Naturally, civil rights groups are attempting to use the courts and legal activist means to overcome these obviously undemocratic measures that deny the vote to hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of American citizens, but the point is that such things are happening (it's called voter suppression). Sometimes, political parties get so caught up in the urge to win that democratic niceties fall by the wayside. Winning becomes everything. It seems quite apparent that Trump's attitude to everything is "I win, you lose" and this extremely partisan attitude appears to have infected the Republican Party in state after state.

Regardless, the election is November 6th, shortly after you should receive this newsletter, and the political circus will be over for another two years. Americans should be very involved with the outcome, as it is one of the more crucial elections in their history, but non-Americans will also be directly affected, so punters like myself will be glued to our televisions well into the night. We're all affected by an American election, so please accept that even those of us who can't vote (understandably) are affected by the outcome, and hope for the best.

TRAVEL NEWS

Singapore Airlines has just announced the inauguration of a new direct service between New York City (Newark) directly to Singapore. This will be the longest non-stop flight in the world (at 18 hours, forty-five minutes). This shows evolving technology at work; in this case, the newest generation of Airbus aircraft. Boeing is falling way behind other plane manufacturers, I'm afraid. I can remember my first flight to London from Toronto; it had to re-fuel in Iceland. Most flights from Vancouver tend to be long, tiring journeys of ten to twelve hours. We're used to them, but I keep hoping for a magical way to teleport myself to avoid spending hours and hours in a cylindrical coffin. Singapore Airlines will be introducing non-stop flights from San Francisco and from Los Angeles as soon as more new Airbus airplanes arrive.

THE LONGEST BRIDGE IN THE WORLD

China has just opened a 34 mile/55 km bridge linking Hong Kong and Macau, on the mainland of China. The combined bridge and tunnel (to allow ships to pass through to China's Pearl Delta manufacturing centre) took ten years to build, cost \$20 Billion dollars, and was subject to enormous cost over-runs and delays. It is, however, a marvelous accomplishment that will cut travel times across the delta from several hours to just 30 minutes. Initially, the use of the bridge will be limited to those with permits, but the bridge, once fully tested, should prove to be a major driver of both tourism and economic development.

NELLES RELEASES TWO NEW EDITIONS

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Nelles Verlag, of Germany, has long been associated with publishing high-quality maps of Asia. At this year's Frankfurt Book Fair, they showed me two new releases – China South and China Central, both at 1:1,750,000 and both printed on plastic paper. We have not yet had time to order in inventory for sale within North America, but we are excited about this development simply because it shows something new coming out of Europe. I should add that those interested in carrying these titles should contact the distributor normally used to order Nelles maps. In North America, that would be ITMB. We can also supply into Australia, Japan, and New Zealand, but not into Europe.

DINOSAURS IN CHINA

One never knows what one will find in newspapers. Here's a great story from a recent Vancouver newspaper. China is undergoing a building boom; we all know that. Unlike most countries, this involves digging up massive tracts of land to build entirely new cities of a million people. The mind boggles at such realities, but I've seen them; they happen all over China. Recently, in the northern city of Yanji, excavators discovered a treasure trove of 100 million-year-old dinosaur bones. Apparently, this has happened several times in different cities, and China is ably served by Xu Xing, the country's most renowned paleontologist. He has named more dinosaur species than any person on earth (no mean accomplishment). Thanks to his untiring efforts, we are learning more about how dinosaurs evolved into the birds and reptiles we know today.

THE CRAZIEST GUY IN THE WORLD

No, this isn't an article about Donald Trump, but it is a hilarious story I read about while I was in England recently. One Patrick Kehoe, from County Wexford, was incensed that the boarding doors for his flight from Dublin to Amsterdam closed for entry to the plane before he arrived at the boarding gate. The 23-year-old started yelling and banging on windows, demanding entry, then broke through the magnetic door lock on the departures gate, banged on the window of the aircraft as it was being pushed back from the loading bay, then made his way on to the airport apron and was running down the taxiway after the taxiing Ryanair plane, shouting at the aircraft to stop, when he was finally tackled by one of several airport staff who were chasing after him. Airport police arrested him, and he was brought before the beak on September 27th, charged with criminal damage. That's bad enough, but it gets worse! He shouted abuse at reporters on the scene, swung a briefcase at several of them, then charged the reporters repeatedly. He then walked through Dublin's Phoenix Park, lowered his pants and mooned onlookers. This happened! I could not possibly make up something this bizarre; I don't have the imagination!

WORK IN PROGRESS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

We have 31 titles at the moment that have fewer than 100 copies left in stock. Most of these are being updated by Lan and her team of dedicated cartographers. Work will continue on developing fresh artwork, but the pace of completing projects is long. It takes months of effort. Please note the following:

France is very close to being out of print. We are re-working this title into a rail/road map of France over the winter. The new map is scheduled for release in the spring of 2019.

Lesotho is now out of print indefinitely. We hope to publish a new map, combining Lesotho and Swaziland into a double-sided map in the spring of 2019.

Mauritania is now out of print. We are working on a new map, combining Mauritania with Mali; for release in the spring of 2019.

Morocco is now out of print. The artwork is at press and expected in November.

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

North Korea is out of print indefinitely. In spite of recent political talks with South Korea over normalizing relations, the regime in charge of the country shows no signs of changing its erratic and isolationist behaviour, so the country remains extremely difficult to visit. We have decided to await developments and pause awhile before committing to a new edition.

Panama is now out of print. A new edition is at press and expected in the spring of 2019..

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Quito/Northern Ecuador is out of print. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA is yet available. In the meantime, please use our Galapagos/Quito map.

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

Russia West/St. Petersburg is almost out of print. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Rwanda/Burundi is now out of print. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Samoa/American Samoa is out of print indefinitely (1 copy left).

Santiago de Chile is now out of print. A new edition is in preparation; no ETA. In the meantime, please use our Easter Island & Santiago map.

Singapore is out of print indefinitely.

Swaziland is out of stock. We are working on a new combined map of the country, along with Lesotho, for release in the spring of 2019.

Togo and Benin is now out of print. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

NEW RELEASES IN OCTOBER, 2018

El Salvador & Southern Guatemala Travel Reference Map 6th Ed. 2019 1:270,000/1:457,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771292610 UPC 817712926104 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – ITMB is pleased to re-introduce its map of the Central American country of El Salvador. This is a double-sided map with the country on one side, along with a detailed inset map of San Salvador. Largely overlooked by its larger neighbours, Salvador contains several old colonial Spanish towns dating back to the 1500s, such as Suchitoto (a hill town), Santa Ana (1708), Santa Tecla, , and La Palma. The country is also home to the Izalco Volcano, one of the youngest in the world (dating from 1770) and still very active, and El Imposible National Park. The map also shows the country's World Heritage city of Chalchuapa, dating back 3,200 years. The other side of the sheet is a completely separate map of neighbouring Guatemala, being a detailed map of the central southern portion of this important country. The highlights shown on this map are Quetzaltenango (site of the battle in 1524 that added the territory to the growing Spanish empire), Antigua Guatemala (dating from 1690), and the Mayan ruins of Quirigua, dating from 200ad. The border crossings with El Salvador are clearly shown and are easily crossed. This makes a marvelous 'combination' map, providing information of interest for two interesting adjoining countries. **AVAILABLE**

Inflatable Physical Relief 16"/41cm, Clear (transparent ocean) Globe ISBN 9781553417910 and

Inflatable Political 16"/41cm Light Blue Ocean Globe ISBN 9781771299954 retail for \$16.95 each cdn/us, and for E12.98 and 12.95GBP. Both are 16"/41cm inflatable globes, compactly packaged in ready-to-sell transparent plastic bags, with a bright yellow top panel. As the market for these two globes is world-wide, no price has been included on the packaging; however, the price is identical to the previous rendition and is a fair price for the contents. The Clear Globe, which means a transparent ocean, is political in that each country is shown, but could also be defined as a physical relief globe, as it consists mostly of shades of green and blue. The Blue ocean globe is truly political, in that each country is shown with a unique colour shading. Neither globe is fantastically detailed, but considering the format used, both are very acceptably detailed. Both globes are on heavy-duty plastic, meet North American standards for safety, are erasable if marked by a Dry Erase marker, and have a small repair patch included in case a puncture develops. This is an easy product to sell and is timeless. **AVAILABLE**

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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 – Victoria is a brand new title for ITMB. The city is the capital of British Columbia (each of Canada's provinces and territories has its own capital, in addition to Ottawa for the entire country). Located at the southern tip of Vancouver Island, Victoria was established as the colonial capital after the Oregon Treaty of 1846 forced the British to abandon the previous capital, at Astoria, in what is now Oregon State. By western North American standards, Victoria has a long and colourful history, being settled at about the same time as San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Sacramento. After 1846, British Columbia remained a separate colony of Britain until 1971, when it agreed to join the now-established new country of Canada, based on the promise of a trans-continental railway being built to join the five provincial members. As a result, Victoria boomed, and its current charm as a touristic attraction is based largely on the growth in Victorian days. The cover picture shows the historic Empress Hotel, which is as well-known for its afternoon tea as for its dominating position on the harbour front. The provincial legislature building is close by, and is a real treat to visit, as is the nearby Royal BC Museum. Victoria is one of the great travel experiences of Canada, with daily ferries from the USA docking mere feet away from the Empress, float planes landing in the harbour hourly, and colonial architecture dominating the shopping streets. The reverse side of the sheet follows the pattern of many ITMB maps. It is a detailed map of the southern half of Vancouver Island, ideal for day trips from Victoria. It includes beautiful Butchart Gardens, a botanical wonderland, an inset of Tofino's wonderful nine-mile beach, Cathedral Grove (which is the world's largest gathering of old-growth fir trees), Chemamus (with its painted buildings), Duncan (with its logging museum), and Nanaimo. The famous West Coast Trail is shown, as are the Broken Islands. Finally the ferry routes to Vancouver and to the Gulf Islands are shown. This is a marvelous map of a well-known tourist destination. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES IN SEPTEMBER, 2018

Denver and Colorado Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2018 1:10,000/1:750,000 ISBN 9781771292313 UPC 817712923134 \$10.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE

Greenland & North Polar Region Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2018 1:3,000,000/1:9,000,000 ISBN 9781771293136 UPC 817712931368 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE

Japan Railway & Road Atlas 2nd Ed. 2018 1:670,000, with city insets 119 pages ISBN 9781771293853 UPC 817712938534 \$19.95cdn/us E16.95 15.95GBP – AVAILABLE

Manhattan & New York State Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2018 1:12,000/1:800,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771294652 UPC 817712946522 \$10.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE

Sao Paulo & Brasil's South Coast Travel Reference Map 1:12,500/1:2,200,000 ISBN 9781771297066 UPC 817712970664 \$11.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP - AVAILABLE

Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, & Tajikistan Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2019 1:1,600,000/1:1,100,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771298490 UPC 817712984906 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE

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 – AVAILABLE

Western Europe Rail & Road Travel Reference Map 1st ed. 2018 1:2,500,000 ISBN 9781771292603 UPC 817712926036 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE

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