



## **ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.**

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
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**12300 Bridgeport Road  
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**AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #11 OF 2018 – End of November – New Titles: see below for details**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We are in Laos as you read this, exploring the famous but little-known Ho Chi Minh Trail. We then move on to the Golden Triangle of northern Laos. Assuming that we survive these experiences, next month's Axis newsletter should be interesting reading! At home, Linh and Phuong are holding down the fort, so it is business as usual.

### **MORE CLOSINGS**

I regret to advise that two more map-related businesses have closed their doors. In England, Victoria Lithography, a former powerhouse in the map printing business, closed its doors for good in March. I learned of this while attending the Frankfurt Book Fair. Victoria Litho printed ITMB's first map in 1984 and continued to do so for many years. Eventually, we switched to local printers to save shipping costs, but Victoria always did a sterling job for us, as well as for A-Z, Ordnance Survey, and others. Regretfully, the printing industry at large is suffering from a growing reliance on electronic marketing, and Victoria is merely the latest in a long line of printing firms to close down.

A second closure is closer to home. Around the World Maps, a local retail map and flag specialty store in New Westminster, BC, closed its doors this month. The owner, Ron Cox, has been suffering ill health for some time and keeping the store open on a regular basis has become increasingly difficult. New Westminster is part of Greater Vancouver, which remains the only city I know of in North America to have had four retail map and travel stores plus a specialty flag store. Sadly, we're now down to three travel stores, one of which (ITMB) specializes in maps, while the other two concentrate on travel clothing and accessories as well as books and maps. We wish Ron the best in retirement.

### **STANFORDS IS ON THE MOVE**

Edward Stanford founded a map store in Charing Cross in 1853, to take advantage of the then-novel travel experience of English ladies and gentlemen of a certain means to explore other parts of the world, notably Europe. The business prospered and, in 1901, moved to 11-15 Long Acre, north of Covent Garden, near Leister Square, where it has remained ever since, providing maps, globes, and travel guides to generations of intrepid explorers. It is the largest travel emporium in the world. I remember visiting it on my first trip to London in 1964, and have been a regular visitor ever since. It occupies three floors and has every map it can find. It is the only retail store in Europe that ITMB supplies direct.

After a century and two decades on Long Acre, Stanfords will move to new premises in January. The new store will be on Mercer Walk, just around the corner, and will provide more space for their growing on-line business. This move expresses Stanfords' confidence in the durability of paper maps and their commitment to retailing.

### **THE AFTERMATH OF THE US ELECTION**

No matter your personal political views, this most recent American election brought out the best and the worst in people. I congratulate all those who put their names forward for one party or another because it shows a healthy democracy when there are competing candidates. Many do not realize that November 6<sup>th</sup> was not just a mid-term congressional election year for Congress. Hundreds of State-level contests were also held, such as in Florida, Georgia, and Texas. Some excellent candidates emerged, not all of whom were successful, and unfortunately, some unsavoury candidates poisoned the atmosphere with extremist and racist rhetoric. The President didn't help matters by falsely emphasizing racial animosities and fears bound by lies. Regardless, the big election is over and, as in all elections, some citizens are very upset at the outcome. So be it. The whole point of an election is supposed to be the voice of the people and, generally speaking, this election spoke volumes about the state of the most divided country on earth and we can only hope that the House starts acting as a check on the President.

### **HOW IMMIGRATION AFFECTS A COUNTRY: TWO OPPOSING STUDIES**

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The recent US election raised animosities and fears of foreigners in a manner I've never seen before. Trump, in particular, used absurd fear-mongering rhetoric to vilify, racially, those outside the USA and those attempting to seek sanctuary from oppression. This is extremely regrettable, simply because it flies in the face of traditional American practice of growing the American economy and American stature by accepting immigrants throughout its long history as a nation. America needs immigrants, millions of immigrants.

Every day, in the USA 10,000 Americans retire from the work force. That comes to 3,500,000 people each and every year. There aren't sufficient individuals residing within the USA (either legally or undocumented) to fill the gaps caused by these millions of people retiring (NB: this does not include those individuals leaving the work force to return to school, those who die of natural or unnatural causes, or those who leave the country or are in institutions). So, the USA needs about 5 million new workers entering the work force each year just to keep up with attrition. Tens of thousands more would be required to expand the economy.

Unfortunately, at a time when other parts of the world are moving forward with trade initiatives and policies encouraging immigration to meet immediate economic needs, such as Germany, the USA is restricting immigration, expelling undocumented individuals at an accelerating rate, and vilifying many other societies on the basis of colour, religion, and racial bias. This is not helpful. It might appeal to a segment of the population as campaign rhetoric, but it demeans all Americans at the same time and hurts America's interests.

Canada, on the other hand, is increasing its rate of immigration by about 10% in 2019, and is increasing the number of asylum seekers/refugees/persecuted individuals by the same amount, and plans to do more in 2020. This is exactly the opposite of the practices being followed in the USA. Why? The answer, for Canada, simply spoken, is that Canada recognizes two truths – we need more people to maintain our economy than natural birthrates can provide, and we need the innovative thinking that people from other parts of the world bring to Canada. It strengthens Canada as a society and grows our economy.

### **A LITTLE KNOWN FACT**

It is illegal in the USA to mail an entire house through the post office. At first glance, the obvious reaction is to say 'Why would someone want to do so?' Well, in 1916, a householder mailed a 40,000 ton brick house from one side of Utah to the other in order to avoid otherwise high freight rates. At that time, there was no specific regulation covering such an action, for the obvious reason that no one had mailed an entire building before, so the US Post Office regulated such actions as an improper usage of the postal system. There you have it; don't try to mail your house! You can't mail live critters either (mammals, reptiles, bugs, people – you name it).

### **SOMETHING TO RATTLE WAITRESSES WITH**

The next time a server in a restaurant approaches you with a pot of coffee (normal in North America) and asks if you'd like another cup, the server will probably ask "Would you like your coffee black?" Try this as an answer: "What other colours do you have?"

### **TRIVIA**

The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" is the only one in English that uses each letter of the alphabet. It is routinely used as a training exercise for learning how to use a keyboard, something I've never managed to master. As a result, my two index fingers are always sore!

### **ANOTHER JIFFY**

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The expression "I'll have it ready in a jiffy" is one of those English language colloquialisms that drive those not using English as a native language mad. What is a 'jiffy'? Well, believe it or not, a jiffy is an actual unit of time. It is one-tenth of a second. Used in common speech, it means 'I'll have it ready in almost no time'. Now, can anyone tell me what a 'huff' is; as in "She flew off in a huff!" I know what is meant by the colloquialism, but what exactly is a 'huff'? The Canadian government once published a book of colloquialisms to help new Canadians master the nuances of language as she is spoke in them there colonies. I used to sell it in the early days of ITMB, when we were more an informational bookstore than a map emporium; wish I'd kept a copy!

### LEXOPHILES

Lexophiles are plays on words. The New York Times has a contest for the best each year. Here are five:

1. No matter how much you push the envelope, it will still be stationary.
2. I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down!
3. England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool!
4. When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
5. A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

### STUPID CROOK OF THE MONTH

Every so often, a particularly stupid activity happens. This one was in the USA and happened in early November. A man decided to rob a restaurant, but wanted to do it quietly. He decided to get to the strongroom, where the money was located, by going above the ceiling tiles. As his pants were cumbersome, he went to the men's washroom and removed them, using them to secure the door against anyone coming in and noticing a ceiling tile removed. He then found a chair and managed to get into the ceiling space above the ceiling tiles and crawl toward the place where the money was kept. Unfortunately for him, his weight was more than the ceiling tiles could bear, and he crashed through the ceiling into the middle of the restaurant, scaring patrons and staff half to death. His plan thwarted, he ran out of the restaurant and escaped. Of course, he had left his pants in the washroom – complete with his wallet, driver's license, and address – so police had little trouble in tracking him down. He's now awaiting trial.

### WORK IN PROGRESS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

**We have 32 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:**

Brazil – we still have 3 copies in stock

Brisbane is almost out of stock (3 copies left). It will be out of print indefinitely as we re-work the artwork.

British Columbia is almost out of print (13 copies left). The next edition has been printed and should be available in the spring of 2019.

France is now 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.

Iceland is almost out of print. The new edition is at press and should arrive sometime 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 December.

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

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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.

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

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

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. The artwork is being updated; no ETA.

### **NEW RELEASES IN OCTOBER and NOVEMBER, 2018**

**Canada's Maritime Provinces – coming** in the spring of 2019

**Ho Chi Minh City & Southern Vietnam – in the spring of 2019**

**El Salvador & Southern Guatemala Travel Reference Map 6<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 newly-established country of Canada, based on the promise of a trans-continental railway being built to join the (then) five provincial members. As a result, Victoria boomed, and its current charm as a touristic attraction is based largely on this 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 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2018 1:10,000/1:750,000 ISBN 9781771292313 UPC 817712923134 \$10.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

**Japan Railway & Road Atlas 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Tahiti & Cook Islands Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2018 scale varies ISBN 9781771297974 UPC 817712979742 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

**Toronto & Southern Ontario Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2018 1:12,000/1:600,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771298162 UPC 817712981622 \$10.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

**Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, & Tajikistan Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2018 1:2,500,000 ISBN 9781771292603 UPC 817712926036 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

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