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- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #7 OF 2019 – July to early-August – New Titles: see below for details

INTRODUCTION

For us, planning a month-long trip is an exercise that takes months of preparation. For one thing, we rarely seem to pick an easy way to get from A to B. Booking a flight from Vancouver to Gatwick, return, should be a simple task, but July is high season, and the only reasonable booking arrangement was to fly to Toronto, spend twelve hours, and fly on to Gatwick. The return flight involved flying to Halifax, waiting for 19 hours, and then flying to Vancouver, leaving at 7:30 in the morning. We don't mind having stop-overs, but by the time we factor in car rentals and an overnight's accommodation, perhaps we're being penny wise, pound foolish. Anyway, the entire month of July was threaded with weird bookings, so we're glad to be home, where we can rest from our travels and get out a mid-summer edition of the Axis newsletter!

STONEHENGE

Everyone travels for a reason. Those doing so to visit family, or going on business, rarely need a map, but for those of us in the travel industry, travel is an adventure. In the case of Stonehenge, in England, it isn't difficult to reach, but is definitely one of those 'must-see' locations. In our case, it was a repeat visit, to show our grandson Johnny one of the great marvels of the ancient world. The giant stone uprights and cross pieces were laboriously quarried 3,500 years ago and moved by man-power to this location by early Britons. It was an incredible feat that took many years to complete. There are many legends associated with this structure, but for me, none is more telling than the fact that it was donated to the nation in 1916 by a man who bought the site at auction for six thousand Pounds. Thanks to his generosity, a unique historical site has been preserved forever. When we were there last month, we joined thousands of other visitors to gaze in wonder at this exceptional monument.

LUXEMBOURG

The country of Luxembourg is one of those anomalies of medieval Europe that have survived into the era of the EU simply because it was in the interests of larger states to tolerate them than invade them and create a greater conflict. The country is often regarded as being one of those places one rushes through on the motorway going between Belgium and Germany, but off the through route, the country is scenic, charming, and well worth a visit. We spent two days here in June, exploring the countryside and seeing the several castles/palaces that dot the landscape. We also visited nearby Bastogne and its WW2 museum for what we now call the Battle of the Bulge. The question we still have, however, is wondering whether there would be sufficient market demand to justify an ITM map of Luxembourg. Any comments?

CRUISING THE ADRIATIC' DALMATIAN COASTLINE

We did something on our most recent trip to Europe that was a new experience for us that is obviously a well-established travel experience known to others. Thanks to an offer by Gate One Tours of Pennsylvania, we booked a room on a 36-passenger cruise ship sailing down the Dalmatian coast of Croatia from Porec (pronounced Por-ech) to Dubrovnik. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience, but what was most noteworthy was the discovery that there are a dozen cruise lines offering similar tours in similar-sized ships. This is obviously a tour that is extremely popular, but almost unheard of in America. Porec is an incredibly popular beach resort community in northern Croatia, just south of Trieste and was packed with tourists during our time there. The ship also made port calls in Rovinj and Pula (site of one of the largest Roman arenas remaining intact), Zadar, Split (site of Diocletian's palace), and of course Dubrovnik itself. Lan and myself had visited Croatia several times by car to research our two maps of the country, but this tour provided us with an in-depth trip through history that was illuminating.

SCOTLAND, AS SEEN BY JOHNNY

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My name is Johnny and I'm nine years old. This summer, my grandparents took me to Europe for a month. I swam in the ocean at Bournemouth, climbed to the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and spent a week on a boat where I could swim off the back deck almost every day. We then flew to Scotland, where I made friends with three large sheep dogs and visited Hadrian's Wall, where I learned how to fight with a Roman sword. We also saw a castle full of old things (Eilean Donan) and stayed in different people's houses (couch surfing). We visited nine countries and flew on seven airplanes and rented five cars. I've now visited 32 countries, although I don't remember most of them. I sent five postcards to my brother.

ENGLISH AS A LANGUAGE

The English language is a polyglot combination of Latin, Frankish German, and French, with a fair smattering of words and expressions from various parts of the world that have been added over time. Here's a couple of concepts and expressions that enrich the language:

Piss poor: In the Middle Ages, tanners used human urine to cure hides. Families used to keep a pot to save all their pee, which was then sold to the tannery. If you did this, you were 'piss poor'. If you were too poor to own a pot, you were the lowest of the low 'not having a pot to piss in'. These are expressions still heard today.

Wedding flowers: In medieval times, people usually bathed once a year. That's right, once! Brides usually got married in June, as this was one month after the annual bath and the smell was just reaching the off-putting stage. To disguise their body odour, they would carry a bouquet of flowers. Therein lies the modern-day custom of a bride carrying a bouquet of flowers when getting married!

Baths: Again, in medieval times, bathtubs were just that – a tin tub. It would be filled with hot water for the family's annual bath, starting with the man of the household, followed by all the other sons and males resident in the house, followed by the women, and then the children – without changing the water. Naturally, by the time the youngest children reached the tub, the water was so filthy that one could easily lose sight of a baby; hence the still-common comment that one should not throw out the baby with the bath water!

We all use the expression 'it's raining cats and dogs' to describe a heavy storm. In medieval times, houses used thatching to cover the roof. Cats, and small creatures like mice, used to live in the thatching, as it was relatively safe and warm. When it rained, the thatching became wet and slippery and sometimes the animals would fall from the roof to the floor, leading to the expression of 'it's raining cats and dogs'.

WORK IN PROGRESS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

Boston is out of inventory. A new title is being prepared to replace the current one; no ETA.

Brisbane/Queensland is out of inventory. A new title is being prepared to replace the current one; no ETA.

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

Chile South & Patagonia is out of inventory. An update is underway for release in September

Europe Rail/Road Map is out of print. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Hue/Da Nang & Central Vietnam is at press and due in September.

Lebanon/Beirut is out of print. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Rocky Mountains of Canada is out of print. It is being replaced by a new title called Rocky Mountains of Canada and the USA; no ETA.

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

Seattle is out of print. It is being replaced by a new title, Washington State and Seattle; no ETA.

Somalia is out of print. We are preparing a new title called Somalia and the Horn of Africa; no ETA.

NEW EDITIONS JULY to MID-AUGUST

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Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2020 1:850,000 ISBN 9781771294126 UPC 817712941268 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – This is a new title for ITMB. The two Central Asian countries of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are rapidly developing a touristic market and we feel that the world needs a good map to reflect their growing importance. The two 'stans were part of the Soviet empire that fell apart in 1990, creating a dozen new countries. This double-sided map covers Kyrgyzstan on one side, with an inset map of its capital, Bishkek. The main attractions are Osh and Suyab, both ancient market centres on the Silk Road, and Lake Issyk-Kul, the world's second largest alpine lake. The reverse side concentrates on Tajikistan mountainous country just west of the Himalayas, with an inset of its capital, Dushanbe. Both of these countries should be considered 'adventure' destinations. **AVAILABLE**

Malta & Gozo Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2020 1:29,000 ISBN 9781771295376 UPC 817712953766 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – At last, Malta is back in print. The first printing of this edition had to be thrown out due to printing errors, so this map has been unavailable for far too long. Although the country is modest in size, it is historically rich and popular with tourists. The double-sided map shows the main island of Malta on one side, and the smaller island of Gozo on the reverse, as well as inset maps of Valletta, Bugibba, Marsaskala, Mdina, and Victoria. For history buffs, Valletta can't be beat, but the touristic city of Bugibba contains most of the resort hotels. Mdina, a walled city, is a World Heritage site. as is Victoria, a hilltop market town with a still-formidable citadel. The legacy of the Knights of St. John are everywhere. This is a very interesting and popular country to visit and a proud member of the EU. **AVAILABLE**

Palestine & Jerusalem Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2020 1:200,000/1:10,000 ISBN 9781771296229 UPC 817712962294 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – This is a new title for ITMB and the first time a separate map for that portion of the area known as Palestine and controlled by Palestinians has been published. Israel has traditionally been published including the Palestinian-controlled areas, but that also has resulted in the Palestinian portions being reduced in size and importance as a result of the Negev desert areas. Due to the nature of the ill-defined border separating the West Bank and Gaza Strip communities from Israel proper, it is impossible to prepare a map exclusively of the Palestinian-controlled areas without masking out large portions of the map sheet; thus, this map includes a large portion of central Israel and all of Jerusalem, as it makes no sense to show only part of a geographic area without showing the entire physical area. In preparing this map, we are not trying to pick sides in a convoluted and long-standing dispute, but to focus attention on the physical scope of the political controversy. This is essentially an attempt to show a political reality that exists, in that no one denies that both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip exist, albeit as a tightly-controlled entity that is not a country in the traditional sense of the word but is, nonetheless the homeland of millions of people and a self-governing entity. Jerusalem has been shown as an entity, without a border, in order to emphasize its importance as a unifying point of three great religions. Barricades do exist within the city, but these exist mostly to prevent clashes and reduce frictions, and we prefer to concentrate our hopes for Jerusalem as a future symbol of unity. Geographically, to fit both the southerly Gaza Strip area and the northerly West Bank portion together, it has been necessary to include large portions of Israel proper. The border has been shown for purposes of illustration only and in a generalized manner to represent reality and is not intended to indicate what would normally be a properly-defined border between nation states. We acknowledge that this is a map never before attempted and it is not our intention to offend anyone by doing it or inflame tensions in a volatile part of the world. Maps are too often used as weapons; this map is a well-intentioned attempt to defuse tension by portraying a part of the world that is extremely important in a positive manner. A number of years ago, ITMB published a map called Israel and Palestine. At the time, we received some negative feedback from certain partisan individuals, but we persisted because the area of Israel IS shared by two very different peoples. This part of the world has been called Palestine since Roman times and until a more representative name can be created, we are stuck with using a name that is acceptably used to describe this part of the world. We avoided the title Palestinian-Controlled Israel for obvious reasons; we also reject Palestinian-controlled Areas as being too nebulous. If the world were a simpler place, there would be no need for maps. Sometimes, one has to go beyond what is comfortably safe and do something new. ITMB has been doing this since 1983; this is just another leap of faith. **AVAILABLE**

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Paraguay and Bolivia South Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2019 on waterproof paper 1:1,000,000/1:390,000 ISBN 9781771296212 UPC 817712962126 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GB – Technically, this is a new title for ITMB, in that it is not merely an updating of a previous edition, but it is still a map of Paraguay, basically, so we count it as an updated edition with part of Bolivia included. Expanding the area of coverage benefits visitors combining Paraguay and Bolivia into one trip. The first side covers Bolivia from La Paz south to the Paraguayan border, with inset maps of Potosi and Santa Cruz. The second side concentrates on Paraguay itself, with inset maps of Asuncion, the Asuncion region, and northern Paraguay. Small bits of bordering countries also are included. Road connections within Paraguay have been shown to good advantage. Both countries, being land-locked, are somewhat isolated, making travel to them something more adventuresome than visits to neighbouring countries. However, both are hospitable, safe, and tourist-friendly. **AVAILABLE**

NEW EDITIONS June and EARLY JULY

Hanoi & Vietnam North Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2019 on waterproof paper 1:15,700/1:920,000 ISBN 9781771293365 UPC 817712933652 \$12.95 E9.50 8.95GBP – I first visited Hanoi in 1992, as an official guest of the government. That's how I met Lan, who had been sent to the airport to greet me. The rest is history 22 visits to Hanoi later, I know the city fairly well, but every visit shows interesting changes. The bicycle culture has been replaced by the motorbike culture and the city's population has risen to the five million mark. This edition focuses on the 'old town' area south of West Lake, and comprehensively catalogues newly-widened streets, major shopping areas, touristic sites, even bus stops. The map does not, unfortunately, show the new elevated rapid transit line, which was stalled for lack of financial resources when we did the research for this edition. We decided not to include it until it was finally completed, years behind schedule, so it will be on the next edition. As of March, 2019, it still wasn't open, but looked as if progress was being made. The other side of the map is an excellent rendering of the hinterland surrounding Hanoi – Ha Long Bay, Sa Pa, the Chinese border, Vinh, and Hue. This is a much more detailed map to use for locating touristic attractions than the map of the entire country. As a last aside, please note the cover. There is a small grey-clad figure crossing the bridge to the temple on an island in Sword Lake. That's Johnny, and that's me trying to keep up with him. We really DO ground-truth our maps! **AVAILABLE**

Quebec (Province) Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2019 1:1,620,000/1:150,000 ISBN 978177129 6403 UPC 817712964038 \$10.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – The largest geographical province of Canada is Quebec. While much of it is inaccessible landmass, the province is home to millions of people, both French and English, and is a major North American attraction. It contains the only walled city in the continent (Quebec City, the capital), a major ski resort (the Laurentians), and the vibrant city of Mont Real (Montreal). The map is double-sided, with the vast expanse of northern Quebec on one side (count the number of lakes!) and the more populous south on the other side. Due to the size of the province, there was only room left over for a regional map of the Montreal area, but ITMB does publish a separate map of that city for those needing more detail. As a point of trivia, the northernmost tipoff the Labrador Peninsula is part Nunavut, as are all of the islands. **AVAILABLE**

South America Travel Reference Map 7th Ed. 2019 on waterproof paper 1:4,000,000 ISBN 9781771297110 UPC 817712971104 \$15.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP - South America is what started ITMB in 1984; at that time, as two separate maps called the Kevin Healey Contemporary Map of Northern and Southern South America. Sadly, Kevin is no longer with us, but Lan computerized his artwork a number of years ago and, thanks to modern technology, we can print the map on a large-size press as a double-sided continental map that is a real treat to see. This is, by far, the most accurate and most detailed map of the continent ever published., with detailed inset maps of the Falkland Islands and of the Tierra del Fuego region at the southern tip of the continent. This is an excellent map for planning an extended visit to South America, printed on an extra-large sheet, double-sided, on durable waterproof paper. An excellent companion for a trip! **AVAILABLE**

NEW EDITIONS MAY, 2019

Auckland & North Island Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2019 1:12,500/1:650,000 ISBN 9781771290159 UPC 817712901590 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – **AVAILABLE**

Dubai & UAE Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2019 1:15,000/1:950,000 ISBN 9781771292337 UPC 817712923370 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – **AVAILABLE**

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**Santiago & Northern Chile Travel Reference Map 5th Ed. 2019 1:12,500/1:1,770,000 ISBN 9781771297127
UPC 817712971272 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

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