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- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
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**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 #04 OF 2022

INTRODUCTION

Thoughts of travel are muted this month. Daily news reports of fleeing women and children and bombing of cities dominate our thoughts, as are never-ending reports of fighting in Ukraine and protest arrests in Russia. The death toll in one brief month's worth of fighting is horrendous; buildings can be rebuilt, but not shattered families. I know that we don't want to risk widening the war to an all-Europe conflict or a nuclear holocaust, but Russia must be stopped or world instability will result. Did we learn nothing from Neville Chamberlain's 'Peace in Our Time' debacle that collapsed Europe's will to resist Hitler's expansionist goals and led inevitably to a horrific world war because the world hesitated to take on a megalomaniac? I lived through WW2; it wasn't a fun time. We set up the United Nations in its aftermath to prevent a reoccurrence of war yet again in Europe and relative peace has lasted for 77 years, but here we are, repeating history and trying to assuage the hurt feelings of yet another megalomaniac monster. Nothing will satisfy Putin except total victory and the re-establishment of the historic Russian empire, with himself as a self-appointed czar and anyone who thinks that he will stop with destroying Ukraine is a fool. He won't. He already occupies parts of Georgia and Moldova, and Belarus is a cowered client state, completely subservient to Putin. Russian troops are propping up the inept government of Kazakhstan, and have seized a slice of Moldova. Who's next? Putin won't stop until he is stopped, and Ukraine can't do it on its own. All of us, together, can.

UKRAINE

I am not going to note the war in Ukraine except as it relates to mapping, and perhaps to travel. ITMB publishes a well-researched and popular map of the country, with good insets of Kyiv (Kiev) and Lviv (Lvov). Demand has been very brisk for this map since Russia invaded, and we have run out of inventory, suddenly, as a result. We are rushing a fresh edition into print. There are also excellent maps of the country by Freytag & Berndt and Gizimaps, and no doubt by other firms in Europe. I'm sure that all publishers/suppliers will do their best to keep ahead of rapidly depleting stock, but this war has erupted suddenly, even if we hoped against hope that it wouldn't, and we've all been caught short. We will do our best to keep maps related to Ukraine in stock.

KAPPA MAPS

I have learned from reputable sources that Kappa Maps, a major American publisher of folded road maps and of wall maps, is shrinking its coverage. It has closed its offices in Deland, Florida, and has stopped printing many of its American East Coast street atlases. Kappa is a very large firm that was formed out of several bankrupt firms during the Great Recession, such as ADC, American Map Corporation, Gousha, Mapsco, and Universal, among others, and at one time rivalled Rand McNally in size. Both companies have changed considerably since 2007.

SEAGER MAPS

A long-time regional map publisher in Racine, Wisconsin, also closed down in September, 2020, citing dropping sales due to Covid. Seager Mapping, founded by Norm Seager, published a successful line of city and state maps for many years, but found that changing demand for maps was more than they could cope with.

MICHELIN MAPS

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I have heard from two reputable sources that big changes are occurring at Michelin map division. Apparently, Michelin has made a deal with a French/Belgian media firm to take over the marketing of their map line. Michelin was one of the first companies in the world to publish road maps, starting in 1900, when cars were in their infancy as an industry. Of course, they did so to promote the sale of their tire line, but my point is that those with cars needed to find their way from A to B and desperately needed a map. Michelin is, as a result, one of the most recognizable brand names in our industry more than a century later. Now, however, things are in turmoil, as title after title goes out of print. Why is this happening? At the moment, quite a few titles are unavailable.

ENGLISH AS IT IS SPOKE

Every so often, I read something that reveals the origins of certain words or phrases, English being a much-misunderstood language full of seemingly non-sensical expressions. A recent novel talked about falconry and how it has morphed into something else in modern-day English. For this, we have Shakespeare to thank. Will was a keen falconer, as well as an immaculate playwright, and used falconry terms in many of his plays; for example, *The Taming of the Shrew*. Here are some examples:

1. To be fed up, in modern language, means to be frustrated at not getting what one wants. In the late 1500's, it referred to a falcon that had eaten too much and didn't want to fly or hunt as a result.
2. Under my thumb now usually means to have absolute control over someone else, either in dealing with children misbehaving or by threatening someone with exposure and thereby getting them to do something they otherwise favour doing. In Shakespeare's day, it merely meant holding the claws of a falcon so it couldn't fly off. The falconer would place his thumb over the falcon's claws while it rested on his arm, calming the bird and making it realize that it wasn't time to fly.
3. Similarly, the expression 'wrapped around my little finger', which nowadays usually refers to a spoiled child or a manipulative female, merely meant historically a means to control a falcon from flying off unexpectedly by holding the bird's legs so it couldn't fly off.
4. To be haggard nowadays means to look unsettled or worried to the point of it affecting one's appearance, but in falconry, it refers to a bird that is difficult to train or fly as the trainer wants.
5. Hoodwinked nowadays means being fooled or tricked, but to Shakespeare and falconers through the centuries, it means merely to cover the head of the bird with a leather cover so it can't see; thus, it can't fly, and is more amenable to being controlled.
6. Other words, such as sharp, meant having a falcon's exceptional vision; nowadays, it means either 'Be Careful', to have an object with a keen cutting aspect, or refers to a flashy dresser. Full-gorged means much the same today as hundreds of years ago. It means the bird (or yourself) has over-eaten. Stoop used to mean the moment when a soaring hunting bird would begin its plunge on its prey; nowadays, it means being bent over. The English language has evolved over 2,000 years, and has assimilated countless words and phrases over time. Modern-day English is a polyglot combination of many languages, not just Latin, German, and French, which is one reason it is used so widely in today's world.

NEW TITLES FROM ITMB

ITMB is pleased to be able to announce three brand new titles and one update that have arrived in our warehouse. Please see the details below. We have also received three further updates that we will be announcing in due course.

VIRTUALTRAVEL FOR THIS MONTH

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There are several extremely isolated islands in the mid-Atlantic Ocean that few people have visited, rather unfortunately, as they all are interesting in different ways. The Mid-Atlantic Range is an active volcanic strip of 'risings' that create volcanic islands from north to south. The most recent island in the world is Surtsey, a newly-created land mass off the coast of Iceland, created a few decades ago. The Canaries, the Azores, and Cape Verde are well-known touristic destinations off the coast of West Africa, and form part of the volcanic chain of islands dotting the Atlantic, as is St. Paul's, an island off the coast of Brasil. Much further south is a tiny speck of land called Ascension Island. It was discovered by the Portuguese in 1501 on Ascension Day (hence the name) and was taken over by Britain in 1815. Initially, it was administered as a ship of the Royal Navy, as it had no population except for the navy. This lasted for half a century, after which time the island was declared a dependency of equally-isolated Saint Helena, another volcanic outcrop, further south. This didn't work out particularly well during an era where everything travelled by ship, so in 1922, Ascension was declared a British colonial entity. Geologists claim that the island is long overdue for a volcanic eruption. I mentioned St. Helena, hundreds of nautical miles further south as being the next volcanic entity, then there is Tristan da Cunha, which had an eruption in 1965, Gough Island a bit further south, and Bouvet Island further south again, close to Antarctica. Until recently, the only way to reach the three major British entities was by ship from Cape Town, South Africa, but air service now makes tourism practical, if a bit expensive. It is on my bucket-list of places to go before I die.

WORK IN PROGRESS - all sellers/librarians please note

ITMB, as of early March, 2022, has ample inventory of almost all of the titles traditionally carried as part of our publishing line. However, as sales continue to improve, inventory is depleting. We ask for your understanding if a particular title happens to be unavailable in the short term. Generally, we have ample inventory. The following titles are under development:

Antigua & Barbuda – This title is now sold out, thanks to an unexpectedly large order. A fresh edition is in preparation, but at this stage, I have no ETA.

Austria – This is a double-sided mapping project that has been years in the making. ITMB introduced a single-sided map of Austria a few years ago, which sold, but did not do justice to an important country like Austria. As a result, we have re-worked the artwork into a double-sided map of the country and made it into a Rail/Road map. The artwork was printed, but had major printing errors, so has to be reprinted. No ETA

Florence and Northeastern Italy – One of the most-visited cities in Europe is Florence. This second edition map is being developed as a double-sided city and regional map covering all of Tuscany and surrounding provinces. The city itself needs no introduction to map sellers, so all I'll say is that it covers the urban area in excellent detail at an incredible 1:5,000 scale, showing all attractions. This map was ground-truthed during December and dozens of improvements noted. The artwork is being modified as a result. The regional side is completed, covering from Venice to Milan to below Sienna. No ETA

France Riviera/Mediterranean Coast – The south of France is very popular touristically, but it is traditionally divided into two parts – western Languedoc and eastern Provence (or Riviera). The distances involved are not great, so we are developing a double-sided map to show the entire coastal area. The line work has been completed, but the final touches will probably take another three months. No ETA.

Galapagos Islands – This title is now out of print. A fresh edition is in preparation, but at this stage, I have no ETA.

Indian Ocean – There has never been a travel map of the Indian Ocean. Ian thinks that the world needs such a map; therefore, ITMB is generating yet another first-of-its-kind maps, focusing on the touristic islands of this part of the great Pacific. It will be a double-sided map, with the Seychelles on the other side. Line work is advancing quickly, but it will take a few more months of effort to complete the artwork; no ETA.

Mexico – This title is now out of print. A fresh edition is already at press and expected in July.

North and South Dakota, plus Nebraska – ITMB is gradually extending its coverage of the USA via a series of state maps. The Dakotas form a natural entity for one side, and Nebraska for the reverse side. The line work is complete, and we are working on the final details. No ETA

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Richmond, British Columbia – That's right folks, something we do receive a constant stream of requests for is a map of our own city which, as we discovered, has never been properly mapped. As a result, the proof checking is taking longer than usual due to inaccurate info on various web sites. We have driven over 1,000 kms. Up to now, checking place names, landmark buildings, parks, bike trails, and newly-opened streets. We are also updating our Vancouver map at the same time to serve as a bike map for the reverse side of our Richmond map. Richmond will be the third segment of the Greater Vancouver region in our product line; ready, as always, when it is finished.

Russia's Heritage Cities – The current edition is out of inventory and consideration of a fresh edition is being developed in combination with a fresh map of European Russia (that portion west of the Urals). Due to the war in the Ukraine, this title is suspended indefinitely.

San Diego – We are soon to run out of copies of this popular title. A fresh edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Seychelles Islands – This will be another brand new title for ITMB. The artwork is progressing well, but there is still a lot to do before this map can go to press. No ETA.

Strathcona Park is now out of print and discontinued.

Uganda – Someone knows something that I don't! Suddenly, demand for Uganda has surged dramatically, and we have run out of inventory much sooner than expected. This forces us to adjust priorities and prepare a new edition, which is underway; no ETA at the moment.

Ukraine – The war has stimulated world-wide interest in this country, which is being savaged by Russian aggression. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in demand very quickly, and our inventory levels have dropped very quickly to zero. A new edition is being prepared, but is not yet ready to print. No ETA.

Yukon – Sadly, our current edition of Yukon is out of stock for a little while. A fresh edition has been printed and will be arriving shortly. It will have a somewhat new title of Yukon/BC North, and will have a new cover picture and ISBN. Coming soon!

NEW RELEASES: MARCH, 2022

Africa Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 1:4,800,000 ISBN 9781771290173 UPC 817712901736 \$15.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – Africa has been a severe Covid casualty area for the past two years. So has travel to Africa and sales of maps related to Africa. Mea culpa. Africa is a huge continent. No one apart from us has successfully prepared a digital data base for the entire continent and this edition includes numerous updates to road information and shifting political realities. As a continental map, this title is a bit different than most that we do. It needs to be printed on a larger press, for example, than is available in Canada. Fortunately, we were able to get it printed in the USA and shipped to us despite lockdowns and border restrictions at the height of Covid. Interest in, and travel to, Africa is now resuming. When considering a continent as diverse as Africa is, the normal comments about updates doesn't apply. Yes, we have updated roads whenever reliable data indicates improvements, such as connections between the southern tip of Morocco and the road leading to Nouakchott, in Mauritania. Politically, we all know of things that do not affect maps – the closed border between Algeria and Morocco, the coup in Guinea, the continued instability of Libya, the generally better degree of stability in Somalia, the on-going troubles in South Sudan – but generally, the continent of 54 nation states and a few colonial enclaves has survived two years of destabilizing Covid ravages rather well. Tourism is gradually recovering, and map sales improving. This is a very important map in that it brings all of the countries and islands relative to the African continent into perspective. We are pleased to bring to your attention an updated version of a part of the world that is crucially important. **AVAILABLE**

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Guam & West Pacific Cruising Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2022 1:55,000/1:12,000,000 ISBN 9781771293198 UPC 817712931086 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – For years now, I've been trying to persuade Lan to prepare a map of the US Pacific Territory of Guam. At first, she refused, because she mistook the name of the territory for the USS Guam, whose fighter planes had bombed Hanoi incessantly during the American/Vietnam War when she was growing up. Once she realized the difference, it took a few years for technology to catch up with reality and provide a good base map for us to use (thank you, American government!). We are very pleased to be (finally) able to publish the first travel map of the island of Guam. Certainly, this is the only map of Guam by any major cartographic publishing house. Here are some details: Guam is a north-south island considerably north of New Guinea, and forms part of the American-held group of islands known as the Northern Marianas. Its capital is Hagatna, and the main town is called Tamuning. The island has a well-developed international airport in the middle portion of the island, with a large US military airbase in the northeast corner. The vast majority of the island is touristic, and well worth a visit. The island was 'discovered' by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521, and Hagatna is the oldest 'European' city in the Pacific, dating from 1686. The town of Inarajan retains a decidedly Spanish appearance to this day. Other attractions include Tumon Beach and its many resorts, the Piti Underwater Observatory, and the famous Cocos Island dive wall. This is a double-sided map, with the Western Pacific Cruising map gracing the second side of the page. This side covers several island entities, and stretches from Australia in the south to Japan in the north and as far to the east as Hawaii and the Cook Islands, so includes such popular cruise destinations as Fiji, Tonga, New Caledonia, the Solomons, Papua, Samoa, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands. It makes a lovely wall map! **AVAILABLE**

Mexico: Chihuahua & Coahuila States Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2022 1:750,000 9781771294768 UPC 817712947680 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – Northern Mexico is a vast desert-like plateau deeply steeped in Spanish colonial heritage. The very first settlement inside what is now the USA was the town of Presidio (long before the English thought of settling Jamestown) and is still one of the few crossings of the Rio Grande into Texas (itself a former Mexican province). There are two major cities in the region, Chihuahua, 300 kms south of El Paso, and Monterrey, the largest city in northern Mexico. There are major touristic attractions at Monclova, Saltillo, Parras, Torreon, and Cuauhtemoc, the end of the famous Copper Canyon rail line. The map extends a bit into Sinaloa, to include Los Mochis on the Pacific coastline. The entire rail line is also shown. This is an important part of North American history. It may not be as well-known to Europeans who favour the beaches of the Yucatan, but it is a fascinating part of Mexico on the American border. Ciudad Juarez, for example, is larger than its partner on the Rio Grande, El Paso. An inset map of the old colonial city of Saltillo is included, as well as our Top Attractions list. **AVAILABLE**

Mississippi River Basin Nap, see New Orleans, below

New Orleans & Mississippi River Basin Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2022 1:15,000/1:1,800,000 ISBN 9781771295758 UPC 817712957580 \$11.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – ITMB is pleased to continue its detailed coverage of the USA with its first-ever map of the historic City of New Orleans. The urban area was settled by the French, and was the capital of the vast Louisiana Territory for many years. Napoleon, needing money to fight his many wars, sold the colony to the USA, in 1803, doubling the size of the new American nation overnight. The French Quarter, with buildings dating back 300 years, is the heart of the city and home to dozens of jazz emporiums. The British expulsion of the Acadians from what is now the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, added a vibrant component to the city, creating the concept of the Cajuns. The oldest cathedral in the USA, St Louis, has dominated the city's skyline since 1794, opened just as the French Revolution was at its height. The city offers much more than just music, however. The Louisiana State Museum is where the agreement to Purchase the colony was made. The National WW2 Museum is a great repository of artifacts from the war. The residential Garden District is loaded with historic mansions – but face it, we all go to Big Ol to enjoy jazz and eat seafood, don't we? The reverse side of the sheet is one of those unique maps ITMB enjoys preparing. The Louisiana Territory was essentially the river basin of the Mississippi River. On this side, we have portrayed the heartland of America. It has many names: The Mid-West, the Great Plains, the vast interior of America. Our map goes as far north as Milwaukee, Minnesota and as far west as Omaha, Nebraska, but is essentially a map of the great Mississippi River as it moves south through Dubuque to St. Louis, to Memphis, Vicksburg, and Natchez, to flow into the Gulf of Mexico; truly a magnificent map! **AVAILABLE**

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Western Pacific Cruising Map, see Guam, above

NEW RELEASES: FEBRUARY, 2022

Arizona/New Mexico Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2022 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771290227 UPC 817712902276 \$11.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – ITMB is pleased to announce the release of our updated Arizona and New Mexico maps, printed in a double-sided format, with each state having its own side. This version includes two separate covers, one for each state, to enhance marketing possibilities, and the addition of two Top Attractions listings, one for each state. The Arizona side has a detailed inset map of Flagstaff, showing the path of Route 66 through the city streets. The New Mexico side includes a large inset of Albuquerque, also including the Route 66 passageway through the city. **AVAILABLE**

Burkina Faso & West Africa Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2021 1:950,000/1:4,800,000 ISBN 9781771290920 UPC 817712909206 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – Burkina Faso is a land-locked country in West Africa, bounded by Mali, Niger, and four Gulf of Benin states. It is one of the most interesting African states for tourism, with several national parks and game preserves, and two World Heritage sites. The main east-west highway is now complete, with links to its southern neighbouring states; the north, however, remains largely undeveloped, with mostly dirt roads. The map side showing the country includes insets of Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso, the two main cities, and a listing of the Top Attractions. The second side of the sheet is a new addition to this map, being a detailed map of all of West Africa, including the Canary and Azores islands off the western coast, and of Sao Tome y Principe close to Gabon. The two portions of Equatorial Guinea are also included. This is a very useful map of half a dozen Sahel countries and a dozen sub-Sahel entities. ITMB publishes individual country maps of many of the West African nation states, but this is the only one showing such areas as Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, and Equatorial Guinea. **AVAILABLE**

Kilimanjaro/ Tanzania North Travel Reference Map 6th Ed. 2022 1:63,000/1:3,000,000 ISBN 9781771294140 UPC 817712941404 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – Kili remains eternally popular. This most recent update includes a listing of Top attractions for this dormant volcano. The reverse side of the map covers all of northern Tanzania and the portion of Kenya that includes Nairobi. The islands of Pemba and Zanzibar are also shown. This side also includes an inset map of Arusha, the town from which almost all treks to Kilimanjaro begin, an inset of Dar es Salaam, and another of Stone City, in Zanzibar. This map recently won an award from the International Mountaineering Association for excellence. **AVAILABLE**

New Mexico, see Arizona, above

Tanzania, Northern Half, see Kilimanjaro, above

NEW RELEASES: JANUARY, 2022

Amazon & Brasil North Travel Reference Map 6th Ed. 2021 1:3,000,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771290203 UPC 817712902030 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – We first mapped the Amazon River Basin for a rainforest protection conference many years ago, preparing what we thought was a pretty good rendition until we arrived at a conference full of experts who were able to add so much more data that we re-did the map before publishing it. We have updated it repeatedly as more information has come to light and are pleased to release this sixth version, which does something that we have wanted to do for some time – it adds a detailed map of the northern half of Brazil/Brasil to a river map that covers portions of seven different countries. The map is printed on revolutionary stone paper (tear-resistant, waterproof, friendly to the environment, and bio-degradable as well as extremely durable), and has two different cover pictures, so it can be marketed either as a map of Brasil or of the Amazon Basin; it is also the only map of the river basin in print. **AVAILABLE**

Brasil North Travel Reference Map, see Amazon, above

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France Atlantic Coast Rail and Bike Map 1st Ed. 2022 1:600,000 ISBN 9781771292887 UPC 817712928870 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – France is a rather large country, and while it can be portrayed on a map as a country, mapping it in segments provides an opportunity to concentrate on regions at a better scale. This map, covering the coastal region of France from the Cotentin Peninsula south to the Spanish border and east as far as Paris and Montpellier in Languedoc is the first of what we hope will be a series covering the country at an improved scale. The second title, covering the Mediterranean Coastal region, is now underway. This map is double-sided, covering from Quimper and Paris at the northernmost portion of coverage, to Angouleme and Clermont at the southern extreme on one side, with the second side covering from Bordeaux and St-Etienne south to Bayonne/Pamplona and Nimes/Avignon in the south. **AVAILABLE**

North and West Vancouver Cities Street Maps, see Vancouver, below

Queensland (Australia) Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2022 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771296334 UPC 817712964342 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.96GBP – We complete our series of regional maps covering Australia with this map of Queensland, which nicely fills a double-sided sheet with only small portions of adjoining states showing. The map also includes a large inset map of central Brisbane. At this scale, the road/rail network of this part of Australia becomes very clear. **AVAILABLE**

Russia Far East Republic, see Kamchatka, above

Spain South Half Road and Rail Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2022 1:700,000 ISBN 9781771297264 UPC 817712972644 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – The southern half of Spain (and of Portugal, which is also included) consists of the portion from Toledo/Castellon south to the Mediterranean. Side 1 (the cover side) focuses on the eastern portion, from Granada to the coast, including the Balearic islands of Mallorca, Menorca, and Ibiza, and the other side the portion of Spain west of Granada, including that portion of Portugal from north of Lisbon to the Algarve. Gibraltar is included, as are the Straits and the Spanish enclave of Ceuta and part of Tangier. **AVAILABLE**

Vancouver North and West Biking and Hiking Map 1:20,000/1:55,000 1st Ed. ISBN 9781771298735 UPC 817712987358 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – North Vancouver and West Vancouver are separate municipalities located on the north shore of Burrard Inlet (the harbour). There are four municipalities on the north shore, all of which are named after Captain George Vancouver, the renowned British naval explorer and mapper. This is the first-ever street map of all four municipalities, but more importantly, the north shore communities is where the mountains that make the Vancouver area so attractive are located. This means that this is where all the ski resorts exist, all the downhill skiing is done, where the 2010 Olympic Games were carried out, and where dozens of biking routes, hiking trails, and recreational opportunities exist. **AVAILABLE**

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