



## ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS
- ITM DISTRIBUTION

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## AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #12 OF 2024 – Early December

### INTRODUCTION

The end of the calendar year is always a hectic time for our business. This will be our last newsletter for 2024, so it is the last chance to let you know about new releases until next year! 2024 will go down in our history of ITMB as the time when we discarded thousands of copies of maps that may well have been still saleable, but were becoming dated. We wanted to bring out fresh editions, which unfortunately is taking longer than expected. For example, our map of Iraq was last done while American forces were still actively running the country and demand was brisk. That country is now settling down to be a 'regular' if somewhat unstable country and while market demand still exists for a good map of Iraq, we found ourselves with much more inventory than could be justified. We have to keep our product line current. We sold relatively few copies of maps during the three years of Covid, so I've been spending far too much time driving to paper recycling during the year. Not all of the new editions have arrived back from the printer yet, but our ITM line is in much better shape than it was a year ago. Of course, we would not be able to churn out new editions at the rate we do without orders coming in, so thank you very much for your continued support. 2025 already looks promising as a great year for travel, but everything depends on what happens during the incoming Trump administration. We'll all have to wait and see! All the best to you during the holiday season. It appears that 65 new maps have been released by ITMB during 2024.

### NEW TITLES

Since the last newsletter, we have received two shipments from our printer. There is one sort-of brand new title. **Portugal** is now a double-sided country map. As well, new editions of **Albania, Jersey/Guernsey, Sumatra, Tokyo, Uruguay/Montevideo**, and **Whistler and Region** have all arrived. 2024 has been an uneven year for travel. Certain destinations have become extremely popular, while others, that used to be popular, have not yet recovered from the Covid era. We also live in a much more unstable world these days and political instability is affecting travel. Not too many people are interested in visiting Haiti these days, or Myanmar, or Sudan. I wonder why! Gaza is pretty much a no-go part of the world right now, as is Lebanon, although that might be short-term, and I wouldn't recommend going to Iran or Syria at the moment. Russia and Belarus are suffering under sanctions as a result of the war in Ukraine, so neither of these countries is attractive for tourism for the foreseeable future. ITMB publishes maps of countries and cities all over the world, so political instability directly affects our business. We do our best to keep maps in print, but we're struggling to keep popular titles in print, so there may be some delays between editions of slower-selling titles.

### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2024 saw a great resurgence of people travelling again. 2025 promises to be an even better year, provided peace and stability prevail in most parts of the world. ITMB saw significant growth in 2023, but that year was marred by too many countries being overly cautious about opening for tourism. Japan comes to mind as a country nervous about allowing visitors to enter, but they did, and nothing happened. Travel to Japan surged in 2024, making Japan the Number One travel destination in Asia. Portugal saw a significant growth in tourism during 2024. So did New Zealand and less so, Australia. Africa and South America showed only modest signs of growth, but sales of maps increased gradually as the year progressed. Israel remains popular, despite the on-going war in Gaza, but we have seen a decline in sales of maps of Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria; also for Iran, but not for Egypt or Jordan, or Saudi Arabia, Dubai, or Oman. Afghanistan is, of course, beyond the Pale for most travellers, but we still sell a surprising number of maps. A fresh edition will be coming out during 2025. Kazakhstan will have its own country map in 2025, as will Uzbekistan, as both countries have proven to be popular during 2024. Travel within North America recovered nicely during 2023, and this continued through 2024, resulting in unexpected surges that depleted inventory much faster than expected for certain areas within the continent. Florida, for example, has recently surged in sales for us, as has Mexico City. As a result, **we** expect to see new versions of Chicago, Las Vegas, Manhattan, and Southern Ontario early in 2025. Our sales in 2024 will almost approximate what we did in 2019, which was the last 'normal' year for business, but unit sales are still below pre-Covid levels. We'll all have to wait and see what 2025 brings. The prospects of massive tariffs and a trade war devastating the USA are a worry!

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### SYRIA

Every so often in world history, something momentous happens. On December 7<sup>th</sup> of this year, the brutal dictatorship that has ruled Syria for half a century has been overthrown, Assad has fled, with Russian help, and a coalition of rebel forces is in control in Damascus, but not in the entire country. The northeast is controlled by Kurdish forces, the Russians still control part of the western coastline, American forces are in place in the southeast corner of Syria, Turkish forces are active in the north, and no doubt Israel is quietly making sure that Syria's military might is being destroyed. What will transpire over the coming days is anyone's guess. At this point in time, ITMB wishes to remind those who are interested that we have an excellent map of Syria with a very detailed inset map of central Damascus. This map may prove to be of interest to governments, aid agencies, refugee resettlement organizations, or even armchair followers of events. Ordering information is included in our New Releases section, although this is not a brand new release. It came out earlier in 2024.

### PRICES FOR ITMB MAPS

There will be no changes in pricing for ITMB maps during 2025, except for the obvious. As older (and lower-priced) editions are replaced by new ones, prices for those maps may increase somewhat, but not for existing titles. I wish to add a proviso to that statement, and that is, provided that the world continues much as it did during 2024. The new Trump administration in the USA is indicating that it wishes to make significant changes in economic policies, such as imposing blanket tariffs. At time of writing, announcements by Trump and touted incoming senior officials do not give one confidence that competent individuals will be managing large and complex departments. This is concerning. Where travel is concerned, stability is everything. Ditto for international trade.

### BORDERS

Showing borders correctly on a map is the bane of cartography. So many countries lay claim to neighbouring territory that the only solution is to note on the map "claimed by X, occupied by Y". Occasionally, borders are settled by agreement. For example, part of the border between Switzerland and Italy was re-drawn during 2024, due to glacial melting. Part of the area affected is in the immediate vicinity of Mont Blanc, such as the Plateau Rosa, the Carrel Refuge, and Gobba di Rollin. These changes are small and do not materially affect travel maps. This is a clarification that needed to be made as a result of global warming, but isn't it nice that the process could take place peacefully, by mutual agreement. Right now, we are updating our map of Pakistan and are struggling with borders. Part of the country is occupied by China, and part of Kashmir is controlled by India. We are neutral, but many countries are extremely sensitive to how borders are portrayed on maps.

### WORK IN PROGRESS - all sellers/librarians please note:

ITMB, as of early November, 2024, has ample inventory of almost all of the titles traditionally carried as part of our publishing line, albeit too many are unavailable at the moment. We ask for your understanding if a particular title happens to be unavailable in the short term.

**Africa East and Central** is out of print and discontinued. Please order **Africa central & south** and **Africa East Coast**, which are available.

**Andorra/Pyrenees** is now out of print. An updated edition has been printed and should arrive before 2025. Please order using the former ISBN for now.

**Angola** has suddenly run out of copies. A new edition is at press, but won't be available before 2025.

**Arizona/New Mexico** just ran out of copies. Please order **Grand Canyon & Arizona** until the new edition arrives.

**Canary Islands** has run out of copies, so it is being updated for release in early 2025; no ETA.

**Chad** is now out of print. A fresh edition is being prepared, but is not expected until early 2025. No ETA.

**Chicago** has suddenly run out of copies due to a surge in demand. An updated edition has been sent to the printer and is expected in January.

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**Congo/Central African Republic** is also out of print. A fresh edition has been sent to our printer; no ETA.

**Dubai** is out of print. A fresh edition has been printed and should arrive in early January. Please continue to order using the current ISBN for now.

**Fiji/Tonga** has run out of copies. A fresh edition has been printed and should arrive in early January. Please continue to order using the former ISBN for now.

**Finland** has run out of copies. A new double-sided map of the country will be released in 2025, but for now, please order our ITMB map of **Finland & Sweden**.

**Great Britain** has run out of copies. A fresh edition is being prepared; no ETA.

**Helsinki/Southern Finland** is out of print and going to press during December. No ETA.

**Iraq** has run out of copies of the current edition. A fresh edition is being updated and should go to the printer during December.

**Las Vegas** is now out of stock. An updated edition is at the printer; expected in early January. Please continue to order, using the existing ISBN.

**Lebanon/Beirut** has seen a sudden surge in sales, probably due to the fighting. As a result, copies became depleted to zero pretty quickly. A fresh edition is being prepared for release early in 2025. No ETA.

**Manhattan** is now out of print, having experienced an unexpected surge in demand. An updated map, including a brand new map of the **USA Northeast Corridor**, is at the printer and is expected in early January. Please continue to order using the existing ISBN.

**Mongolia** is now out of stock. An updated edition has been printed and will be available in mid-January. Please continue using the old ISBN for now.

**New Guinea** is currently out of stock. A new edition has been prepared and is at press; no ETA.

**Oahu/Big Island** is a popular Hawaiian destination. Unfortunately, we have run out of copies and a fresh edition won't be available until early 2025. Please order our **Honolulu/Oahu** and **Hawaii Volcanoes NP & Big Island** maps for now.

**Quebec/Ontario Atlas** is out of print and discontinued.

**Senegal/Gambia** has now run out of copies. An updated edition is being prepared; no ETA at the moment.

**Sierra Leone** is now out of stock. A fresh edition is being prepared for release in 2025; no ETA.

**Southern Ontario** is out of print. A fresh edition has been sent to press and is expected in late December. Please order using the current ISBN for now.

**Tahiti/French Polynesia** is almost out of copied. A fresh edition is at press; no ETA.

**Taiwan** is now out of print. A fresh edition has been printed. Please order using ISBN 9781771298070

**Uganda** has run out of copies. A fresh edition has been printed and is expected during December. Please continue to order using the existing ISBN for now.

**USA Northeast** has run out of copies. It will be replaced by a new map of New England early in 2025; no ETA.

**Venezuela** has run out of inventory. This is a difficult country to update, due to political instability. A fresh edition should be available in early 2025.

**Zurich/Northern Switzerland** has run out of copies unexpectedly. A new map of **Switzerland** is being prepared, along with a new edition of **Geneva and Western Switzerland**. This will result in a short-term loss of maps covering this important part of Europe, but will result in three exciting new maps in 2025.

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### NEW RELEASES TO MID-DECEMBER, 2024

**Albania Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:210,000 ISBN 9781771290371 UPC 817712903716 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – Tiny Albania is one of Europe's hidden treasures. It is a Mediterranean country, like Greece, with lovely beaches and interesting towns. It is moderate politically and religiously. The scenery is lovely and the people friendly. This newly-updated edition has a new cover picture, and a revamped scale of 1:120,000. Side 1 shows the southern half of the country, with detailed inset maps of Berat, Gjirokastra, Korca, and Vlore, while side 2 shows the northern portion, with inset maps of Durrës, Shkoder, and Tirane (the capital). This is a country well-worth visiting and a map well-worth having. **AVAILABLE**

**Guernsey Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:18,000 ISBN 9781771293938** – see Jersey for description

**Jersey & Guernsey Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:18,000 ISBN 9781771293938 UPC 817712939388 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – The Channel Islands are just off the coast of Normandy and are still the possession of the Duke of Normandy, who happens to be King Charles III of Great Britain. They are the only parts of Normandy still in the possession of England. The two main islands are Jersey, with its capital of Saint Helier, and Guernsey, with its capital of Saint Peter. There are several smaller islands – Alderney, Herm, Jethou, and Sark, but the principal touristic destinations are Jersey on side 1 and Guernsey on Side 2. All roads and touristic attractions are shown, and the scale is such that virtually every street in every town shows. This map has two covers – one portraying Jersey and the other showing Guernsey, for ease of marketing. This is the most comprehensive map of these islands ever published. See above for my note about Guernsey. **AVAILABLE**

**Portugal Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2025 1:500,000 ISBN 9781771296359 UPC 817712963598 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – We are very pleased to be able to release a double-sided detailed map of Portugal. Although we have included the country in previous maps, it was always as an adjunct to another map (Spain and Portugal, Portugal and Southern Spain etc.), so it is high time that this very nice and touristically popular country had its own ITM map. Being a long, rather thin country, Side 1 concentrates on Lisbon and the southern half of Portugal with a detailed inset map of Lisbon. It also includes the Spanish provinces of Huelva and Badajoz. Side 2 covers the northern half of the country along with portions of neighbouring Spanish provinces. As a country, Portugal has a wealth of touristic attractions and we have included as many as we can on this map without cluttering it – castles, palaces, fortresses, cathedrals and churches, dozens of museums, beaches, a few hotels, mines, monuments, and just about everything a visitor would want to have. Of course, motorways, highways, secondary routes, rail lines, ferry services, and geographic heights of land are also included; altogether, a fabulous map for a wonderful country. **AVAILABLE**

**Sumatra Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2025 1:1,100,000 ISBN 9781771297387 UPC 817712973870 \$14.94cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – The Indonesian island of Sumatra is not only the largest portion of this nation of islands, it is also very close to Singapore and Malaysia, so has easy connections to both countries as well as to other parts of Indonesia. Side 1 shows the northern portion of Sumatra, with an excellent inset map of Medan, its major city. Several offshore islands are included, as well as a significant Top Attractions list. Side 2 shows the bulk of the island as well as a portion of southern Malaysia, Singapore, and various islands in the vicinity. Ferry routes to Java, Malacca (part of Malaysia), the Lingga and Riau Archipelagoes and Singapore are included, as well as inset maps of Padang and Palembang, the two major cities in the south. Sumatra has a well-developed road network along its western side, but not along its eastern portion, except in the far north. Thus, the island remains a place for adventure travel waiting to be discovered. **AVAILABLE**

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**Syria Travel Reference Map (with Jordan) 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 1:825,000 (inset of Damascus at 1:8,700) ISBN 9781771293921 UPC 817712939210 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – This 4<sup>th</sup> edition map came out earlier in 2024 and is repeated here as a result of the recent overthrow of the government of Syria by a coalition of rebel forces. As this is written, it is only a few hours after rebel forces seized Damascus and the country's dictator fled with Russian assistance. Once the immediate euphoria dissipates, whoever eventually emerges as the new leader of the country will have his hands full. So will the leaders of surrounding countries. So will the great powers. The ramification of this change will reverberate throughout the Middle East. What will Israel do? How will this affect events in Lebanon? Will the Kurdish-controlled northeast co-operate with the emerging government? Will the Russians be forced out? Or the Americans? Or the Turks? How about the Iranians, who backed Assad for years? There are many questions emerging; all ITMB can do is present an excellent map of the country for those interested.

**AVAILABLE**

**Tokyo & Kanto/Chubu Regions Travel Reference Map 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:14,000/1:600,000 ISBN 9781771298094 UPC 817712980946 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – Tokyo is one of the largest and most complex cities in the world. As the capital of Japan and close to the international airports of Narita and Haneda, it is the entry point for most visitors to Japan. As well, it is an interesting city and a historic centre, full of touristic sites well-worth a visit, fabulous shopping experiences, and a transit network that is very easy to use. Our map covers the touristic centre of a vast urban complex, from Shinjuku in the west to Asakusa in the east and from the Ginza north to Ikebukuro. The streets, rail lines, and rapid transit lines are all shown, as well as a large inset map showing the many transit rail options throughout the Tokyo region. The city includes an anomaly unlike any other city. In most of it, there are no street names, just neighbourhoods and districts, so names such as Ginza, Shibuya, Chiyoda, and Bunkyo become essential to determine where one is in the urban area. We have tried to name all these subdivisions. When in doubt, rely on subway station names. Side 2 of the map is actually an excellent regional map of central Japan, centred on the Tokyo urban agglomeration. Essentially, it covers Kanto and Chubu Provinces (hence the name on the cover) and covers such touristically important aspects as Mount Fuji, Nagoya, Kyoto, and Osaka. As such, this map becomes significantly important for tourists because it covers both the capital and many of the most visited portions of the country. **AVAILABLE**

**Uruguay & Montevideo Travel Reference Map 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 1:770,000/1:10,000 ISBN 9781771298599 UPC 817712985996 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – The South American country of Uruguay is popular touristically. Side 1 covers the city of Montevideo, the capital, from the harbour to the Tres Cruces shopping area and international bus terminal. The Ciudad Viejo (old town) is close to the ferry terminal linking the city to Buenos Aires, in Argentina. It is also the focal point of interest for visitors. The adjacent Centro is the main shopping/entertainment focal point for the city and the location of most of the hotels. Side 2 shows the entire country, with its connections to Brasil, Buenos Aires, and central Argentina. Uruguay has a very sophisticated roadway network (unfortunately, no trains) and is a haven of stability in a continent that all too often seems somewhat volatile. This side also includes two inset maps of interesting touristic-oriented towns – Punta del Este and Colonia del Sacramento (a short ferry ride from Buenos Aires), both of which are ocean resort towns east and west of Montevideo. The Rio de la Plata separates Uruguay both on its southern portion and on its western border with Argentina. This is an oft-ignored country, but it is peaceful, touristically popular, and easy to reach. Fortunately, it now has a very good map!

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**USA Southwest States Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed 2023 on waterproof paper 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771298551 UPC 817712985514 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95** – The three southwestern states of the USA are extremely popular travel destinations. California (south of Sacramento), Nevada, and Arizona are home to some fifty million residents and the location of many of the best-known travel destinations in the world. One just has to mention Hollywood, Disneyland, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Tucson, or Yosemite and realize that all of these wonderful places to see are on one map to realize why this map is so popular. This particular edition came out some time ago. When it arrived in our warehouse, we still had enough inventory of the previous edition to last us a couple of months. We just forgot to let everyone know that this is a new edition, so this is a reminder to everyone to check your data bases and make sure that you have the correct edition noted! The map itself, at a scale appropriate for the region, allows enough opportunities to meet the expectations of most visitors driving through Death Valley, Lake Tahoe, Joshua Tree National Park, Tombstone, or Route 66. As a bonus, a portion of southern Utah is included, including Bryce Canyon and Monument Valley. This is a wonderful map; sorry it took so long to be announced! **AVAILABLE**

**Whistler and Region Travel Reference Map 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 1:50,000/1:250,000 ISBN 9781771299039 UPC 817712990396 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95** – This most recent edition of one of North America's most popular winter resort ski towns has a slight change of name from its previous edition. The Sea to Sky Highway proved to be a name known only locally, so we have generalized the title to focus on the principal destination, Whistler itself. The Whistler/Blackcomb mountain complex was the site of the 2010 Winter Olympics and has only grown in size and range of activities since then. Side 1 concentrates on the Whistler reality in a series of insets, one showing the Sea to Sky Highway from Vancouver to the town, another the village (really a town) itself, a new bike park that has been recently expanded, and the ski areas that are adjacent to the town. The hiking areas close to Garibaldi Lake are also shown. A Top Attractions list is included. Side 2 is an innovative topographical map of the Vancouver/Victoria/Whistler overall region, prepared for the Olympics and updated by ITMB. It crosses the border in the south to include a bit of the mainland USA area close to the border, the San Juan Islands that were the cause of the longest war in American history until the recent era, a goodly portion of Vancouver Island, the Vancouver urban agglomeration, the Sunshine Coast, the Coast Mountain chain to north of Pemberton, and Golden Ears Park just west of Harrison Hot Springs. **AVAILABLE**

### **NEW RELEASES DURING LATE OCTOBER and EARLY NOVEMBER, 2024**

**London & Southeast England Travel Reference Map 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771294461 UPC 817712944610 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95** – London is one of the most visited cities in the world, with a treasure-trove of attractions. The theatres of the West End are marvellous, and the many churches and cathedrals are well worth exploring. The British Museum is so large that it is impossible to see everything. This is our sixth attempt to map London comprehensively and attractively. With this edition, we have started noting a selection of notable pubs, such as The Old Cheshire Cheese and the Hung, Drawn, and Quartered (which is close to the Tower, and was the site of gruesome executions for centuries). We have increased the scale to make the map more user-friendly, so the coverage is from Paddington to Tower Hill and King's Cross to Vauxhall. A list of Top Attractions has been added, and believe me, it was difficult to limit ourselves to nine! The reverse side covers what the Brits love to call the 'Home Counties' in the hinterland of London. Essentially, this means from Dover west to Salisbury and from the Isle of Wight north to Bishop's Stortford (site of Stanstead airport). Dozens of touristic attractions have been included, as well as a list of Top Attractions close to London. All main rail lines are shown, including the fast-line connections that are becoming dominant in the UK as well as in Europe. The enhanced scale of 1:250T also makes it possible to show most tertiary laneways leading to quaint villages. **AVAILABLE**

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**Norway Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed 2025 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771295857 UPC 817712958570 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – Norway remains one of the most popular countries in Europe to visit. It is, of course, one of the safest countries in the world, which is important, but it is extremely geographically attractive as well as welcoming. It is also a deceptively large country, which is why we have divided it into a north and a south half. The map shows rail lines as well as motorways and main highways. The country also maintains an enormous fleet of coastal vessels, which are a very pleasant way to explore fiords or avoid mountainous roads. Portions of Sweden and Finland also are included, as well as a tiny bit of Russia. Border crossings within Scandinavia are not shown, as they don't apply within the EU, but those to Russia are included. Unfortunately, due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, all land crossings to Russia have been closed until further notice. The map includes a list of Top Attractions. **AVAILABLE**

**Panama Travel Reference Map 11<sup>th</sup> Ed 2025 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771296342 UPC 817712963420 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – Panama is emerging as a major country of touristic interest, with its popularity attested to by the fact that this is our 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. Side 1 covers the country from the Costa Rican border to the Canal region, showing roads and attractions, such as Boquete and Santa Fe. The second side continues east of the Canal to the border with Colombia. It also includes a detailed inset map of the portion of the Canal of greatest interest to visitors and an equally detailed street map of central Panama City, the capital. The city's new Metro rapid-transit line is now shown, as is the improved causeway to the nearby offshore islands. We have not included the transit route through the Darien Gap that is used by desperate families trying to reach safety in America, as we feel that were we to do so, it may encourage even more tragedies. Regardless, Panama, and neighbouring Costa Rica, remain touristically popular. **AVAILABLE**

### **NEW RELEASES DURING LATE SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER, 2024**

**Cape Town & Garden Route Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2024 1:10,000/1:1,300,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771291873 UPC 817712918734 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95 – AVAILABLE**

**Pacific Coast Trail (USA) Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2025 1:900,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771296304 UPC 817712963048 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE (described in the September Axis newsletter) – issued in late September**

**Taiwan & Taipei Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 1:386,000/1:16,000 ISBN 9781771298070 UPC 817712980700 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10,90 – AVAILABLE**

**Yukon & British Columbia North Travel Reference Map 11<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 1:400,000/1:900,000 ISBN 9781771299237 UPC 817712992376 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE**

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