



## **ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.**

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
- **ITM DISTRIBUTION**

**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 #2 OF 2021 – February: Note the New Releases!!!**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

As the world moves further into the New Year, there is increasing evidence that the virus is starting to be brought under control. Contagion remains exceptionally high, and new variants are causing great concerns, but vaccines are starting to have an impact. The Americans are finally concentrating on bringing the raging monster under control, and new infections and hospitalizations are decreasing, at least for now. This is VERY good news. Vaccine is still in desperately short supply, and much of Europe remains in dire circumstances, with shortages being severe. Canada is incredibly short of vaccine. International travel is increasingly shut down, which is bad news for the map industry, but this is short term. ITMB remains open, as it has been throughout the course of Covid-19, and we are hard at work producing exciting new maps. We will experience better times in 2021; just hang in there for three more months!

#### **NEW TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS DUE TO COVID VARIANTS**

I am most familiar with the Canadian reality, but all governments are restricting travel in one way or another. The reason is the growing realization that the Covid-19 virus is mutating into more virulent forms. Canada has just suspended all flights to Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America for the next three months. This is an enormous blow to the travel industry, but the airlines have been persuaded to comply. International arrivals are now limited to four designated airports, and all arriving passengers must quarantine (at their expense) in an approved hotel even if they arrive with a negative certificate. Flights from the UK have been suspended indefinitely. Canada has also recently suspended all cruise ships from Canadian waters for the next year. Think what that will do for the cruise ship industry! Vancouver is, or was in 2018, the largest cruise ship terminal in the world. Flights from South Africa to Canada have also been suspended, although there are no direct flights between the two countries. The Americans, under the new Biden administration, are moving quickly to close the many travel loopholes Trump allowed to continue. They also are restricting international flights to a greater extent than previously and are advising (finally!) against internal air flights. Masks are now being mandated on all forms of public transportation, and testing of travellers ramped up at both departures and arrivals, at least in airports, and hopefully in rail and bus hubs. I am not familiar with travel restrictions in either Europe or Asia, but I imagine that governments everywhere are imposing similar limitations. This is a short-term reality we all have to accept as being necessary. Vaccination is proceeding, and we are seeing its benefits already, but as of the end of February, far too many people remain on waiting lists to be immunized. Hopefully, the situation will continue to improve through March.

#### **PUBLISHING DURING 2020: NEW ITMB RELEASES**

I received a phone call from a customer in Kentucky recently, requesting ITMB's 2020 catalogue. I explained why we did not have an updated listing of titles available from our firm, due to Covid, but he was most insistent that he receive our latest information. By his way of talking, I realized that he was elderly and probably was uncomfortable with electronic viewing of our web site, so I agreed to print out and mail to him all the titles released by ITMB during 2020. Considering that we were more or less shut down for several months due to Covid-19 health requirements, I was surprised to discover 31 new releases during 2020, and a further 9 to date in 2021. Here they are in alphabetic order:

**For 2020 –Banff, Barbados, Boston, Botswana/Zimbabwe, Brasil, Brisbane/Queensland, Bulgaria, Egypt & Cairo, England South East/Central, Ethiopia/Eritrea, France South, Italy North, Italy Rail, Italy South, New Zealand North, Nova Scotia/PEI, Panama Canal, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, Quebec City/Gaspe, Scotland Far North, Shanghai, South Australia/Northern Territory, Spitsbergen, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkmenistan/Afghanistan, Western Australia, Yellowstone National Park, and finally, Zambia.**

**For January, 2021 alone, we have released Atlantic Canada, Cyprus, Everest/Himalaya, France North, Japan Central, Mount Fuji, Spain North, Tofino, and Yosemite National Park. Five more titles are at press and expected back shortly, and a further three are at press and expected in April. Ten more titles are in production and at various stages of completion. These are listed below under Work In Progress.**

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I admit that, during a normal year, ITMB's rate of releases would be considerably higher than the numbers above, but demand for maps dropped dramatically in 2020 as a result of travel restrictions necessitated by the Covid virus, and as I write, many countries are imposing even stricter travel restrictions as the virus mutates into more virulent forms. Thus, despite working in self isolation, and having virtually no staff for the past year, ITMB has still managed to publish more titles than the rest of the mapping world put together! It appears that self-isolating since March is having a positive effect! Who would have thought, eh?

### **VIRTUAL TRAVEL IN 2021: SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ENGLAND**

Unfortunately, Covid-19 is lingering longer than hoped for, and we are still in a situation where travel is almost impossible, especially to hard-hit Britain, but we can still travel there in our imaginations. England has been a politically unified 'state' for well over a thousand years, but this was not always the case. The Romans occupied most of what we now think of as England, excluding Cornwall, Scotland and Wales, for about 350 years, but their control over the northern portions was tenuous at best (hence, Hadrian's Wall).

Their abrupt departure in 410AD collapsed the economy and created a huge political vacuum, which was filled by invading Angles, Saxons, Danes, and Norsemen, carving what had been a prosperous Roman colony into competing mini-states of Anglia, Wessex, Mercia, and Northumbria over the next several centuries. Then came King Alfred who, in 858AD, controlled only a small portion of what would become Somerset. He had a vision of uniting all the Saxon areas into one and achieved much during his lifetime, including adding what had been the adjacent area of Anglia to what we called Wessex to create a viable state.

His daughter managed to bring Mercia (the area north of the Severn and east of Wales) under Arthur's son's control, and her son Athelstan unified the three former nations into one. This created what we would think of as southern England as far north as Chester in the west, but not quite as far as Lincoln in the east. Alfred the Great's statue can be seen in Winchester, close to the cathedral.

Yorkshire and Cumbria (now Cambria) remained under pagan Norse/Danish control for the next half-century. In 927AD, Alfred's grandson, King Athelstan, held a gathering at Eamont (now Egmont) Bridge in Cumbria, to attempt to unify all of Britain into one political entity under his authority; one of those nice but unlikely to succeed concepts that powerful chieftain 'kings' in northerly parts of the island found impossible to accept but were powerless to resist in the short term. King Constantine of Scotland also wanted to add both Cumbria and Northumbria to his kingdom, for example, but lacked the military strength to do so, as did an Irish Norseman. It took a decade of seeming co-operation for Constantine to forge a powerful enough coalition of largely pagan Norsemen to challenge Athelstan's kingdom.

Constantine quietly allied himself with the lords of the Hebrides, the Orkneys, and Ireland, Norsemen all, and in 937AD invaded England, as it was known at the time, in a two-pronged attack. Constantine moved south through Cumbria by land towards Chester, while the Norse lords raised a mighty fleet of some 200 ships and 5,000 men and sailed to a suitable harbour on the Wirral Peninsula, close to modern-day Heswall (not far from modern-day Birkenhead). This was an incredible logistical feat for its time and apparently was carried out without any problems. The various Norse tribes marched inland towards what they felt would be a good location for a battle, and managed to do so without breaking the coalition, which was a management feat in itself, then waiting patiently for Athelstan to notice them and react, which of course, he did. A mighty battle then ensued in a field north and west of what is now exit 4 of the M53 motorway in the Wirral Peninsula, near what is now the small town of Barnston, and the English won – decisively – dominating both Cumbria and Northumbria from then on, apart from a brief Irish attempt a few years later to re-invade. Constantine, in particular, was crushed, but Athelstan lacked the means to occupy Scotland.

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This battle, known as the Battle of Brunanburh after a nearby small fortress established by Alfred to protect Chester, created England. It is one of the most important battles ever fought on British soil, but its location became lost in history until re-discovered by archaeologists fairly recently. Thus, we can actually date the beginning of England as a functioning country from the autumn of 937AD (1,084 years ago) and it has remained essentially unchanged ever since, unlike most countries in Europe. Thus, when the Franks under William the Conqueror successfully invaded in 1066, they found an already-developed and administratively unified country right to the Welsh and Scottish borders. The Normans, over time, were able to incorporate, but never tame, Wales. Scotland remained fiercely independent until 1707, when England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales were tied together with monkey tails, in the words of the childhood rhyme. The many battlefields of Britain now have a newly-discovered field of slaughter, the one that created the country in the first place. Brunanburh isn't well-known yet, which makes it fascinating for that reason alone, but is a must-see for your next trip to the UK – and I'll bet few of you knew this story!

### **SOMETHING NEW IN THE WORLD OF MAP PUBLISHING**

I recently learned that GM Johnson has acquired the assets of Five Star Maps of Lexington, North Carolina. Five Star is a well-established paper map publisher of mostly town and city street maps of local communities, with 158 titles in print. This move further concentrates control of map publishing of American cities and states into the hands of GM Johnson and Associates, a Vancouver-based cartographic publishing house. There is still an enormous demand for paper maps in North America, Google notwithstanding, and Guy Johnson is evidently comfortable with its future. Details will no doubt follow.

### **GOLD AND WORLD WAR II**

It is reasonably well-known that gold reserves from Britain were moved to Canada during WW2 for safekeeping. Less well-known is that the first shipment of thirty million Pounds in gold bars accompanied King George VI on his famous diplomatic visit to North America in the spring of 1939 – months before the war ever started! The next shipment, of eight million Pounds of gold bullion, was carried by two light cruisers and two battleships in October, 1939 (two million per ship). Eventually, all the gold held by the Bank of England was transferred to Canada, where it was stored in various high security vaults in Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal. Other countries, notably France, Norway, Netherlands, and Belgium also consigned their gold bullion to Canada's care prior to being invaded by Germany. All told, throughout WW2, Canadian bank and insurance vaults held 186,332 gold bars and over 8,000,000 ounces of gold in other forms, mostly coins, as well as the Crown Jewels of the UK and several other countries. This lasted for five years. Not a penny was lost, and no charge was ever made for safeguarding this enormous treasure. At the end of the war, all the money and treasure was returned safely to its owners, who then transported it back to Europe. As a bit of trivia, the Bank of England turned its empty vault into a staff canteen for the duration of the war. Most of the Canadian vaults still exist. The complete operation was, naturally, top secret until after the war.

### **TRAVEL TRIVIA**

1. This may need to be verified, but apparently the oldest continuously-operated airport in the world is College Park, in Maryland. It was also the first military airport, training pilots for the newly-created Army Aviation Corps. The Wright brothers were instructors.
2. The first trans-Atlantic flight was in 1919, by two British aviators, Brown and Alcock, who flew from Newfoundland to Ireland in sixteen and a half hours. Woopsie, a stowaway cat, is the first recorded animal to fly the Atlantic. He (or she) became famous, and was flown home again, becoming the world's first dirty double crosser!
3. Early aircraft were all made of wood. This lasted until 1933, when a crash revealed the cause as being wood rot that had weakened the wing struts. All new airplanes were quickly required to switch to metal.
4. 9/11 has become synonymous with a terror attack, but its immediate impact was to force all aircraft flying over the USA to land at the nearest airport. This was ordered by NORAD (North American air defense, based in Boulder, Colorado). The Commander at that moment was a Canadian, a lowly Captain in the RCAF, who issued the order. Some 10,000 aircraft were landed safely within a thirty minute time period.

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5. 9/11 also diverted thousands of over-the-ocean aircraft to Canada, and every airport capable of landing large international flights was pressed into service on extremely short notice. Most pilots did not have navigation maps for airports in Canada, and had to land using visual guides and instructions by air controllers using binoculars to give pilots instructions. All planes landed safely. Gander, in Newfoundland, found itself with 4,200 unexpected passengers within hours, creating Canada's largest-ever emergency housing crisis. The entire town drove to the airport and took passengers, many of whom spoke little English, to their own homes. It took a week to transport all the passengers to their destinations by land. The exploit in Gander ended up being a successful Broadway musical hit!
6. Imperial Airways showed the first film on board an aircraft, in 1925, on a flight from Croydon to Paris. The *Lost World* was, of course, a silent film. It was shown on a screen placed at the front of the passenger area and included a projectionist who brought his own equipment on board. If you are old enough to remember newsreels and cartoons on long flights (I am), you flew during the exciting early days of flight!
7. Central Park, in New York City, was created in 1858 by forcibly expropriating private land. It took 20,000 workers 20 years to transform the 843 acres into its current format. The entire area is walled. There are 18 gates allowing access, all of them named.
8. The sculptor who created the Statue of Liberty, Frederic Bartholdi, first imagined his creation for the Suez Canal. He built two models, one of which became his guide to sculpting the final statue, which was then disassembled and shipped from Paris to New York. Very few people know that the model not used as his guide was shipped to Hanoi, in then-Indochina, where it was erected and stood for many years.
9. Panama hats were very popular with workers building the canal, but they are not made in Panama, but in Ecuador, specifically, in Cuenca. The fiber used to make them does not exist in Panama.
10. Sababurg Castle, in Germany's Rhinehard Forest, was Sleeping Beauty's castle, and it was from a tower in Trendelburg Castle, also in Germany, that Rapunzel let her long hair down. Fairy tales notwithstanding, they are anchored in real places. Walt Disney's original 'fairy castle' is modelled after Neunschwainstein, King Ludwig's fantastic castle in Fussen, Bavaria, and Hamlet's castle, of course, actually exists in Denmark – real places for highly imaginative folk tales dating back centuries in some cases, and why not? Even folk tales are anchored in reality!

Bonus: Kingston, in New York State, was its first capital. A house built in 1676 was the first meeting site of the colony's Senate – a hundred years BEFORE anyone thought of drafting an independence proclamation.

### **CHINESE NEW YEAR/TET HOLIDAY**

February is usually when the lunar calendar marks its New Year. This year, on the 12<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Year of the Ox (for the Chinese) and of the Water Buffalo (for the Vietnamese). It is customary to place a table of food outside one's front door at midnight of the start of the New Year, to welcome God of Luck, Wealth and Happiness. Well, temperatures in Vancouver were -12c at the moment, so the table full of food stayed outside just long enough to take a photo before being hustled back inside. Also, in the Era of Covid, this year did mark the first time all six of our family members stayed up until midnight to celebrate, although Kenzie was very uncertain as to why we were holding a party in the middle of the night! He was quite happy to receive his lucky money envelope, however. With our Vietnamese connection, I am more familiar with celebrating Tet than Chinese New Year. Due to Covid, the traditional New Year's parade in downtown Vancouver was cancelled for the second year in a row, but replaced by a virtual display of cultural singing and dancing, with Lan playing a prominent part on a virtual show.

### **SALES ARE PICKING UP**

As more and more people are becoming vaccinated, the desire for travel is improving. Being February, and at a time when new Covid infections are still way too high, it is encouraging to see certain travel destinations improving in sales. I imagine that most recoveries relate to future planned travel, and note that most destinations have not yet shown any signs of recovery, but some have. I reviewed sales to mid-February, and wish to note titles showing definite signs of interest. Some might surprise you:

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Afghanistan, Africa, Alberta, Algonquin Park, Antarctica, Armenia, Atlantic Canada, Australia, Barcelona, Beijing, Belize, Boston, BC South, BC, Canada, Central America, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Florida Keys, and Greenland/North Pole. This is just a sampling, but indicates areas of interest as the virus recedes and international travel becomes safer. I hasten to add that this only covers titles starting with A through G, and only represents titles selling more than ten copies per month, so normalcy is still a future prospect. It is presented solely to indicate a future return to normal travel pattern, simply because most countries remain closed to travel for the time being. However, the signs are optimistic; better times are on the way!

### THE US DOLLAR IS DROPPING IN VALUE

Have any of you noticed that your currencies seem to be rising in value in comparison to the US greenback? Over the past year, the American currency has been slowly but steadily deteriorating in relation to other major 'solid' currencies, such as the Canadian \$, the UK Pound, the Euro, and the Japanese Yen. The reason is probably Covid-related, in that Americans have had to shut down much economic activity to cope with an epidemic, but a side effect has been a decline in productivity and in GDP. The Canadian economy has certainly done nothing to justify an increase in the value of our currency, but the CDN\$ is pushing 80 cents US these days, a far cry from our normal 73 cents. This change has been gradual, not sudden, and sustained, not casual. Draw your own conclusions.... The US economy shrank for the first time since WW2, by 3.5% Unemployment in the USA is a huge problem unrecognized by most Americans, reaching 14.7% last April and remaining high for the rest of the year. Economies in Europe and Canada shrank significantly as well, but the value of our currencies has risen in relation to the US dollar. How are governments coping with decreased revenues? They're just printing more money, three trillion dollars in the case of the USA and 350 billion dollars in the case of Canada. These birds will come home to roost one day. Interest rates remain at all-time lows, so housing prices are actually rising, but disposable income is dropping. The stock market is doing well, but 400,000 businesses have closed their doors forever in the USA. What is anyone to do? Of course, the reality is that all most of us can do is Keep Calm and Carry On. The sky isn't falling; it just seems that way because it is always darkest before the dawn, and the dawn is coming.

### WORK IN PROGRESS - all distributors, retailers, and librarians please note

ITMB, as of March, 2021, has ample inventory of almost all of the titles traditionally carried as part of our publishing line, and we continue to expand our line by developing brand new titles. You can order with confidence. The following titles are under development, with our best guess as to the future:

**Amsterdam and Central Holland** – The city of Amsterdam is one of the most touristic cities in Europe. It is also special to me, as I lived on Singel canal for a summer as a young man and had the opportunity to explore the city in depth. Like many cities, As a part of our long-term plan to gradually expand ITMB's coverage of Europe, a new edition of Amsterdam is long overdue. The other side of the sheet is still evolving, and might either be a detailed regional map of the hinterland of the city, or complete coverage of the country.

**Austria** – This is a 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 is in progress.

**Balkans** – ITMB has mapped many of the Balkan countries as individual maps that would constitute the region known as the Balkans, but never the region itself. This is in the process of rectification. Lan is in the early stages of preparing a double-sided map showing the entire Balkans region, plus Greece, on one side, and a detailed map of the mountainous interior of the region on the other side. This should be ready for release sometime in 2021.

**Cape Town and the Garden Route** – This is a title we have wanted to do for years. South Africa, as a country, has stumbled badly since ZANU took over the reins of power. However, things seem to be getting better touristically, so we have started developing a new double-sided map of one of the most touristic parts of all of Africa. The city side artwork is almost completed, and we are working on the southern coastline of South Africa at the moment.

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**Dubrovnik and the Croatian Coast** - We were privileged to participate in a ten-day cruise from Porec to Dubrovnik and found it to be such a wonderful learning experience that we wanted to create the perfect map of this wonderful area. Covid has enabled us time to concentrate on developing new titles, and mapping Dubrovnik has been a real treat. As with all brand new titles, this one will be ready when it is ready, and not a day sooner. Due sometime in 2021.

**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, showing all attractions. The regional side is still a work in progress, but by its name, should cover from Venice to Milan to below Sienna. Due sometime in 2021.

**Georgia and Tbilisi** – The Caucasus region has been volatile ever since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1989. ITMB first published a map of the Caucasus region in the mid-1990s, noting various breakaway mini-states/autonomous regions and the fracturing of the region into mutually hostile nation states. As a result, it is very difficult to map a country like Georgia accurately. How does one portray the various autonomous regions? What is the correct border between Georgia and its neighbouring states? How can one prepare a map of Georgia without including parts of Russia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan? One might as well ask 'What is the sound of one hand clapping?' The time has come to prepare a detailed map of Georgia as it is today without unduly combining it with artwork covering neighbouring states as an integral part of the artwork. Thus, Lan is working on a detailed map of the country on one side, and a first-ever detailed map of Tbilisi on the second side. We had planned to visit Georgia in 2019, but delayed the trip due to difficult flight arrangements. Now, of course, we wish we hadn't as it is much more impossible to visit Georgia today than a year ago. ITMB publishes an excellent map of Georgia combined with Armenia, another country we would love to visit. We are not expecting Georgia to be completed before mid-2021.

**Maui** – I'm not yet sure exactly what Lan is preparing, but it has long been our goal to expand our coverage of the various islands of Hawaii and the Maui/Lanai portion of the state is the only part left unmapped. We already have a map of the State as an entity, with separate maps of Big Island, and Oahu/Honolulu, it is about time that we concentrated on the remaining islands. Details will follow.

**Nevada and Northern California** – This title will focus on Nevada and add to our growing range of American titles; due in the spring of 2021.

**Slovakia and Hungary** – Inventory of this title has sold out. We are re-working this title into a brand new double sided map called **Slovakia and Bratislava**, with the country filling one side and an excellent city map being on the opposite side of the sheet. This is at press now and expected in March. Hungary and Budapest was released in 2019.

**Solomon Islands** – For some unknown reason, this particular map seems to be selling better at the moment than any of our Pacific Ocean island maps. We still have inventory in stock, but Lan is happily re-working this map into a double-sided one with some sort of Pacific Ocean map on the reverse.

**Spain South Half Road and Rail** – The artwork for a detailed map of southern Spain is well underway. We released a map covering the northern half a few months ago, and are hard at work on the touristic south, which will encompass southern Portugal and Gibraltar as well.

**Sri Lanka and Southern India** – We have run out of copies of the current edition. However, a new edition is ready for printing and should be available by the end of 2020. For now, please order using the old ISBN.

**Surinam** – This title is out of stock indefinitely. We hope to re-release it in 2021, depending on safe travel provisions.

**Wales and Cardiff** – Lan is working on a more detailed map of Wales than we have been able to produce to date. I've reviewed the artwork, and it looks pretty good. The reverse side will be a detailed map of Cardiff, the nation's capital, which I haven't yet seen. No idea when this project will be completed!

**NEW RELEASES FOR January and February, 2021**

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**Burkina Faso & West Africa Travel Reference Map 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 2021 1:950,000/1:4,800,000 ISBN 9781771290920 UPC 817712909206 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – At last, our updated and re-worked Burkina Faso map is back in print. Side 1 concentrates on the country itself, with detailed inset maps of Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso and a listing of the top nine must-see attractions of this inland country. Historically, the country's origins can be traced back to the 1500s, when a flourishing empire existed in this part of Africa. W-Arly-Pendjari is home to West Africa's largest herd of elephants, and Tiebele is home to fascinating local architecture. The other side of the sheet shows all of West Africa, from Mauritania to Cameroon. It shows sub-Saharan Africa to excellent advantage and would be a very good map for anyone exploring the overall region. **AVAILABLE**

**Cyprus Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2021 1:140,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771291712 UPC 817712917126 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – Cyprus is a lovely Mediterranean island; a popular tourist destination for Europeans. It is also a very historic island, with roots going back to Phoenician times and probably before. Politically, the island is divided into Turkish-controlled Northern Cyprus and EU-member Cyprus, the southern two-thirds of the island. Most travel is to the southern portion, with numerous resort hotels and beaches lining the coast. This is also the most economically-developed part of the island, as the northern portion has not been recognized by anyone except Turkey, which still maintains a significant military presence in areas they control. It is possible for tourists to pass through the 'green zone' in Nicosia from south to north and back safely and efficiently. The north portion is, in my opinion, more interesting simply because it is less travelled. When we were visiting the island to research it, we spent most of our time driving mountainous roads, discovering interesting villages (and occasionally, military outposts), but we never felt fearful nor were we harassed by anyone. The contentious areas between north and south are UN Protected or British Protected. The areas are properly shown and can be visited, provided one does not try to cross the border at an unauthorized point. To me, the most fascinating part of the island was the very contentious Famagusta city area right on the border that is now an abandoned city covering many blocks of high-rises. We were able to drive through quite a bit of it before being waved off by Turkish soldiers. Regardless of politics, the island is a dream resort for anyone. We have tried to be fair to both sides of this divided island; a wonderful place to explore or enjoy on a beach – North or South! **AVAILABLE**

**Ethiopia & Eritrea Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 1:900,000/1:915,000 ISBN 9781771292665 UPC 817712926654 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** - The highlands of northeastern Africa consists of two inter-locked countries. Ethiopia is a large, land-locked, country with a southern and eastern desert-like region and a central mountainous area. The capital, Addis Ababa, is a modern city in the central highlands, with good road connections with Dire Dawa and Harar in the east (both very interesting cities), and Gondar and Axum in the north. There are road connections to most surrounding countries (south Sudan being the exception), but the region is politically volatile and border closures may exist without notice. The reverse side portrays Eritrea, theoretically a coastal country, but essentially a mountainous country, with Asmara as its capital. The map also includes an excellent inset map of Djibouti, as well as inset maps of Asmara and of Addis Ababa. Each side also includes a listing of top attractions for the benefit of visitors. **AVAILABLE**

**Everest and Himalaya (or Himalaya and Everest) Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2021 1:90,000/1:1,330,000 on waterproof stone paper \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – The climbing season for Everest begins in May, just about the time that vaccinations against Covid should kick into high gear. Time to start planning that little jaunt you've always wanted to do! Seriously, this is a lovely double-sided map with two attractive covers, so can be displayed either as Everest or Himalaya. The Everest side covers the mountain itself, with base camps and accommodations clearly shown. There are actually several interesting trails one could explore and all are shown; only one leads to the summit. The reverse side shows the entire Himalaya 'knot' that forms the basis for so many mountain chains. The area of coverage includes all of Nepal and Sikkim, a significant portion of Bhutan, most of Tibet, and a bit of northern India. All roads and attractions are shown. The map includes a detailed inset map for Kathmandu and another for the valley region surrounding the city. There are now half a dozen access roads into Nepal, and all are shown. East-west travel is finally available with the completion of Hwy 1401. **AVAILABLE.**

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FAX: (604) 273-1488  
E-mail: Jack@itmb.com

**Newfoundland & Labrador Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2020 1:800,000/1:1,300,000 ISBN 9781771295635 UPC 817712956354 \$11.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – Britain's oldest colony evolved into Canada's newest province in 1949. The island now called Newfoundland was first settled by Norsemen exploring westward from Iceland, somewhere around 1000AD, some four centuries before some Johnny-come-lately named Columbus discovered the Caribbean. L'Anse aux Meadows can still be visited in the northern tip of the island. Bristol fishermen used the island as a base long before the first 'explorer' arrived in 1534. St. John's, the capital, was founded in 1604, making it the second oldest city in North America. The island is also famous for its historic fishing villages, and as a bonus, the map includes the French territory of St. Pierre et Miquelon, which can be reached by ferry from Grand Bank. The island itself can be reached by ferries from Nova Scotia (approx. 6 hours) and from Labrador. The second side of the map shows the extremely large and remote portion of the province called Labrador. Basic road connections now join it to the island at two spots, and one can travel across Labrador from Goose Bay to Labrador City, with an onward link to Sept-Isles in Quebec. The rest of Labrador is accessible only by air and coastal steamer. The extreme far north of Labrador was ceded to Nunavut, which has a small community on Ungava Bay. **AVAILABLE**

**Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2020 1:380,000 ISBN 9781771295710 UPC 817712957108 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – The historic Canadian province of Nova Scotia (New Scotland) was founded by the French as part of Acadia (now centred in New Brunswick). The fortress of Louisburg, on Cape Breton, was seized by the British, who founded Halifax in 1749. The colony grew rapidly, thanks to the American Revolution, and its many Loyalist settlements are today attractive tourist destinations. The self-governing colony attended the 1775 Philadelphia Convention, but left in disgust over the radicalism expressed by the slave-owning colonies, preferring to remain loyal. As a result of fears that it would be invaded following the American Civil War, NS entered into discussions with other British American colonies, culminating in the founding of Canada as an independent country in 1867. Prince Edward Island followed a similar course, joining Canada in 1873. This double-sided map portrays both provinces in excellent detail, noting all major attractions, towns, parks, roads, and ferries. Inset maps of Halifax/Dartmouth and Sydney are included. ITMB also publishes a separate map of PEI showing greater detail. PEI is joined to the mainland by the exceptionally long Confederation Bridge and is a lovely, pastoral, province, home to Anne of Green Gables. **AVAILABLE**

**Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands Travel Reference Map 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2020 1:190,000/1:85,000 on waterproof stone paper \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – The American territories of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands are anomalies in the modern world, neither fish nor fowl, as the saying goes. Although the residents are American citizens, they have no representation in Congress and are not allowed to vote in national elections. Puerto Rico suffered badly in an extreme hurricane three years ago, and is slowly recovering. The US Virgins were also badly damaged, but appear to be back to normal. The lesser-known British Virgin Islands are included on this double-sided map. The BVI is still a British colony, consisting of about 20 islands, capitated in Road Town (inset included). Puerto Rico is a large, rectangular island, capitated by San Juan (inset included) and is a major cruise ship point of origin as well as being home to resort communities all over the main island. Ferries connect to outlying islands. The VI portion was purchased from Denmark in 1917 and retains a colonial European charm. There are three main islands – St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John – and the map includes inset maps of Charlotte Amalie, Cruz Bay, Christiansted, and Frederiksted. Each side of the map sheet includes a listing of top attractions. Ferry routes to the BVI are shown, as well as water connections between the islands. **AVAILABLE**

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**Shanghai & China Southeast Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2020 1:16,000/1:2,500,000 ISBN 9781771297202 UPC 817712972026 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** - Although Shanghai is not the largest city in China (that record belongs to Chongching), at 24,000,000 plus people, it is an enormous area. It is one of the best-known of China's mega-cities, situated on the Huangpu River, close to the ocean. The map covers the urban area from the main railway station in the north to the Xuhui area in the south and from East China university campus to the Maglev station in the east. An inset map shows the Maglev route to Pudong International Airport. The touristic core of Shanghai is portrayed in excellent detail. The Bund, along the riverfront, is well-known, all the streets in the Old Town are shown, as is the main shopping district along Nanking Road. Ferry routes along the river are shown, as well as a good selection of hotels. The various rapid transit lines are also shown. The reverse side of the map portrays most of eastern China, from Beijing to Hong Kong to Xi'an in the west. China is evolving quite rapidly and has constructed a complex series of motorways and super-speed train lines in recent years. These are all shown in very good detail. The map also includes the island of Taiwan, claimed by China, but independent. The regional map covers the area of interest for the vast majority of visitors to China, including two dozen mega-cities of more than 5 million people each. **AVAILABLE**

### **NEW RELEASES FOR NOVEMBER and DECEMBER, 2020**

**Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2021 1:10,000/1:750,000 ISBN 9781771296250 UPC 817712962508 \$10.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – Historic Philadelphia is one of the most significant travel destinations in the USA. Founded as a Quaker town for dissidents from England, Phillie today is a modern city with a specially-designated historic centre, and all the important sites are noted on this map. The other side of the sheet is a brand new map, continuing ITMB's drive to create state maps wherever practical. This one is of Pennsylvania, a lovely and scenic part of America, stretching from the Atlantic seaboard to Lake Erie and the border with Ohio. New York City/Long Island and much of southern New York State is included, as are portions of Maryland, and Virginia. Delaware, due to its size, is completely included. **AVAILABLE**

**Zambia and Eastern Africa Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2021 1:680,000/1:4,800,000 ISBN 9781771299213 UPC 817712992130 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – This is an updated and re-worked double-sided version of our existing Zambia map, with the country filling one side, along with detailed city insets, and the other side showing the country in relation to its neighbours to the north and east. This adds considerable value to this popular central/southern African country travel destination. **AVAILABLE**

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