



## **ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.**

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

**12300 Bridgeport Road  
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### **AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #5 OF 2021**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Covid is still very much a factor with us as we enter the spring. Canada and the USA still have hot spots and too many people unvaccinated, but both are moving forward steadily, despite negative reporting by news outlets, to a point where travel restrictions can be gradually lifted. Domestic air travel will come first, and international subject to many restrictions until other countries vaccinate enough of their citizens to minimize the possibility of further upsurges. I'm thinking particularly of the Indian sub-continent in this regard, but also the Arab sheikdoms of the Persian Gulf, which rely heavily on labourers from India for their economic strength, and Japan, currently suffering an upsurge. Europe is a different story, with some countries doing much better than others at coping with Covid upsurges. Mexico is a country that will need massive assistance from the USA to vaccinate millions of people before borders can re-open; ditto with Canada and Central America. Regardless, travel is opening up, so demand for travel maps is improving. Good news.

#### **CRUISE SHIP TRAVEL IS RETURNING**

It seems like a century ago that Covid forced governments to impose travel restrictions on cruise ships and terminals. As of today's date, the US government has tentatively agreed to re-open boarding terminals for cruise ship lines at American ports as of July. This is, of course, good news, but there are provisos. Proof of vaccination will be required to board a cruise ship. Anti-vaccers and conspiracy nut-cases please take note. Destination trips will be limited to ships originating in the USA and terminating in the USA, so a one-way cruise to Europe or Japan will have to await further directives. Destination ports will also have to re-open to allow cruise ships to dock. Canadian ports of call, for example, are still closed to cruise ships until 2022. Caribbean ports will probably open, as those countries are extremely dependent upon tourism for survival, but allowing ships to dock may have to be cleared with US health authorities. This is a complex matter with many 't's' needing to be crossed before we can say that travelling by cruise ships is back to normal, but the first step has been taken – now get vaccinated so you too can enjoy a cruise! Please note ITMB's most recent cruise map – the South Pacific.

#### **VIRTUAL TRAVEL – INDIA, SPECIFICALLY THE CALCUTTA/KOLKATA REGION**

This month, we are taking a virtual visit to a part of the world I first visited in 1969, India. Even today, India remains a country in conflict with itself, with fourteen national languages and huge numbers of people, most of whom don't seem to like each other very much. Actually, the country didn't exist until the British patched it together rather inexpertly. In 1800, there was the Mughal Empire centred in Agra and a bunch of principalities run more or less efficiently by strong-minded sultans or rajahs. The Emperor Shah Jehan, who is best remembered for creating the Taj Mahal, had a daughter. She was burned by a lamp overturning, and the distraught emperor demanded that the best physicians come to Agra to heal her. Gabriel Broughton, a surgeon with the Honourable East India Company, was posted to nearby Surat and arrived quickly to assist and Jehanara recovered her health and her beauty. The grateful Shah Jehan asked what reward Broughton would like. He asked that a charter to trade in Bengal be granted to his company. Thus are the threads woven that change history.

The British founded a trading post on the Howdah River close to the mouth of the mighty Ganges. It grew into Calcutta, the jewel of the East, and the second-largest city in modern-day India (now re-named as Kolkata). The Mughal dynasty began weakening in the mid-1800s, and Bengal broke away from rule by Delhi and was dominated by John Company of the EICo. It became the dominant power in all of the Indian sub-continent. This worked to Britain's advantage and resulted in a series of minor wars that gradually created India as the country we know today. The legacy of British influence remains to this day, as can be seen on our ITMB map of the city. The inter-action between traditional Indian thought patterns and those of the British are the stories of grand adventure and great events.

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### **MAP-MAKING FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Hard though it appears to believe, until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, maps were not commonly available, being limited to school atlases, military and governmental agencies, and the fairly wealthy. The advent of the automobile age stimulated a demand for detailed maps of roads suitable for motoring, particularly in France (Michelin) and Britain (AA and RAC). Gasoline companies sponsored road maps in America, again to cater to those driving horseless carriages and Model T Fords. However, such maps as were available still catered to that portion of the public wealthy enough to afford a motor vehicle. Paved roads were still scarce, and the concept of trans-continental roads a generation in the future. Then along came World War 1, a terrible tragedy, but one that captivated the interest of millions of people who had never thought about such previously unknown names like Arras, the Somme, or Vimy. The National Geographic Society, under the guidance of their magazine's editor Gilbert Grosvenor, began producing maps for inclusion in magazines sent to subscribers, which was about 335,000 in 1914. The Society's first map was, appropriately, the New Balkan States and Central Europe, featuring many names becoming familiar to Americans as the scope of fighting in Europe expanded (keep in mind that fighting erupted following the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand and spread gradually as one European power after another took sides). The Society was able to produce such a map for printing quite quickly because Grosvenor had visited the Balkans in 1913 and had a hunch that this region would be pivotal in then-current European political circles. As a result, Americans had access to information before most European countries realized the extensive scope of intertwined treaties and obligations. NatGeo followed up on the success of their first map with their first ever in-house cartographic production, called the Western theatre of War (note that in those days the Americans spelled the word theatre the English way). WW1 proved to be instrumental in popularizing maps for the general public showing various aspects of war, and the Western Theatre map was so accurate, and so detailed, that it set the standard for cartography from then on. Maps proved to be so popular that British and French media outlets started producing maps as well, some of which are still available today as reproductions, principally by IGN and Michelin.

After the Great War ended, the structure of much of the world changed. The Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires were replaced by new, smaller, countries and several countries obtained new borders. This resulted in NatGeo's 1921 map of Europe, noting boundary/name changes as established by the Paris Peace Conference of 1919-1920. As we now know, this Conference created many more problems than it solved and resulted in such intense animosity that it fueled a determination, especially in Germany, to correct perceived wrongs, but the significance of the map itself was profound, being the first 'new' map of the new post-war Europe to reach an exceptionally wide audience. Of course, NatGeo updated it as changes took place during the 1930s, and Bartholomew Maps, in Scotland, did the same for its audience.

By the time WW2 started, paper maps were in common supply for the average individual. Surprisingly, neither the British nor the American governments developed their own mapping, and relied on commercial firms to provide maps. Churchill, in one of his more famous outbursts, demanded to know why the War Room underneath the Admiralty Building, had no wall maps of France or any part of the war effort. A junior officer was promptly sent to Stanfords map store and the walls festooned with Bartholomew maps of France, Germany, and Europe. That's how the war in Europe was organized, incredible though it seems today. Roosevelt demanded maps of Pearl Harbour after the Japanese attack in 1941, and all his aides could come up with was a NatGeo map of the Pacific, which graced the wall of the White House Map Room throughout the war. At Yalta, as Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin were dividing up Europe, they used a NatGeo map to determine sectors of Germany and spheres of influence for the future – a legacy we have learned to live with until the break-up of the Soviet empire in 1989/90. The general public benefitted from ex-army map makers producing city street maps and state road maps as production switched from making tanks to making cars. Maps for everyman had arrived!

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### **STAYING AT THE RITZ**

Many cities have a hotel called 'The Ritz'. All are emulating the original Hotel Ritz, in Paris, opened in 1898. It was named after its owner, Cesar Ritz, and was the only hotel in the world at that time to have bathrooms en suite in every room, telephones in every suite, and electricity throughout; matters of convenience we take for granted today, but revolutionary for the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was the epitome of elegance, and attracted royalty, celebrities, the super wealthy, and the most elegant. Auguste Escoffier was the pastry chef, Coco Chanel lived there for decades, and Ernest Hemingway drank more than a few bottles of alcohol in the hotel's bar. The future King Edward VIII was a regular, both before and after his brief reign. The Ritz became so closely associated with the best of the best that entrepreneurs in other cities copied the idea and popularized luxury hotel living as the *crème de la crème*!

After Monsieur Ritz's death, Madame Ritz hired Claude Auzello as manager in 1923. He ran the hotel until 1969. He married an American, Blanche, who successfully hid her Jewish ethnicity throughout the era when to be Jewish was to suffer unimaginable hostility and degradation. The Ritz was taken over by the German Nazis as their headquarters in France following the defeat of France in 1940, where they initiated a reign of terror in Paris that lasted until the day before the liberation of the city in 1945 by American and British troops. During this wartime period, the Auzellos managed the hotel as best they could under brutal wartime conditions and protected their staff from atrocities. They also served as listeners as the German staff officers developed strategies and passed on to the Allies much invaluable information. Most notably, the plot to assassinate Hitler in 1944 was concocted in the bar of the Ritz with, incredibly, French resistance members serving as hotel staff being in the bar at the time, listening to everything, and taking notes. Sounds incredible, but staff were servants and the Germans ignored them. As a result, London knew of the plot and who was involved before Hitler did!

Blanche, in particular, thanks to speaking fluent German, was able to assist several Allied airmen to safety by pretending to be a nurse accompanying wounded 'German' soldiers out of Paris along established escape routes. Her husband financed much of the resistance movement in Paris, using money paid by German officers staying at the Ritz. His role was never discovered, but Blanche was arrested shortly after D-Day and sent to the notorious Freses Gestapo interrogation prison on the outskirts of Paris, where she was tortured for weeks and barely survived execution. She was severely emotionally scarred for the rest of her life, but devoted herself to helping surviving Jewish families to adjust to life after extermination camps. This is merely yet another little-known story that chronicled the events of the 1920s through to the end of WW2 and influenced history. Travel is full of such stories; it is one of the main reasons we travel. The Ritz still exists on the Place Vendome, and is still elegant, the Grande Dame of Hotels. One day soon, I'd like to visit it, just to pay my respects to two incredible people.

### **COVID OUTBREAKS DELAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

Just as it appears that Covid is coming under control in the USA, Canada, the UK, and Western Europe, there are troubling signs that new variants are sweeping through Asia and South America, proving once again that this is a world-wide health crisis, not just a localized one. Fresh news reporting as of mid-May show a 1,200% increase of infections in Nepal, hundreds of thousands of new infections in India each day, hospitals over capacity in Japan, with increasing new cases in Argentina and Brasil. Even Vietnam, the world leader in combatting the virus, is showing a sizeable increase in variant cases. Thus far, the vaccines developed to date appear to be resistant to all new variant strains, so we not only need to continue to vaccinate our own nationals, but also those in all other countries in the world. Fortunately, several highly developed countries are proposing to do away with patent protections for Covid vaccines to ease the way for countries like India and Japan ramp up production of vaccines. Naturally, there are pressing needs for vaccine that can't wait for WTO to approve something needing a consensus, so the USA and the EU are both providing surplus vaccine doses to countries in need. As is always the case in a crisis, there are too few vials of vaccine available to make a serious dent in an on-going crisis, but we must try.

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### ANNIVERSARIES

May is an active month for us regarding anniversaries. Kenzie turned 7 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and Lan and I celebrated our 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 19<sup>th</sup>, followed closely by Linh, whose birthday is on the 20<sup>th</sup> which was also Mother's Day. I was also diagnosed as going blind in my left eye on the 11<sup>th</sup>, although that's hardly an occasion to celebrate. I have to see a specialist in June and we'll see what happens after that. I still see quite well, as my brain adjusts what the right eye sees perfectly and compensates for what the left eye can't apparently make out on its own. Funnily enough, I never have noticed a problem, which came to light during a routine eye examination.

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

ITMB, as of April, 2021, has ample inventory of almost all of the titles traditionally carried as part of our publishing line. The following titles are under development, with our best guess as to the future:

**Amazon** is almost out of print. A new map, called **Amazon and Northern Brasil**, is being developed.

**Amsterdam and Netherlands** – 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 part of our long-term plan to gradually expand ITMB's coverage of Europe, a new edition of Amsterdam is long overdue.

**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 almost ready to go to press, but call it a work in progress for now.

**Balkans** – ITMB has mapped many of the Balkan countries as individual maps that belong to 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 hiking map of the mountainous interior of the region on the other side. This should be ready for release sometime in 2021.

**British Columbia: North Half** – BC is as large as the USA west of the Rockies, or all of Western Europe, but the northern half of this vast province is lightly populated and poorly mapped. It is, however, a very attractive touristic destination, if for no other reason than the fact that access to the Yukon, Alaska, and the Northwest Territories are accessed through northern BC. ITMB produced a very successful detailed map of the southern half of BC a couple of years ago. Covid has provided the opportunity to prepare an equally detailed map of the northern half of this marvelous province. The line work is approaching completion, so it will still take several months to complete this map.

**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.

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

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**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. ITMB publishes an excellent map of Georgia combined with Armenia, which is available. We are not expecting Georgia to be completed during the summer.

**Maui, Kauai, & Molokai** - the Maui/Kauai, Molokai, and Lanai portion of the state of Hawaii is the only part of the islands left unmapped by us. 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. The artwork is almost ready to print and looks very good. Hopefully, all the long Polynesian names have been spelled correctly! Coming in the summer.

**Mexico: Chihuahua & Coahuila States** – We are out of stock of this title, so are preparing a fresh edition. I have proofed the line work, so it is well-developed, but not ETA.

**Mississippi River** – From its acquisition from the French of the Louisiana Purchase, Old Miss has been pivotal to American historical development. This new map focuses on the states bordering the giant river, from its initiation with the Missouri to its mouth in the delta south of New Orleans.

**Nevada and Northern California** – This title will focus on Nevada and add to our growing range of American titles; the artwork is in the early stages of development, and will be available when completed.

**New Orleans** – We are just beginning our map of this important travel destination map, so it will be several months before the artwork will approach completion. It will then form one side of a double-sided map, with a map of the Mississippi River watershed gracing the other side.

**Persian Gulf Cruising** – I'm not sure if this is what the final title will be, but work is well-advanced on a map of the Persian Gulf/Arabian Sea region, with a focus on regional tourism via cruise ship travel, and I can't see us being politically correct and calling the body of water anything except its proper place name, even if Persia disappeared many years ago. I refuse to name it Iranian Cruising!

**Queensland (Australia)** double-sided map – as our data base develops for Australia, we are finally able to provide detailed travel maps for most of the states of Australia. South Australia and Northern Territory have already been released, as has Western Australia. Now it is Queensland's turn. The line work is complete and the artwork has received its initial proofing; no ETA at the moment.

**Russia's Heritage Cities** – The current edition is out of inventory and consideration of a fresh edition suspended until travel to the central portion of Russia is more safely accomplished.

**Tasmania and New South Wales** – This is the last portion of Australia being mapped at the state level. The line work is complete, but this map still has a ways to go. Details will follow.

**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 to April, 2021**

**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 - AVAILABLE**

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**Cyprus Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2021 1:40,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771291712 UPC 817712917126 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

**Dubrovnik & Croatian Coast Cruising Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2021 1:3,000/1:325,000 ISBN 9781771292337 UPC 817712923370 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP - AVAILABLE**

**Ethiopia & Eritrea Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2020 1:900,000/1:915,000 ISBN 9781771292665 UPC 817712926654 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP 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 - AVAILABLE.**

**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 - 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 – 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 – AVAILABLE**

**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 – AVAILABLE**

**Slovakia and Bratislava Rail & Road Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed/1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2021 1:430,000/1:8,000 ISBN 9781771291919 UPC 817712910196 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP - AVAILABLE**

**Solomon Is./ South Pacific Cruising 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2021 1:910,000/1:12,000,000 ISBN 9781771297240 UPC 817712972408 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP - AVAILABLE**

**Sunshine Coast/SW BC Travel Reference Map 1:250,000/1:800,000 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2021 ISBN 9781771297257 UPC 817712972576 \$10.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP - AVAILABLE**

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