



ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

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

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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #7 OF 2021 – September

INTRODUCTION

Lots of news this time around. The Frankfurt Book Fair is fast approaching and ITMB will have Jack and Lan participating with a booth. The Afghani exodus has slowed to a trickle of land transfers for now, but the borders of the country are fairly porous, so I imagine that a fair number of those wanting to leave will do so. The Taliban are finding that fighting is much easier than governing! Covid remains potent worldwide and is devastating efforts to re-open travel. ITMB has published another three titles; details below.

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR OCTOBER 20-24

Last year, the most famous Buchmesse in the world was held virtually, due to Covid. This year, it returns as an in-person trade show, with strict Covid protocols in place to protect participants and visitors. ITMB will be present, with a stand in Building 3.1 staffed by Jack and Lan. We realize that many people are feeling nervous about attending a trade show, but we can't let Covid rule our lives forever. For those who are fully vaccinated, and who take sensible precautions, an indoor gathering like FBF is probably less dangerous than attending a bar or a football match. Regardless, we will be there and hope to meet as many of you as possible after a two-year hiatus. We will be showing off all of our most recent releases, of which there are quite a few, so we promise that visiting our stand (number still being determined) will be worthwhile. Building 3.1, Stand G 129; hope you'll come!

THE HEJNAL AND A LEGEND THAT HAS SURVIVED FOR CENTURIES

The capital of Poland used to be Krakow (formerly Cracow). For centuries, the main square of the city has been dominated by the Church of St. Mary, with its two towers. Sometime before 1200AD, the city employed a trumpeter to play a simple song each day at dusk and at dawn to indicate to the city gatekeepers that it was time to close or open the gates to the walled city. Gradually, it became the practice for the Trumpeter to play the song, called the Hejnal, once each hour as a method of tracking time. The Trumpeter also acted as a lookout for fires and invaders. This became crucially important in 1241, when Tatars from central Asia were seen approaching the city. The Trumpeter at the time sounded the alarm by playing the Hejnal, but was killed by an arrow before he could complete the warning song. From that time on, the Hejnal has always ended at the point in time when the original sentry was killed – every single day, twenty-four times a day, for the past 780 years. That is an incredible story, known to every Polish person, but only revealed to a wider audience by an American author, Eric Kelly, who wrote *The Trumpeter of Krakow* in 1928. It has become a classic, especially amongst younger readers, and is still in print today; I've just completed reading it, having obtained the book from my grandchildren's school library.

Historically, the tale appears to be accurate, having survived through many generations of Polish oral history, reinforced by a similar accounting in Samarkand (now in Uzbekistan). In 1241, troops from that city participated in the Tatar invasion of Poland and local legend notes that their attempt to sneak up to the city walls of Krakow were thwarted by a trumpeter sounding the alarm. The trumpeter was silenced by an arrow to the throat, but the warning allowed residents enough time to organize their defense. The Tatars (now called Uzbeks) saw this as a curse having been placed on them, which lasted until World War 2. The Soviets authorized one of the few surviving Polish officers to organize a fighting force out of captured Poles. General Anders trained his force in the vicinity of Samarkand. Because of the prophesy (a curse), the Uzbeks were quite respectful of the Polish troops, who were eventually persuaded to play the Hejnal in their city square, thereby putting an end to the ancient curse.

Any visitor can hear the Hejnal by visiting the main square of Krakow. The song is still trumpeted once an hour, as it has been done for centuries. An amazing true travel story! General Anders' army, by the way, was attached to the British forces in Palestine and eventually served in the Italian campaign, taking Monte Cassino.

WHERE WERE YOU ON 9/11?

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There are certain dates in history that definably change the course of history. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour is one; another is the assassination of President Kennedy. The terror attack on the United States by a disgruntled group of Islamic extremists changed our world forever. As I write this on the twentieth anniversary date of 9/11, the words of various speech-makers and news reporters recounting their experiences of the events of September 11, 2001, brought back my own memories into vivid clarity. Lan and myself were in Australia, driving to Melbourne from Sydney to attend what was supposed to be a momentous International Map Trade Association conference. We stopped at a highway café for lunch. Everyone inside the restaurant was silently mesmerized by the images of planes crashing into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. We spent the next four hours captivated by the unfolding tragedy. I have no recollection of eating anything; the screen took all of our attention.

The next morning, at the opening of the conference, we all stood in a circle for a long moment of reflection. None of us felt very much like discussing maps, but we carried on, as we felt compelled to overcome our emotions by concentrating on something deeply personal and familiar to all of us. By the end of the conference, those of us from North America found that we couldn't fly home, as the airspace over both Canada and the USA remained closed for ten days. We couldn't even send word to our staff, as the post office was not accepting any mail destined for North America. Lan and I coped by extending our rental car and driving to Northern Territory, researching three map areas that we eventually published as travel maps. It did not occur to us at the time that 9/11 would change travel permanently.

It is now 2021, twenty years later, and we have become used to living in a world where a terror attack can come at any time and in grotesque forms. France is just beginning the trial of an insane extremist who was one of the perpetrators of a horrific attack in Paris. Pre-trial statements are being done right now for terror suspects who have been held in Guantanamo Bay prisons for years. The Taliban Islamic group has seized power in Afghanistan, to a very uncertain future for Afghan citizens and the world at large. We all have to subject ourselves to much-increased security surveillance at airports, and in some cases, railway stations, as we try and protect ourselves against militant extremists determined to kill us because we do not believe in their medieval concept of world domination. The next twenty years looks just as grim. All we can do is stand fast to our beliefs that good always triumphs over evil, eventually.

AN ADDENUM TO 9/11 THAT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED

Very shortly after the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center, NORAD ordered all aircraft to land if within US airspace and divert to other landing spots if in international air space. This order was actually given by a Canadian RCAF Captain who was, at that moment in time, the senior officer in charge of the continent's air defenses. This was an incredibly difficult decision to make, but he made it. As a result, over 10,000 planes landed at US airports within thirty minutes, including all private aircraft. The President's personal plane, Air Force 1, was the sole exception. President Bush was in Florida at the time and desperately wanted to return to Washington. In this, he was initially blocked by his National Security Advisor, Coraleeza Rice, who had him flown to a secure military base in Nebraska for his own safety until the situation clarified. Bush returned to Washington in the evening and addressed the nation – a truly momentous day, with the pivotal role of Miss Rice becoming known only now.

Planes flying within Canadian airspace were also grounded immediately, no doubt inconveniencing many travellers. Hundreds of aircraft flying towards North America turned around and returned to their points of departure, but hundreds more were past the point of no return. All of these aircraft had to land in Canada, as the Americans refused to let them land in the USA. Canada accepted every single plane and accommodated every passenger, processing every tired and confused traveler, and arranging for land transportation to the USA for tens of thousands of individuals, and eventually repatriated over a thousand airliners to their owners – all without a glitch!

WHEN WILL YOU BE PUBLISHING A MAP OF _____ ?

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ITMB has the most number of map titles of any commercial map publisher in the world (government map agencies excepted). We map many countries, regions, and cities all over the world that sometimes are, bluntly spoken, sub-economic. We do this because we believe that all parts of the world have equal value, whether or not that particular city or country is touristically popular. However, there are limits that constrain us; most understandably, lack of finances to afford to expand our product line faster than we are at the moment. The lack of finances is the result of slower sales during the era of Covid. We also have to accept a human reality; there are only a finite number of qualified cartographers in our firm, and each new title takes many months to research and prepare artwork suitable for printing. That does not stop a steady stream of "When are you going to publish a map of (fill in the blank)?"

This month, we have fielded two such queries; the first being from a retailer in Calgary, asking when we might have a map of the South Sudan. ITMB does have a map of the (now former) Sudan, which is slowly but steadily depleting in inventory, and we do plan to publish a new map of the Sudan and the South Sudan in the future, but I had to point out to the person querying that South Sudan bears all the hallmarks of a failed state. It has unstable borders, aggressive neighbours, a severely divided government based on tribalism, and exceptionally low travel interest. In the short term, our current map meets the needs for coverage of this portion of Africa, with the exception of a line separating north from south.

The second query came from a customer wondering why ITMB did not have a map of Grenada in its product list, since it has a map of Barbados. Apart from the fact that Barbados is touristically interesting and Grenada is a small island that one could walk across in half an hour, to date we have seen little demand for a map of Grenada, Anguilla, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and a number of other Caribbean islands. We are developing a map for the Dutch Antilles islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao, but at the moment, our resources are too limited to consider doing a map of Grenada. Furthermore, we lack base artwork or detailed information about the island nation that would enable us to do such a map.

This brings up a general point that few people realize. Maps are not created out of thin air. One needs reference material such as satellite imagery, Shape files, or available source material to begin a map. At the moment, we do not have reliable source data on which to base a map of Grenada, or of St. Vincent, or of a host of other countries (such as Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Timor, Djibouti, or a host of other countries), nor is there sufficient market demand that we can see to justify travel maps of places rarely visited by travellers, as of 2021. ITMB is still the leading firm in the world producing new maps of destinations for which we do perceive a demand that we have not previously mapped, and we are working on others. Covid has been a blessing in that sense. We have been forced to isolate in a safe environment for almost two years, and this has provided Lan with a much-needed opportunity to update all of our maps needing updating and have time left over to concentrate on the backlog of maps we have wanted to do for years but lacked the time to concentrate on them as projects. The results of our labours is evident both in the list of projects under development that is below, and in the steady stream of new titles that we have released during this time period we are now calling the Era of Covid. We have published 40 new titles since January, 2020, mostly brand new, all of which will be presented at our stand at this year's Frankfurt Book Fair.

Work in progress takes many months to complete. We include such a listing with each newsletter, and it changes monthly. We are experiencing considerable difficulty currently in receiving back from our printers the paper maps that we have commissioned them to print. This is regrettable, but is part and parcel of a worldwide economic reality glitch that will sort itself out in time. Patience is a virtue, even though one tends to rail against delays one can do nothing to solve. ITMB remains committed to expanding our line steadily by adding new product on a regular basis and has so many new and unusual projects being developed that the years ahead promise to show many marvelous new maps. Bear with us; we're working hard.

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

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One of the more unhappy aspects of maintaining a newsletter of this nature is to record the closing down of yet another mapping venture. In this case, I am referring to Mapworld Services in Calgary, Alberta that operated successfully for many years under the guidance of its owner, David Pickering. Calgary has been particularly hard-hit in recent years by the uncertainties of the oil industry, and Covid has hollowed out the central core of the city, leaving many empty office towers and retail venues. David was facing a lease renewal and a landlord unwilling to compromise on a rental rate of \$7,000 monthly. I can never understand landlords with such an attitude, because David was forced to close his operation as a bricks and mortar store, and continue business as an on-line operation, while the landlord is left with an empty retail space at a time when there are dozens of empty buildings in the downtown area. Mapworld Services, which has always thrived as a supplier of custom mapping to the commercial/industrial sector, continues in that capacity, but individuals can no longer enter his shop and buy a retail-type map. Calgary continues to be served by Map Town, from their retail premises in central Calgary. I visited David in Calgary last month, who filled me in on local realities that were extremely depressing. Sure enough, just as I write this, the Alberta government is locking down the province due to an incredible upsurge of Covid and everyone is hunkering down as for a hurricane.

A REVOLUTION IN NORTH AMERICAN RAILROADS

Today's news reported that Canadian Pacific Railways, North America's only transcontinental rail company, has successfully negotiated a purchase of Kansas City and Southern Rail. The price tag is \$33,000,000,000 (that thirty-three BILLION dollars!!!). The other suitor for KCS was Canadian National Rail, the second largest railway line on the continent. Why were these giants interested in a line most of us have never heard of? The answer is simple; KCS operates lines deep into Mexico. It will take about a year for the deal to complete regulatory requirements, but sometime in 2022, CP will become the only railway company owning and operating thousands of miles/kilometers of track in Canada, the USA, and Mexico. This will give CP enormous clout in moving freight.

CP began its existence as a vision of John A Macdonald, the wonderful visionary who dreamed of creating a country out of several squabbling colonies. Fortunately (for us), the Americans fell apart as a nation and descended into the hell that always results from a civil war (1861-65). The USA is still struggling to overcome that catastrophe more than a century later. Macdonald found the American situation one that provided a cogent argument to convince provincial leaders of separate colonies that the very last thing we all needed was a battle-hardened American army on our borders, with manifest destiny befuddling their thinking. He convened a momentous meeting of colonial leaders in Charlottetown, (then the capital of the Colony of Prince Edward Island) in 1864 and convinced everyone that "United We Stand, Divided We Fall!" This resulted in the British North America Act and Canada's creation as an independent country in 1867, but this was just the prelude to Macdonald's dream of creating a great country.

There was a separate British colony thousands of miles away called British Columbia. Macdonald turned his considerable persuasive arguing ability on to persuading BCers that their future lay with an entity in the east, freshly named Canada, rather than with the Americans to the south. He promised them a railway, a transcontinental ribbon of steel, to bind BC to Canada. Imagine the audacity! Canada had only three million people, and had only been a nation state for a couple of years. He was successful, and BC joined Canada in 1871. CP Rail was created specifically to build the first, and only, transcontinental rail line ever seen in North America, a feat of nation building that took a decade to complete and involved countless adventures and calamities, doing what had never been attempted before – and succeeding. The original locomotive that arrived in Vancouver in 1886 is now on display in the downtown roundhouse museum. CP has gone on to create hotels (Banff, Jasper, and many others), a trucking firm, and a coterie of rail acquisitions, becoming the first to provide rail lines from the Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico, as well as from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and is now posed to unite the three great countries of North America into one massive enterprise. This is nothing short of revolutionary, even in a continent where the extraordinary is a daily occurrence.

WORK IN PROGRESS - all sellers/librarians please note

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ITMB, as of late September, 2021, has ample inventory of almost all of the titles traditionally carried as part of our publishing line. We have 14 titles at press, but printers are suffering from a lack of paper, thanks to Covid health shutdowns during 2020/21, and shipping space limitations. We ask for your understanding if a particular title happens to be unavailable in the short term. Generally, we have ample inventory. The following titles are under development:

Amazon and Northern Brasil – Our former version of Amazon is now out of print, so Lan is re-working the concept into a double-side map covering the entire Amazon basin with an updated map of northern Brasil. It will have double cover, so can be displayed either as a map of the massive river basin or as a map of everything north of Recife. The artwork is still developing, so this title will probably not be ready until it is!

Arizona/New Mexico – This title is now out of print temporarily. Lan has updated the artwork, which is expected fairly soon.

Austria – This is a double-sided mapping project that has been years in the making. ITMB introduced a single-sided map of Austria a few years ago, which sold, but did not do justice to an important country like Austria. As a result, we have re-worked the artwork into a double-sided map of the country and made it into a Rail/Road map. The artwork is almost ready to go to press, but call it a work in progress for now.

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 will still take several months to complete.

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.

Cardiff – see **Wales**, below.

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. We will be flying to Florence in December to ground-truth the artwork.

Garden Route, Cape Province, South Africa – see **Cape Town**, above.

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.

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New Mexico – see Arizona, above

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.

Richmond, British Columbia – That's right folks, something we do receive a constant stream of requests for is a map of our own city which, as we discovered, has never been properly mapped. As a result, the proof checking is taking longer than usual due to inaccurate info on various web sites. We have driven over 1,000 kms. to date, checking place names, landmark buildings, parks, bike trails, and newly-opened streets. We are also updating our Vancouver map at the same time to serve as a bike map for the reverse side of Richmond, so our Metris van is visiting the gas pump more often than expected. ITMB has had a map of Vancouver City for a number of years, and recently published a map of North Vancouver and West Vancouver (two independent cities in the vicinity). Richmond will be the third segment of the Greater Vancouver region in our product line; ready, as always, when it is finished.

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

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 in September, 2021

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Eastern Europe Rail & Road Travel Reference Map 1st Ed., 2021 1:2,600,000 ISBN 9781771292641 UPC 817712926418 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – ITMB is pleased to announce the release of the final regional map covering Europe at an enhanced scale. Europe may be small in comparison to Canada, but it is densely populated and difficult to map as a continent while providing detail. Eastern Europe used to be defined as everything behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War, but now it encompasses everything east of Germany and Switzerland, which means that this map covers Italy, Greece and the Balkan countries, the Central European countries of Romania and Hungary and most of Ukraine, Poland and the three Baltic states, and western Russia as far east as Volgograd, as well as much of Turkey. It is a combined road and rail map, showing motorways and major highways, fast-train routes in red and regular services in black. It also shows major cruise line routes, although many have been suspended due to Covid and political situations in Russia and Turkey. Essentially, this is a map covering a very large area, as are our maps of Western and Central Europe, and our earlier map of Scandinavia. We have tried to make it politically correct, which is difficult considering the Russian occupation of Crimea and the Donetsk region of Ukraine and the on-going controversy over the ‘proper’ name for Macedonia, so we apologize for any errors. For simplicity’s sake, we have named most place names in English, so Roma is Rome and Moscva is Moscow etc. Fortunately, most English place names are the same in the local languages. However, being ITMB, Naples is Napoli, and Florence is Firenze, so don’t be too critical of us; we’re trying to reconcile differing perspectives. **AVAILABLE**

Nevada & Northern California Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2021 ISBN 1:875,000 ISBN 9781771295734 UPC 817712957344 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – The USA is one of the most challenging countries to map due to its strong identification with state boundaries. Last month, we introduced two new maps of Idaho and Montana; this month, we wish to introduce Nevada. As a state, Nevada is mostly desert-like and is lightly populated. Its two major urban areas, Las Vegas and Reno, are extremely popular travel destinations. In addition, Nevada offers the Hoover Dam, one of the seven wonders of the modern world, a national park with 5,000-year-old pine trees, America’s second deepest lake (Tahoe), the eighth highest mountain peak in the USA, and the biggest air force bombing range in the world (Nellis). The map is double-sided, and covers northern California on the other side. This includes such treasures as Death Valley, part of the Mojave Desert, Yosemite National Park, the beautiful sequoia trees in the far northeast corner, and man-made wonders such as the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway 1 along the Big Sur coastline. Nevada is a valuable addition to ITMB’s growing line of State maps; after all, it’s about the size of France! **AVAILABLE**

New South Wales, Victoria, & Tasmania Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2021 1:1,900,000 ISBN 9781771295741 UPC 817712957412 \$13.95 can/us E9.50 8.95GBP – We are pleased to announce the completion of our regional maps covering Australia with this map of the south-eastern segment of the country. This is the most densely-populated part of Australia, stretching from Lismore in the northeast to the Tasman Sea in the south. It includes all of New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria State, with South Australia as far west as Adelaide. It also shows Tasmania, Australia’s only island state, in good detail, as well as Flinders Island and King Island. The map includes two very large inset maps of Melbourne and of Sydney. This map covers the travel plans of 90% of the visitors travelling around Australia, a continental country that is very difficult to see all of in one trip. The expanded scale we’ve used allows adequate room to include wilderness campgrounds, recreational vehicle parks, airports, petrol stations in more remote parts of the states, world heritage sites, national and state parks, and a host of points of interest. **AVAILABLE**

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Sri Lanka & Southern India Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2021, on waterproof paper 1:450,000/1:1,600,000 ISBN 9781771297134 UPC 817712971340 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – This edition is a considerable improvement on our previous one, benefitting from the extensive research trip we took to the emerald-shaped island shortly before the outbreak of Covid changed the world. We have re-introduced it as a map printed on waterproof paper, as such a format holds up well in a hot, humid climate. We visited all parts of the island and were quite impressed by the number of local hotels and resorts that we found and have added to the map. We were particularly gratified to discover progress on extending the motorway system for the country, much of it now probably delayed due to Covid. The inset map of Colombo is particularly well-done. The second side of the sheet is a very detailed map of the southern third of India, from Nagpur to the southern tip of the country. Space constraints did not allow for inset maps, but several well-known cities are included – Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pondicherry, Madurai, and Bengaluru (Bangalore) among them. India is a fascinating, if somewhat intimidating, place to visit, but is well-worth the time to do so. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES in August, 2021

Amsterdam & Netherlands 2nd Ed. 2021 1:8,000/1:400,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771290197 UPC 817712901972 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – As a result of Covid-related shutdowns, we have been able to concentrate on our backlog of titles needing to be done but for which time seems to be denied. Amsterdam is such a title. The city is one of the major gateways into Europe and the touristic value is very high. The coverage goes from the Rembrandt Park in the west to the harbour in the east, and from the large Volkstuin Park in the north to below Vondels Park in the south. All the tram lines are shown, as well as rail tracks and the Metro lines, hotels, restaurants, museums, and attractions. As a bonus, we have included a list of the city's top attractions. The reverse side contains a detailed travel map of the Netherlands. By the shape of the country, this includes a portion of northern Belgium as far south as Brussels. Due to the rather densely populated nature of the country, our ability to show historic sites and attractions has been somewhat limited, but we are doing something on this map that I've never seen on any other map – showing all the windmills that are so closely related to the Dutch heritage! All the motorways and main highways are shown, of course, and we have included a list of top attractions. The map is printed on waterproof stone paper for durability and is biodegradable. **AVAILABLE**

Balkans and Peaks Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2021 1:2,750,000/1:55,000 ISBN 9781771291026 UPC 817712910264 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – The portion of Europe east of the Adriatic and west of the Black Sea and south of the Alps has traditionally formed the region known as the Balkan States. This includes the former Yugoslavian states of Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, and Northern Macedonia, as well as Albania, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. Due to its shape, a large portion of Greece, and a bit of Turkey also are included. This is a new area of mapping for us, resulting from numerous visits to the region. It is essentially a road map, as the rail network is weak, although rail lines carrying passengers are shown. Nice though the regional map is, its strength lies in the hiking map of the Peaks of the Balkans on the other side. This detailed map is centred on eastern Montenegro, northern Albania, and western Kosovo. The ten major hiking routes are shown in pink, and there are numerous secondary routes one can explore. This is a growing touristic destination for those seeking a semi-wilderness area for enjoyment, while remaining in Europe, and is becoming quite popular. Accommodations are comprehensively shown, as well as campsites. Contouring is shown, and many peaks are noted. It should be stated that, as these paths cross international borders, hikers should keep their passports handy for inspection. **AVAILABLE**

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Central Europe Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2021 1:1,200,000 ISBN 9781771291729 UPC 817712917294 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – Europe is fairly big, and densely populated. A map of all of Europe is useful, but at a scale that limits our ability to show information. As a result, last year we published a map of Western Europe. Now, we are pleased to extend our more detailed coverage of the continent with a map covering the Central European countries of Germany, Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Switzerland, with portions of France, Belarus, Serbia, and Romania. A third map, covering eastern European countries, will be released soon, providing detailed regional coverage of the continent in a way that we hope is pleasing. Germany occupies most of the first side, and Poland the other, with Czech and Slovakia divided between the two sides, and Slovakia/Hungary filling the rest of side 2. This is a regional map, showing rail lines as well and roads, airports, and major touristic attractions. A listing of the region's top attractions is included. This map will appeal to those visiting several countries on one trip, by rail or road. **AVAILABLE**

Idaho and Montana Travel Reference Map, see Montana, below

Maui, Kauai, & Molokai Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2021:100,000 on waterproof paper 1:100,000 ISBN 9781771293396 UPC 817712933966 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.96GBP - At long last, we have finally found time to complete our detailed mapping of the American state of Hawaii. The island of Maui may not be as well-known as Oahu, which is extremely popular with Japanese honeymooners, but it is as attractive touristically. Our coverage covers most of Side 1 and includes a detailed inset map of Wailuku, the principal urban area, as well as insets of Lahaina on the west coast and Wailea resort area. This side also includes a map of the island of Lanai, with its main urban area of Lanai City as an inset. Side 2 concentrates on the islands of Molokai, Kauai, and the lightly populated island of Ni'ihau, and includes detailed inset maps of Lihue, Kaunakakai, and Po'ipu, all of which are major resort destinations. The islands are loaded with beaches and places to stay, but also with attractions, which are shown on the map. This is a beautiful map, one of the best we have ever produced, and is a fitting companion to our maps of Big Island, and Oahu/Honolulu, as well as our state map. The Maui/Kauai map also has a double-sided cover, so can be displayed as two separate maps. **AVAILABLE**

Montana and Idaho Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2021 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771294751 UPC 817712947512 \$9.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP - ITMB is pleased to release two more state maps, this time of Montana on one side, and adjacent Idaho on the other side. Montana prides itself on being the 'blue sky' state. Due to its high elevation, the sky does appear to be a darker shade of blue than is common in areas closer to the ocean. The state is lightly populated, so much of its attractiveness rests with natural features, such as Glacier National Park on the Canadian border, and Yellowstone National Park on the Wyoming border. The state is also perfect camping country, and our map includes dozens of authorized campsites. It also includes the national heritage site of Little Big Horn, where Lt. Colonel Custer and the US 7th Cavalry were massacred after foolishly attacking a vastly larger encampment of Sioux and Cheyenne first nations people under the leadership of Sitting Bull. The second side of the map portrays the State of Idaho, an equally large geographic area lightly populated. The terrain is quite mountainous, but is ideal for growing potatoes. The northern portion of the state is a narrow neck used mostly to get between Washington State and Montana, but the southern half encompasses the Snake River Valley. As with Montana, outdoor recreation is the main attraction, with dozens of parks and campsites. Coeur d'Alene, the main town in the north, is actually a corruption of Coeur de Lion, named after a French Canadian fur trapper who lived in the area many years ago. The map also has two different covers, one for each state, so can be displayed in two different areas of a store. **AVAILABLE**

Netherlands Travel Reference map, see Amsterdam, above

Peaks of the Balkans, see Balkans, above

NEW RELEASES FOR January to June, 2021

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

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