

# NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

## New Maps

### USGS Surprises

I'm always pleasantly surprised by the unusual and interesting maps that occasionally make their way into shipments from the USGS. One recent example is a 1999 set of satellite images of Armenia produced by the USGS, with U.S. AID assistance, in cooperation with the Armenian Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources. The title, in Armenian and English, is *Republic of Armenia and Surrounding Areas: Satellite Image Map*. The seven large (42 x 53") sheets at a 1:100,000 scale graphically display the rugged territory of that country. The maps are part of the Miscellaneous Investigations Series, numbered I-2678. There is also a two sheet version of this remote sensing image at a 1:250,000 scale in the same series, Map I-2665.

The USGS also recently released a nice map in their Geological Investigations Series. The *Historic Trail Map of the Denver 1 x 2 (degree) Quadrangle, Central Colorado* is actually two large maps, 18 x 27" and 22 x 34" on sheets 38 x 49", with an accompanying pamphlet. They show all the historic trails, roads, and railroads in the area around Denver. The second map is an enlargement of an area of the first. The maps are surrounded by nice historical photos and informative text. News to me was the fact that most of the early roads in that area were toll wagon roads built by private parties. Also news to me was the fact that these maps were not the first such maps produced by the USGS, and that similar "Historic Trail Maps" exist for other quadrangles in Colorado.

A third revelation was the existence of the USGS's "Greenwood" website, (so named for a former Assoc. Chief Geologist at USGS), which is a "repository for digital publications (primarily thematic maps, databases, and software) that assists in fulfilling the USGS's mandate to provide timely, relevant, state-of-the-art geoscience data to the public." I mention this because the *Historic Trail Map of Denver* is available at this site as a PDF file. But be forewarned; the files are huge (and the paper maps are much more appealing). ([greenwood.cr.usgs.gov](http://greenwood.cr.usgs.gov))

### More Happy Trails to You

Sticking with the western theme, another recent release is the 1999 edition of the *Western Emigrant Trails Map, 1820-1870; Historic Trails, Cutoffs, and Alternates*, published by the Western Emigrant Trails Research Center in Omaha. This is an updated and expanded version of one of my favorite historical maps, first published in 1991 by the Oregon-California

Trails Association in Independence, MO. It was then titled *1830-1870 Western Emigrant Trails; Major Trails, Cutoffs, and Alternates*. The new map extends the coverage back a decade, adds many more trails, supplies origination dates, and adds and expands some inserts. It's a very interesting and attractive map, printed in three colors, and measuring 22 x 33". Available flat or folded, in paper or the more durable "professional version" on synthetic paper, both for \$8.50 each plus S&H. More information at ([members.aol.com/wetrc](http://members.aol.com/wetrc)).

## More Worries

As if you didn't have enough to worry about, the folks at MapLink and Pinkerton Global Intelligence now have produced a *World Risk Map*. The 18 x 24" folded map has a world map on one side with countries color-coded as to their security risks low, moderate, high, or "extreme risk" with those terms explicitly defined. It also includes text on "Common Threats to Travelers" and "Travel Security Tips," with insert maps on "Worldwide Health Risks." (One travel tip: "Do not stand in the middle of the sidewalk studying a map. If you need to consult a map, step into a cafe, shop, library, or office building.") The reverse has a handy chart showing, for each country, required documentation for U.S. citizens, travel restrictions, required immunizations, and in-country security concerns, along with a list of foreign embassies in the U.S. Not a fun map certainly, but useful. Available from MapLink for \$7.95 (ISBN 0929591593).

## Telegeography

I'm afraid I'm a traditionalist when it comes to maps, but I was struck by an image in the November/December 1999 issue of *Mercator's World*. Called *The Whole Internet*, the "map" charts the connections among some 96,000 Internet networks, with the geographical and commercial distribution of the networks highlighted in vivid colors against a black background. It's difficult to describe, but fascinating to look at.

Intrigued, I tried tracking down the publisher, Peacock Maps, which is part of Telegeography, Inc., and which led me such web sites as the "Atlas of Cyberspace" and the "Geography of Cyberspace Directory" ([www.cybergeography.org](http://www.cybergeography.org)) and much deeper into cyberspace than I really wanted to go. I learned how to define telegeography and cybergeography (the study of the spatial nature of computer communications networks), and found a host of online "cybermaps."

But I wanted printed maps and finally found the Peacock Maps site, which contains a nice explanation of just what *The Whole Internet* image means. It's their only product at the moment, but the 27 x 35" poster comes with either a black or white background. It's not cheap at \$49.95, but it sure is different. Fortunately Telegeography, Inc. also publishes somewhat more traditional maps such as the 1999 *Global Communications Cable and Satellite Map*, and the *Global Communications Traffic Map*, both 37 x 52" and both very expensive at \$125 folded

(\$155 flat). See them all at ([www.telegeography.com](http://www.telegeography.com)).

## ArtCarta

ArtCarta International, a California-based company that works closely with Russian map publisher ACC, offers two new maps. *Russia and Neighboring States* is a folded version of its *Wall Map of Russia* published several years ago in Cyrillic. The new map has all names (8000+) transliterated into the Latin alphabet. The 1:5,000,000 scale map is a big 40 x 36" doubled-sided production on glossy paper. The "Index of Geographic Names" is in a separate brochure, which might make shelving the map problematic. It sells for \$29.95 plus shipping.

ArtCarta has also produced a nice *Wall Map of California* using their interesting process that combines digital technology with colorful handmade hill-shading. It's a huge thing, 63 x 43" at a 1:750,000 scale, and printed in one piece on 100 lb. gloss cardboard with "protective waterproof UV varnish." Like the Russia map, the index of names is printed in a separate brochure. \$80 plus shipping. More information at their web site ([www.artcarta.com](http://www.artcarta.com)).

## Middle East Peace

One outfit optimistic about peace in the Middle East is MAP—Mapping & Publishing Ltd., an Israeli publisher of road maps and travel guides. Their web site states: "With the inexorable advance of the peace process, the borders throughout the Middle East are opening, bringing a dramatic increase in tourism to the region, particularly the Holy Land." Expecting a large market, they have begun producing a series of English-language products. They offer an attractive pictorial poster-map, *Jerusalem: The Old City*, 27 x 39" and laminated, for \$15. Other products include a *Tel Aviv Pocket Guide and Atlas* for \$13; *Jerusalem, The New Street Atlas*, with a large scale map of the Old City; and a nice 1:350,000 scale *Israel Road Map* for \$9. Another unusual (for them) product is their *Via Dolorosa*, a souvenir book describing the Stations of the Cross through "an artist's view of the events as they occurred two millennia ago, and the sites as they appear today." The 48-page hardcover, which also includes a three-dimensional map of the Via Dolorosa and a map of the Old City, is priced at \$20. See all the MAP products at ([www.mapa.co.il](http://www.mapa.co.il)).

## Downtown 3-D

Ludington Ltd. has announced several new axonometric (3-D or birds-eye view) poster maps of U.S. cities, and two other planimetric maps. The axonometric maps include *Midtown Manhattan* (which compliments their *Downtown Manhattan* map), *Downtown San Diego*, and *Downtown Waikiki*. The planimetric, or flat maps are of the U.S. and Europe. Maps of other cities are in the works and should be available shortly. All their axonometric maps measure 24 x 35" and sell for \$20 in paper, \$40 laminated. More information and examples can be found at their web site ([www.gcmci.com](http://www.gcmci.com)).

## New Books & Atlases

### The World of Atlases

As Christmas approaches one thing that can be counted on, along with short days and cold nights, is the sudden appearance of new world atlases in bookstores. Some really are "new," some revised, but this year, on the eve of the millennium, publishers have become very creative as they try to outdo their competitors. Since personal preferences influence choice of an atlas, I hesitate to rank them, but six of the best are listed below.

At the top of the list is the new *Times Atlas of the World; Tenth Comprehensive Edition* (ISBN 081293265X). (The British edition is subtitled "2000 Millennium Edition", which has a bit nicer ring to it.) This is the granddaddy of world atlases, the favorite of many libraries and the standard by which others are judged. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition has been completely revised and redesigned using digital cartography. The front section is new, with many thematic maps and satellite images of each continent. The typeface on the maps is smaller than in previous editions, allowing for more of the 200,000 place names in the index but making it a little difficult to read. It's larger, with more pages and maps than previous editions, and probably worth all of it's \$250 price tag.

Also high on many people's lists is the *New International Atlas* from Rand McNally (\$99; ISBN 0528839616). The maps are clear, with elevation shown by shaded relief and hypsometric tints, and their index size, 170,000, is surpassed only by the *Times Atlas*. To emphasize its international character, most of the text is in five languages and there is a glossary of geographical terms in some 50 languages.

Another new publication is the "completely revised" third edition of the *Hammond World Atlas* (\$69.95; ISBN 0843713534). The Hammond atlas is noted for the clarity of its maps, and the new edition features computer-generated hypsometric tints, some 160 pages of new maps, and an index to 170,000 place names.

The 1999 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *National Geographic Atlas of the World* (\$125; ISBN 0792275284) is a complete revision of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition first published in 1990. The maps look much the same, with improved relief shading, but the thematic section is greatly enlarged. The index has more than 155,000 place-names, with 14,000 changes since the previous edition. At 12 x 18" it's page size is one of the largest.

A personal favorite is the *Atlas of the World* from Oxford University Press. The 1999 7<sup>th</sup> edition (\$75; ISBN 0195215656) has great cartography by the venerable Philip's firm, a nice "Introduction to World Geography," and a large number of city maps.

Of course if you had the money and really wanted the biggest and most expensive of them all, the choice would be *The Book of the World*, published by Macmillan but created by the Bertelsmann Cartographic Institute. First published in 1996, and revised minimally in 1999, it measures 20 x 14" and weighs close to 20 pounds. Its 540 pages include 264 pages of maps at a uniform scale, over 40 pages of satellite images, a 180,000-entry index, and a CD-ROM atlas, all for a mere \$465 (ISBN 0028649664).

## Books for Giving

Listed below are three recent books that would make great gifts for anyone interested in maps, as well as great additions to any map collection.

A really interesting and enjoyable work is *Language of the Land; The Library of Congress Book of Literary Maps*, by Martha Hopkins and Michael Buscher. Washington: Library of Congress, 1999. 304 p., \$50 (ISBN 0844409634). The book is an "annotated guide" in the form of a cartobibliography to over 200 literary maps in the Geography and Map Division of LC. A brief but useful introduction on the definition and history of literary maps is followed by one-page entries for each map with a good-size picture and substantial description. Most of the maps are in black and white, but there is a 20-page center section illustrating some of the maps in full-color, making one wish they could have afforded to do more. Perhaps not essential for most map collections, but a nice production on a fun subject. Available from the LC Sales Shop or from GPO (stock no. 030-001-00178-4). [Editor's note: Those government documents types who select Item 0811-A will have received this book on shipping list 99-0037-S. Its SuDoc is LC 5.2: L 26/2.]

*Infinite Perspectives: Two Thousand Years of Three-Dimensional Mapping*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999. 116 p., \$75 (ISBN 1568981953). Another fine title from the folks at Princeton Architectural Press who also did the recent books *Bird's Eye Views* and *Atlas of Rare City Maps*. In the interest of full disclosure, I should mention that I know the authors and that many of the maps pictured in the book are from the Yale collection. Having said that, this is still a beautiful work on an unusual subject and with an unusual arrangement. The first half of the book is an overview of the history of picturing elevation in maps, with some nice historical images. The second half is a discussion of a 3-D process ("Infinite Perspective Projection") invented by the authors, and features some 20 images viewable through 3-D glasses supplied with the book. There is also a large, separate 3-D map in the cover pocket.

Mentioned briefly in the last issue of *base line*, but not yet available, was *Mapping Boston*, edited by Alex Krieger and David Cobb. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1999. 270 p., \$50 (ISBN 0262112442). If you didn't order a copy immediately, it may not be available at the moment because the publisher was reporting stock-out. It's easy to see why. While I usually try to keep my superlatives in check in this column, this book is truly magnificent (and I don't use that word very often). It's beautifully designed and printed, with lots of wonderful images and lots of

substantial text by people who know what they're talking about. The book includes chapters on the mapping of New England and the Boston map trade, so it's a little broader than its title might indicate. The publication was sponsored by Boston developer and map collector Norman Leventhal, and perhaps that has kept the price so reasonable for such a lavish work. It will soon be back in print, and if you haven't already, order a copy for your library and for yourself, and heartily recommend it to anyone remotely connected to Boston.

## GPS and Compass

GPS (Global Positioning Systems) units are becoming more affordable. If you're lucky enough to get one for Christmas, or just buy one as a present for yourself, you may find the following useful.

Seattle's Mountaineers Books has published the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of its *GPS Made Easy* by Lawrence Letham. 208 p., \$14.95 pbk. (ISBN 0898865921). It tells you all you need to know about using hand-held GPS receivers in the outdoors, how the darn things work, features of all common receivers, and practical examples. And for the visually minded, an instructional video "Using GPS with Maps," which takes the viewer through the basics of topo maps, coordinate systems, using lat/lon and the UTM coordinate system, and other tips and techniques. In VHS format, color, approximately 30 minutes long, and \$19.95. Both available from Mapsco ([www.mapsco.com](http://www.mapsco.com)).

If you're not into this newfangled GPS stuff and wish for the good old days when real men (and women) found their way through the woods with just a map and compass, there's still a lot available for you. Some newer and basic (i.e., short) titles include the revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Basic Essentials: Map and Compass*, by Cliff Jacobson, Globe Pequot Press, 1999; 64 p., \$7.95 (ISBN 0762704810); *The Outward Bound Map & Compass Handbook*, by Glenn Randall, rev. ed., Lyons Press, 1998; 112 p., \$12.95 (ISBN 1558217479); and *Route Finding: Navigating with Map and Compass*, by Gregory Couch, Falcon Publishing, 1999; 128 p., \$6.95 (ISBN 1560448202). (It should be admitted that these titles do mention GPS.)

## New from Norway

Another new title that just came over the transom is a 1999 volume of the *National Atlas of Norway*, titled *Vegetation*, from the Norwegian Mapping Authority. This is evidently a revision and continuation of the *Nasjonalatlas for Norge* that began publication in 1983. The *Nasjonalatlas for Norge* was issued in parts, with separate sheet maps, and the text (Norwegian with an English summary) in an accompanying booklet. In 1996 the decision was made to publish the atlas as books, and *Vegetation* is apparently the first volume in a new hardcover English version intended to encompass some 21 thematic volumes. The volume is nicely produced, with over 100 maps and even more color photographs in its 200 pages. One difference from the previous format, besides language, is the size of the maps. The earlier

portfolio version had large, folded maps, while the new edition is limited to the 9 x 13" page size. But it still promises to be a very comprehensive, useful, and attractive set. (615 Norwegian Kroners, about \$77; ISBN 8279450009 for *Vegetation*.)

—*Fred Musto*

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