

base line

a newsletter of the Map and Geography Round Table

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base line is an official publication of the American Library Association's Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT). The purpose of *base line* is to provide current information on cartographic materials, other publications of interest to map and geography librarians, meetings, related governmental activities, and map librarianship. It is a medium of communication for members of MAGERT and information of interest is welcome. The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the American Library Association and MAGERT. Contributions should be sent to the appropriate editor listed below.

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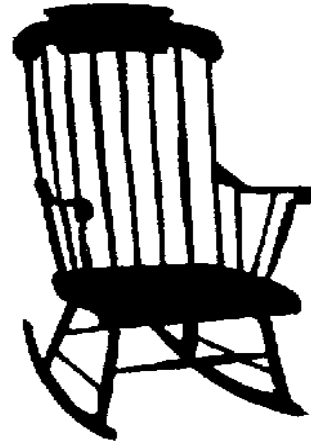
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FROM THE CHAIR

Pete Reehling, University of South Florida

The MAGERT Reception has just been scheduled for Anaheim and will be held in the Palisades Room of the Hilton Anaheim on Friday, 27 June 2008, from 6 – 8pm. The Hilton Anaheim is an ALA sponsored hotel that is located next to the Anaheim Convention Center. Please use the following link to download a map of the ALA hotel block for Anaheim: <http://ala.org/ala/eventsand-conferencesb/annual/2008a/an08-hotelmao.pdf>



The reception is being sponsored by ESRI and special thanks goes out to Angela Lee, ESRI Libraries and Museums Manager, for coordinating the sponsorship.

A finalized conference schedule for Anaheim has not been distributed to me at the time of this writing. Once a finalized schedule is released by ALA it will be immediately distributed via the magert@ala.org listserv and also posted on the MAGERT website.

Let's have some fun in Anaheim!...

Pete  

Rare, Antiquarian, or Just Plain Old: Cataloging Pre-Twentieth Century Cartographic Resources

The **Workbook** used and issued to participants during the June 2007 ALA preconference on cataloging early maps and atlases is now available to purchase for \$40. The **Workbook** includes illustrations and cataloging examples taken from sheet maps, atlas plates and atlases, focusing on early and pre-twentieth century cartographic materials. Elements of description, transcription, mathematical data and supportive research are some of the areas covered by the **Workbook**. The price includes shipping and handling.

Orders should be sent to Jim Coombs, MAGERT Publications Distribution Manager, Maps Library, Missouri State University, 901 S. National, #175, Springfield, MO 65897 E-mail: JimCoombs@missouristate.edu  

ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

Tammy Wong, Library of Congress

Cartographic Resources Cataloging Discussion Group, January 13, 2008

Susan Moore, Chair of the Discussion Group led a question and answer session in Philadelphia.

The following is a selection of the discussion and questions raised, and a compilation of answers offered by the participants during the session.

Question: Is there anyone who has experience training map copy catalogers?

Answer: It is important to have good documentation with recorded local policies and make it available on the Internet. Cataloging workshop provided by Paige Andrew offers a list of important MARC fields. In some libraries, professional catalogers create template or constant data of different bibliographic formats for staff to use.

Several participants noticed that their cataloging departments are encouraged by library administrators to accept bibliographic records without correcting errors. One has to strike a balance between maintaining productivity and providing sufficient description such as notes, numbers, and codes to enable discovery. Providing sufficient description helps to precisely identify and describe what items a library has. This is especially important to collections with rare materials in view of recent map library security breach and map thefts.

As the library technology becomes more sophisticated and faceting provides better search features and subject


access to the metadata, data needs to be more fine-grained in order to utilize the technology well. One has to realize that all faceted information comes from the cataloging record, so our records need to have richer descriptive metadata in order to deliver accurate search and enable better resource discovery.

Question: Are there specific guidelines on when to create a new map bibliographic record?

Answer: ALCTS document *Differences Between, Changes within : Guidelines on When to Create a New Record* helps guide the cataloger in determining whether the item in hand matches an existing bibliographic record or requires the creation of a new bibliographic record.

<http://www.ala.org/ALCTSTemplate.cfm?Section=alctssectionscont&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=163183>

Question: My library is scanning Sanborn set maps; How does your library catalog digitally scanned maps?

Answer: There are not standardized guidelines in handling scanned map images. Different libraries handle cataloging of scanned images differently. LC has been adding 856 links of digitally scanned maps to bibliographic records of paper copy. LC also uses uncontrolled index term 653 Maps, Digital to bring electronic resources all together in the catalog. Other libraries have cataloged scanned map as a reproduction following the microfilm model, adding 533 to the records. 

New Maps and Cartographic Materials, Along with Other Items of Interest

David J. Bertuca, University at Buffalo

Spring erupted rapidly. Our trees are sprouting leaves after several days of warm weather and things are turning green all over. Unusual climate again, with 80 degree temps for four days straight and it's only April.

The continuing mixed-up weather makes one think harder on the changes that our climate is undergoing, for whatever reasons. Knowledge that we contribute to much of this change is starting to sink in as the effects of shifting weather hit closer to home. By coincidence perhaps, many of the new items that I have been viewing have global climate change as their theme or as a related theme. This may be no coincidence since more literature is including references to the world to come.

Maps

Pham Viet Hoa, Pham Viet Hong. *China: Scale 1:3,800,000*. 6th Ed. Vancouver, B.C.: ITMB, 2007 (ISBN: 1553411684). 1 map: both sides, col.; 99 x 137 cm., sheet 97 x 68 cm., folded to 25 x 11 cm (Lambert conformal conic proj.).

This well-designed view of China is useful as a road map and for locating cities, towns, and natural features. Relief is shown by gradient tints and spot heights, and the colors are subtle enough that place names and labels are easy to read. The scale is small and the map covers two sides but given the

size of China and the need for a more compact map, this is not a problem.

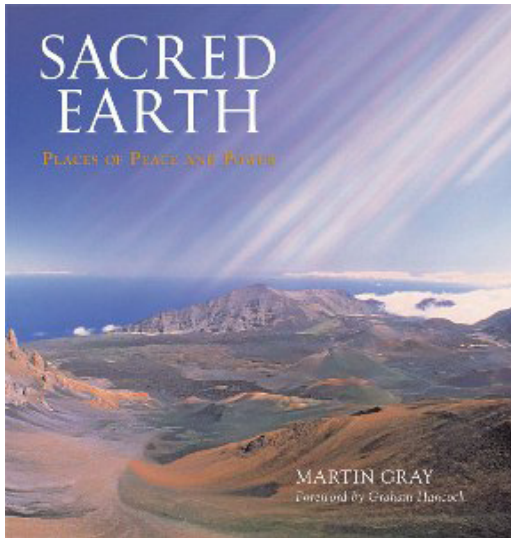
Included are a place name index and an ancillary map of central Beijing showing notable landmarks and features surrounding the Forbidden City, which is itself shown in good detail (buildings are indicated by color, though not named). This map is useful for all patron levels and would be a good one to choose for teaching geography and for locating places and regions in this vast nation.

Atlases

Gray, Martin. *Sacred Earth: Places of Peace and Power*. New York, NY: Sterling Pub. Co., 2007 (ISBN: 9781402747373). 276 p.: col. ill., maps; 30 cm.

From the Stones of Callanish to Ethiopian rock-cut churches in Lalibela, sacred places are inspiring. Some sites are complex, others simple; yet all display a sublime power that moves even non-believers.

This book is a beautiful compilation of photographs showing some of the most fascinating places imaginable and introducing readers to places that we may never visit ourselves. The accompanying text briefly describes each site. Maps show the locations of the places and give context to the spirit of humanity throughout the world.



“Acclaimed photographer and anthropologist Martin Gray spent the last 20 years on an amazing pilgrimage: he visited 1,000 sacred sites in 80 countries around the world. His journey unfolds in a remarkable compilation of images that reveals just how devoutly pre-industrial cultures everywhere worshipped and respected our Earth. From the Western Wall to the Great Mosque of Damascus, Mt. Olympus to Assisi, Tibet’s Potala Palace to Hawaii’s Mauna Kea, Teotihuacán in Mexico to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, these are the awe-inspiring places from which all the world’s great religions sprang, along with our finest culture, art, and architecture. Gray’s stunning photographs and fascinating text provide unique insight into why these powerful holy places are the most venerated and visited sites on the entire planet. Maps adapted from the National Geographic Society show the locations of all the sites presented, and a thorough appendix includes a comprehensive list of over 500 of the world’s sacred sites.”—Publisher

The book also includes discussion of

threats posed to these sites. Many of the places are under constant pressure from man and nature and need protection. The book includes bibliographical references and further information. View table of contents: <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/toc/ecip076/2006100795.html>. A companion website is worth visiting as well: <http://sacredsites.com/index.html>. It includes maps, photos, and descriptions of sacred sites around the world.

This book is recommended for high-school through adult readers and provides both inspiration and learning about architecture and historical monuments. It would also be a handsome gift idea. A companion DVD is also available.

Douglas, David. *The Atlas of Sacred and Spiritual Sites: Discover Places of Mystical Power From Around the World*. London: Godsfield Book, 2008 (ISBN: 9781841813288). 175 p.: col. ill., col. maps; 29 cm.

There seems to be more than a little interest in the topic of sacred places in the world as this book complements the previous title. There are similarities and distinct differences in theme and coverage of the various sites so that anyone with an interest in the topic, whether from historical study or from studies in architecture or religion, may wish to obtain both works.

“This beautifully illustrated guide explores the connections between people, faith, and landscape and features plans, reconstructions, and stunning photography of little-known holy sites. Beginning with the magnificent cathedrals, mosques, and temples of the world’s

great religions and concluding with earthworks, and holy mountains, wells, and rivers, it traces the wisdom these spots embody and explores the ways in which we gain spiritual insights from them today. The examination of sites of pilgrimage, sacred stones, and places of isolation and meditation—from the Chapel of the Nativity of Christ in Jerusalem to Mount Tai Shan, the most revered of China’s five sacred mountains—make this an essential reference work for anyone fascinated by ancient traditions and religions.”—Publisher.

Again, a good book for all levels of readers, this provides overviews of some unusual places throughout the world.

Elphick, Jonathan (gen. ed.). *The Atlas of Bird Migration: Tracing the Great Journeys of the World’s Birds*. Buffalo, NY: Firefly Books, 2007 (ISBN: 1554072484). 176 p.: col. ill., col. maps; 30 cm.

One of my many life-long interests is the observation and study of nature. Birds are one of the more favorite pastimes and I constantly watch them in my yard, on the road, and when traveling. Birds, of course, travel farther than most of us ever will, though how they do it is still among the mysteries of life.

This atlas describes migration patterns of birds throughout the world and discusses the science of migration. Maps and color images are a key feature of this book. The main body, showing routes, is arranged by bird type and region. Maps show the nesting and winter ranges, as well as major flight paths. Text describes each

group and offers a good amount of data, such as dates of migrations and environmental effects on birds.

Using specially devised computer-generated maps, plus full-color photos and illustrations that together represent birds in nature and in close-up detail, the atlas first explains the basics of bird migration and then traces the journeys of more than a hundred species, including detailed information and an illustration of each.

Included is a “Catalog of Migrants” listing each bird species with identifying data (wingspan and weight), breeding and wintering regions, and length of migration. The Atlas is a good reference tool for grade-school through adult and is not just for bird-watchers. The scientific principles, plus materials on how climate and humans affect birds, makes this a good study for all. It is a Firefly Book, which means good-quality printing, imagery, and text.

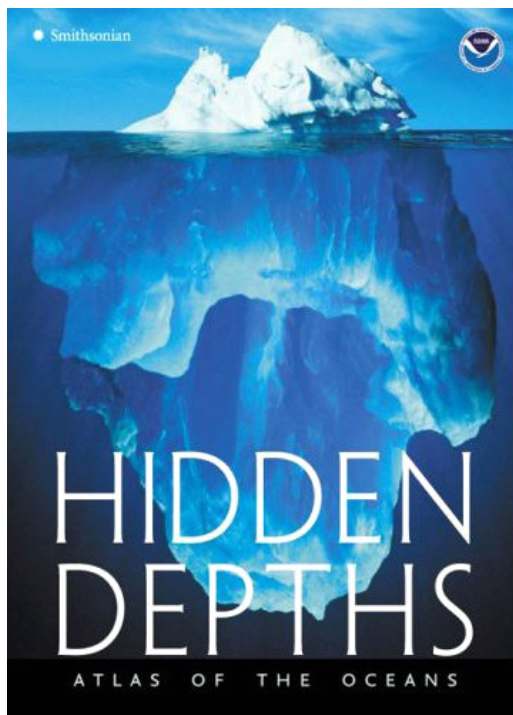


Theberge, Albert E. *Hidden Depths: Atlas of the Oceans*. New York, NY: Collins, 2007 (ISBN: 9780061345142). 256 p.: ill. (some col.), col. maps; 32 cm.

I love oceanography. I have an extreme interest in what is under the surface of the water. This atlas is a wonderful view of the world's oceans and includes a wealth of knowledge on all aspects of the water-world and all that affects it. The book is designed to educate and to promote ocean "literacy," helping readers to understand the complex relationship between us and the oceans.

Published in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Smithsonian Institution, this work relates to a project to develop the Ocean Hall in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

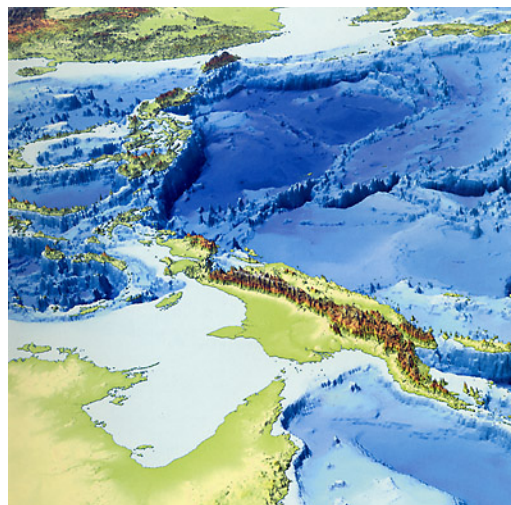
Chapters cover all aspects, including:



Atlas of the oceans — The ocean floor — Ocean zones — Water and seawater — Water movement and circulation — Oceans and the climate — Oceans and the weather — Dynamic coasts — Natural hazards — The poles — Vital ecosystems — Exploring the oceans — Human interaction — Conservation. Also included is a glossary and index.

An additional chapter of note covers the future, if various climate trends (e.g., melting ice-caps) continue. Included are artist's renderings of, for example, a London of the future, in which the sea has overwhelmed the protective barriers in the Thames, or a Florida that will be, if the sea rises by only 23 feet.

The graphics are vivid and well-rendered. Maps and carto-data are visually powerful and enhance the text well. The text can be read and understood by young adults and adults, and much of the data is useful for more serious scholars as well. This book is a valuable tool for environmental and ocean studies, and provides an incredible view of the sea that surrounds us.



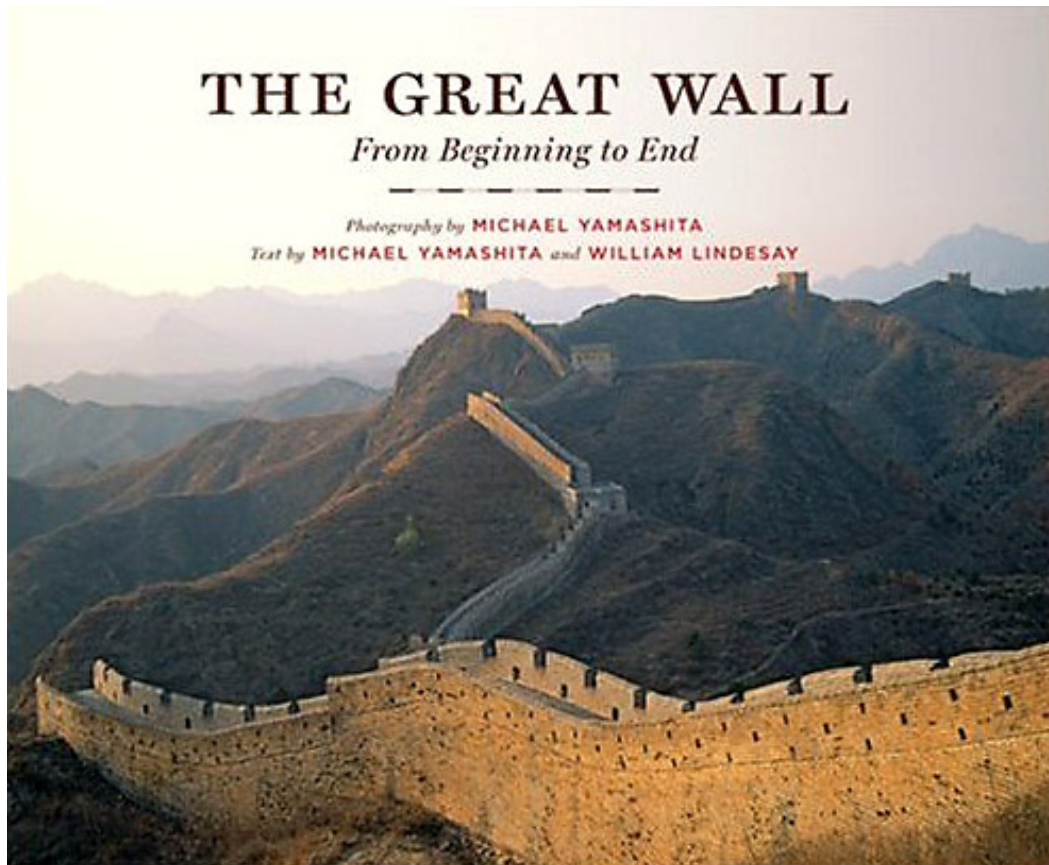
Books

Yamashita, Michael. *The Great Wall: From Beginning to End*. New York, NY: Sterling, 2007 (ISBN: 1402731604). 176 p.: ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps; 27 x 32 cm.

The Great Wall of China is 4,000 miles long and took more than 1,800 years to complete (there are thousands of miles more in the system, but this book focuses on the main section). Many

books discuss the Great Wall in various levels of detail, but this one covers the history of construction through the many dynasties to provide a more comprehensive look at this wonder.

Both authors (one of whom is also the photographer) have spent years visiting, walking, and running the entire length of the Great Wall and have made a great effort showing this heritage site. They also emphasize the importance of preservation and maintenance of the



Wall system for future generations.

Photographs show many different views of sections, construction details, and context of the construction with the time it was built. This is a good work for any level of reader and would provide a good history for high-school and adult studies on the subject. See publisher description: <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/enhancements/fy0711/2007005549-d.html>.

Weiner, Eric. *The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World*. New York: Twelve, 2008 (ISBN: 9780446580267). x, 329 p.

It always pays to end on a happy (or satirical) note, and since I've mentioned a number of works that have you anxious about global warming and climate failure, I thought this book might be a good one to cheer you up again. The author, who often writes for NPR (and many major newspapers), visits 10 places around the world in search of happiness. He describes his journey as he looks for the place that is happiest.


“Part foreign affairs discourse, part humor, and part twisted self-help guide, this book takes the reader from America to Iceland to India in search of happiness, or, in the crabby author's case, moments of “un-unhappiness.” The book uses a mixture of travel, psychology, science and humor to investigate not what happiness is, but where it is. Are people in Switzerland happier because it is the most democratic country in the world? Do citizens of Singapore benefit

psychologically by having their options limited by the government? Is the King of Bhutan a visionary for his initiative to calculate Gross National Happiness? Why is Asheville, North Carolina, so darn happy?

NPR correspondent Weiner answers those questions and many others, offering travelers of all moods some interesting new ideas for sunnier destinations and dispositions.”—
Publisher.

This is a more cerebral look at human geography and provides insight into a variety of differing places. It provides entertaining reading for geographers, anthropologists, and social studies work, as well as for anyone from high-school through adult who wishes to ponder the psychology of travel and culture. An audio edition is also available from Hachette Audio (ISBN: 1600242596).

Conclusion

Enjoy spring and keep enjoying the world of maps, geography, and cartography in every form. In a few months, I will have more new items to describe for your late spring and early summer leisure (or work).—DJB 

Great Moments In Map Librarianship by Jim Coombs

