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Road  
Richmond, BC  
CANADA V6V 1J5  
TEL: (604) 273-  
1400  
FAX: (604) 273-  
1488  
E-mail:  
Jack@itmb.com**

**AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #11 OF 2016 – October New Titles – Banff & Jasper National Parks, Bolivia, New Guinea, USA Southwest, - see below for details**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Lan, Linh, and myself were in Frankfurt recently for the annual book fair. This is the only trade fair we attend regularly and this was our 33<sup>rd</sup> annual trip to Germany to exhibit our line at FBF. The world has changed a lot since those early 1980s, but our commitment to mapping the world hasn't reduced one bit! Maps are made very differently nowadays, but the role of cartography is just as important as in previous generations and the need for good maps just as important. ITMB is still expanding our line, and we are pleased that we were able to display 75 new titles that have been released over the past twelve months at FBF. We were very pleased to meet as many of our colleagues as we did at FBF and to strengthen our ties with our distributors. Linh used the opportunity to include brief visits to Paris, Rome, and Milan, and we enjoyed briefly visiting friends on the Isle of Man and in Bavaria.

### **WHY ARE AIRPLANE WINDOWS OVAL IN SHAPE?**

Believe it or not, in the early days of aviation, airplane windows were rectangular. House windows were square, so why change a good thing? The development of faster aircraft during WW2 resulted in jetliners in the 1950s that travelled at higher speeds and higher altitudes. Fairly soon, problems developed. Two planes literally disintegrated in mid-air. The reason was determined to be square windows. Apparently, the sharp edge corners are natural weak spots where stress concentrates, and square windows were also weakened further by changing air pressure. Circular windows, such as portholes on ships, have no stress focal points, distribute stress well, and are much less likely to crack or break. The vertical oval shape now common on aircraft is very strong, can survive the differences in air pressure between the inside and outside of aircraft, and are small enough to deter cracks or breaks.

### **TOURISM TRENDS 2016**

As the year approaches an end, certain trends can be noted as affecting travel in 2016. The first is that travel, worldwide, is increasing, but that is largely a result of increasing wealth in China combined with a growing realization that the vast majority of visitors from China are decent people who will not create problems. Except for this fairly new reality, travel is still increasing, but it is changing. Europe is still the Number One travel destination, with Germany seeing a 5.6% increase in 2015 over 2014 (74.2 million visitors). This trend has continued in 2016 and should top 80 million by year end. Alaska also experienced a record year for tourism in 2015, thanks to cruises originating in Vancouver. Cruise travel continues to grow at a much faster rate than other forms of travel, with the Caribbean being the Number One destination for cruising. South East Asian cruises are becoming increasingly important, but haven't struck a chord with the vast American market yet. As might be expected, troubled parts of the world tend to be unattractive for tourism, with the exception of Israel. India is seeing a surge in interest, with tourism up an impressive 4.4%. However, in absolute terms, this still represents only eight million visitors. Cuba, as expected, is benefitting from increased tourism from the USA and Haiti was doing quite well until it was hit by Hurricane Matthew in October. Tourism to Egypt, Turkey, and Kenya suffered severe downturns in tourism and the trend is towards avoiding any country exhibiting a degree of religious intolerance or civil strife.

### **DUMB CRUISE QUESTIONS**

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Understandably, a lot of landlubbers find terms like port and starboard difficult to understand, but apparently this goes for bow and aft as well. Ships that have abandoned nautical terms in favour of right and left and forward and back still find people not knowing which is what. My six-year-old grandson navigates around any ship easily. He just memorizes where the ice-cream vending machine is located and everything else on the ship is based on that focal point. Hey, it makes sense!

1. Simplistic queries still abound: "Do the crew sleep on board at night?" Do I inflate my life jacket in the room? (Not if you want to fit through the doorway!) "What is our elevation?" (It depends upon which deck you're on, but the generic answer is "almost zero"). "Why does the ship go up and down?" (That one actually almost makes sense, since most cruise ships are so large that there would be only ocean movement during severe weather). My personal favourite occurred during a cruise to Alaska, when I noticed four guests excitedly staring at the passing shoreline with binoculars. I couldn't see anything of note, so asked. The answer was "Trees!" Caught off-guard, all I could muster was "Yes, and it goes on like that for a thousand miles!"
2. A room steward who asked a guest if it was all right to come in and clean up was quite surprised to be told "Oh, your shower isn't working? Sure, use ours"
3. Room service has been known to receive queries that the microwave in the room isn't working. Of course, it is the safe the guest is referring to. With regard to safes, the commonest query is "What is the combination?" Think about that for a moment. If someone else can tell you the combination, that someone has access to your safe. Does that make sense to anyone?
4. "Is the water in the toilet salt water or fresh water?" This query is asked repeatedly, much to the amusement of staff, and the simple answer is "Why do you want to know?" The actual answer would be that it is re-cycled water treated on board. Modern ships do not discharge waste into the ocean except in authorized situations, so any waste material (food, for example) remains on board until port.

### **COUNTRY REGION IN THE NEWSLETTER FOR THIS MONTH:**

With a political circus defying common sense roiling through the USA, it would be easy to focus on that country, as events there have a world-wide audience, and the election affects not only Americans but the rest of us as well. My only comment, having just returned from Europe, is the effect the US election seems to be having on extremist right-wing politics in Europe. Brexit supporters in the UK may not all be 'rightist' in their thinking, as a lot of old-fashioned nationalism is involved, but it is the same backwards-looking approach to the world as Trumpites espouse. The Wallonian Parliament, a sub-division of Belgium, recently voted against a trade agreement between all of Europe (EU portion) and Canada over right-wing sentiments that made them the laughing stock of Europe and forced them to reconsider and re-vote, thereby saving seven years' worth of hard work by negotiators. I also saw hardened attitudes towards migrants attempting to enter Europe or camp on Britain's borders. Why such people feel entitled to enter the EU without passports or authority is beyond my understanding, but the point is they do and a lot of Europeans are getting increasingly fed up with fights, racial incidents, and having to cope with a never-ending horde of largely uneducated and unsophisticated individuals. Attitudes are hardening, and this bodes ill for the future of the EU. On the other hand, Russia's increasingly strident pressing of threats is unifying the rest of Europe against it, and attitudes that were placating a year ago are now being met with a build-up of military muscle in Poland and the Baltic States. This again will be greatly affected by the US election results in November.

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After due consideration, I decided to note Liechtenstein as my country of the month, simply because we spent two days there during our recent trip to Europe. The Principality has only 37,000 residents, so is hardly big enough to see from the nearby Swiss motorway, but is one of those fascinating entities in Europe that has successfully evaded being swallowed up by one or another of the greater powers that have dominated Europe since the drive towards nationalism created such modern monstrosities as Germany and Italy. We briefly discussed making a map of Liechtenstein, then discovered that Vaduz is only two streets wide and the country can be driven through in half an hour. The castle is not open to the general public, being the residence of the local duke, and apart from a ski resort (closed, when we were there), there appears to be little to say about Liechtenstein except that it issues some nice postage stamps. It has a reputation for banking, but we saw little evidence of banks per se; probably all are inside office buildings. The currency is the Swiss Franc and foreign affairs, such as they are, seems to be carried out by Switzerland. We just found it a pleasant but expensive, place to stay overnight.

### ITMB CURRENT PROJECTS AND OUT OF STOCK ITEMS

Antarctica has fewer than 60 copies left in stock. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Armenia/Azerbaijan is almost out of copies. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Bhutan/Northern India is almost out of copies. A new edition is at press and due sometime in November.

Edinburgh/Scotland is down to 36 copies. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Madagascar is now out of copies. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Mexico Pacific Region/Guadalajara is running low one copies. A new edition is being prepared, no ETA.

Nova Scotia is almost out of copies. A new edition is being prepared, no ETA.

QCI, or the Queen Charlotte Islands, is down to 84 copies. We are re-naming this map Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Is. to reflect the more current practice used in BC. A new edition is being prepared, no ETA.

Vancouver Island is getting close to running out of copies; a new edition is being prepared.

### NEW TITLES FOR OCTOBER, 2016

**Banff & Jasper National Parks Travel Reference Map 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 2016 1:240,000/1:250,000 ISBN 9781771290852 UPC 817712908520 \$12.95cdn/us E9.59 8.95GBP** – Banff is the first national park declared anywhere in the world, done at a time when the idea of reserving huge tracts of land for the enjoyment of future generations was an admirable, though unheard of, concept. The park in the Rocky Mountains of western Alberta remains as lovely and as enjoyable as it must have seemed to the early CPR railway surveyors searching for a route through the mountains to join the then-colony of British Columbia to Canada. Nowadays, the park is laced with roads and hiking trails, and the town of Banff within the park is severely pressed to maintain a balance between serving the needs of the millions of visitors each year and the responsibility of maintaining a pristine wilderness environment. This is the Number One national park in the world to this day! Immediately adjacent to Banff NP is Jasper National Park, which was created a bit later but for the same reason – to protect a wonderful pristine wilderness while pushing through a rail line to the coast to bind British Columbia more closely, but also to provide access to a second west coast port (Prince Rupert). The park has only one small urban area, the town of Jasper, and is home to the marvelous Columbia Icefield at the Athabasca Glacier, the loveliest lake in the world, Maligne, and the majestic peaks of the massive Victoria Range. As a bonus, Mount Robson Park is also included, as are townsite insets for both Banff and Jasper, so anyone visiting the Canadian Rockies can benefit from using this map. **AVAILABLE**

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**Bolivia Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 on waterproof paper 1:1,250,000 ISBN 9781771290050 UPC 817712900500 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – As a travel destination, Bolivia definitely ranks among the routes less travelled! However, it is a fascinating country and well-worth visiting. We have printed this edition on plasticized paper for durability, as one will definitely need a map to get around this mountainous country. The map shows the road network to best advantage, with distances between communities whenever possible. Touristic sites are noted, and elevations, parks, and reserves. Inset maps of La Paz, Potosi, and Santa Cruz de la Sierra are included. This edition does not have a new ISBN or cover. **AVAILABLE**

**New Guinea Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2016 1:2M/1:1.6M ISBN 9781553413424 UPC 815534134233 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – The South Pacific island of New Guinea is divided between two countries: The eastern, and somewhat more developed half, is the Republic of Papua New Guinea, and the western portion is the Indonesian province of West Irian. One side of the map shows the eastern portion, along with the nearby islands of the Bismarck Archipelago and Bougainville Island of the Solomons. Whatever roads exist are shown, but most people fly from one destination to another. The West Irian side can best be visited by inter-island boats, as roads are few. Several other Indonesian islands are included on this side, of which Seram/Ceram and Ambon are probably the best known. Most of East Timor is shown as well. This is definitely an 'off the beaten path' travel destination, but it sells surprisingly well! There is no change of ISBN or cover appearance from the previous edition. **AVAILABLE**

**USA Southwest Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2016 on waterproof paper 1:1,000,000 ISBN 9781553414841 UPC 815534148452 \$9.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – ITMB's regional coverage of the USA is expanding each year as our data base improves. The western portion of the USA consists of four titles (USA West Rail Lines, USA Pacific Coast, USA Pacific Northwest, and this map). We feel, and our customers seem to agree, that a map of the entire USA has its limitations, no matter how good it is (and ours is good). Regional maps cover distances more likely to be covered realistically by a visitor. This map covers the San Francisco to San Diego corridor admirably well, including the Reno area of Nevada on one side, and the Las Vegas to Tucson and north to Price, Utah and its pre-historic museum on the other side. The map is printed on waterproof paper for durability and, as the first edition sold out so quickly, there is no change of price, ISBN, or cover design. This is one of those seamless edition changes everyone likes. **AVAILABLE**

### **NEW TITLES FOR SEPTEMBER, 2016**

**Andorra and Pyrenees Travel Reference Map 1:40,000 – See Pyrenees for description**

**Belgium and Luxembourg Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2016 1:250,000 ISBN 978177120814 UPC 817712908148 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – Belgium consists of two nation states, the Belge (speaking French) and the Flemings (speaking Flemish). The two nations co-exist without particularly liking each other, but both agree that Belgium is one of the nicest countries in Europe. Luxembourg gets tacked on to this map simply because it is nestled into a corner of Belgium and the map would look funny if it were omitted. The Lux (I'll bet no one calls them that!) are much more 'French' in their speech and customs. I like both countries. Belgium has marvelous historic sites, such as the central market square of Brussels, the historic university town of Leuven, and the grand cathedral at Liege (called, with typical European craziness, Luttich ten kilometers to the east and Luik ten kilometers to the west). The map is divided into west half (coast to Leuven and Breda south to Charleroi) and east half (Brussels to Aachen and Eindhoven south to the French border with Luxembourg). Considering the small size of the entities being mapped, we were able to provide a lot of road information as well as town names, parks, camping areas, even some hotels outside of major urban areas and, of course, places of touristic interest. Luxembourg is more hilly and the Ardennes are a treat to drive through. Bastogne has a major museum dedicated to the WW2 Battle of the Bulge. **AVAILABLE**

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**Germany Northern Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2017 ISBN 9781771293105 UPC 817712931054 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – This new edition of the northern portion of Germany, covering from the Atlantic coast to well east of Hamburg and from the Danish border to Bremen on one side and from the Dutch border to Magdeburg and the Ruhr Valley to Frankfurt, completes our three-sheet regional mapping for the country (the other two maps being Southern Germany and Berlin/Eastern Germany). Germany is one of the most densely populated and developed country in Europe, so it is a very complex area to map. We show motorways, major and secondary highways, and a goodly number of tertiary-level roads. We have shown the road numbers wherever practical. We also show dozens of castles, a great number of guesthouse accommodation outside of major urban areas, sites of interest to visitors, major parks, and rail lines with passenger service. The area of coverage includes several German states and literally hundreds of extremely picturesque smaller towns and villages of great interest to visitors. As with all of our European cartography, this map is original to ITMB, based on a satellite-imaged data base. **AVAILABLE**

**Luxembourg (and Belgium) Travel Reference Map – See Belgium for description**

**Pyrenees and Andorra Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2017 1:450,000/1:40,000 ISBN 9781771290104 UPC 817712901040 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – We have transformed our specialized map of Andorra into a more practical map covering the Pyrenees mountain chain straddling the border between France and Germany on one side, with historic Andorra on the other side. As is normal with ITMB maps combining two areas at different scales, the map has two covers, so can be marketed equally well as Andorra or as Pyrenees! Our coverage of the Pyrenees goes from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean coastlines and from Toulouse to Barcelona, so includes Pamplona in Basque Country, Huesca, Catalunya, and Girona in Spain, as well as Beziers and lovely Carcassonne in France. The other side is a completely redesigned map of the Principality of Andorra and is the only map of this interesting mini-state available today. This side also includes an excellent inset map of the only city in the country, Andorra La Vella. Andorra is known as a winter ski area par excellence, but is also a huge duty-free area year round. It has survived political turmoil for centuries by playing off France against Spain and wriggling between the cracks of big-power maneuvering. Perched at the summit of the Pyrenees chain, Andorra is well-worth visiting. **AVAILABLE**

**Slovakia and Hungary Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2017 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771296984 UPC 817712969842 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – We are pleased that, at long last, we re-introduce a travel map for Slovakia. This country was created out of the former Czechoslovakia when the two entities agreed to separate following the demise of the Soviet empire in the early 1990s. It is perhaps not as well-known as it should be, but it is a very attractive travel destination. We had cause to visit it on several occasions during our ill-fated attempt to guide crooks running a good globe company into oblivion and unhappy though those memories are, we have very fond memories of the country itself. Bratislava has emerged as a thriving and interesting city, the road network of the country is steadily improving, its crucial position bordering Ukraine gives it strategic advantages, and the rustic nature of much of the countryside provides a charm that is hard to beat. We have combined the map with a separate map of Hungary on the other side, in the belief that the two countries constitute an excellent joint travel experience. We have a separate map for Hungary and Budapest, which will continue, but we wanted to give the Slovakia map a wider marketing appeal than just the country itself. Both maps provide excellent detail for roads and urban areas, and for points of interest, parks, rail lines, and historic sites. **AVAILABLE**

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