

New maps and cartographic materials, April 2019

By: [Jo Klein](#)

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Abstract:

Hello everyone, and welcome to my first attempt at tackling the “New Maps” column! First, a big thank you to David Bertuca for all his hard work in making this column a reality for the past 14 years. From thought-provoking quotes to insightful reviews (and the occasional chuckle), he’s provided a fantastic resource for all of us. I have big shoes to fill!

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Article:

***Note: Full text of article below

"A road map always tells you everything except how to refold it" --unknown

Hello everyone, and welcome to my first attempt at tackling the “New Maps” column!

First, a big thank you to David Bertuca for all his hard work in making this column a reality for the past 14 years. From thought-provoking quotes to insightful reviews (and the occasional chuckle), he’s provided a fantastic resource for all of us. I have big shoes to fill!

A little about the shoes I’m currently filling: I’m the one and only GIS and Data Visualization Librarian at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), where I’ve provided resources, consultations, training, and other services since early January of this year.

Previously, I worked for two and a half years as a contractor for Oak Ridge Associated Universities with the US Environmental Protection Agency, where I conducted lab analysis and began my professional foray into the world of GIS. At the same time, I studied for an MLIS degree, which I earned from UNCG in 2018.

Early on in my studies at UNCG, I had the crazy idea to merge my personal passion for maps and GIS data with my professional life, through what I called “map librarianship.” What a relief it was when I later learned that map librarianship as we know it has been around since at least the 1940s, if not earlier, and I hadn’t in fact invented anything new. The hubris of 20-something-year-olds is...something. I’ll grow out of it eventually.

Of course, the world of geospatial information is always changing – much like the weather in North Carolina this spring season – and with it changes what it means to be a map librarian working with this information. In *Map Librarianship: A Guide to Geoliteracy, Map and GIS Resources and Services*, Susan Elizabeth Ward Aber and Jeremy Abe refer to my kind of librarianship, involving proficient use of “web-mapping tools, open-source data, and GIS technologies” but without “formal background in geography and cartography,” as “NeoMap Librarianship.”

While I don’t think NeoMap Librarian has caught on as a term yet, this definition does highlight a gap in my skillset. As a hiker and traveler, I’ve used my fair share of paper maps to supplement GPS, and I’ve gathered a small personal collection of interesting historical atlases from \$0.25 book sales over the years, but my realm of professional experience is mostly digital geospatial data and tools. I’m a firm believer in breaking down information silos and opening connections for more effective research and discovery, but it’s difficult to do that with only one half of the whole.

David’s “New Maps” column was a godsend for me and helped me explore cartography, maps, and atlases and break out of my GIS bubble. I aim to return the favor and continue providing you all with a bounty of great new maps and cartographic materials. David had something good going, so I don’t intend to bring too many changes to the format of this column; I’ll continue the tradition of the cartographic quote and try to follow David’s example in keeping reviews both entertaining and insightful. One change you might notice will be a shift in content; with the resurrection of the “Electronic Mapping” column, which

will be written by my fellow new editor Carolyn Hansen, “New Maps” will focus on maps and atlases in print or E format. I leave the web maps, geospatial data, and GIS resources in Carolyn’s capable hands!

One last thing before we get started: as a new librarian, I have a lot to learn. Let’s learn together – if you have suggestions for materials, format, sources, or themes or any other feedback, send them my way at ejklein@uncg.edu.

This issue, we’ll take a quick break from the new to look back at seven of my favorite previously-featured resources from the past few years. I’ll include highlights from David’s past reviews and will add comments of my own. Let’s jump right in!

Atlases

1. Atlas of the near East: State Formation and the Arab-Isreali Conflict, 1918-2010

Atlas of the near East: State Formation and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1918-2010. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2017 (ISBN: 9789004344297). 138 pages: color maps, tables.

From *base line* 39 (4): 26, August 2018

Highlights from David’s review:

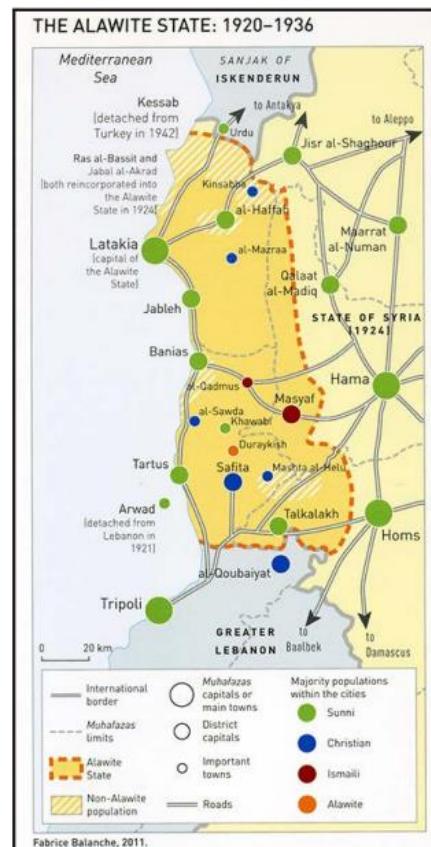
“Conflict in the Middle East has a centuries-old history and generally, maps are located individually in books on specific periods, or in atlases. A small number of atlases devoted to this aspect of the region exist, but very few cover a larger span of time.

This atlas provides a full range of maps and description for the Middle East Region, with context to the population, environment, and other factors that create the struggles for existence.”

...

“This work will be useful to research in political science, history, Middle Eastern studies, economics, and other fields. The maps and text are concise and clear, the maps have a uniform style, making comparisons and visualizations possible.

The Atlas would be useful for high school through adult learner, with emphasis on college and professional researcher. It is an important work for any collection



supporting studies on the Middle East and current history.”

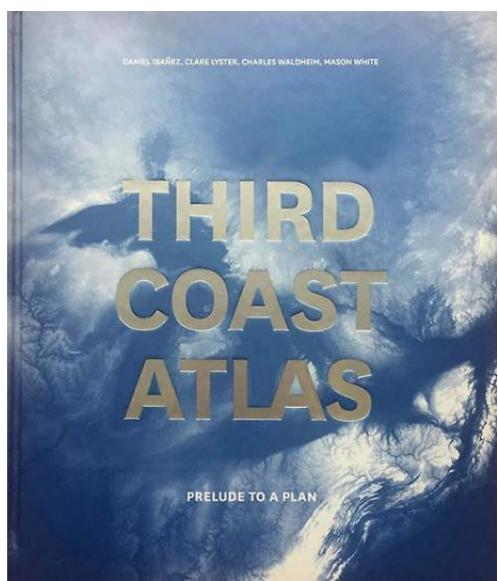
Why it's on my list:

One of my favorite maps is a 1947 map of Middle Eastern countries that I found hidden in a used book shop. It's fascinating to look back at places that have been changed so drastically over 70+ years, and to think about what caused those changes. This atlas takes that map one step further and adds context, connecting multiple facets such as economy, environment, and population to dive deeper into the story. One of the purposes of a map is to represent a part of the whole so we can see it more clearly and understand where it fits in the larger picture. This atlas does that and more, and is extremely useful for learning more about the Middle East and the conflicts that arise there.

2. Third Coast Atlas: Prelude to a Plan

Ibañez, Daniel, Clare Lyster, Charles Waldheim, and Mason White. *Third Coast Atlas: Prelude to a Plan*. New York: Actar, 2017 (ISBN: 1940291917). 342 pages: illustrations (chiefly color), maps (chiefly color), plans.

From *base line* 39 (1): 14, February 2018



Highlights from David's review:

“The Third Coast Atlas is a work relating to urbanization in the Great Lakes region, specifically describing the current state of cities and their use of the drainage basin. As stated in the preface, this description does not deal with analysis or evaluation of the conditions of the region; “this atlas aspires to simply describe” the Great Lakes as a basis for performing urban analysis.

The atlas uses “maps, plans, diagrams, timelines, and photographs, as well as speculative design research projects and critical texts” to provide a full visualization of the Great Lakes ecosystem and its interrelation with cities and the surrounding

population. The research leading to the publication of this work comes from urban planners, architects, from North America and Europe.””

...

“This work took me a long time to analyze and develop a description. It is dense with data and concepts (and physically heavy), plus the writing is sometimes more abstract and requires interpretation. As such, not all parts will be understandable to all readers.

However, this atlas provides good visualizations that will suit all levels of user, from high school through adult learner, while also providing college and professional level research material. The maps and illustrations are very good; the creative plans and urban descriptions can be inspiring for most readers, and the text will be useful to professionals."

Why it's on my list:

This way this atlas is organized has me itching to tidy up my desk. In addition to profiles of individual cities it gives us sections with satellite imagery ("NASA"), facsimile maps and charts, comparative visualizations of coastlines and lakes, planning projects and creative concepts, and so much more. Information is to this atlas as water is to Lake Superior. It is "dense with data and concepts" as David put it, and I found it hard to understand fully, but with so much contained within something is bound to stick with the average reader. The expert or professional will find this atlas indispensable as a source of information, while the rest of us enjoy the imagery and learn about the relationship between people and the "Third Coast." All around, a great addition to any collection.

Books

1. Cartographic Grounds: Projecting the Landscape Imaginary

Desimini, Jill, and Waldheim Charles. *Cartographic Grounds: Projecting the Landscape Imaginary*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2016 (ISBN: 9781616893293). 271 pages: illustrations (chiefly color), color maps.

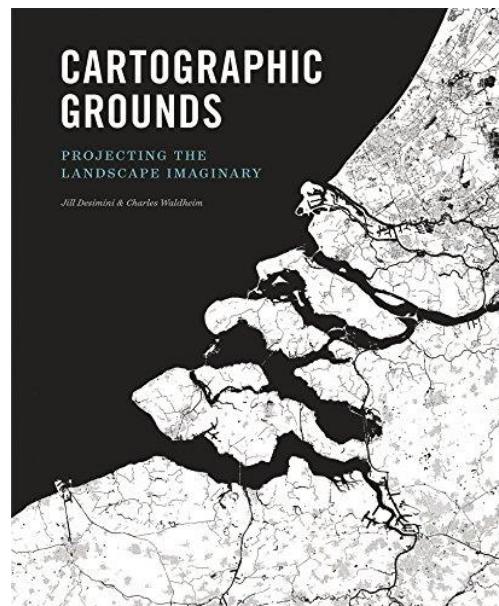
From *base line* 38 (5): 13, October 2017.

Highlights from David's review:

"During most classes that I instruct, when speaking of maps, I point out that maps are usually two-dimensional representations of a three-dimensional universe. Also included is the statement that maps are abstract renditions of this landscape and that cartographers employ many techniques and conventions to provide the user with a good representation of reality.

The purpose of this book is to discuss traditional conventions for mapping, as well as to inspire readers wanting to find methods for representing the terrain as well as possible."

...



"The chapters are more than just the physical description of space and place; each goes into more interpretive concepts and gives the reader creative inspiration. The examples are cited, with coordinates, and they are visually appealing to view. References are provided throughout the work to aid the reader in gathering more on the topics.

This book is geared toward architects, artists, cartographers, planners, and anthropologists. It is also visually enjoyable as a map book on its own. It would be at home in collections for college and adult learner, as well as for professionals."

Why it's on my list:

This book introduces concepts of topography and cartography in a beautiful way, and nods to the creative and visual design aspects of mapping. I'm a sucker for visually appealing and well-cited examples, and from the sample that I read, David's review is spot-on. This one has been on my coffee-table collection wish list for a long time.

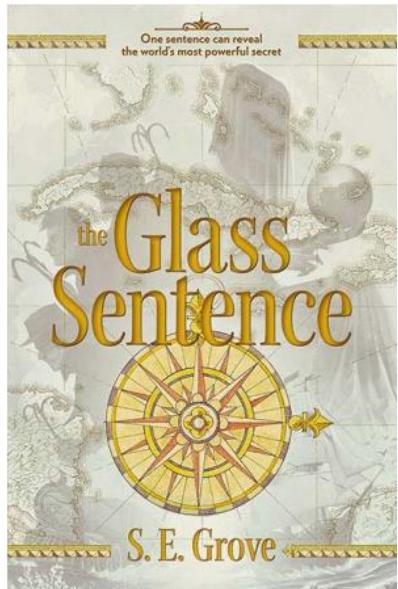
2. S. E. Grove's Mapmakers Trilogy

Grove, S.E. *The Glass Sentence* (Mapmakers; 1). New York, New York: Viking, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), 2014 (ISBN: 9780670785025). 489 pages, maps.

_____. *The Golden Specific* (Mapmakers; 2), 2015 (ISBN: 9780670785032). 501 pages, maps.

_____. *The Crimson Skew* (Mapmakers; 3), 2016 (ISBN: 9780670785049). 428 pages, maps.

From *base line* 37 (4): 28, August 2016.



Highlights from David's review:

"It is rare that cartographers are the main subject of a work of fiction. When I saw this series recently, I was drawn to it. The Mapmakers series is a set of juvenile works that feature a world where maps are important.

The books begin in 1891, though the world is not all in the same time period. In 1799, the "Great Disruption" threw the continents into different time periods, causing the various lands to be in the past, present, or future, in relation to one another.

Sophia Tims, niece to Shadrack Elli, Boston's foremost cartographer, starts on a series of adventures through various times and places. Cartology is the process of making maps, but the maps are more than just paper renditions. There are

maps drawn on almost every substance that have extraordinary features. Maps can be made that hold memories of those who lived in the time the map was drawn. Further, various maps are made as individual layers (similar to GIS), where each layer can be overlaid on the others to draw a more complete map of a place."

...

"The drawing of maps in the books is a fascinating process and it offers some vivid and magical concepts on how maps might be. To have a map that, for example, you can visualize by putting your finger on the surface, and then seeing in your mind, memories of those who were there at the moments that were located there; that is a complex idea. Throughout the books, maps are vital characters, around which, humans function. The author gives maps the credit they deserve and defines maps as more than just way-finding devices.

For young readers, this will be good reading. It introduces maps and cartography, which might inspire future geographers. For adult readers, this is good reading and thought-provoking. These books would be worth reading by anyone."

Why it's on my list:

The concept of a dynamic map that you can interact with to learn more about a time and place is a fictional idea in these novels and a very real possibility in today's world, using webmaps and augmented reality! One of my first ventures into digital GIS librarianship was with an idea for a guided tour featuring augmented reality and local historical society collections. This trilogy nods to this intersection of the humanities and maps, where other books that feature maps and GIS-like things usually involve geography and other STEM fields. I can see these novels inspiring young readers to learn more about maps, and I wonder how many future map librarians will start their journeys in these pages. It's interesting to see unique examples of maps incorporated into fiction (J.K. Rowling's Marauder's Map is the only other obvious example I can think of), and I'm looking forward to finishing the series.

3. Map Librarianship: A Guide to Geoliteracy, Map and GIS Resources and Services

Aber, Susan Elizabeth Ward, and Jeremy Ward Aber. *Map Librarianship: A Guide to Geoliteracy, Map and GIS Resources and Services* (Chandos Information Professional Series). Amsterdam: Boston, 2017 (ISBN: 9780081000212). xv, 278 pages: illustrations (some color), maps (some color).

From *base line* 38 (3): 15, June 2017.

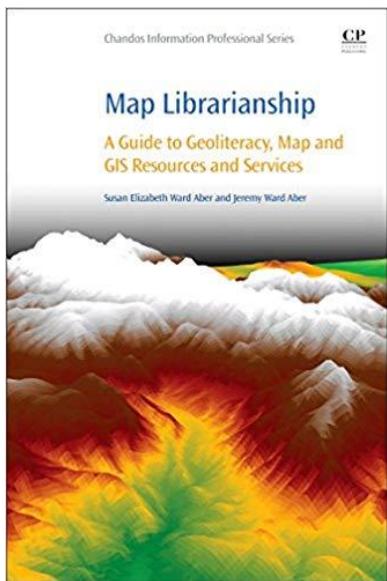
Highlights from David's review:

"The authors designed the book to provide the necessary skills needed to begin as a map librarian. They also prepared the work to teach geo-literacy to anyone who needs it. This is also a good book for reference librarians needing to understand enough to be able to assist patrons in accessing and using maps and geospatial data.

In addition to traditional maps, this book also discusses digital maps, GIS and spatial datasets, and related topics. It is easy to follow and does not require prior knowledge to understand the concepts being taught."

...

"Overall, this is a good instruction tool for training map librarians, for improving map reading skills, and for explaining all aspects of maps and geospatial data. It is a good reference for any collection and is also good for teaching other librarians about map librarianship.



The work is geared toward college and graduate level learners, but is also useful to anyone who needs to understand how to read and use maps and spatial data."

Why it's on my list:

This is the book that I turned to after meeting my first map librarian in graduate school. How lucky for me that it came out just months before! It opened my eyes to not only the world of map librarianship, but also GIS and geospatial data concepts. It approaches concepts from the librarian's point of view, so it provides information relevant to librarians, unlike so many other books geared towards geographers. GIS and geoliteracy concepts can seem overwhelmingly technical, but as David said in his review, this is useful to *anyone* with an interest in reading and using maps and spatial data. It also gives a thorough summary of the history of MAGIRT, which was interesting to read about as a new member.

4. Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders

Foer, Joshua, Dylan Thuras, and Ella Morton. *Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders*. New York: Workman Publishing, 2016 (9780761169086). 470 pages, color illustrations, color maps.

From *base line* 37 (6): 15, December 2016.

Highlights from David's review:

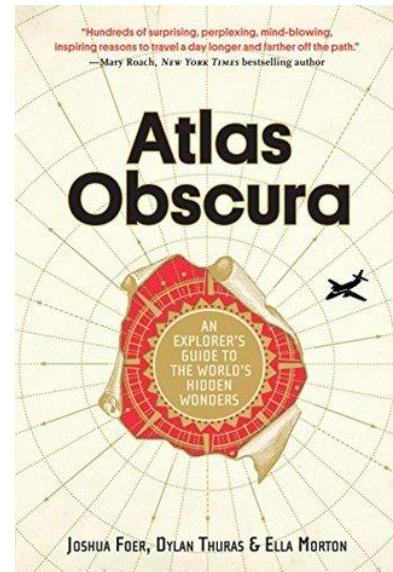
"When I first saw this title in a store, I wrote it down to locate more details on what it contained. The name is slightly misleading; this is not an atlas filled with maps. There are some general maps representing the continent, country, or group of states that is being discussed in each chapter.

What the *Atlas Obscura* is however, is a book of unusual places and things in the world. It is a book of geographic curiosities that cover the earth. Some of these are familiar, but many are unique to their locale and unusual in nature. Included are natural and man-made features, flora and fauna, phenomenal events, and other wonders.

...

"Some entries describe a specific place while others cover special museums or regions of interest. The authors have researched hundreds of places and the articles are interesting and colorful. While more of a register of the strange and unusual, this work does have a place in geography and anthropology collections. It will be useful for studies of regional culture and the diverse variety in the world.

This book is readable at any level. It can be useful to encourage upper level grade school through high school students to learn geography. It will also provide adult learners with a work on cultures and places. The traveler will enjoy the book for ideas when journeying to these regions. It is also a good book to give as a gift."



Why it's on my list:

I used to browse the oddities on the Atlas Obscura website obsessively when I first learned about it. David was right – it is a useful and fun way to encourage an interest in geography and maps, and great for travelers or odd-geography aficionados. The Atlas Obscura is also an exercise in how maps could be used to supplement and improve such books; while I would personally browse the Atlas with Google Maps up in another window to get more geographic context, having an actual atlas to accompany this book would be so great! The second edition, coming soon in October 2019, will have a full-color fold-up road trip map, complete with an itinerary, making this a bona fide travel guide. I'm curious to see what this road trip map will look like!

Maps

1. Map of Early Modern London:

Jenstad, Janelle, and Kim Mclean-Fiander, editors. *Civitas Londinvm. The Map of Early Modern London*, edited by Janelle Jenstad, U of Victoria, 07 Jun. 2018, <https://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/index.htm>.

From *base line* 37 (2): 14, April 2016.

Highlights from David's review:

"In 1561 a bird's-eye view of London was cut into woodblocks and printed. This detailed map offers a unique view of the city at the beginning of the British Renaissance. This website offers a representation of the original map (from a 1633 edition)."

...

"This is a valuable tool for mappers (as a model) and for anyone studying London during the Elizabethan and Stuart reigns. Work is still ongoing, but the amount of data and links are dense. This resource will fascinate historians, city planning studies, cultural studies, and many other interests. It is useful for any level learner, but would be perfect for high school through adult learner the most."



Why it's on my list:

I know, I know, I said I'd leave the GIS and data resources to Carolyn, but this map is too great to pass up! The Agas Map is fascinating, both in its digitally-reincarnated form and as the original woodblock-printed map. It was digitized lovingly, with great resolution and detail available to zoom in on. The design of the original map is also remarkable as a predecessor to the maps we have today; I wonder how many tourist-information maps used the Agas Map as a model, with street names but also geometrical shapes and landmarks to help depict a place without words. Using the shapes formed by roadways and landmarks, this map is a good example of representing a place using what you have. Can't read the road signs? No problem! Turn left at the curvy-walled garden, under the covered walkway, and keep going until you reach the river.

Anyone could spend hours looking at this map and still learn something new, about how the people dressed, traveled, and did their laundry, what livestock they raised, what weapons they used, and overall, how London was designed.