

(whose globe was patented in 1845) to the death of F. Webster McBryde (who patented his McBryde map projection in 1977).

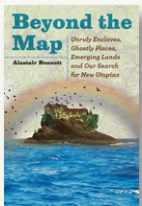
The inventors profiled made their livings many ways but a few groupings emerge. Among the patentees that fit our contemporary definition of geographer are Henry de Beaumont, founder of the Geographic Society of Geneva and holder of a patent for a world projection. F. Webster McBryde was on the geography faculty at Ohio State University, served as a senior geographer in military intelligence at the War Department during World War II, and founded the American Society for Geographical Research. Alphons van der Grinten's patented map projection gained fame once the National Geographic Society took it up, albeit after his death. The number of educators and engineers who filed cartographic patents is also notable. Ellen Eliza Fitz and Elizabeth Oram—who each patented globes and are the only two women profiled—were in the education field. The Joneses (who patented an in-car navigation system) and the Pollards (a map-quiz device)—two pairs of brothers—can be counted among the engineers. The book lists a number of patentees from the publishing and printing trades, and a great many that pursued multiple livelihoods. For example, John Plato (rural address finding) was a soldier, draftsman, lumber dealer, teacher, rancher, machinist, and a mapmaker for the US Government. Some, such as Edward Swett, were civic-minded, inventing a fire alarm system linked to a town or city street map. At least one inventor was rascally: Olin D. Gray (patentee of a globe containing a strip of pictures)

ran an eponymous lithography firm and went afoul of the law by printing dodgy lottery tickets. Some sixty percent of those profiled held multiple patents, led by Jay Rhodes with over two hundred. Just shy of half of those listed in the *Directory* held additional patents unrelated to cartography; Max Bremsy, inventor of an in-car map system, also patented a cigar design.

The same template is applied across all of the biographies—birth date and place of origin, parents and siblings, schooling, means of livelihood and work locations, the patent(s), marriage and offspring, death date and place—and this structure makes clear the tantalizing gaps in any particular entry. Mark Monmonier's introduction catalogs the travails of searching for historical records and artifacts in today's online research domain. He and his team relied chiefly on census records and directories accessed through Ancestry Library Edition ([ancestry.com/cs/us/institution](https://ancestry.com/cs/us/institution)).

In the course of doing the research for a book or dissertation, one tends to become an expert on all manner of detail that does not, for one reason or another, fit the flow of the final work. *A Directory of Cartographic Inventors: Clever People Awarded a US Patent for a Map-Related Device or Method* is a model for preserving this kind of information in a form available to the cartographic community. And, it would be neatly circular if the biographical information in the *Directory* eventually filtered back into genealogy networks such as Ancestry.com.

## BEYOND THE MAP: UNRULY ENCLAVES, GHOSTLY PLACES, EMERGING LANDS, AND OUR SEARCH FOR NEW UTOPIAS



By Alastair Bonnett

University of Chicago Press, 2017

304 pages, \$25, hardcover.

ISBN: 978-0-226-51384-3

**Review by:** Nat Case, INCase, LLC

*Beyond the Map* is a collection of thirty-nine essays about places, regions, and geographic features, all in some way disputed, abandoned, transient, or otherwise resistant to “mappedness,” though, disappointingly, maps themselves are not really discussed in the book. The chapters

are grouped into five broad themes: “Unruly Islands,” “Enclaves and Uncertain Nations,” “Utopian Places,” “Ghostly Places,” and “Hidden Places,” each of which is (broadly) self-explanatory. At the ostensible heart of the book is the vision of a centrifugal “new era of geographic giddiness” and fragmentation—a scenario wherein the author sees the old sensible order of the world unraveling in the new millennium. This central idea, however, does not provide a strong guiding principle for the book. Instead it’s pervaded with a kind of exoticism, the sort that also runs through much of online site *Atlas Obscura* ([atlasobscura.com](https://atlasobscura.com)). It is an updated, more socially conscious, and in this case somewhat weary spin on, *Ripley’s Believe It or Not*.

Bonnett covers some fascinating corners of the world—often through personal narratives. Many of the best locations are in his native Britain, but his narration gives a strong English tilt to even the non-British places. The submerged landscape of Doggerland—in what is now the North Sea—is well imagined, as are the ghostly remnants of Boys Town—a summer holiday camp for Welsh miners’ children. The book’s main interest lies in the episodes themselves, in the meat of description, rather than any analysis or framing. *Beyond the Map* is a highbrow entry in the genre that includes *Atlas Obscura*, *Ripley’s*, and the hordes of other, more pedestrian productions one sees, with titles such as *Mysterious Atlanta*, *Lost Nauru*, *Haunted Cambridgeshire*, and so on (I made up all three of those). It’s a fascinating and entertaining corner of geographic literature, but this example is spoiled by the author’s attempt to dignify it with framing and theory.

What is missing is a convincing depth. Bonnett’s own self-effacing personal reflections, even at their best, lack the poetic interest and evocation of better travel and place writers. He frequently refers to a spiraling apart of an old order, but does little to trace that spiraling, even in chapters on ISIL or the Ferghana Valley—a place where the roots of fragmentation are deep and rich. The Ferghana chapter is annoyingly superficial, as he hardly glances at the early Soviet history of the “-stans”—with their mix of Pan-Turkism, ethnic rivalry, and scheming alliances

with Stalin’s gangster-like organizers—and instead looks only one level deep. Bonnett writes of the effects of ill-defined Soviet border-making on a landscape facing climate change and human crowding, and then leaves it there.

Perhaps most telling is his chapter on underground Jerusalem—another place where controversies about history lie buried layer upon layer, underlying and feeding into intractable modern conflicts. Bonnett’s best stab at evoking all this is to drift into an account of drinking and wandering about while attending a conference there some years ago. Maybe in other hands this anecdote might have revealed something profound or engaging, but here it neither illuminates the deep-rooted conflict nor makes interesting the writer’s personal experience.

Any one of the five sections could, if expanded and fleshed out with some genuinely new and insightful comment, have itself made a deeper and more interesting book. In the end, though, *Beyond the Map* seems more a scattered travelogue or a patched-together collection of blog posts than a focused book. Most of the individual chapters aim at subjects of real interest and many reflect the honest point of view of a geographer who finds himself at a loss to explain or find meaning in his explorations. The problem is, this lack of meaning carries through into the whole itself, and left me with the sense that most of what I took away from the book was mere trivia.

## OKLAHOMA WINTER BIRD ATLAS



By Dan L. Reinking

University of Oklahoma Press, 2017

52 pages, 367 maps, 255 color photos, 11 figures, 256 tables; \$39.95 paperback, \$65.00 hardcover.

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**Review by:** John Cloud, University of Maryland and National Museum of Natural History

The *Oklahoma Winter Bird Atlas* is based on many years of work—conducted from late 2003 through early 2008—by many bird observers, many (or most) associated with the George M. Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. It was compiled and written by Dan L.

Reinking, a biologist at the Center, who was also author of the 2004 *Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas* (Reinking 2004), or *OBBA*, based on research undertaken between 1997 and 2001. I think the earlier atlas might be the key to evaluating this companion volume and especially its cartography, which is singular in several senses.

As the author notes, most bird atlases focus on the birds’ nesting seasons and places. After completion of the *OBBA* project, staff at the Avian Research Center decided to develop another project focused instead on birds that spend part or all of the winter in Oklahoma, whether they nested there or not. Because migratory birds pass through Oklahoma at all seasons, “winter” was defined for purposes of this project as December 1 to February 14. The focus was on live observation and counting of bird species