
 essay

ALL IN THE MIND

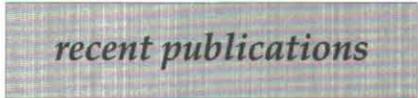
The following is a direct transcription of an essay delivered by Mr. Roger Rosenblatt of Vanity Fair Magazine. The essay entitled "All In The Mind (recent exhibit of maps and thoughts about different types of maps)" aired on the Mac Neil/Lehrer Newshour on Thursday, March 25, 1993. We would like to thank the Mac Neil/Lehrer Newshour for granting us permission to share this essay with our readers.

Somewhere the map you need exists or can be made. That innocent sounding promise is tucked in the flier of an exhibit on the power of maps at the Cooper-Hewitt National Museum of Design in New York. In the high, rich rooms of the old mansion hang maps of the North Pole and of the Alps, road maps of North Carolina and of the ancient Roman empire, a map of the structure of the Sphinx, a map showing the locations of American Indian tribes, children's and sailors' maps, the maps of kings to certify their conquests, a map of the entire world, a map of lava flows on Mars. The point is made by the exhibition that maps are manipulable and relative documents, instruments of propaganda, persuasion and perspective, the map of Australia as a chastening example to Europeans and Americans shows Australia right side up, and the rest of the world down under. To move through this exhibition is to move through all the intelligences of human beings as they have tried to place themselves to orient themselves in history. People are trying to do that again today on a global scale so drastically has the world's map changed of late. Three times already in our century have the

world's Atlases revised their pictures. Once after the First World War to account for the ruins of the Austrian, German, Russian and Ottoman Empire, once again after the Second World War with the reconfigurations of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, now, once again, due to the reunification of Germany, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. There is a new Hammond Atlas of the world, a new National Geographic Atlas of the world, and a revised New York Times Atlas of the world. Among these moderns, a beautiful ancient also showed up, the Atlas of Atlases, a book displaying mapmaking as one of the fine arts. Somewhere the map you need exists or can be made. It's a lovely consoling thought when you recall all the times you felt lost in the world, your little world, and how grateful you would have been for directions up or out, how grateful you'd be now if someone were to hand you a map of your life as it is about to unfold like a map, showing in clear colors and contours all the icebergs, all the shoals in your past, all the dragons, all the treasures. Yet, the exhibition proves that no map is trustworthy. If it were true an accurate at one time, it was only for a moment until history or science demanded a correction. In a way, the truest maps are the ones that flaunt their falsity. At the ironic extreme is Saul Steinberg's famous map showing the perspective of West side Manhattanites whose vision of the universe extends as far West as New Jersey. At the spiritual extreme, there is the map of the Possum Beings of the Australian Aboriginals who believe that the location of God and dreams is the only map that counts. Here, look at the exhibit's so-called picture of the world. It is a trick, a sham, a painting, not a map. One cannot photograph the whole of a sphere. Then see what this world leaves

out, clouds, depth, motion, time, political and national division. It leaves out you and me. The truest map, in fact, seems to be the one that announces, "You do not know where you are going and you will never know, but I exist to dignify the attempt." The deep appeal of maps, after all, is not the territories they show but our relation to them, a verification of being. You are here, as they say on museum tours, you are in the world, ancient and modern. You live and you are your own ocean and your own desert and one side of you is visible and one side is not, and one side of you is dark and one is light. The exhibitors say, "Somewhere the map you need exists or can be made." I think they had the mind in mind. I'm Roger Rosenblatt.

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 recent publications

SOFTWARE

New Vertical Datum conversion (VERTCON) Software

The National Geodetic Survey Division (NGSD) announced the availability of a new vertical datum transformation software program. Program VERTCON computes the modeled difference in orthometric height between the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88) and the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29) for a given location specified by latitude and longitude. This conversion is sufficient for many mapping purposes. The VERTCON software and database operate on standard disk-operating-systems (DOS) controlled computers with a math coprocessor. The VERTCON software and two files of modeling

coefficients are available on a single computer disk.

The horizontal geodetic datum, either the North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) or the North American Datum of 1993 (NAD 83), to which the latitude and longitude are referenced, should not affect the height difference that VERTCON computes because the height differences change very little in horizontal position of less than 1000 meters. The root-mean-square error of the actual NGVD 29/NAVD 88 height differences at bench marks of the National Geodetic Reference System compared with the computed height differences from the model is +/- 2.5 cm. Depending on the network and design and terrain relief, larger differences may occur the further a control point is located from the survey control that is used to establish the model's coefficients.

VERTCON costs \$89 per copy; prepayment is required. Checks, money orders, VISA, MasterCard, and American Express are acceptable for payment. Inquires should be made to National Geodetic Information Center, Telephone (301) 443-8631, fax (301) 881-0390.

DATA

Global Environmental Data

The National Geophysical Data Center has announced the availability of global environmental data produced by the Global Ecosystems Database Project, conducted by NGDS and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Research Laboratories, in Corvallis, Oregon. This data base contains raster girded map layers registered to a common latitude-longitude base. Each file has been inspected for optimal quality and usability for analysis, given the current state of data development. Parameters

have been chosen for their potential use in the integrated studies of the global environment. Individual data layers have been contributed by many scientific laboratories and individuals. The CD-ROM includes selected data such as ecosystems, landuse, wetlands, vegetation (including satellite-derived vegetation index), climate, topography, and soils. These data are on a range of compatible grids, from 2 degrees to 2 minutes. Vector data for coastlines and other features are also provided. The disk is provided to the scientific community for research and education, with documentation on the quality of the data and limitations. Periodic updates are planned as well as enhancements to this disk, as well as to other parts of the overall Global Change Data Base. The price for the Global Ecosystems Data on CD-ROM, with browse and visualization software and extensive documentation is \$100 (product number 1016-A27-001). Data contributors and academic researchers should contact the National Geophysical Data Center for information about obtaining data by special arrangement. National Geophysical Data Center, NOAA, E/GC1, Dept. 891, 325 Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80303; phone (303) 497-6125; fax: (303) 497-6513; e-mail: infor@mail.ngdc.noaa.gov.

Canadian Terrain Data

3 Arc Second Terrain Data for Canada is now available in USGS and DOD/DMA format on one CD-ROM from Communications Data Services, Inc. (CDS). In addition to the Canadian data, CDS currently offers three other different sets on CD-ROM. These are United States Geological Survey 3 Arc Second Digital Terrain Data, United States Geological Survey Land Use and Land Cover (Composite Grid Cell),

and United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census 1990 population data base. A guide to other products and services available from Communications Data Services, Inc. is available by contacting them at 6105-E Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, Virginia 22044; Phone (703) 534-0034 or (800) 441-0034; fax (703) 534-7884.

BOOKS, ATLASES AND MAPS

Factbooks and Maps

Interarts, Ltd., a cartographic firm specializing in geographic products has released some new and updated products. These include the *World Political Paper Map* (with and without flags), the *Earth MapBook Environmental Atlas*, the *Earth FactBook Maps and Facts Reference Atlas*, and two coloring books—*Countries and Flags* and the *Living Earth*.

The *World Political Map* is on a Van der Grinten, has been updated to include all the changes in the former Soviet Union and the former republics of Yugoslavia. The map is at a scale of 1:30,000,000 and measures 28" x 53" without flags (\$16.95) and 35.5" x 53" with flags (\$18.95). The *MapBook Environmental Atlas* is a revised edition of the *Concise EarthBook*. It too has been updated. In addition to the general reference maps it contains a country-by-country information section and an index. The atlas is hardbound, has 215 pages, comes in a handy travel size of 5.25"x7.25", and sells for \$18.95 (ISBN 1-879856-25-5). The *Earth FactBook* contains comprehensive information and maps that answer questions ranging from "what causes earthquakes?" to "why is an ant hill like a city?" Like the *MapBook Environmental Atlas*, it is published in the 5.25"x7.25" hardcoverd format, has 184 pages

and sells for \$18.95 (ISBN: 1-879856-28-X). The coloring books are a fun way to learn about the world and are designed for both children and adults. Each diagram has a color key to help you select colors and explanations about the maps and diagrams. The coloring books are softcover, 8.5"x12", 39 pages each and cost \$7.95 (*Countries and Flags* - ISBN: 1-879856-15-8; *The Living Earth* - ISBN: 1-879856-16-6).

Directory of Canadian Map Collections

The 6th Edition of the *Directory of Canadian Map Collections*, by Tim Ross, is available at a cost of \$18.00 from the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archive, c/o Cartographic and Audio-Visual Archives of Canada, Room 1016, 344 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N3.

Cartographic Citations

The Map & Geography Round Table of the American Library Association has published an informative booklet on forms of citation for cartographic materials. The twenty three page publication, entitled *Cartographic Citations: A Style Manual* is edited by Suzanne M. Clark, Mary Lynette Larsgaard, and Cynthia M. Teague, and was published in 1992 (ISBN 0-8389-7581-X). The booklet is an indispensable reference for anyone using maps. It provides the basic form for citing cartographic materials of all types and gives numerous examples of citation formats (see table of contents to left). The cost is \$10. Orders can be sent to Kathryn Womble, Map Collection FM-25, University of Washington Libraries, Seattle, Washington 98195; Phone (206) 543-9392; e-mail kwomble@u.washington.edu.

Cartographic Citations: A Style Manual

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cartographic events

EVENTS CALENDAR

1993

June 21-25: **XVth International Conference on the History of Cartography.** Chicago/Milwaukee. The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography, The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

October 20-23

XIII Annual Meeting of the North American Cartographic Information Society

Washington, DC.

For more information contact
Charles Harrington
NACIS Program Chair
10904 Kingstead Rd.
Damascus, MD 20872
(301)443-8360

October 30 -November 1: **XI International Symposium on Computer Assisted Cartography (Auto-Carto-Eleven).** Minneapolis, Minnesota. Contact: Robert B. McMaster, University of Minnesota, 612-625-9883 or Marc. P. Armstrong, University of Iowa, 319-335-0153.

November 2-4: **GIS/LIS '93.** Minneapolis, Minnesota. Contact GIS/LIS '93, 5410 Grovenor Lane, Ste. 100, Bethesda, MD 20814-2122; (301)493-0200.