

Strange Maps: An Atlas Of Cartographic Curiosities



Synopsis

An intriguing collection of more than one hundred out-of-the-ordinary maps, blending art, history, and pop culture for a unique atlas of humanity. Spanning many centuries, all continents, and the realms of outer space and the imagination, this collection of 138 unique graphics combines beautiful full-color illustrations with quirky statistics and smart social commentary. The result is a distinctive illustrated guide to the world. Categories of cartographic curiosities include: ? Literary Creations, featuring a map of Thomas More's Utopia and the world of George Orwell's 1984 ? Cartographic Misconceptions, such as a lavish seventeenth-century map depicting California as an island ? Political Parody, containing the ?Jesusland map? and other humorous takes on voter profiles ? Whatchamacallit, including a map of the area codes for regions where the rapper Ludacris sings about having ?holes? ? Obscure Proposals, capturing Thomas Jefferson's vision for dividing the Northwest Territory into ten states with names such as Polypotamia and Assenisipia ? Fantastic Maps, with a depiction of what the globe might look like if the sea and land were inverted. The Strange Maps blog has been named by GeekDad Blog on Wired.com ?one of the more unusual and unique sites seen on the Web that doesn't sell anything or promote an agenda? and it's currently ranked #423 on Technorati's Top 500 Blogs. Brimming with trivia, deadpan humor, and idiosyncratic lore, Strange Maps is a fascinating tour of all things weird and wonderful in the world of cartography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you regularly read the Strange Maps blog and want to support Frank Jacobs with a few bucks,

then this is the way to go. The book compiles the blog entries with nice large photos and un-cluttered text. However, if you're like I am, and like to look things up on the internet as you read about them, the experience of reading one of Frank's stories on the web is vastly different than reading it in a book. The book doesn't add anything to the content already on the web, and you miss out on the links to original sources and cross-references to other Strange Maps stories. If you or someone you know likes well-researched and engaging anecdotes about maps combined with the experience of reading such things in a book, then this one's for you. But if you just want to see some cartographic curiosities and pick up a factoid or two along the way, then perhaps the Strange Maps blog should be your first destination. Then you can decide whether it's worth is to shell out some money to have print copies of all the wonderful maps Frank has collected.

I ordered this book as one of two books about maps to give as Christmas gifts to a man who reads books about maps for sheer entertainment. I am truly glad to have this book as one of several I have given him over the years. Actually, I am glad I ordered it early so I could read it before passing it on to someone else. :)

I was very disappointed with this book. Actually hard for me to admit in that I usually love all things cartographic. The first deducted star is because even though using a 9.5 X 11 inch format, some of the maps are as small as 3 X 4 inch. And most of these having writing on them which I would LIKE to know what it says. Add a stout magnifying glass to your order. Come on, modern printing technology can easily enlarge almost anything without it turning into pixels and dots. Eliminating some of the HUGE margins could have easily allowed for 1 page of words and the other page a map. Second star deducted because I was expecting more actual historical mappage, real stuff even if it was wrong. But there's significant amount of pages dedicated to fairy tale maps and art paintings which bear the word "map" in their name, but are actually nothing of the sort. Third star deducted because some things aren't even maps, i.e., a smear of jam near a butter knife which resembles vaguely a continent and an omelet or something similar which is said to look like a country. A more accurate title for some of the book would be, "Random Objects Which Look Like A Map." That said, between the many uninteresting and/or unrelated entries, there are several good maps and bits of interesting info. So the book IS worth 2 stars for a used copy only.

Terrific collection of -- just as it says -- strange maps, from the eponymous website. A few are deliberately offbeat, but most appear to be entirely serious in intent.. The mapped regions go from

Manhattan to the largest moon of Saturn, and the topics mapped from straight (sort of) geography to French kisses. Any map devotee will love this one, and it will also appeal to devotees of the unusual. Great Xmas gift for the right person

I got this as a gift for my husband, who is a professional cartographer. He absolutely loves it and keeps it in a special place in his room.

I learned SO much from this book.

I bought Strange Maps for a gift for my dad who LOVES maps. Since it is a larger format book, the images are large enough to view easily enough. While my dad is not the "reading type" and this book has a lot of text to go along with the maps, he couldn't wait to get started on reading it.

This is a fun and fact filled book about weird maps. Some are historical, some fantastic, some artistic, some political, some...well just weird. Personally, I enjoyed the historical maps myself. But there's something for everyone here. Now, yes, this book is so eclectic that's it's unlikely you will like everything. "Skip on a bit, brother." You will get a chuckle or two and maybe even learn something.

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