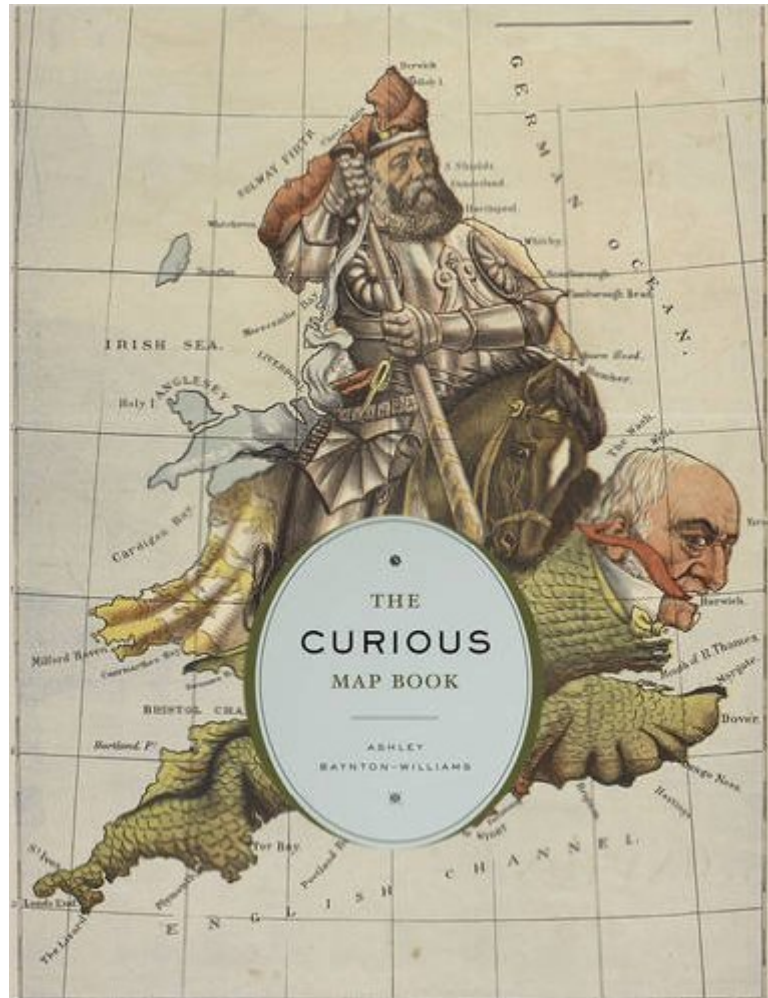


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# The Curious Map Book



## Synopsis

Since that ancient day when the first human drew a line connecting Point A to Point B, maps have been understood as one of the most essential tools of communication. Despite differences in language, appearance, or culture, maps are universal touchstones in human civilization. Over the centuries, maps have served many varied purposes; far from mere guides for reaching a destination, they are unique artistic forms, aides in planning commercial routes, literary devices for illuminating a story. Accuracy or inaccuracy of maps has been the make-or-break factor in countless military battles throughout history. They have graced the walls of homes, bringing prestige and elegance to their owners. They track the mountains, oceans, and stars of our existence. Maps help us make sense of our worlds both real and imaginary—they bring order to the seeming chaos of our surroundings. With *The Curious Map Book*, Ashley Baynton-Williams gathers an amazing, chronologically ordered variety of cartographic gems, mainly from the vast collection of the British Library. He has unearthed a wide array of the whimsical and fantastic, from maps of board games to political ones, maps of the Holy Land to maps of the human soul. In his illuminating introduction, Baynton-Williams also identifies and expounds upon key themes of map production, peculiar styles, and the commerce and collection of unique maps. This incredible volume offers a wealth of gorgeous illustrations for anyone who is cartographically curious.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Okay, I'll admit it: I'm a map freak, (as I suspect you are too if you're looking at this title). I've been fascinated by maps of all shapes and styles for as long as I can remember. I even like to pore over

state highway maps. So it is only natural that over the years I have purchased a number of large coffee table map books. And though I have never actually been disappointed, I must confess that after a while these books have become somewhat repetitious. So it was with a bit of trepidation that I decided to purchase this one. But the title (and the cover) caught my attention. Perhaps this one actually would be different. And much to my delight, it was. This truly is a collection of unique maps, most of which you have probably not seen before. And as an added bonus, the text is also well written. (Which is not often the case with collections such as this). Each map has a facing page going into detail (but not overly so) about how and why that particular map was produced. I rarely give a book five stars, but this one deserves it. I intend to read through it slowly, perhaps just one or two maps per day. If you are at all interested in cartography, or graphic design, or are simply curious, this book is almost certain to appeal to you. Buy it.

Gave as a gift and it was well received very well.

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