

**Review excerpts for *Underground Maps Unravelling*  
(edited for repetition)**

This book contains high-quality graphics throughout. Astonishingly, for someone with no graphic or cartographic training, the author has created what can only be described as masterpieces of design and beauty. He equally has created some truly vile monsters – just to illustrate, good and bad, what can be achieved but remaining within ‘the rules’. There is enough here to make your jaw drop and your eyes burst.

*Douglas Rose, Managing Director FWT, Company website*

This beautifully produced book must, of course, be fascinating to enthusiasts of the underground and/or of cartography - but it is also a great find for the general reader. The book is very readable – Dr Roberts has an easy, elegant and witty style – and it is absolutely packed with interesting information and comment on the history, aesthetics and science of underground map-making, leaving you with plenty to think about: the psychology stuff is highly accessible. Strongly recommended.

*lbeagle, Amazon review*

It has many previously unpublished designs and (coming up to date) shows how tweaking using digital vector graphics can produce major changes for better or worse. It repays hours of study.

*Barry Doe, The Fare Dealer, Rail Magazine*

It is impossible to do justice to this fascinating volume in words alone. This creation, and the visuals in particular, have to be seen to be appreciated. It is clearly a labour of love, but it is a beautiful production. I can virtually guarantee hours of pleasure poring over the meticulously created ‘what if’ designs.

*Oliver Green, London Transport Museum Friends News*

The book may seem to be highly technical or too deeply specialised. It is not; it is readable, informative, and it sets in good context many of the other books on diagrammatic maps. If your library already contains many such books, this one is a vital addition that you simply must not miss. If you have no such books, but think that the subject may be of interest, this is the book to have. The author has also shared with the reader not only the fruits of his study from a highly objective viewpoint, but also his considerable skills as a creator of maps. Highly recommended.

*Andrew Dow, National Railway Museum Review*

The book can be seen as a wake-up call to graphic and information designers who are not precisely following Beck's rules to communicate complex information and thus failing to achieve clarity, simplicity and legibility. It sheds light on the conceptual design process and the development of complex design projects. Roberts' s analysis enhances understanding on how diagrammatic maps can assist us, when and why they fail on doing so. He unpacks theories and explains ways to avoid cluttered communication and the development of unintelligible diagrammatic maps. The book supplements explanations with the analysis of visual examples and case studies, which demonstrate possible problems that may occur when traditional design rules are not being followed properly.

*Sheila Pontis, Mapping Complex Information blog*

The book gives an in-depth analysis of how schematic maps assist the user, when they fail and why, and explores how traditional designs can be adapted as these networks expand. If this sounds dry and too technical, the book certainly isn't, with its imaginative exploration of transport diagrams from various cities worldwide. The book is lavishly illustrated and will appeal to anyone interested not only in design or transport maps, but also in how we ourselves react to the presentation of what for many of us is something we encounter everyday in our travels.

*Stanfords website*

The huge volume of maps and information contained within its covers make it an essential purchase for anyone who is interested in cartography and the Underground.

*Antony Badsey Ellis, Underground News Magazine*