With great sadness, just after the May newsletter was dispatched, I learnt of the death of Andrew Dow. Amongst his many achievements, he was author of the book *Telling The Passenger Where to Get Off*, which documented the work of his father, George Dow, an unsung pioneer of schematic maps, and creator of some delightful designs. If you have not read Andrew's book, you should, although it may be in short supply for the foreseeable future. We exchanged many ideas while we were researching our respective works and afterwards. He will be missed.

In the media, on the web
- If you want to grab the headlines, re-design the London Underground map in an unusual way (or indeed, in any way at all). The Night Network diagram from last month was featured by *Londonist*, *Time Out*, and *Ian Visits*, and it was then picked up and discussed in Polish and in Spanish. *Time Out* also included it in their magazine, which to my knowledge is the first time that any of my maps has been given hard copy by the British media.
- Meanwhile, a short article in French on Paris ends with my concentric circles design, which also makes an appearance in this interview (also in French).

Web page news
My web pages are now being upgraded to include the new Tube Map Central logo, phased in gradually, as this is a good opportunity rewrite and revamp some of the pages. I have also added new posters for sale in the web shop. The medium-term plan is to completely revamp this, but to say that the various e-commerce options out there are difficult to compare and evaluate would be an understatement!

Dates for your diary
- On Tuesday 9th of June, I will be giving a presentation to the London Underground Railway Society titled *Underground Maps Invigorated*, 18:40, Upper Room, Allsouls Clubhouse, 141 Cleveland Street, London W1T 6QG. I will be discussing the benefits and pitfalls of digitally reconstructing historic maps. If you are a LURS member, I look forward to seeing you there. Guests are admitted, but space is limited. **Important: the rail strike scheduled for this 9th/10th June has been called off, but if it is reinstated then the meeting will have to be postponed. Check before.**
- The Sign Design Society annual summer party on Thursday 9th July will feature *Underground Maps Untangled* – a one-night-only exhibition of my designs at *The Gallery*, Alan Baxter & Associates, 75 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EL. This is a ticket-only event, or you can join the society.
- The TfL archives are holding a two-day event on 5th/6th August at the Palestra building in Southwark. The theme will be TfL's design and innovation heritage, and I've been invited to take part. This will be a closed event, but quite a few people from TfL are on my mailing list, so look out for further details.

Research news
We have recently submitted an article to the *Information Design Journal* that reports an evaluation of a concentric circles map of Berlin. You can download a draft here. There are many interesting findings but, briefly, think twice before adopting a concentric circles design as an official map for your city network!

Map of the Month: Purely decorative in Glasgow
The Map of the Month for May wasn’t really intended to be a design for navigation; the embellishments to make it visually striking also reduce its usability. So let's make that absolutely clear this month by revisiting a concept that first I explored years ago.
I’ve always loved opulent Art Nouveau, and Art Deco from the first half of the 20th century. My decorative maps are pastiches which are meant to be pleasing to the eye rather than used for planning journeys. They require a lot of thought when creating them: all aspects of the design must be carefully attended to, and the elements must work together naturally and holistically, otherwise a jumble of stylistic clichés will result.

My London Underground map inspired by Charles Rennie Mackintosh is one of my most popular designs, but the great Scottish architect and designer had no involvement with the Edwardian Underground, and limited influence in London. Virtually all of his buildings are in Glasgow, where he was born and spent most of his working life. The city has a large electric suburban rail network, and one of the oldest underground railways in the world, so surely this would be a better location for a rail map inspired by his work?

A recurring feature of Macintosh’s style is the grid, softened with subtle curves and integrated decoration. This took me to a very organised tetralinear design, but using today’s network. If you wanted, you could use this map to help you visit some of Macintosh’s surviving buildings, but the intention is something quirky and attractive rather than usable and consistent. I did work particularly hard on the city centre though. Despite its appearance, it is a little bit more geographically correct than the official version.

There are a lot of Macintosh-style souvenirs out there, and some of the more ersatz ones have a scathing name coined for them, Mockintosh! Let’s hope Glasgow art and design critics are feeling kind this month.

Decorative maps can have a long gestation period. You have to get your head round the concept, and you have to be in the mood to create. It would be nice if other artists/designers might be inspired to have a go. How about a Chicago El network map inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright? Map of the Month for July will carry on with the decorative theme, this time with a trip to the seaside. You can subscribe to my newsletter at www.tubemapcentral.com.

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