The unusually warm and pleasant British summer continues, and now that the students have finished for the year, it is time to catch up with writing projects. A book chapter has now been completed, and two more papers are on the way. Dr Stephanie Dow informs me that she still has a few copies of *Telling The Passenger Where to Get Off*, by Andrew Dow. This could be your last chance to purchase a brand new book, so if you are interested, you should contact her at sbdow@btinternet.com.

In the media, on the web
- **Map of the Month for June**: the Glasgow railways map inspired by the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh certainly caught people’s eye. *Time Out* featured it on their Glasgow edition web page, and *Scottish Television* interviewed me for their own news pages.
- Elsewhere, *Mashable* highlighted 7 London tube maps that might be better than the new official one. I guess “might” is the keyword here, but **Map of the Month for May**: my London Underground night network map was included. Meanwhile, Transport for London also released their own official version, staying with the dark background theme.

Web page news
I’ve updated the books and links page of my website, adding titles that should have been there years ago. This page is intended to be a comprehensive listing of books on schematic map design and transport maps in general. If you know of any titles that are missing and should be there, let me know.

Dates for your diary
- 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.
- I will be giving my talk *Transit Maps: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* to the University of the Third Age Hillingdon branch on Monday 9th May 2016, 11:00 at Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip, HA4 7QL.

Research news
The book chapter gives a short summary of the various issues that should be taken account of in order to design an effective schematic map, usable and acceptable to the general public. It has been written for a compilation of works on the psychology of reasoning, and you can download a draft of it here.

Map of the Month: A trip to the seaside
My Art Deco-inspired map of the London Underground is a very intricate work, but perhaps suffers because of the size of the network. It needs to be printed A0 size or larger to be fully appreciated. This style of design might work more effectively at a more reasonable size if applied to a smaller network.

As might be expected for a large diverse county, Essex has its good and bad points, but the coast and countryside in the northeast corner are very attractive. Frinton-on-Sea is famous for all sorts of reasons, but it certainly has Art Deco connections. A grand estate was never completed, but enough houses in the intended style exist to show what might have been. The resorts have long been collectively marketed as the Essex Sunshine Coast and so, perhaps inspired by the weather, I created a railway poster pastiche, set in the 1930s. The classic ‘sunburst’ completes it nicely.
I was then set the challenge to complete a second pastiche with a local interest. Frinton also has a strong Arts & Crafts tradition, with many houses in this style. A poster inspired by this would have been an obvious choice, but things didn’t quite go to plan. A decorative style has to be loved in order for a good pastiche to be created, and to me the Arts & Crafts movement has always been the inferior cousin to Art Nouveau, with intellectual underpinnings that were always going to be self-defeating. The magnolia tree became more and more curvaceous, and eventually I gave up the fight, and allowed it to become Art Nouveau. Like all the best examples, the impression it gives is ambiguous. The famous Guimard station entrances on the Paris Metro to me always look like insects poised to gobble up unsuspecting passengers as they walk down the stairs. On the poster, is this a jaunty tree or a sinister tree? Opinions differ.

Frinton-on-Sea has no Art Nouveau tradition, and Edwardian residents might have found this design a little bit over the top. However, down the line, not far from Brentwood, is one of England’s few buildings to be considered (controversially) to have Art Nouveau decoration, the church of St Mary the Virgin at Great Warley. Art Nouveau for the Essex coast? Tenuous but not outrageous. On the other hand, despite the frivolity of this exercise, these posters do serve a useful purpose. Many people are not quite sure about how Art Deco and Art Nouveau differ. Put these side by side, and the differences are obvious.

This has definitely been a summer for decorative maps, and I have one more of these for Map of the Month for August, then it is back to more serious topics. The forthcoming design has a transatlantic theme, and has been sitting on my hard disk waiting for me to complete it for almost four and a half years. Well, you can’t rush these things. You can subscribe to my newsletter at www.tubemapcentral.com.

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