Autumn is on the way; anniversary season! I have worked for 25 years at the University of Essex, lived for one year at Walton-on-the-Naze (through storms, blizzards and heat-waves) and, of course, the very first Tube Map Central newsletter was dispatched in November 2013, almost five years ago. Is it even possible to conceive of a map to mark all of these together?

**Dates for your diary**

- The second *Schematic Mapping Workshop* will be held on 11th/12th April 2019, at TU Wien, Austria. Details on submissions and registration will be given on the workshop [website](#) and the program will be announced once it is finalised. The programme committee is now complete, and the web page will be ready to accept submissions very soon.
- [Sietske de Groot](#) will be giving a talk at the *Brexit Breakfast* held by the *East Suffolk Partnership* preceding their *Annual Forum* on the morning of Friday 9th November, 2018, at Trinity Park, Felixtowe Road, Bucklesham, IP3 8UH. There will be an exhibition of *Brexit maps* and I will also be on hand to answer questions about how they were designed. More details to follow.

**In the media, on the web**

- The joint Universities of Kent–Essex research into the effects of colour-coding on map usability has been covered in a further article, this time *Geospatial Engineering*.

**Map of the Month: Amsterdam, the final word?**

Yet another visit to Amsterdam (see Newsletter 49 and Newsletter 57), but this will definitely be the last map for a while, incorporating all of the points that I discussed on my *Tramageddon to Metromorphosis* page. The basic concentric-U concept is the same, but the obvious change compared with previous versions is that the NS Rail middle- and long-distance services that serve Amsterdam are now on the map. However, it is a myth that Dutch travel is fully-integrated, other than universal agreement on how to remove money from your pocket. For example, a *regional day ticket* for all travel modes in Amsterdam and the surrounding area costs €18.50, and although there is a much cheaper *Amsterdam-only day ticket* (€7.50) this is not valid on NS Rail trains. There is a similar problem at Rotterdam.

Of course, this won’t be the first Amsterdam tram-metro map to include *all* rail transport in the city, but usually these fail to differentiate the services. I wanted to give an idea of the stopping patterns of the different routes, and which of these serve the centre versus skirting the periphery. The result is a
summary of how longer-distance trains combine to serve Amsterdam, rather than a diagram of individual lines but, even so, with up to seven strands on some parts of the map, it was inevitable that I would switch to Vignelli-style. In Newsletter 50 I showed that this design technique adapts to circular designs very well, although it necessitates individually curved lines for linking certain transfer stations.

The other major change is to the line colours. The official design adopts a system where similar services are grouped together by a common colour (e.g., green) but individual services within the group are distinguished by using different shades of the same colour (e.g., light green, mid green, dark green). This gives five different shades of green on the official map; a complexity that our research suggests is probably not worth the effort, as we were unable to identify any usability benefits from this colour-coding system. Worse still, I suspect that the way that GVB has applied these colours will come back to haunt them in the future. I’ve attempted a simpler and more orderly colour-coding scheme, one that I hope clarifies the current structure of the network. As a final touch, more waterways have been included and, for the first time, major parks, to give more context to this abstract design, that nonetheless matches the shape of the city well.

Term starts soon, but my main teaching does not commence until after Christmas, when my Transit Maps: Past, Present & Future module has its third outing. In the meantime, my secret project continues, and I have a position paper for the Schematic Mapping Workshop to write. My continual promises for updated Washington, DC metro maps as Maps of the Month will also finally be fulfilled. To see what is planned, subscribe to my newsletter at www.tubemapcentral.com.

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