The monthly newsletter cycle is all set to continue for the foreseeable future and, as usual, there is a packed summer in store workwise, so that there will be plenty of developments to fill them. Stay tuned.

**Book news**
Production of *Airline Maps: A Century of Art and Design* is proceeding to schedule, and we have just submitted corrections for the second round of proofs. The USA launch date is 29th October 2019, and we are also hoping for a simultaneous UK release. Bound galleys have just been delivered, and my favourite map looks very nice indeed.

**Date for your diary**
The third Schematic Mapping Workshop will be held on 15th/16th April, 2021, at Universität Würzburg, Germany. The basic workshop website is very nearly complete and should be going live by the end of July. It includes scope and also submission types and dates. We are currently working on the workshop logo, and comments are welcome on this prototype. Once the web page is ready, the generic web address, www.schematicmapping.org will be redirected to the new pages.

**Map of the Month: Constructing Constructivism**
I’ve long enjoyed creating pastiche maps to celebrate various design genres, including general ones such as Art Nouveau and Art Deco, and work specific to individuals such as Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Frank Lloyd Wright. However, step closer to the 1930s and careful treading is necessary because graphic design becomes politically charged. I well remember the response of an Italian colleague, declaring the splendid 1938 Italian diagram of European railways (*Newsletter 7*) to be a “Fascist map”.

The perspective I take is that the 20th Century totalitarian regimes tended to co-opt already-existing design zeitgeists rather than inspire or commission them. Hence, the various flavours of modernism were embraced where they suited the purposes of the dictator – who wished to project an image of forward thinking and change – and brutally suppressed when either no longer useful, or else the independent creativity of the people behind the genres was perceived as a threat.

A slightly bizarre circumstance led me to think about how the Russian Constructivists might have mapped the Moscow Metro. Led by designers such as Alexander Rodchenko and Lyubov Popova, this was one of the key founding movements of 20th century modernism. Characterised by bold typography, simple shapes and vivid colour, this would be the perfect basis for creating schematic maps and, in this particular case, the iconic Moscow Metro circle (the Koltsevaya Line) would be an ideal foundation.
Even with the political issues resolved, the anachronisms are breathtaking. Constructivist designers were suppressed by Stalin in a 1932 purge but metro services commenced in 1935, and the Circle Line itself was not completed until 1954.

Often, simple networks provide the best basis for a pastiche of a genre, because this enables its fundamental principles to be graphically expressed with clarity. Also, I am not sure that Muscovites would want to see their modern metro network dressed up in Communist regalia. The solution came to me when I stumbled upon a 1930s projected metro construction map. Hence, my own design is aspirational: the network yet to come, rather than operational. The made-up slogan reflects this, I will leave translating it as a challenge for readers.

This was very much a design that, once the basic parameters were set, created itself. The embryonic network resolves itself easily into simple shapes – demanding a hammer and sickle to embellish them. The original circular black background, emphasizing the forthcoming Circle Line, looked too much like an LP record, but turning it into a cogwheel achieved the highlighting in an even more appropriate way. The style of lettering is entirely consistent with actual work, and the lining followed from this naturally.

It is intriguing to work through various 20th Century design genres, imagining how they might express themselves in maps, and I am still hopeful that my attempts might inspire people, with more technical ability than me, to have a go. A well-executed New York City Subway map in the style of Jackson Pollock would be very special, but there are many other possibilities, too numerous to mention. Next month I have a map that is more prosaic, but represents an information design fail from an organisation that should have known better. To find out what is in store, subscribe to my newsletter at www.tubemapcentral.com.

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