Autumn is here, and that means the students are back at university. I hope they will forgive me because I might be somewhat distracted for the next few weeks!

**Book news**

Advance copies of *Airline Maps: A Century of Art and Design* are now here, and in shops worldwide on 29th October. First discussed in June 2014, it is great seeing this project finally come to fruition. Meanwhile, *Tube Map Travels* is now in production: the launch date has slipped a little bit but we still expect availability well in time for Christmas.

**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 complete and includes the full scope and submission timetable. The portal for submissions opens on Thursday 9th April 2020, and we are happy to take questions about these at submissions@schematicmapping.org. Reports on all aspects of schematic map research are most welcome.

**Map of the Month: Bauhaus Berlin**

A few months ago, I was delighted to discover a 1925 schematised map created by Joost Schmidt, a key figure in Bauhaus design. It provided assistance for getting to the school at Dessau, with all long distance links – air, rail, and road – turned into simple straight lines. Of course, the Berlin S-Bahn suburban rail network map was schematised in 1931. However, although it lays claim to being the first ever octolinear design, preceding Henry Beck’s London version by two years, it would win far fewer prizes for elegance. Indeed, it looks rather clunky compared with the Schmidt diagram. I wondered how might a map of the Berlin S-Bahn might appear if it had adhered more to Bauhaus ethos.

A Bauhaus-inspired map was not going to be an exercise in authenticity. The most interesting design needed to incorporate the North-South tunnel to give the distinctive circle-and-cross. Unfortunately, this was not completed until 1939, long after the Nazis had closed down the Bauhaus School. To enhance impact,
I showed the maximum electrified network and omitted steam suburban lines (dirty and old-fashioned, the antitheses of modernism). This network is therefore utterly imaginary: nothing like this map could ever have existed.

Despite this, suitable lettering was needed. It would have been easy to have used the famous Herbert Bayer design that exists in many digital versions, but this map was to be inspired by Schmidt, and his one features his own distinctive serifed stencil lettering. I tried to recreate this, but extrapolating to the missing letters was challenging. After all the effort, the stencil effect was illegible at small sizes, and so the next step was to destencil it (in the process creating a delightful letter g). Another Schmidt drawing (source unknown) inspired the arrow lettering, and digital airbrushing added extra dimension.

Creating a map of a rail network set in 1930s Berlin was always going to be somewhat controversial, although I think I have got away with the almost equally provocative Constructivist Moscow Metro map in Newsletter 69. Map of the Month next month returns to the air. To find out what is in store, subscribe at www.tubemapcentral.com.