A big thank-you to Stanfords at Covent Garden, my favourite bookshop, for hosting the launch of *Airline Maps: A Century of Art and Design* at their new modern store. We had a great turnout and lots of positive comments about the book, which is now in shops, available for purchase worldwide.

**Book news**

I have received a nice looking advance copy of *Tube Map Travels*, which is currently in transit to the UK for a December release. Details in the next newsletter.

**Date for your diary**

The third [Schematic Mapping Workshop](https://schematicmapping.org) 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.

**In the media, on the web**

Articles about the Airline Maps book feature in *CityLab* (which also inspired an article in French at Cartographie Numerique), *Creative Review*, *Marketplace*, and *The Map Room blog*.

**Map of the Month: The three corners of the Earth**

Sometimes creativity springs from adversity. I won’t disclose why, but a combination of circumstances led to me and Mark thinking, at short notice, about alternatives for the cover design of our Airline Maps book. My expertise is schematisation rather than cartography, and I took my inspiration from two sources, a lovely Mondrian-Style schematic of the world created by Michael Tompsett, and my second-favourite airline services map. KLM has a long history of outstanding design, and the distinctive triangle works are amongst the highlights of their eras. Borrowing these concepts, I needed just a few iterations to shape the continents, and airline routes were carefully chosen so as not to imply any particular operator. The schematisation
process resulted in many interesting issues concerning which features to represent and which islands should qualify for a place. Map projection and topography purists will all quibble about details such as positions, distortions and omissions, but unlike Henry Beck’s London diagram, there was no intention to create a representation that could be used for navigation in any meaningful way; not even individual countries are shown.

The result is bold, simple, colourful and eye-catching, perfect for a book trying to attract attention on a crowded shop table at Christmas time. However, the cover was destined not to be used and so, sadly, there is now an orphaned design looking for a purpose in life.

If anyone can think of a use for an unwanted book cover, do let me know. I’ve not yet decided on Map of the Month for December, but there is a good chance that it will be appropriate for the Tube Map Travels book. To find out what I eventually decide, subscribe to my newsletter at www.tubemapcentral.com.

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