

REFERENCE SOURCES FOR THE ADVANCED DXER

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SPECIALIZED ATLAS / GAZETTEER

● THE TIMES ATLAS OF THE WORLD - By: Jerry Berg

There are many atlases on the market but most are not adequate for the serious DXer who is often in search of an obscure place-name, or interested in surveying a piece of territory for a name that might match something heard over the air. Standard atlases generally lack the necessary detail.

The answer to this problem, and the definitive leader among atlases, is The Times Atlas of the World, published in England by Times Books, the book publishing division of Times Newspapers Limited (not to be confused with The New York Times) in collaboration with John Bartholomew & Son, cartographers and printers.

This is the best commercially available atlas I have ever seen. It is particularly strong on Asia and Africa but virtually every part of the world is covered in a level of detail that meets the most stringent DX needs. The maps are so well done that you almost have the sense of flying over the territories while looking at the place names below! It's a fun book to look through, too.

The Times Atlas is a volume of 225 pages, including 125 map plates on pages 12 X 18" in size. The Index-Gazetteer at the back contains more than 200,000 place names. The index follows the traditional approach: for each place name the map co-ordinates are listed. In addition, the longitude and latitude are listed with accuracy to a half-mile. [Great data source for input into computer programs which calculate great circle distances, grayline paths, etc. too! /dmc]

The current 7th Edition is available at larger book stores for \$149.95 U.S. The 1985 edition is \$10. cheaper and discount book-sellers sometimes have it for less. That's a lot of money but it is a far better investment than mid-priced volumes such as the \$79.95 Rand McNally Illustrated Atlas of The World. There's just no comparison.

(Late Flash: Fritz Mellberg has discovered that The Times Atlas can be had for \$29.95 as an incentive for joining the Book of the Month Club. Check for the right ad in the New York Times Book Review or other literary magazines. /dmc)

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● INDONESIA DAN DUNIA (ATLAS OF INDONESIA AND THE WORLD) - By: David M. Clark

Published by PT Pembina in Jakarta, this has to be the atlas for the Indo specialist. Beginning with a two-page relief map of the country, the book includes full-page (9.5" X 11.5") maps of Sumatera and each of its eight provinces. The same coverage is provided for the remainder of the country (samples of the provincial maps appear in Bill Sparks' feature elsewhere). These maps cover 39 pages. Eight more pages of maps cover historical and socio-economic data about the country.

Coverage continues with detailed maps of the other member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, then the remainder of Asia and so on for the other continents/countries of world for a total of seventy-six map pages. More than half the atlas section is devoted solely to Indonesia!

The index covers Indonesia and the rest of the world separately. There are the usual cross-references to the appropriate pages and map co-ordinates.

Within the extensive Indonesian section, there are separate alphabetical listings for cities & towns (but regrettably no geographical co-ordinates), mountains/mountain ranges, islands & archipelagoes, lakes & reservoirs, straits, seas & oceans, headlands and finally, airfields!

Similarly categorized but much less detailed listings follow for the rest of the world. The concluding pages are in chart format, showing for each Indonesian province, the respective regencies, municipalities, their respective capital cities/towns, and lastly, the population of each province according to a 1985 census. This listing (from an earlier edition of the atlas) appeared in Appendix 'A' of FT's special publication A DXers Handbook...Indonesia.

The atlas is available from Jl. Raya D.I. Panjaitan 45, Jakarta 13350. The cost should be about \$10. U.S. plus shipping but I suggest you write for details first. No Indonesian DXer should be without it!

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● CIA MAPS AND GAZETTEER FOR THE CHINA SPECIALIST - By: William S. Sparks

A few years ago on one of my visits to the Government book store, in the San Francisco Federal Building, I picked up a set of maps published by the Central Intelligence Agency entitled: Peoples Republic of China, Administrative Atlas. The 68 page atlas is 9 3/4" X 14 1/2".

Each province has its own color map with an excellent Gazetteer. Of particular interest is a Romanization Conversion Table. This is helpful for determining the correct pronunciation of words in the new Pinyin spelling. On one page the Wade-Giles spelling is compared to Pinyin. The next page cross-references the Pinyin spelling to Wade-Giles. Most of us are used to the Wade-Giles format (eg. Peking) whereas the recent Pinyin version (eg. Beijing) is still unfamiliar.

The maps will be of value to those interested in DXing Chinese regionals and the pronunciation table will solve many problems.

I'm not certain of present price/availability but the following information is printed on the title page:

"For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S.
Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402,
Price \$3.46. Stock number 041-015-00076-4."

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MAPS, MAPS AND MORE MAPS

● DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS - By: Dave Valko

Last year I decided to do a little detective work and see if it was possible to obtain topographic maps of my favourite shortwave target countries, Peru and Indonesia. After a few phone calls to the Defense Mapping Agency, I was given a list of map stock numbers and was assured that these would cover Indonesia and central Peru. I was advised that certain maps of Peru were not available to the public - reasons not given.

As it turned out, the areas covered were rather small. The four maps ordered for Indonesia covered only Celebes, while the one map I specified for Peru covered only one-eighth of the country!

Scale is 1" = 8 statute miles for a map size of 4'9" X 3'5". The maps are tremendously detailed with the usual elevation markings scaled in feet with color, and sea-depth in fathoms is also provided. Included are cities & towns and streams & rivers, as well as landmark symbols representing castles, churches, factories, mines, monuments, prominent buildings slag piles, towers, lighthouses, railroads, swamps, snow-capped mountains, water tanks, etc. Typical boundaries are also shown. My Peruvian map is centred on Huaraz, the home of the well-known 60 meter band station, Radio Ancash.

The major disadvantage of these maps is the scale. One would need to buy about twenty maps to cover the entire country of Indonesia! The maps are, however, detailed to the extreme and only cost \$ 3.50 U.S. each.

Unfortunately, it takes a long time for the D.M.A. to process your order. Once an order is received at the Washington, D.C. headquarters, it's then sent to the proper distribution centre to be filled. Keep in mind that since yours is a public order, it tends to be well down on the priority list. Total turnaround time before you receive your maps is about two months.

To find out what maps are available and their corresponding stock numbers, call (301)-227-2495. The address is: DMAPSC, Washington, D.C. 20315-0020.

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● HALLWAG-VERLAG TOURIST MAPS - By: Dave Valko

An excellent series of fold-out maps are those printed in Berne, Switzerland by Hallwag-Verlag. These maps are difficult to obtain in the United States but are available at book stores in some major cities. Especially helpful is the map of South-East Asia which includes all of Indonesia and most of China.

These maps are useful to the DXer because they cover a large area but with a great deal of detail. Towns with a population as low as 10,000 are plotted. Scale is 1" = 100 miles and map size is a generous 2'4" X 3'8". Symbols are provided to represent tunnels, canals, seaports, airports, historic ruins, variable shorelines, lakes, swamps, reservoirs, coral reefs, peak elevations. The maps come with an alphabetical list of all cities and towns, together with their geographical co-ordinates.

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● SOURCE FOR NELLES TOURIST MAPS OF INDONESIA - By: Richard D'Angelo

I recently came across a good source for maps in Baltimore, Maryland: "Geostat Map & Travel Center", located at The Gallery, Harborplace #418, 200 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. Its corporate headquarters is in Somerville, NJ, and they have a toll-free number: 800-828-6277.

Geostat has a complete selection of maps covering the entire world. Write for the first edition of their soon-to-be-published catalogue to check for availability and prices.

Of specific interest to DXers is the excellent Nelles line of fold-out tourist maps. Included in the series is seven maps covering Indonesia at a price of \$ 7.50 U.S. each. They are:

- * No. 1 - Sumatra (with city maps of Medan, Padang, and Palembang)
- * No. 2 - Java & West Nusa Tenggara (with city maps of Yogyakarta, Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang and Surabaya)
- * No. 3 - Bali (with city maps of Denpasar, Kuta and Sanur)

- * No. 4 - Kalimantan - including Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei
- * No. 5 - Java and Bali
- * No. 6 - Sulawesi - maps of Palu and Manado
- * No. 7 - Irian Jaya & Maluku - maps of Banda Islands, Ambon, Haruku and Saparua

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● INDONESIA WALL MAP - By: David M. Clark

PT Pembina (Jakarta) publishes a spectacular wall map of the Indonesian Archipelago measuring an oversize 35" X 48.5". The bottom third of the map has a chart of the political organization of the country, listing the 27 provinces, 242 regencies and their capitals.

Although the map is printed on glossy stock paper with no folds, it would be well-worth the additional investment to have it laminated for permanent protection. If you're an Indo DXer, this map makes a great showpiece.

It is available for \$10. U.S. from The George F. Cram Company, 301 South LaSalle Street, Indianapolis, IN 46201. Add \$ 1. for tube shipping.

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● GREAT CIRLE MAPS - By: Richard D'Angelo

The February/89 edition of Free Air, published by A*C*E, contained an item about Azimuth-Equidistant Wall Maps, available from the Great Circle Map Company.

These computer-generated maps of the world will be drawn with your location at the exact center, and the rest of the world spread out around you. At a glance you can tell the correct great circle path and approximate distance to your DX targets.

These maps are multi-colored and printed on high quality poster stock which is suitable for framing. Cost of the 23" X 35" map is \$39. U.S. from Great Circle Map Company, P.O. Box 691401, San Antonio, Texas 78269.

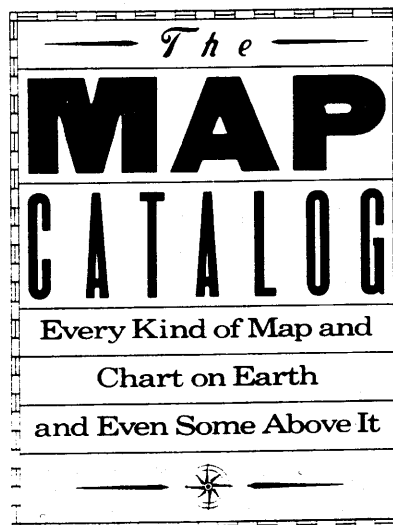
The article also made brief reference to the N5KR maps (as were utilized in John Bryant's propagation article which appeared in Proceedings 1988). These were said to be available at \$ 16. U.S. but no other details were provided. Bryant's article, however, states they are about 9.5" in diameter and available from Bill Johnson, N5KR, 1808 Pomona Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001.

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● THE MAP CATALOGUE - By: David M. Clark

I finally found a terrific source book to help DXers locate those hard-to-find maps of obscure regions of the world.

The Map Catalogue, published by Random House Vintage Books in 1986 for # 15. U.S. is a 252 page volume listing sources for virtually any type of map that is available worldwide. It consists of four main chapters: Land Maps (which is of primary interest), Sky Maps, Water Maps and Map Products. Land Maps contains 35 sections - listings for categories such as Boundary Maps, CIA Maps, Foreign Country Maps, History Maps, Land Use Maps, Military Maps, Natural Resource Maps, Political Maps, Topographic Maps, Tourism Maps, U.S. Maps and World Maps.



In addition to short descriptions of each product, the publisher or agency source names and addresses are all listed, together with pricing information.

The section devoted to CIA Maps has a list of maps published since 1980, available from The National Technical Information Service in Springfield, Virginia. We also find that a catalog, CIA Maps and Publications Released to the Public is available from the CIA's Public Affairs Office, Washington D.C. 20505; or phone: (703)-351-2053.

Maps and atlases published before 1980 are available from the Government Printing Office. One interesting item is the Peoples Republic of China, Administrative Atlas (\$8.00). The atlas "includes detailed maps of each Chinese province, along with lists of administrative divisions, illustrating the political changes the country has seen since its conversion to communism in 1949. Includes pronunciation guides".

The section on Foreign Country Maps tells us about topographic maps available from the Defense Mapping Agency.

The section on Tourism Maps tells us that American Map Corporation in Maspeth, NY is the American distributor for the useful Hallwag-Verlag maps.

The book concludes with an Index and a number of Appendices; State, Federal & International map agencies, selected map libraries, map stores, and a glossary of cartographic terms.

As an example of the depth of sources outlined in the International Map Agencies appendix, I found there are many government ministries and divisions of the military in Indonesia which can be contacted for maps of one sort or another. You might like to start with 'Badan Koordinasi Survei Dan Pemetaan Nasional' (National Coordinating Body for Survey and Mapping) at Jalan Raya Jakarta km 46, Cibinong, Bogor. I think you get the idea! Maps, anyone?

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TRAVEL GUIDEBOOKS

● MOON PUBLICATIONS (INDONESIA HANDBOOK) - By: Jon Williams

I consider Indonesia Handbook by Bill Dalton to be the best overall source of information on Indonesia that I have seen.

It is not only a travel book on "where to stay", "where to eat", and "what to do for entertainment", but also it covers history, fauna & flora, religion, language variations and cultural characteristics. For example, the section on Jawa has an extensive discussion of the differences among the plays of Wayang Kulit, Wayang Golsk, Wayany Topeng and Gayang Orang.

My 1980 edition has 490 pages but the 1988 edition has been expanded to 1,058 pages. It includes a 15 page language guide (primarily for travellers), a thirteen page glossary of terms, an extensive, topically-arranged booklist of 12 pages and finally, a 20 page index. It is published by Moon Publications (P.O. Box 1696-1, Chico, California 95927) for \$19. U.S. Truly a "must have" for all Indonesian DXers!

Moon also publishes South Pacific Handbook (3rd Edition, 1986) and Japan Handbook (reprinted 1988). The latter provides a superb study of Japanese culture, economics, way of doing business, language and religion.

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● INSIGHT GUIDES - By: David M. Clark

While Bill Dalton's Indonesia Handbook is liberally illustrated with black & white photos and sketches, along with over 200 maps, the principal characteristic of the "Insight Guides" series of travel books from APA Productions of Singapore is that they are extensively graced with color plates. Indonesia (2nd edition, 1986) contains over 300 colour pages with 10 colour maps and more than 250 colour reproductions. For visual impact, the Insight Guides are hard to beat. So I consider the two guidebooks to be a natural compliment to one-another.

The main body of the book - 320 pages - includes feature articles on "Indonesia's Incredible Wildlife", "Gamelan: The Sound of Moonlight", "The Dance and Drama of Indonesia" and other topics. A separate 90 page supplement, "Guide-In-Brief" is a quick-reference section for travellers.

A predecessor edition, Java, then under the logo "Apa Photo Guides", was last printed in 1978 but is now out of print. The guide focussed on Bali, first-published in 1970 as Guide To Bali, is now in its 13th(!) edition.

The Insight Guides Series is especially strong on Asia. Others in the 'Country' series include Burma, India, Malaysia Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. There is also a 'Great Adventure' guidebook devoted entirely on Indian Wildlife.

Two first edition (1988) releases in the 'Grand Tours' series are regional compendiums which are a cost-effective alternative to buying all the individual books, although every one of these quality publications is hard to resist. South Asia covers India, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. East Asia covers Burma, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and of course Indonesia.

The coverage provided by these two guides, together with the Indonesia guide and Indonesia Handbook, should be just about right for most Asian DXers' libraries...unless you really want to go all out!

Insight Guides are widely available in the travel section of better bookstores for \$24.95 to 25.95 Cdn (approximately \$17. U.S.). The United States and Canadian distributor is Prentice Hall.

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TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

● BEVERAGE ANTENNA HANDBOOK - By: Guy Atkins

I recently noticed an ad in Ham Radio magazine for the Beverage Antenna Handbook by Vic Misek, W1WCR. This 80 page publication is available from the Ham Radio Bookstore, Greenville (no street address required), New Hampshire 03048 [(603)-878-1441] for \$ 14.95 U.S. plus \$ 3.50 shipping & handling (Visa/MC are accepted).

The ad copy says:

"W1WCR has spent countless hours developing new antenna ideas and optimizing the SWA (Steerable Wave Antenna). Misek delves deep into the secrets of the single wire beverage with helpful hints and tips on how to maximize performance based on wire size, height above ground, as well as length and impedance matching. Also includes information on center-fed Beverages constructed out of several wire types. SMALL LOT OWNERS - Beverage for you too! Called the Micro-SWA, it is just 60 feet long. You get excellent directivity and null steering capabilities. Transformer design information for both termination and feedline matching is completely revised."

I could not locate this title in any of my shortwave supply house catalogs so I assume you must order direct. The Beverage Antenna Handbook sounds like a good addition to any antenna experimenter's library.

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● MAKING USE OF AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS - By: Nick Hall-Patch

Amateur Radio publications are a good resource for those of us who like to build our own equipment - receivers, accessories, well as antennas. Naturally, many of these publications contain a good deal of information about transmitting and amateur radio communications techniques so they will not be "bibles" to the SWL/DXer. But they often contain clear explanations of basic radio technology. They are usually available at libraries so you can look before you buy.

American Radio Relay League (ARRL) publications are available at better electronics outlets and some bookstores with a technical section. To inquire direct, the mailing address is: ARRL Publications, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

The ARRL Handbook -- although a lot of it is irrelevant to the average DXer, the experimenter will find items of interest in the sections concerning electronics and propagation fundamentals, as well as those chapters covering receiving principles and construction. Most of it is clear and well-written so you don't need an engineering degree to get into it. For most of us, it is better to browse in the library and pick out tips. rather than buying it outright. A new edition comes out annually and the current price is \$ 21. U.S. Older volumes are often available at used book stores or ham flea markets.

QST -- the monthly magazine of the ARRL is usually worth a quick browse, especially for the "first principles" articles written by Doug DeMaw.

The ARRL Antenna Handbook -- all serious antenna fans probably have this on their shelf, but again, much of it is not immediately relevant to the shortwave DXer. It is not quite as easy to understand as the Handbook, but once you've started to find your way around antenna theory at bit, there will probably be nuggets here for you to build on. Browse before buying.

Low band DXing -- by John Devoldere and a better value for the shortwave DXer at \$ 10. U.S. from the ARRL. Ostensibly for the the radio amateur using 160 through 40 meters, this book has a wealth of information related to these frequencies and is written for the DXer who wants to work weak ones half-way round the world. A large part of it is therefore directly relevant to the Tropical Bands DXer. It places heavy emphasis on antenna design and has a good section on propagation at these frequencies. High school math is required. There is also a fine chapter on what goes into a good receiver. A massive bibliography rounds out the book and will send the ardent experimenter scurrying in all directions.

There are several publications of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the British equivalent of the ARRL. Their mailing address is: 35 Doughty Street, London WC1, England.

Radio Communication -- the magazine of the RSGB, "RadCom" is their equivalent of QST. Pat Hawker's 'Technical Topics' column is a melange of different ideas, circuits, and min-reviews garnered from many sources - some of which are unfamiliar to North Americans. Hawker's skepticism concerning the "bells and whistles" on most modern gear is a joy to hear after all the hype. While his column is oriented toward the Ham, he is a staunch believer in "do-it-yourself", so the technically-minded DXer will find much of interest.

Amateur Radio Techniques -- several editions based on Hawker's column have been published by the RSGB. The fourth edition is the most recent but when I inquired a year ago, it was out of print and there are no present plans for an update so you will have to hunt a used bookstore for a copy. At the time of release of this edition, most circuits were solid state by then but computers were not yet all the rage.

[RSGB also publishes HF Antennas For All Locations, by L.A. Moxon. First-published in 1982 and reprinted in 1984, the book offers information on the practical side of putting together various antenna systems. It is possibly of more interest to shortwave DXers than its ARRL cousin. /dmc]

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