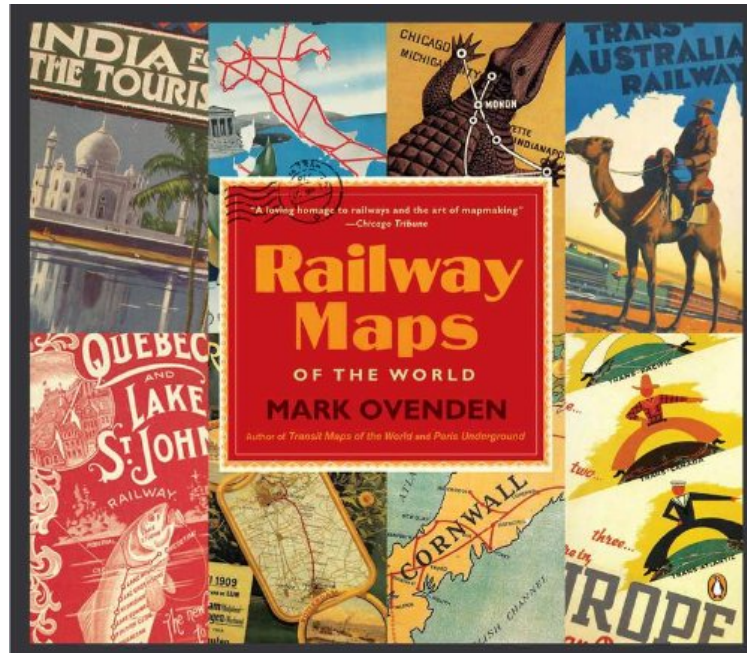


Railway Maps of the World

Mark Ovenden

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Mark Ovenden : Railway Maps of the World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Railway Maps of the World:

29 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Perfect for the map or railway fan
By Chris Paris
I have already purchased Mr. Ovenden's two previous titles, as I really love maps. I thought what he did in the "Transit Maps of the World" was brilliant, and I really like what he has done in "Railway Maps of the World". The book is again split into the development/ historical part and a gazetteer of all the places in the world that have railway networks. Just looking at the cover, with an image from the mythical Orient-Express, made me want more. It is fascinating to see how we have chosen to illustrate railways, ranging from the very traditional cartographic maps, to beautiful, almost three dimensional images. It is the kind of book that makes you yearn to set off on a train journey to see places near and far. It makes me regret the almost clinical nature of a flight, compared with a train journey. Looking at how extensive the railways were once in the USA, or Argentina or Ireland, for example, makes you realise how much potential we have lost. The map's of LA railways is a very telling one. Then to compare it with the ways the maps of China are filling out with railways, makes you really think about choices being made. I really like the contrasting styles of maps, for example the juxtaposition of the images of a French board game from the 1920s depicting the railway lines of France and western Europe next to the ultra modern rail team map of the same area. The beautiful holiday posters that mixed maps and advertising are so evocative of another age that you can only get nostalgic. I only regret that some of the maps are not bigger, despite the fact many maps fill an entire page, as the problem of shrinking an entire wall-sized poster down into a book means that on some examples you cannot quite see all the lush detail you might like and also with such a subject this book could easily be twice the size without you getting board. The great thing about this book is you can read it from cover to cover, or just dip in and out. It is a book you would come back to. It is one of those

books you keep on your shelf and take out from time to time, just because you feel like a browse, or you are thinking of going on a train trip somewhere, or just feel like dreaming of a more train friendly era. I would not hesitate recommending this as a great gift or self-purchase for anyone interested in railways or mapping, or just anyone who loves to dream of travelling. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Good subject, qualified author, poorly executed. By Luigi Facotti Mark Ovenden has created his own niche in the world of publishing at the intersection of cartography and railways. His books to date have been encyclopedic in scope and content - easy to get lost in and in which to find arcane information. There are many very expensive books on railways in French that fail to reach the level of consistent interest and comprehensiveness of Mr. Ovenden's efforts. This book is the latest in the series and will probably be the last as it has been rapidly remaindered and has become a perfect symbol of more is less. This book could be an ideal example of what not to do in the communication field - maybe a volume to accompany the excellent work of Edward Tufts? The scope of this book and its organization are outstanding - the problem is that the reproduction is poor in both design and execution. The majority of the maps are so small as to be unreadable - depriving the reader of the vicarious pleasure of reading the maps in detail and letting their imagination run wild. Some are little bigger than postage stamps and as such useless. An additional problem is the color reproduction - are the original sources poorly rendered or is much of the book printed out of register? Difficult to decide but one does come away with the image of the book as being predominately a muddy brown. As I bought the book as a remainder - it's okay - for \$35 I would have a major issue. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Needs larger format. By Consumer Advocate This book contains, I'm sure, excellent maps - if I had been able to see them. Some appeared to be reduced from large poster size to postcard size, losing all the details that would be necessary for their enjoyment. This should have been released as a "coffee table" book.

A gorgeously illustrated collection of the world's greatest railway maps and posters, historical and contemporary Transit Maps of the World was an extraordinary and unexpected success and is now a cult favorite. In his irresistible follow-up Mark Ovenden has produced a mesmerizing compendium of historical and contemporary railway maps and posters from every corner of the world. Hundreds of images, covering two centuries of railway advertising, surveyors' plans, travel posters, satellite photos, and station wall maps, are combined with text brimming with vivid historical details and charming anecdotes. Part One presents the stunning visual material chronologically, from the Liverpool and Manchester Railway of 1830 to the proposed 2020 high speed networks of China. Part Two is an atlas of maps from more than one hundred countries from Algeria to Argentina to Zambia and Zimbabwe. Appendixes include a trove of factoids, track stats and information about rail operators and rail museums. Railway Maps of the World is a visual delight for your eyes, making it a must have for every train fanatic-armchair or ticketed-history buff, and lover of graphic design.

About the Author Mark Ovenden is a British writer and broadcaster. At the age of seven, he traveled alone ten miles on the London Underground, armed only with a map. He later gained entry to a graphic design course by submitting a reworking of the London tube map. After working in journalism and media, life came full circle on the publication of his first book, Transit Maps of the World. He lives in Paris, France, and London, England.