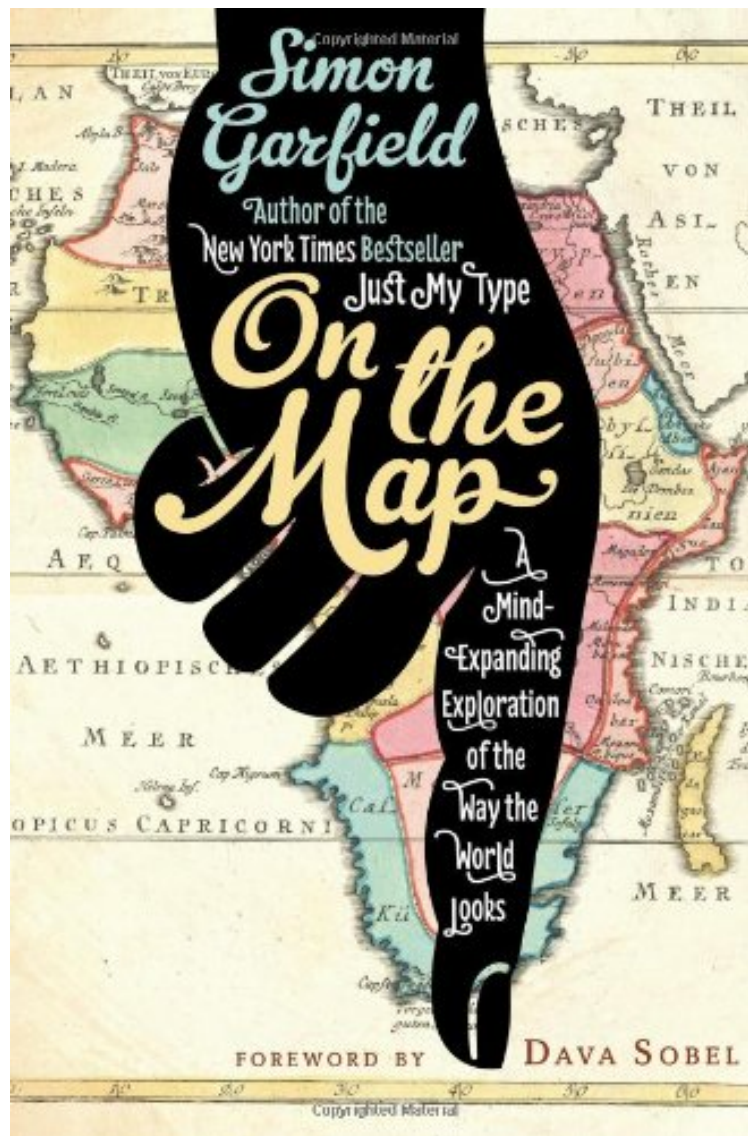


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On the Map: A Mind-Expanding Exploration of the Way the World Looks

Simon Garfield

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Simon Garfield : On the Map: A Mind-Expanding Exploration of the Way the World Looks before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Map: A Mind-Expanding Exploration of the Way the World Looks:

31 of 33 people found the following review helpful. A great read for map-addicts...By Jill Meyer I'm a map addict, history and geography jock, and a fan of Simon Garfield's writing. Put those all together and you've got a five star

review of Garfield's latest book, "On the Map". British author Garfield has a wide-ranging oeuvre of titles. He's written about everything from WW2 wartime Britain to the music industry to the joys of stamp collecting (while also discussing personal matters) to a book on fonts, and, finally, to this book on maps. The verb "to map" can be used in many different ways. Of course, the most popular way is "to map" geographical places, but you can also "map" diseases, family histories, economic development, and much, much more. Garfield writes about all these in his new book, but primarily focuses on mapping geographical places. He traces the development of maps from prehistoric ages, paying close attention to the various expeditions devoted to mapping what was then thought to be unknown. Expeditions like Lewis and Clark in the US northwest, the various expeditions to the polar regions, and the expeditions to find the China from Europe by going west. Garfield points out that by 1492, most geographers knew the world was round; the exact size and what lay where was still the missing component. Simon Garfield is a lively writer, and he addresses both history and geography in his book. He writes about all the places that appeared on early, post-Columbus maps that simply didn't exist. A range of mountains in west Africa and several non-existent islands in the Pacific were the result of mangled streams of information. And the state of California was shown as an island in many early maps of the area. One of the most interesting things is to take a look at early maps of any area and see how detailed the shorelines were but how blank or underdeveloped the internal areas of countries and continents were. The book also has a really cool front and back piece; a map of the world with a super-imposed map of the type of the London tube system. Garfield's book is full of little-known facts and explanations of well-known facts that would be of interest to most any map-addicts. It's a super read. 23 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Maps are black and white. By TommyG. Don't judge this book by its cover. Highly illustrated - but with small, black and white maps! The reading is a bit dry, too. I'll finish it, but the rave reviews that Smithsonian Magazine gave this are overrated. If I'd seen this in a book store (and not on-line) I would not have bought it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good for what it is. By D. Sherman. Good for what it is. Whetted my appetite for more geographic stories. I'll check out more travel writing because a lot of them are pretty funny.

Cartography enthusiasts rejoice: the bestselling author of *Just My Type* reveals the fascinating relationship between man and map. Simon Garfield's *Just My Type* illuminated the world of fonts and made everyone take a stand on Comic Sans and care about kerning. Now Garfield takes on a subject even dearer to our fanatical human hearts: maps. Imagine a world without maps. How would we travel? Could we own land? What would men and women argue about in cars? Scientists have even suggested that mapping, not language, is what elevated our prehistoric ancestors from ape-dom. Follow the history of maps from the early explorers' maps and the awe-inspiring medieval *Mappa Mundi* to Google Maps and the satellite renderings on our smartphones, Garfield explores the unique way that maps relate and realign our history and reflect the best and worst of what makes us human. Featuring a foreword by Dava Sobel and packed with fascinating tales of cartographic intrigue, outsize personalities, and amusing pocket maps on an array of subjects from how to fold a map to the strangest maps on the Internet, *On the Map* is a rich historical tapestry infused with Garfield's signature narrative flair. Map-obsessives and everyone who loved *Just My Type* will be lining up to join Garfield on his audacious journey through time and around the globe.

From Booklist *Starred * Garfield follows up the best-seller *Just My Type* (2011) with an engrossing, endlessly fascinating history of maps. Following a foreword by popular-science writer Dava Sobel, he invites readers along on a trip through time and around the world that is enlightening and impossible to put down. The narrative dances from Marco Polo to Vinland, the first atlas (the world in a book), Lewis and Clark, the grids of Manhattan, and even the opening sequence of *Casablanca*. The people and places he has chosen to discuss are a collection of curiosities without peer, and even short pocket map visits with J. M. Barrie, the explorers Burke and Wills lost in Australia, and Winston Churchill's WWII Map Room are diversions not to be missed. The length and breadth of his scholarship are staggering, while the witty tone makes for the most convivial of literary guides. There are dusty archives, library echoes, and abandoned destinations, but also the most contemporary of surveys with brisk considerations of Google Maps and the MRI. Popular history is an overused term these days, but Garfield rewrites the definition by issuing an irresistible invitation to see the world, and delivering on his promise of the map as story, the map as life. --Colleen Mondor "Mr. Garfield uses cartography as a springboard to similar explorations of how we have viewed not only the world around us, but ourselves." *New York Journal of Books* "His droll humor and infectious curiosity will keep readers engrossed as he uncovers surprising ways in which maps chart our imaginations as much as they do the ground underfoot." *Publishers Weekly* "A fine, fun presentation of the brand of cartography that continues to whet our imaginations." *Kirkus* sMr. Garfield's book serves an immense need, connecting the latest geocacher with both the ancient art and modern science of the cartographer. Each may benefit from learning how the other approaches maps. Mr. Garfield uniquely provides that bridge. *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* Deep research and descriptive intensity. [Garfield] regales us with tales of such wonders as Britain's medieval *Mappa Mundi* *On the Map* offers a world of revelation. *USA Today* There is a great deal that is good and charming and fun about this book. *Washington Post* Delightfully meandering. *NPR.org* Garfield has a knack for creating high-spirited, erudite and user-friendly books on subjects that

may seem crashingly dull to all but a few fanatics. . . . Garfield is a terrific guide. . . . On the Map is a treasure: exhilarating, witty, compulsively readable and just plain fun. The Seattle Times Engaging full of little conversation pieces Janet Maslin, New York Times Garfield is a wonderful writer who deploys suspense to excellent effect, making each chapter read like a delightful short story or mini-mystery; what might appear a dusty subject sparkles under his clear-eyed and witty writing. Smithsonian Magazine engrossing, endlessly fascinating enlightening and impossible to put down The length and breadth of his scholarship are staggering, while the witty tone makes for the most convivial of literary guides...an irresistible invitation to see the world, and delivering on his promise of the map as story, the map as life. Booklist Starred Vastly entertaining. --Bookpage About the Author Simon Garfield is the author of fourteen acclaimed books of nonfiction including Just My Type. He lives in London and St. Ives, Cornwall.