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People Profile: Larry Madison

Editor

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Adventures in Librarianship: Foreword to the 12th Edition

by Ned Kraft (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State) <kraftno@state.gov>

The first edition of the Budget World Atlas, published in 1620 by Andre Budget, was derived (some might say “reprinted”) from the classic Allgemeiner Handbuchte du Monde and focused primarily on a small section of the Alsatian with hazy watercolor fantasies for the rest of the world. After the tragic death of Monsieur Budget in 1658 while crossing the Atlantic to “see for himself,” his son Marcel took up the mantle and brought out the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th editions with near-accurate depictions of Paris, Hamburg, and Cape Tortosa, where the flamboyant Marcel took many a holiday.

Uber Verlag continued the Budget tradition for the next two centuries with the 5th through 8th editions obsessively chronicling every imperial conquest and rumor of gold. The classic 7th edition brought to the atlas for the first time topographic representations of mountain ranges using smoothly drawn and densely packed inverted Vs. In its day, the 8th edition was commonly referred to as the “farmer’s friend” because of its imaginative renderings of seasonal changes.

By 1900, when the title was purchased by R. R. Stout & Sons of Passaic, New Jersey, the title underwent radical change. For the first time, the atlas used double-page plates, included small islands such as England, and continued on page 46

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