



## Vargic's Miscellany of Curious Maps

*Martin Vargic*

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EXPLORE THE WORLD AS YOU NEVER KNEW IT WITH VARGIC'S ASTONISHING MISCELLANY OF CURIOUS MAPS.

Vargic's Miscellany is a collection of 64 maps and infographics.

See the world mapped out by stereotypes; discover the Internet in cartographical form; marvel at the maps of global technology and culture; and explore the world through infographics and statistics.

This wonderful and strange atlas is a treasure trove of interesting, unexpected and bizarre facts - a glorious celebration of our big beautiful diverse world.

Includes:

The Map of Stereotypes

Maps of Internet, YouTube and Gaming

Maps of Literature, Music and Sport

The Map of Separatist Europe

51 infographic maps - from lighting strikes to sexual partners, heavy metal bands to tractors

And many more . . .

## **Vargic's Miscellany of Curious Maps Details**

Date : Published September 24th 2015 by Michael Joseph

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Author : Martin Vargic

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Genre : Nonfiction, Travel, Cartography, Maps, Art, Science, Geography, History



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## From Reader Review Vargic's Miscellany of Curious Maps for online ebook

### Phoebe says

Read April 15, 2016. It bothers me that graphic novels come up in my Goodreads challenge count, so I'm (belatedly) removing the dates to keep my numbers less bloated.

Very cool book with creative and colorful maps. I viewed this more as 3 star material rather than 4 because while the maps are undoubtedly unique and fascinating for those of us nerdy, trivia-loving types, Vargic's labels and color schemes made them surprisingly difficult to interpret.

The large maps in the beginning are JAMMED with a tedious amount of things to read, and the borders are outlined in barely-perceptible dotted lines and subtle colors. It could have used a brighter color scheme with bolder lines, and maybe some editing of all the terms packed within each border. I had to circle back a few times to decipher what belongs where and what refers to what.

The mini-maps, while much simpler than the maps in the beginning, suffered from color scales that were too nuanced. For at least half, I couldn't distinguish the difference between the varying shades of light green, or dark red, for example, and it just makes me wonder what's the point of having a map if I can't tell apart certain colors (read: facts). In some ways it actually undermines my confidence in the map's factual basis, **especially when the facts presented with the map don't match up with the color ratings.**

Example: Alongside the annual meat consumption map, Vargic includes a few bullet points of information, one of which claims that Uruguayans consume the most beef annually (130 lbs per capita). But on the actual map, Uruguay has the color rating of 75-110 lbs per capita, while the U.S., Australia, and Spain are rated at over 220 lbs. To be clear, the statement says beef specifically, while the map shows general meat consumption. Other countries' numbers probably include more than just beef, but Uruguay's range on the map is still well below the claimed 130 lbs. I'm pretty skeptical about this, especially since Vargic doesn't present his sources.

Obviously a lot of hard work and time went into creating these maps, and as a map-lover myself, I love the ideas that Vargic came up with. The execution of the details, however, was inconsistent, unclear, and a little untrustworthy with the facts, therefore only earning 3 stars from me.

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### Constantin says

An excellent book for a light read and to give you some "fuel" for thinking. It has all sorts of different facts and very interesting content.

I really liked the unfolding maps and I was amazed to find the grand map at the end of the book. Very well made, shows that the author did hard work in the research and creation of it.

The only "negative" thing I found about this book, is that in some of the maps, some letters are so tiny that they could not be printed correctly, thus you cannot even read them with a magnifying glass. I wish I could see the digital copies of the maps and get all the details :)

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### **Robert says**

A compilation of thematic maps (showing world train use, beer consumption etc.), amusing, entertaining and sobering overlays (for stereotypes, paranormal activity and disasters respectively), and original map-like word clouds displaying 'the internet' and 'gaming' and 'sports', plus other errata and infills that one could spend hours with a magnifying glass going over.

Aside from the obvious diversionary recreational use, this is an invaluable resource for tabletop gamers or genre authors due to the sheer volume of story hooks and game seeds it contains.

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### **Julie says**

This was bought as a Christmas present for my husband but I couldn't resist reading it.

It is a beautiful hardback book full of facts and statistics set out in the form of an atlas. The maps themselves are coloured like Olde Worlde style maps.

An excellent book to have on your coffee table.

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### **Hannes says**

This book is always great for when you want some light reading and nice maps.

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### **Dana Al-Basha ???? ?????? says**

At school, when I first started taking geography and got my first atlas I was impressed with maps, it seems impossible to create maps when you think of it, and when you see the first attempts at drawing them you will understand what I mean: maps are magic!

So back in November when I visited home, I found this gem in Virgin Mega Store, I kept flipping through it until I understood that I wasn't looking at a normal atlas! It was a statistic and information from our world written and drawn into maps.

A few days ago when I started reading this book I was impressed yet again that its author is a boy of 17 years of age! I was a bit disappointed though that so many of the information about Middle East is either too old, not available "in grey" or missing.

I blame us though, we should write down our modern history and each country should work harder at

documenting whatever it is that needs documenting to make such an author's job easier! I was excited to see anything about us, though inaccurate sometimes, but Amr Diab's name was there! That made me super happy!

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P.S. You are going to need a magnifying glass and patience, probably a pot of tea as well!

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### **Kathy says**

This coffee table book originally came to my attention after seeing a picture of the Map of Literature. It was visually beautiful, creative and fun to look at! I wanted a framed copy, but the only way to get the map was to buy the entire book of maps. Luckily, I love maps!

The Map of Literature is just one of several large maps. Others included are the Map of Stereotypes, Video Websites, Internet, Music, Gaming, Disasters, Corporations and Sports. There are many small and mini-maps with subjects such as paranormal activity, extinct animals and various world statistics. Many of the maps are drawn using the geography of planet Earth. Others are drawn from the author/artist's imagination. They are current, realistic, relevant to our world, and often hilarious. There are maps on penis length, breast size, and in the Map of Stereotypes, the U.S. is actually named Liberty for Rich White Guys! I can spend hours looking through this book and I will always find something new!

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### **Carmen says**

So fun. You could look at this for years and never get bored.

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### **Charlie says**

Not at all what I expected, so hugely disappointing for this map lover. Plus, sadly, I question the credibility of some of the information. It's going to the used book store because I didn't realize soon enough to return it to Amazon.

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### **Emmareader says**

Don't waste money on this. Maps with words are indecipherable.

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### **Hayley says**

This is a pretty cool book. It is a book of “maps”, but really it is using a map format to covey information, i.e. the map of music or the map of the internet. The last half of the book has maps of the world showing various data, such as most popular music genre in each country, where in the world the internet is prevalent, and which countries are watched most by the NSA. Each of these has a series of facts related to the map. I really enjoyed it. Look through it if you get the chance.

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### **Andrew says**

An odd collection of maps - from the completely made up (e.g. the Map of the Internet) to the odd (Map of Paranormal Activity in the US) to the informative (Government Systems of the World). The coffee-table of sorts book can be opened at any point to find something both interesting and artistic. It contains several large fold-out maps as well. Definitely more whimsical than insightful and certainly something different from your typical atlas.

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### **Jennifer says**

I guess I was expecting more. The Map of Stereotypes, shows us how narrow-minded we are, the problem is that the print is so small that you would need a magnifier to read most of it. There are a few pull out maps included. Most of these facts I am not sure about and even then, who cares.

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### **Alex Rosenthal says**

This book is pretty disappointing. The mapmaking is pretty (the borders are a little busy for my taste, but ymmv), sure, but that's all it has going for it. The map of stereotypes is a hacky conceit, poorly executed. The other "fantasy maps" like the "map of video games" or "map of corporations" don't seem to be well thought out at all. It's just a bunch of names plopped down on the page, without really any logic. In other words, they do not do what maps should do: show how the different concepts or items relate to each other in space. The remainder of the maps are interesting, but are basically just infographics.

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### **Shelby M. (Read and Find Out) says**

This was really fun. Don't think that I can come up with a rating.

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