

**EDITED BY NIGEL HOLMES** 



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#### INTRODUCTION

So what is an information graphic – an infographic – anyway?

It's a term that's much younger that the thing it describes. (A quick search suggests that it came into general usage in the 1970s.)

But information graphics themselves have been around for much longer – around 32,000 years, in fact.

That's when the first known drawings were made, in the Chauvet Cave in France. Although there's some argument about their meaning, it is now generally agreed that the purpose of the paintings was to deliver information and to teach, rather than to be purely art for art's sake. They were the first information graphics.

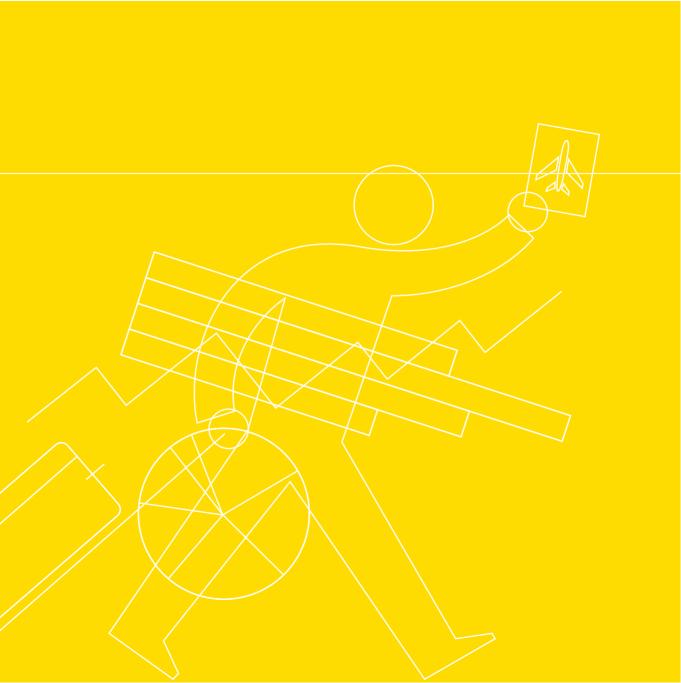
They were beautiful, too. More than 32,000 years later, strict academic observers of today's information design sometimes forget this attribute, as they argue against anything that might excite the reader in the way of

pictorial elements, or color, or fun. These critics come from a school of thought that excludes everything except the facts, and that often results in clinical graphics which are undeniably proper and neat, but are easily forgotten.

In the world of infographics there is room and reason for many types, and in here you'll find good examples of the different strands of current work in this fast developing field – some are largely pictorial, others are minimal and analytical. Some are colorful, others use a very restricted palette, or no color at all. And as you'd expect from a book that's about different aspects of travel, there are all sorts of exciting graphic adventures waiting for you.

I raise a glass to toast all the designers for their hard work, and I hope you, dear reader, enjoy the result, learn something new, and set off on even happier journeys!

**Nigel Holmes** 



# 20

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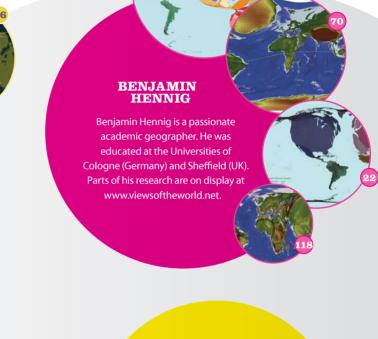


Volcanoes



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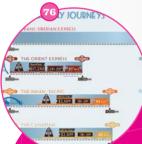
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