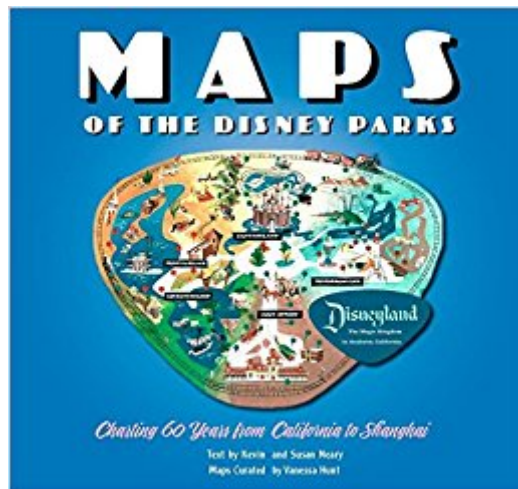




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# Maps Of The Disney Parks: Charting 60 Years From California To Shanghai (Disney Editions Deluxe)



## Synopsis

It all started with a map. . . . Maps of the Disney Parks are more than just atlases used by guests to find their way to Big Thunder Mountain Railroad. They are snapshots of a place and time, relics treasured by collectors, and gorgeous pieces of artwork. In fact, it was a map imagined by Walt Disney and drawn by Herbert Ryman—that was used to sell the idea of Disneyland to investors. Unfold this book bursting with beautiful maps from when the very first Disney Park opened in 1955 right up to today. Discover details on how and why the domestic and international parks have changed over time, and enjoy six decades worth of skillful creativity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kevin Neary has coauthored *The Hidden Mickeys of Walt Disney World* (2016) with his wife Susan and four Disney trivia books (1992-2000) with Dave Smith for The Walt Disney Company as well as two baseball books (*Major League Dads: Baseball's Best Players Reflect on the Fathers Who Inspired Them to Love the Game*, 2012, and *Closer: Major League Players Reveal the Inside Pitch on Saving the Game*, 2013) with Leigh A. Tobin for Running Press. Kevin has also written *715: Reflections of Hammerin' Hank & the Home Run that Made History* (2015) for Skyhorse Publishing. His next baseball book will be *The Manager: Rules of Engagement* and will feature a collection of interviews and stories from fifty of the game's best managers over the past fifty years. Vanessa Hunt is a Walt Disney Imagineer and a lifelong Disney aficionado. Her education is in art history,

and she is part of the group responsible for the more than 130,000 pieces of original artwork preserved in the Walt Disney Imagineering Art Library. She has been curator of several Imagineering exhibits featuring many of the works from the Art Library collection, and she has consulted for The Walt Disney Family Museum. Vanessa is also the coauthor of the wildly popular Poster Art of the Disney Parks from Disney Editions. She is currently designing a new book featuring the art of Disney Legend Marc Davis, and coauthoring an illustrated volume about the history of the Disney Monorail.

I had very high hopes for this book. Based on the product description, I was expecting to get tons of actual park maps from 1955 to today. Instead, what you get is a hodgepodge of concept art renderings with very little explanation of what you're looking at. There are very few actual maps of the parks. While the concept art included is beautiful to look at, it's all very poorly organized. The book jumps around from park to park without any transition. Instead of placing things chronologically, or by individual park, everything is kind of just smashed together. There are different chapters, but the chapter titles don't mesh with what's actually in that chapter. It's just a poorly designed layout for the book. There is very little in the way of descriptions of what you're looking at or why. Also, the other obviously had a huge fascination with Tom Sawyer's Island because he includes more renderings of it than he does for some of the actual parks. If you are looking for a book that contains all the park maps from all Disney parks from 1955 to today, this book is not for you. If you're looking for something to kill some time while you're on the toilet, this book might fit that bill. But, it would be an expensive toilet read. Seriously, if I had paid the full \$30 retail price, I'd be mad and sending the book right back to . There are a lot of really good books out there about a Disney park history. This is not one of them

On the positive side this book features a variety of different maps, from souvenir "fun maps" to concept art and advertising maps, covering all aspects of Disney parks, and even including some unexpected and easily overlooked items. But there is very little information given about the specific maps, which I would think a book devoted entirely to maps would provide. For example, they included a Fortune Red pirate treasure map, which is great, but offers absolutely no explanation as to what "Fortune Red" is, what the map depicts or where you would find it in the park... even one sentence could have answered that. Same with the Magic Kingdom MSK maps, also included here without any explanation as to what MSK is or what these maps were used for (they were actually components for an in-park game). It's just, "Here's the MSK maps. The end." Some other reviewers

have mentioned the small dimensions of the book make it hard to appreciate the detail of the larger maps, and I agree... a slightly larger format would have alleviated much of that (no, the book would not have to be "map sized", LOL, just larger than the rather diminutive 11" x 12" that it is.) Finally, this isn't clear from the item description photo, but the hardcover is actually split down the middle, and opens out left and right, gate-fold style. This means the pages are actually twice as wide as the left cover and hang over the edge as you flip through, which is kind of annoying. I still am reluctantly recommending the book because there is some great artwork in here that I haven't seen in other books, but it could have been much, much better.

I was expecting maps that are given out in the parks from over the years. I thought I would be able to look at them and see how each park has changed over the years. Instead it's full of maps that are just concept and art work. The title is very misleading. May be sending back.

Since ordering this book way back in May, I have eagerly anticipated its arrival. Disney's previous efforts celebrating the art of its theme parks' concept art and attraction posters seemed to bode well for this new book, which tackled a less obvious but very interesting aspect of theme park design. And then...at last it came! As an object, this is a lovely book: a good, solid weight, a clever and fun cover-opening design, and quality paper and boards. Of course, the images speak for themselves. Unfortunately, the writing speaks for...something else. This is without doubt the most poorly-written book I've yet read to come from Disney's official publishing arm. The introductory and chapter-leading text is amateurish, often filled with poorly-constructed sentences, clumsily handled anecdotes from Disney theme park history, and a lack of polish. In fact, in a book dedicated to the artistry of Disney theme park cartography, no mention is made of artistic styles, illustrators and their inspirations and strengths, or comment on the growing sophistication of design in the graphics themselves or parks in a larger sense, or of the progression of individual pieces (although several iterative versions of some illustrations are offered). This is not a context book, and the writing will be of little value to those not already familiar and interested in the Disney theme parks and their lore. On reading the authors' bios, you, too, will be left wondering why they were invited to write this otherwise lovely book. Another gripe: although there is much merit to the use and display of the wonderful archival images of various maps and aerial renderings of parks, lands, and attractions, there is no mention or imagery of arguably the best-known and most approachable of all Disney theme park maps, the ones given free to guests on entering the parks (and are often kept as souvenirs). These maps--which have evolved dramatically since 1955 and are a major part of the

guest experience at every Disney park worldwide--offer both interesting commentary on changing graphic styles and wayfinding methods. Beyond some very early Disneyland examples, the topic is ignored entirely. The negative aside, the images that did make it into the book are a testament to Vanessa Hunt's good taste. Each is excellently presented and there is a pervasive sense of good judgment in what she included and (I'm sure) a hint of frustration that she didn't have twice the page count and size to work with. This is a wonderful addition to the new-ish library of Disney paying attention to the artistry of its theme parks, something it has been doing for its animated films since the beginning. Abysmal writing aside, the layout is clear and attractive, and the images fantastic. The only thing I'm anticipating more now that I did this book is the hope it will have a second edition with entirely new text and more, more, more maps.

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