

1975/76
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THE NEW **OXFORD ATLAS**

PREPARED BY
THE CARTOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT
OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

OXFORD LONDON GLASGOW

NEW YORK TORONTO MELBOURNE WELLINGTON

IBADAN NAIROBI DAR ES SALAAM CAPE TOWN

KUALA LUMPUR SINGAPORE JAKARTA HONG KONG TOKYO

DELHI BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS KARACHI

ISBN 0 19 211572 3

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The Oxford Atlas first published 1951

The New Oxford Atlas first published 1975

Revised edition 1978

Reprinted 1978

Compiled by
THE CARTOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Printed in Great Britain

Introductory text and maps: Cook Hammond and Kell Ltd, Mitcham, Surrey

Gazetteer: Butler and Tanner Ltd, Frome, Somerset

PREFACE

THE New Oxford Atlas is a development rather than a straightforward second edition of the Oxford Atlas first published in 1951. The distinguished editors of the Oxford Atlas, Brigadier Sir Clinton Lewis and Colonel J. D. Campbell, assisted by Mr. D. P. Bickmore of the Clarendon Press and Mr. Kenneth Cook of Messrs. Cook, Hammond & Kell, planned a coverage of topographic and thematic maps and a general style of mapping which have stood the test of time and which, in the opinion of the publishers, cannot be fundamentally improved upon in an atlas of the present scope.

Thus the New Oxford Atlas retains the basic arrangement of its predecessor. In particular it retains the scales, projections, sheet lines, and general colouring of its topographic maps, whilst incorporating complete revision of all information liable to change and a re-styling of certain elements of map design in the interests of greater clarity. Its thematic or special subject maps, which are particularly concerned with the basic aspects of physical geography and demography, incorporate the results of modern research and latest available information and are presented by newly-evolved cartographic techniques. The latter enable such aspects of physical geography as structure, relief, climate, and vegetation to be shown for all areas of the earth's surface at an unusually large, consistent scale. Furthermore all of these aspects are shown in direct relationship with each other and against a background of human geography. Since the vast subject of economic geography cannot be dealt with adequately in supplementary maps, the reader is referred here to the companion Oxford Economic Atlas of the World.

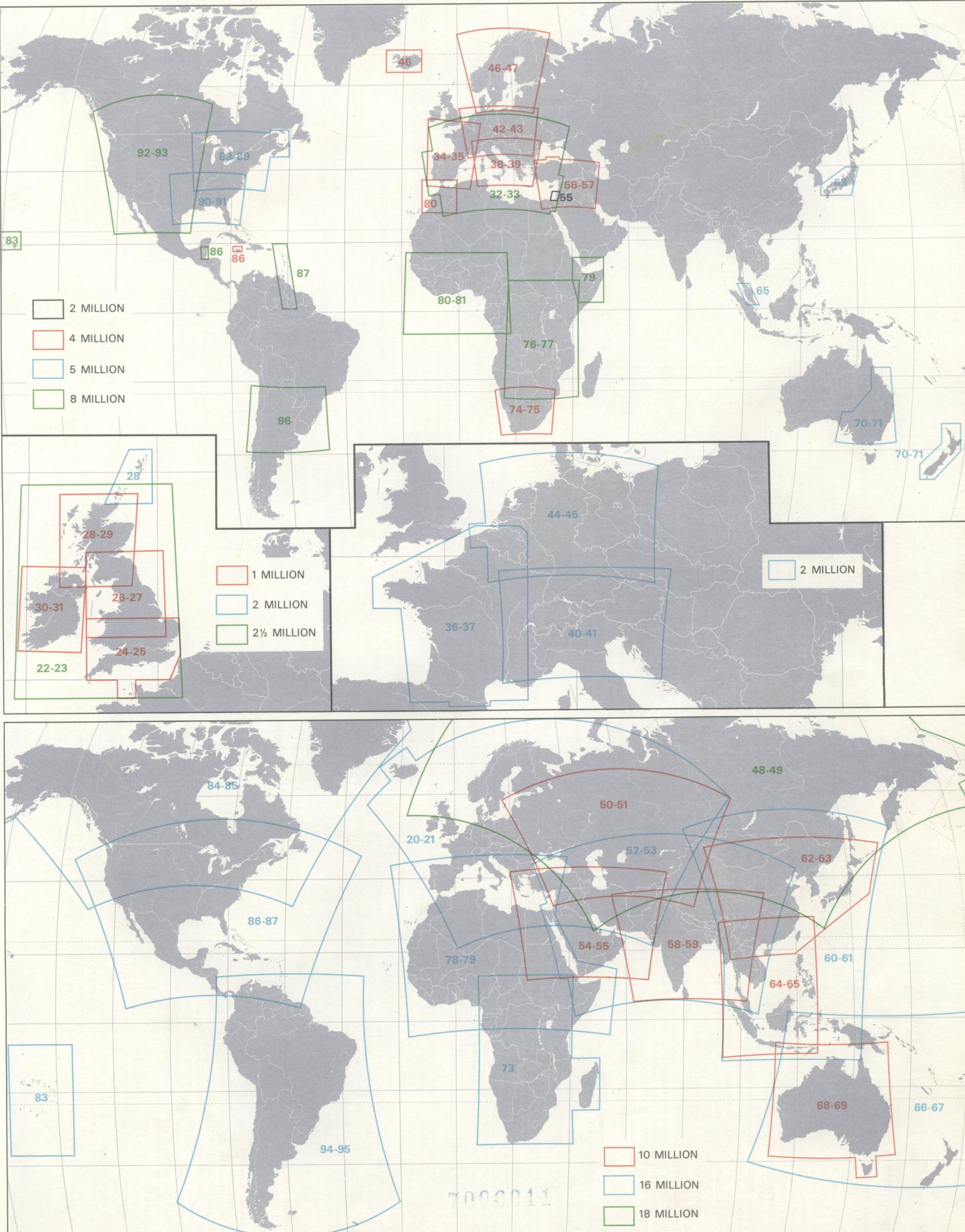
The gazetteer has been completely revised in conjunction with the maps and has been reset. Again, the practical principles of construction used in the Oxford Atlas gazetteer have been largely continued.

Whilst accepting full responsibility for the content of the New Oxford Atlas the publishers gratefully acknowledge the advice and assistance of many individuals and organizations in its preparation. Furthermore they hope that the generous and helpful comments and criticisms which have often been received in the past from the many users of the Oxford Atlas will continue in respect of its successor.

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Compilation of the Atlas

Topographic maps

General sources The topography of the atlas has been taken from maps published mainly by British and American official and non-official bodies and at considerably larger scales than those of the atlas maps. A list of the principal maps used is given in 'The Oxford Atlas, First edition, page 8.

For the selection and grading of towns, the boundaries of subdivisions, the classification of communications, and other details of human geography, the most recent maps, census reports, official year-books, and other publications of the countries, and territories concerned have been consulted. The list of these is too long to include.

Frequent recourse has also been made to the following - U.N. Demographic Yearbook, Unesco Liste des Pères Nationaux, U.S. Department of State International Boundary Studies and Geographic Notes, The Statesman's Year-Book, Whitaker's Almanack, Cartactical Map Service, Philip's Geographical Digest, Jane's World Railways, ABC World Airways Guide.

For the relief, on maps whose scale is 1:8M or smaller, great use has been made of the 1:5M series of *Aeronautical Planning Charts* published by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. For the larger scale maps relief has generally been based on the principal source maps noted above. Bathymetric information has been taken from the British Admiralty charts, from the International Hydrographic Bureau charts, and from recent hydrographic surveys.

Projections Notes on projections used and details of scale errors will be found at pages 114-115 to which the reader is referred.

Distances, areas and scales On each map there are figures in the borders. Those on the right show the area in square miles of each quadrilateral formed by the graticule. Those on the left show the distance in miles along each parallel of latitude (E.-W.) between two successive meridians. These enable areas to be estimated and the scale errors in different parts of the maps to be assessed (see p. 115). Comparisons of areas and distances are further facilitated by the arrangement of scales of most of the maps in a uniform sequence, and at simple multiples of each other, i.e. 1:1M, 1:2M, 1:4M, 1:8M, 1:16M, 1:5M and 1:10M are substituted for 1:4M and 1:8M in certain cases, and some other variations in scale have been made, to enable particular regions or countries to be shown in one map.

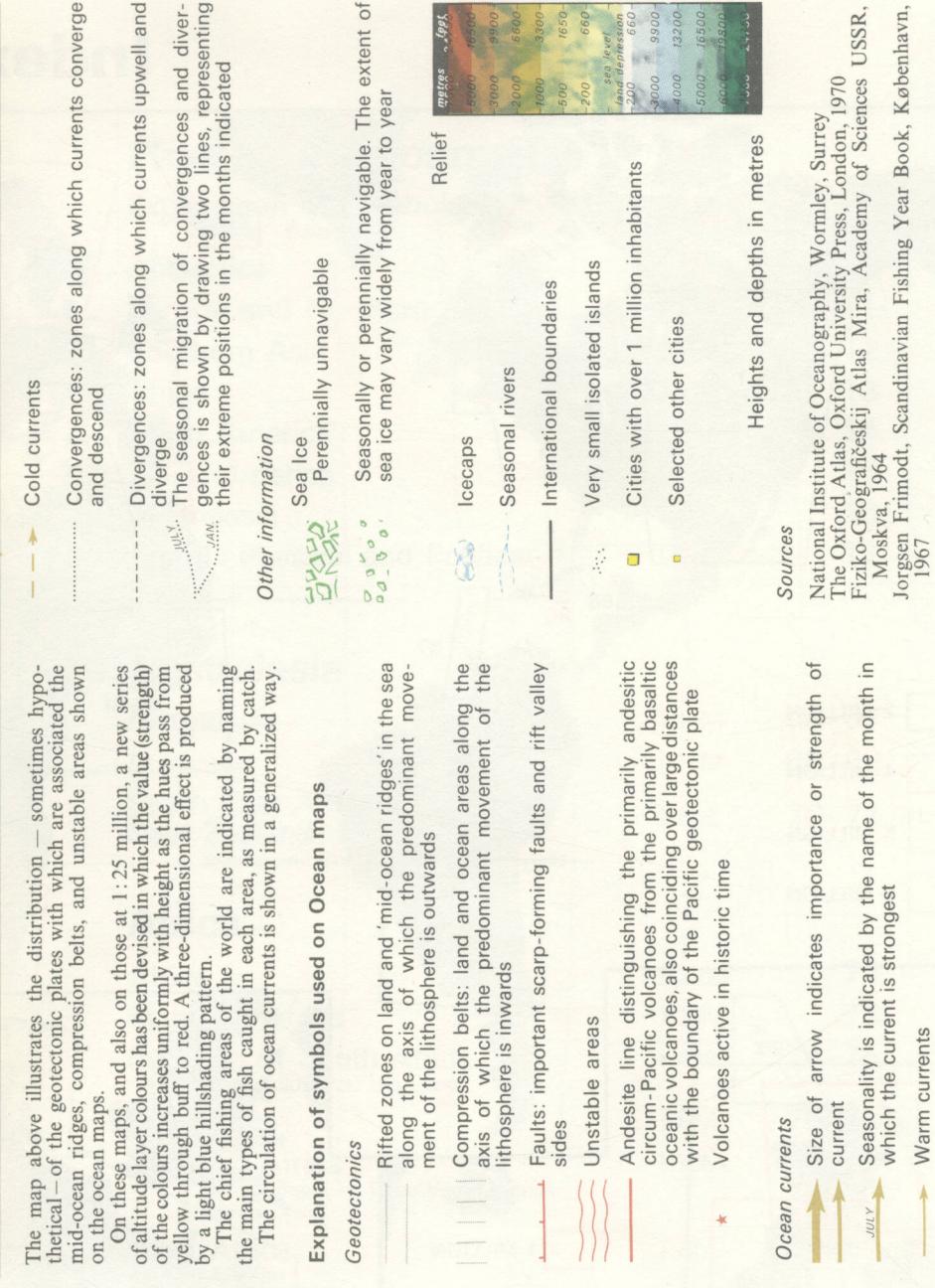
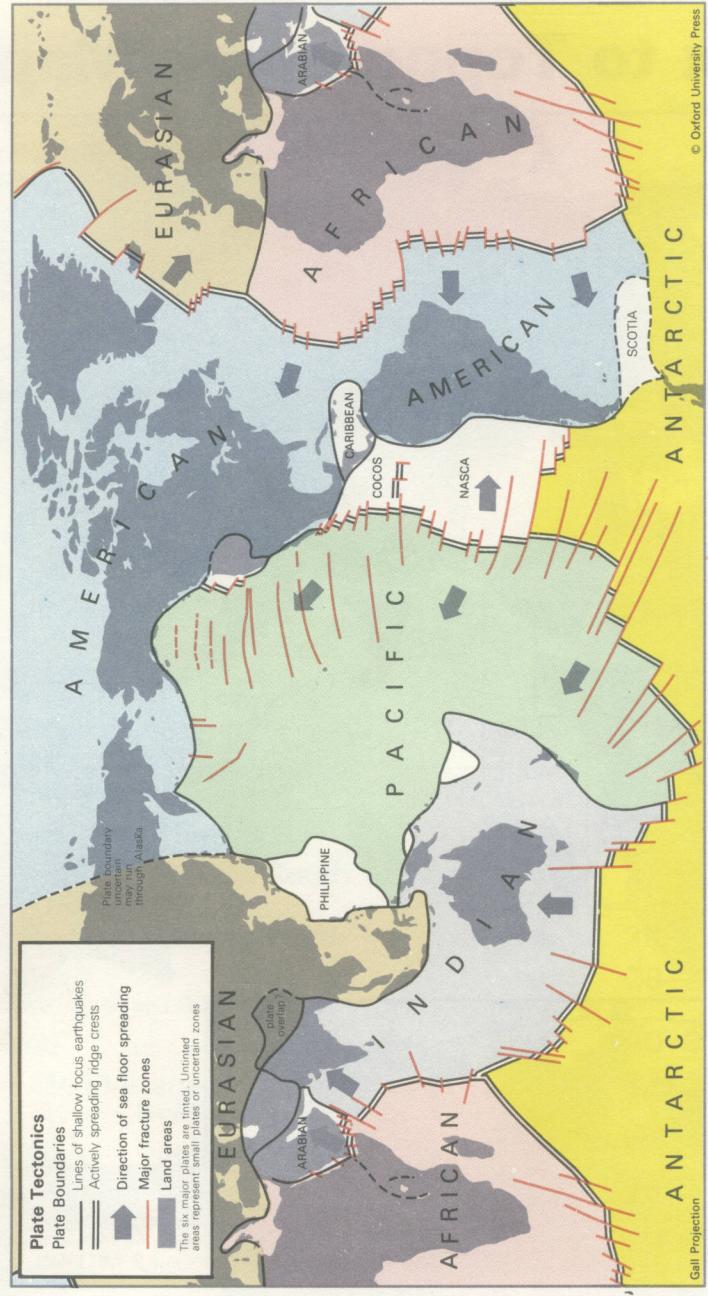
Relief Actual contour lines have been omitted over most areas since they interfere with the smooth gradation of the layers and with the legibility of the lettering. The junctions of the layer tints in fact constitute contour lines. Faint blue contour lines have been inserted however between the two lowest land layers (green tints), and between bathymetric layers to enhance distinction.

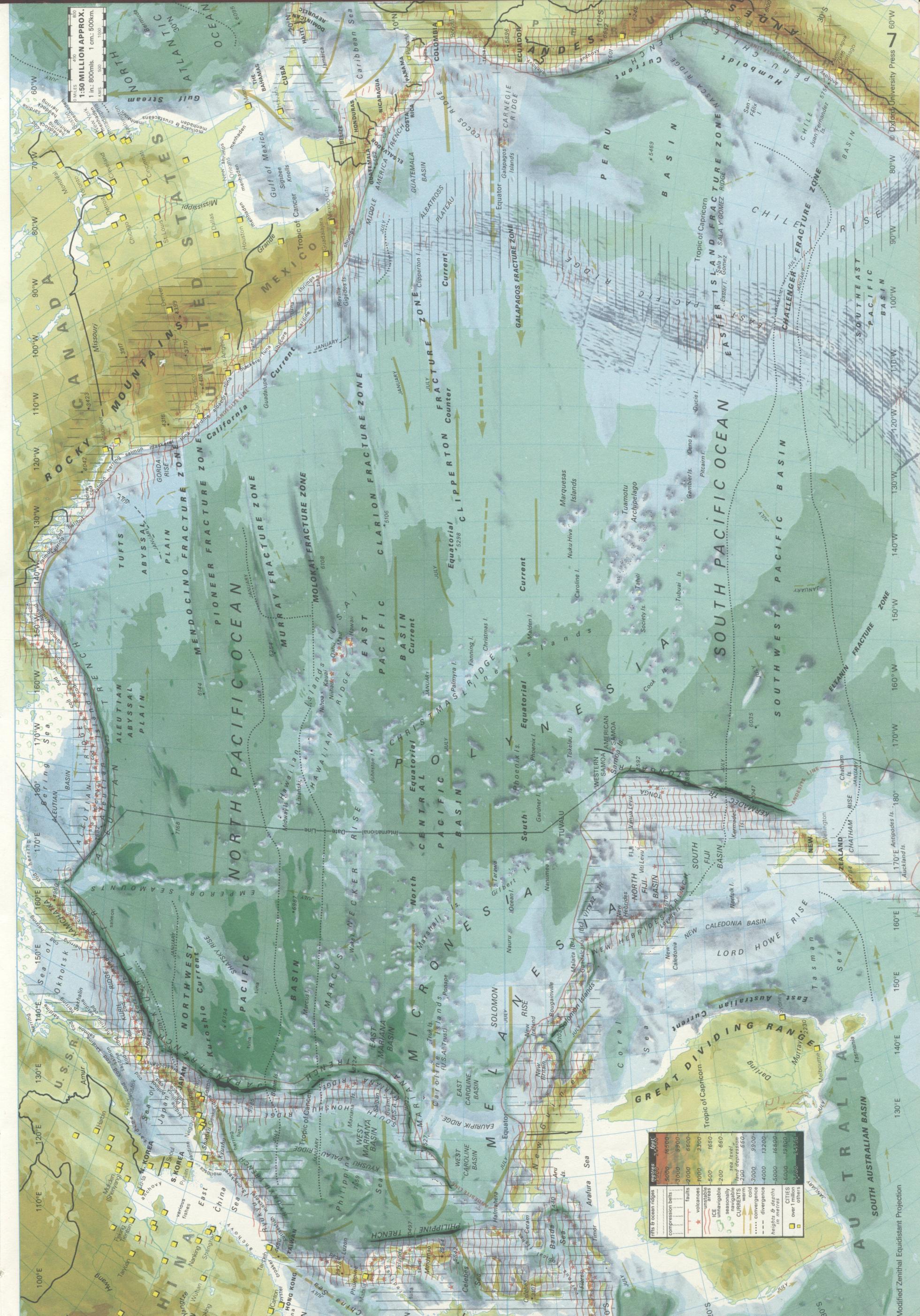
For obvious reasons it is not desirable to adopt entirely uniform layer intervals (e.g. one particular tint representing the same range of altitude throughout the atlas). For each sequence of maps the layer intervals have been selected so as to show up the major physical features of the country or continent to the best advantage. In no case, however, does the light green tint extend above the 1,000-foot (305 metres) level.

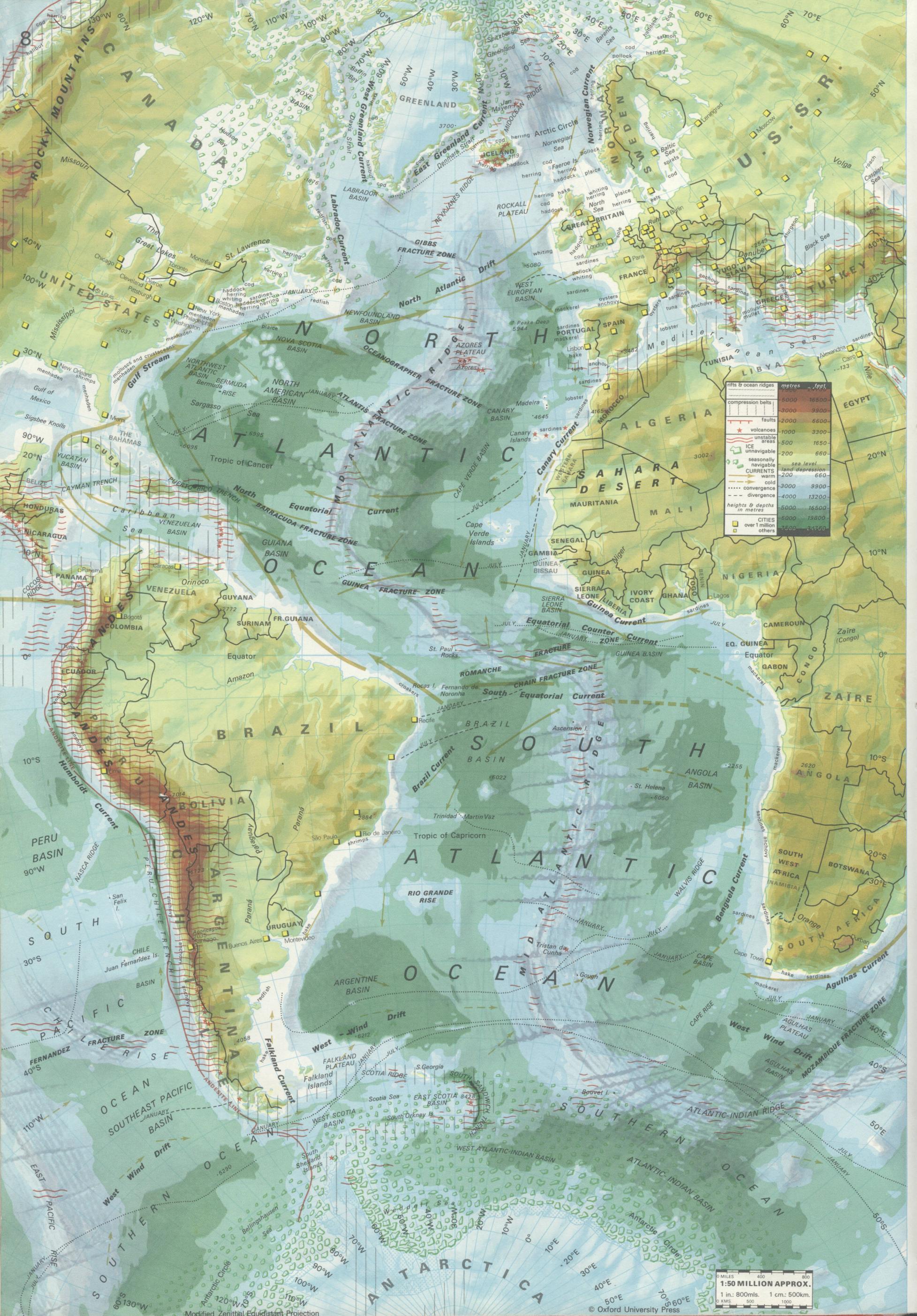
Metrication Values of altitude layers are shown throughout in feet and metric equivalents whereas spot heights are in metres only. Scale-bars are, in most cases, graduated in miles and kilometres.

Place-names Country names have been given in their English forms, e.g. Germany, not Deutschland. Province and regional names are given, where they are well known, in their English form. In general the policy with regards to foreign town names has been guided by practical considerations; versions have been employed which will be most familiar to readers of English language newspapers, periodicals, etc. This undoubtedly leads to inconsistencies. For example, in any one country the names of prominent towns will be in anglicized forms (e.g. 'Tripoli' rather than Tarabulus) whereas the names of smaller places will be in locally accepted forms, but this is thought preferable to a thorough-going vernacularization of place-names. Where names have been officially changed however, e.g. in Central Africa or Tibet, the new names have of course been used. In Europe, and occasionally elsewhere, the vernacular forms of prominent place-names have been given in brackets, e.g. Vienna (Wien), Florence (Firenze). In Belgium where most towns have both Flemish and Walloon names only one of the official names has been given on the map.

Ocean maps (pages 7-9)

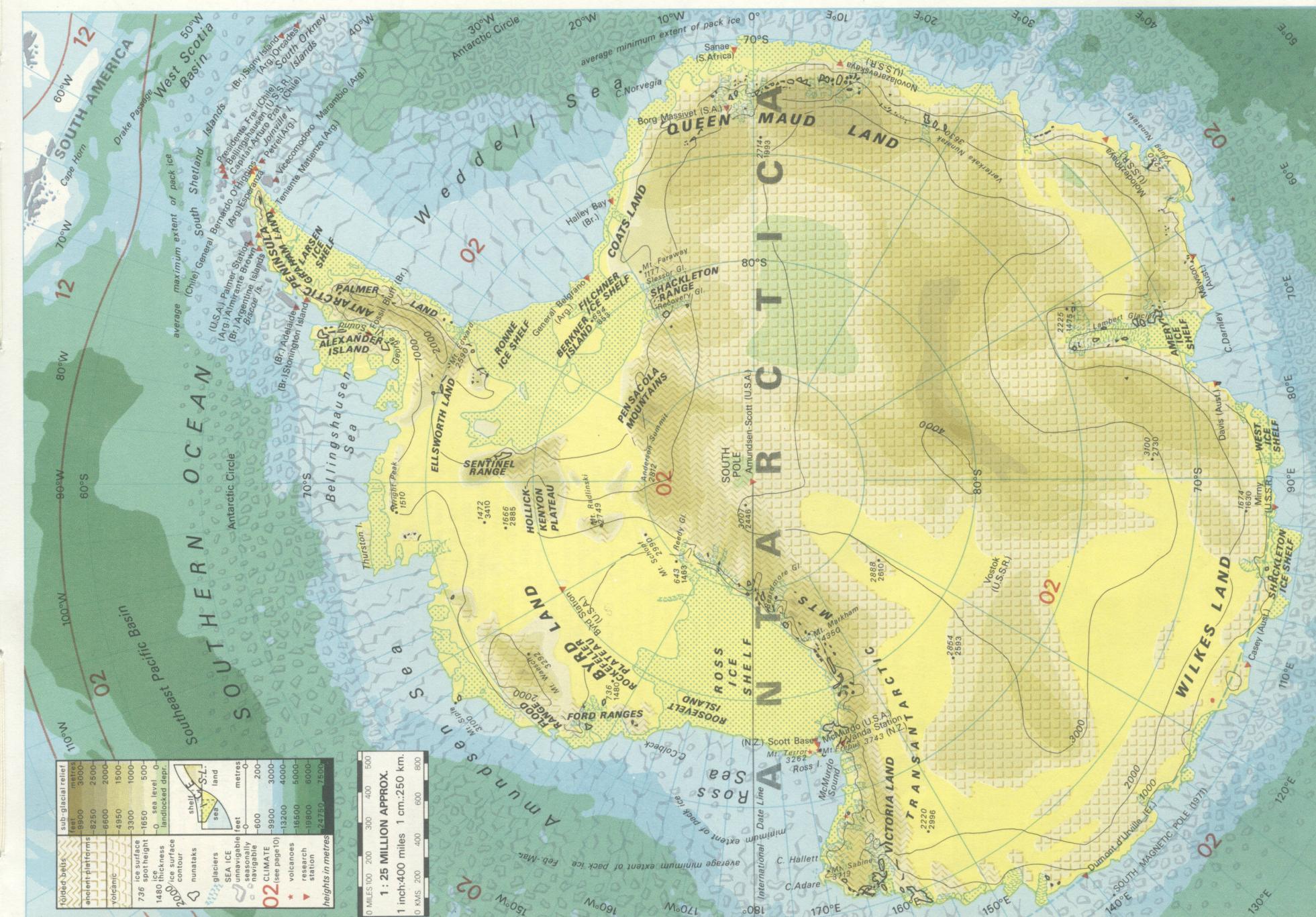
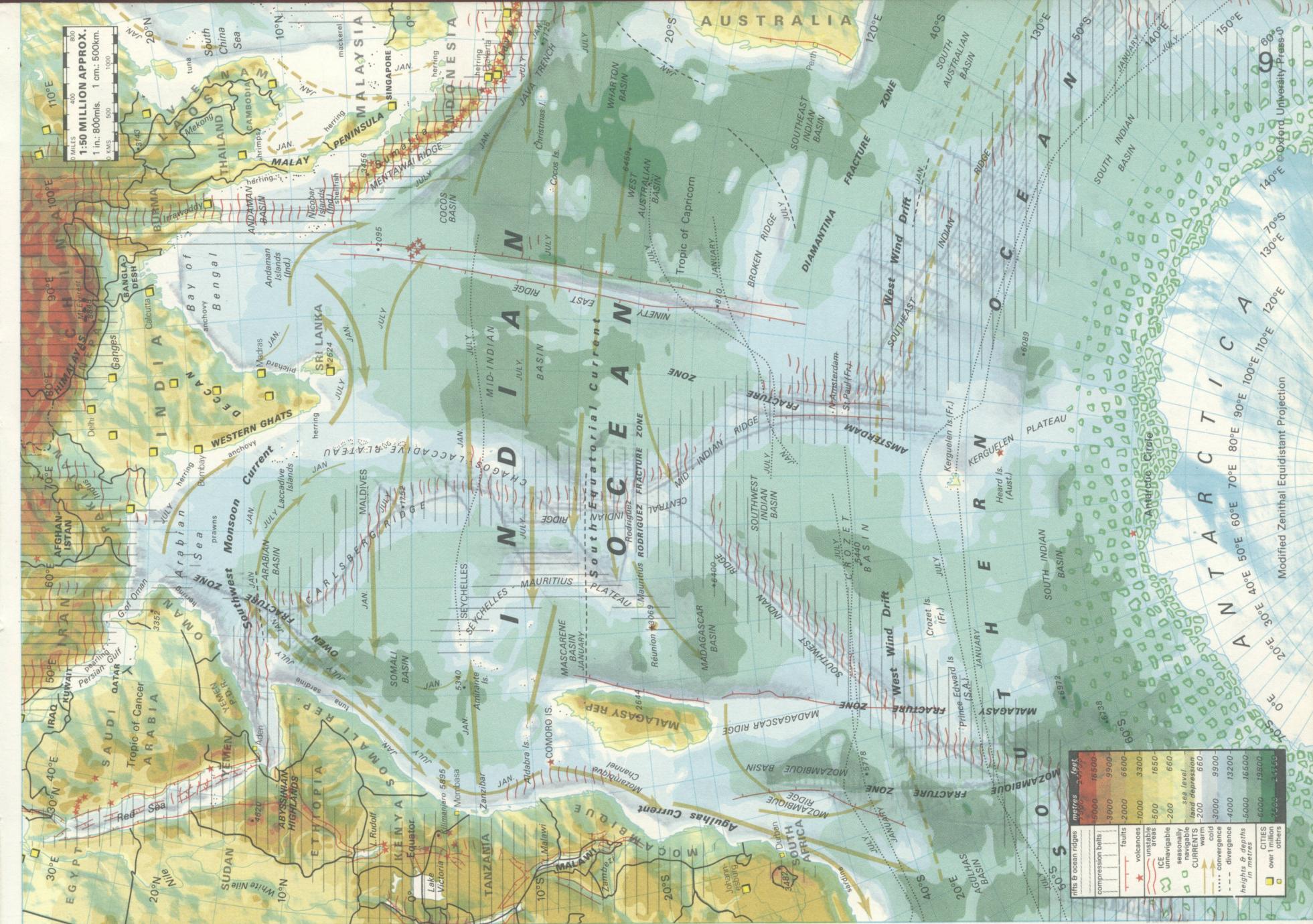




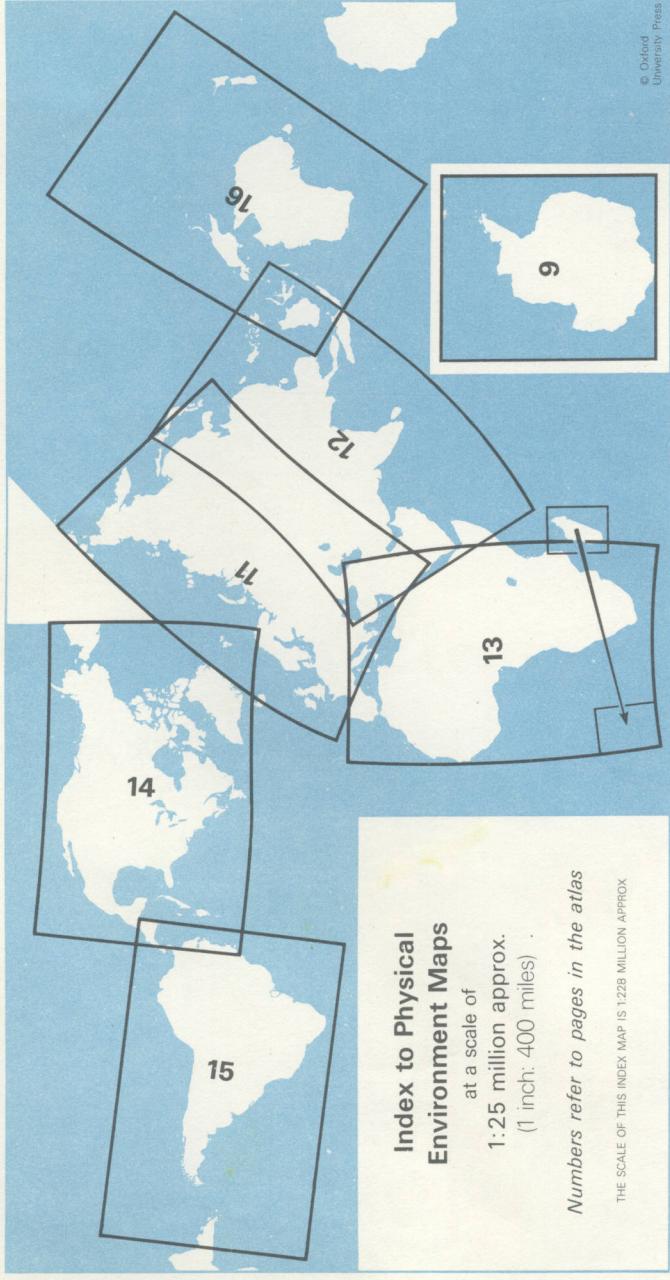


0 MILES 400 800
1 in.: 800miles. 1 cm.: 500km.
0 KMS 500 1000

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Physical Environment maps at approximately 1 : 25 million (pages 9-16)



Explanation of symbols used on the Physical Environment maps

Seasonal Climate (See description of the classification above)

Boundaries between regions

First two digits: Characteristics of warmest and coldest seasons

02 No summer (below 6°C), cold winter (below 2°C)

12 Very cool summer (6°–10°C), cold winter (below 2°C)

11 Very cool summer (6°–10°C), mild winter (2°–13°C)

22 Cool summer (10°–20°C), cold winter (below 2°C)

21 Cool summer (10°–20°C), mild winter (2°–13°C)

20 Cool summer (10°–20°C), no winter (over 13°C)

32 Full summer (over 20°C), cold winter (below 2°C)

31 Full summer (over 20°C), mild winter (2°–13°C)

30 Full summer (over 20°C), no winter (over 13°C)

X Arid (no month receives as much as 50 mm rainfall)

Z Extremely arid (no more than 2.5 mm monthly for at least 10 months)

Third digit: Seasonal temperature range

For areas 21, 22 and 32 outside the tropics

1 Oceanic: seasonal range less than 12°C

2 Sub-continent: seasonal range 12–24°C

3 Continental: seasonal range 24–36°C

4 Very continental: seasonal range 36–48°C

5 Extremely continental: seasonal range more than 48°C

