The Map Book

Noah H. F. Bullock

WESTERN EUROPE 1700

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MUNICH

The capital city of Bavaria is truly fun-loving. There seem to be beer gardens everywhere, with happy drinkers and oompah bands playing. Paradoxically, wherever I walk in this town, the specter of the Nazis and World War II is everywhere. That is why I gave this map a bit of a dangerous or negative feeling.

The graffiti on the top left immediately confronts the viewer. The young girl, holding the water jug (symbol of life) is surrounded by an eerie color scheme. Uncomfortable, I hope, as she pours water into the river streams that feed Munich.

This map was redrawn after World War II when the city was rebuilt, almost from scratch, in the older Gothic style.

Madrid

I stayed in the area of Madrid known as the Puerta del Sol. It's touristy restaurants and shops hide the fact that when the French troops marched into Madrid on May 2, 1808, the local residents of Madrid – Madrilenos – resisted with sticks, clubs and fists. Their efforts were immediately put down and this valiant effort resulted, on May 3, 1808, in bloody executions and reprisals by the well-trained French.

This all occurred at the Puerta del Sol. The photos at the bottom of the work are a compilation of the bridge over the Toledo River and Goya's painting of May 3, 1808 at the Prado Art Museum.

I don't mean to imply that Madrid is a dangerous city, though I suppose any city is at night. Maps like these remind me of the history of the modern city that I walk in and photograph.

PLAN
DE
MADRID
1844.

Amsterdam

All cities in Europe are a walker's paradise. All cities. Yet for some reason, Amsterdam seems so very well suited, even moreso, for walking and exploring. I wanted to show with this map various forms of transportation – car, bike, boat, tram – as well as walking.

Even though it is not the city's or the country's colors, I loved the blue chroma in this picture and the way it worked with the gray of the streets in the map.

Donegal

Even though the work is called "Donegal," this land mass and map is of one very small, yet unique, area in the large county of Donegal. It is a map, actually, of Cruit Island. But, of course, it is more than that. Cruit Island is joined to the mainland by a permanent, though thin, land bridge at the bottom, center of the map.

The pictures would probably be immediately recognizable to anyone from that area. My placement of them is purposeful, since Cruit is surrounded by water and those images which are not map-like cover the sea. In Donegal, everything is about the sea. Most people know this unique man, simply referred to by locals and visitors alike, as "Pa." He has no children, but they all call him Pa (short for Patrick) in the Cruit Island area. He is the local historian/storyteller. For him, there is no difference.
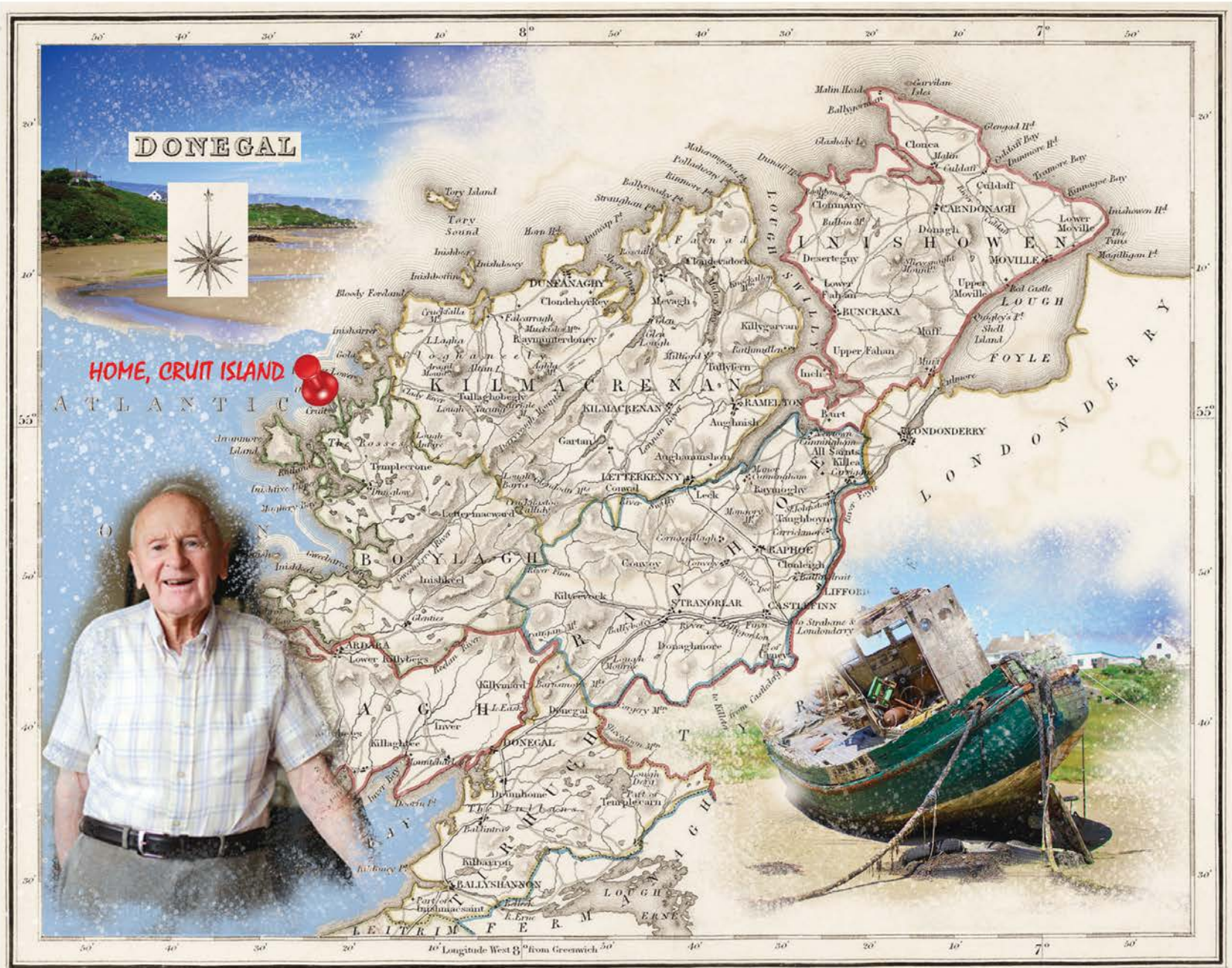
DONEGAL

HOME, CRUIT ISLAND

ATLANTIC

Edinburgh

The largest city in Scotland has the simplest map. Just a few lines. But the promontory that the castle is built on defines the city. Some cities are flat, not Edinburgh. I tried to invoke the idea of jagged or irregular lines and lanes in this picture. While I don't actually remember the name of the reddish primrose on the bottom right, I wanted to contrast simple nature with the military role – such a significant past and present – in Edinburgh.

On the very top of the map are the docklands and the sea, and you can see from this map that Edinburgh Castle could defend the city from its height. I love the name of the sea as it hits the bay, the Firth of Forth – very unforgettable.

FLORENCE

The people, the art, the Renaissance palazzos and the Arno River. That is what Florence is to me. Clearly one of my favorite foot cities – and food cities – but mainly people watching cities. Some cities stand out to me for their broad areas, open sections, modern graffiti and the like. Florence is, in a word, tight.

The city is so compact. Here, in this 18th century map, you can see that very little has changed compared to modern day Florence. The old town is packed with streets that look like alleys, hardly fit for motorcycles. There you observe students taking a break, workers having a coffee and chatting, and tourists. Loads of tourists. This is a walking city, made for people to drop in and explore.

Except for the Pitti Palace and the gardens in back of the palace. I colored those areas red and green to highlight the magnificent home of the Medici, the ruling family of Florence during the Italian Renaissance, and the home of Raphael's most famous painting which is in the top right corner (next to the palace), the Madonna of the Chair.
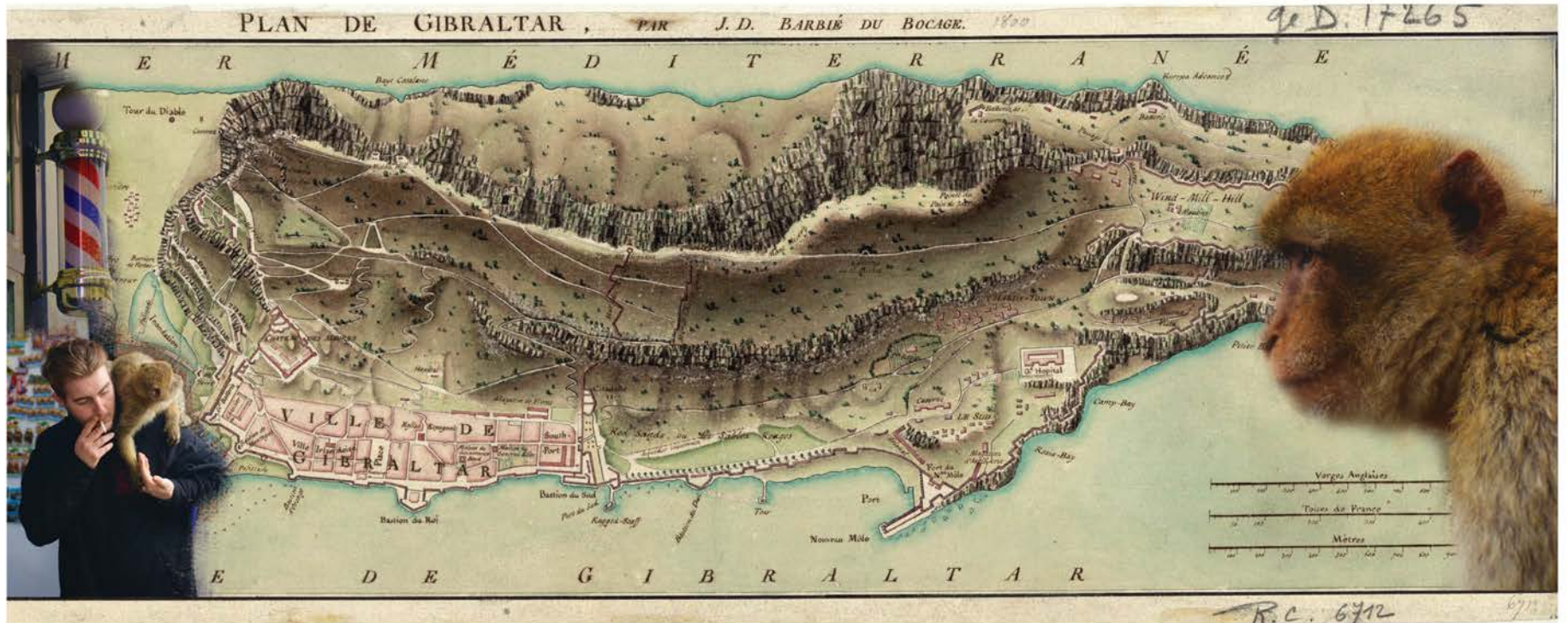
The Arno River divides and gives life to Florence. I bathed my picture of Giambologna's Rape of the Sabine Women in blue to work with the Arno. As the river curves through Florence, I wanted the human curve to go from bottom left to the right.

PIANTA DELLA CITTÀ
DI FIRENZE

Presso Molini

GIBRALTAR

Most maps of Gibraltar emphasize the peninsula's military and defensive position on the Mediterranean Sea. In reviewing my photos of this tiny part of Great Britain at the tip of Spain, I noticed that they resembled images from a holiday paradise. Sun and blue water reflecting on this still-thriving military port.

I found this 19th century map. The fortifications are minimized and the tourist areas are negligible. The map shows a time in Gibraltar when it was like being in the Amazon. I decided to "frame" this map with the most interesting inhabitants of Gibraltar, the famous Barbary monkeys that you encounter when you walk up the "rock" which is the area's most prominent feature.

PLAN DE GIBRALTAR, PAR J. D. BARBIÉ DU BOCAGE. 1800

qe D. 17265

MER MÉDITERRANÉE

E DE GIBRALTAR

VILLE DE GIBRALTAR

R.C. 6712

Jewish Amsterdam Map

The sign in the Anne Frank house in Amsterdam said "no photography." I couldn't resist, though. This was a map made by the German Gestapo indicating where Jews lived in Amsterdam in 1944. It was the German army's responsibility to visit every single dot on that map, each indicating a house where Jews were living. Of course, these people were rounded up and sent off to extermination camps. It was a somber feeling being in the house that the Franks lived in and then hid for almost 2 years before being discovered, deported and killed.

I wanted to keep the integrity of the map image and not break it up, which is why I put my professor (who is Jewish and who put on his yarmulke) at the bottom left opposite the open door on the right. For me, the right symbolizes the entrance of the Nazis into the house through the secret door. On the left, Professor Garfield is standing at the gate to the Dachau Concentration Camp.
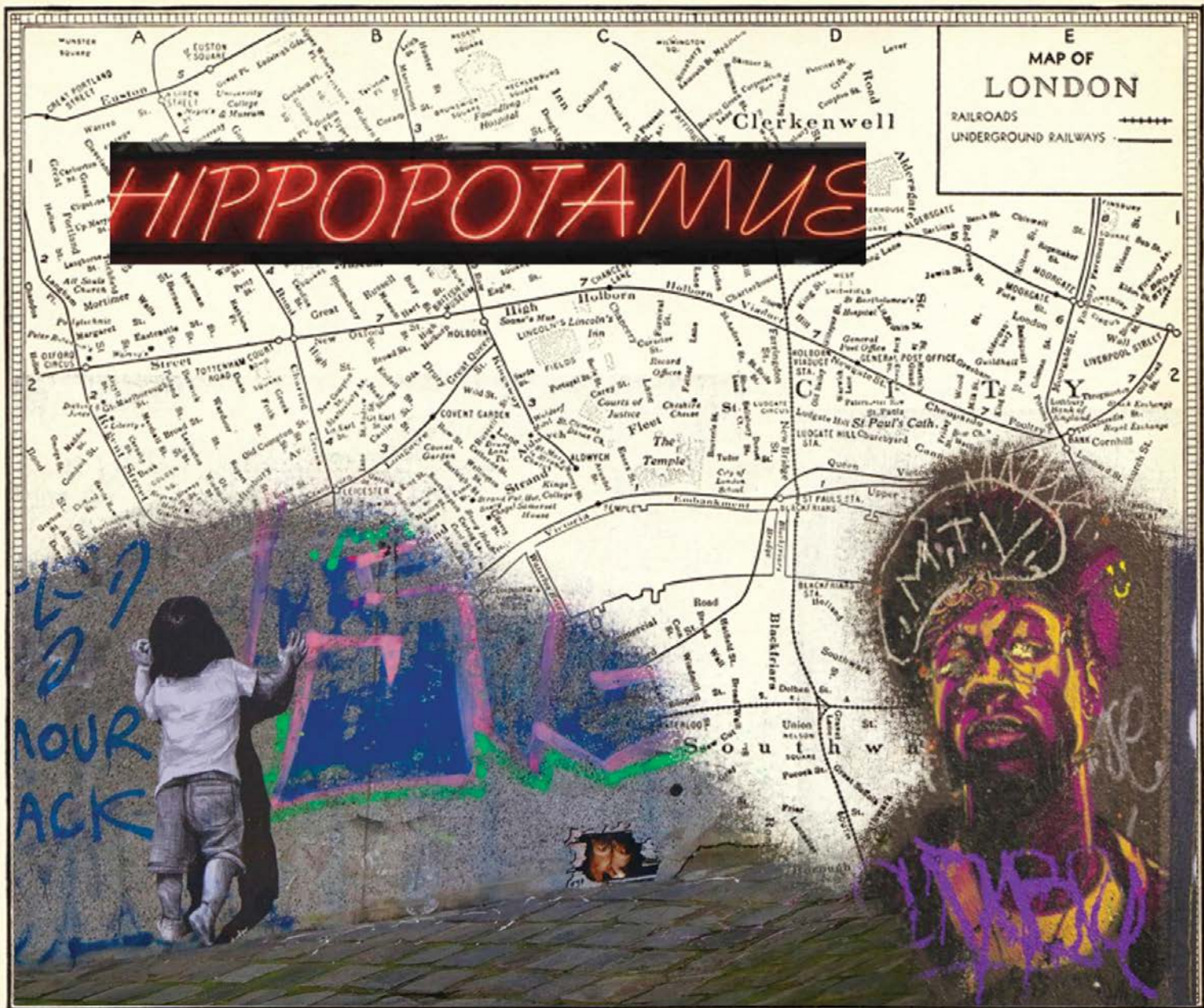
LONDON

Perhaps because it is so very big, so metropolitan, that London has so many off-beat signs and graffiti. Think Times Square with a British accent. Here, I literally just dropped in an image of the "Hippopotamus" Restaurant neon sign in the middle of the map. If this is not confusing, then I don't know what is. It over-powers the tightly drawn map lines and communicates a rather strange mes-sage. The images on the bottom left and right are my photos of graffiti.

Perhaps the only way one can feel human in a city this large is with personal graffiti.

Paris

This is the most symmetrical composition of all my maps. Perhaps that's because Paris is still "centered" as the city of European culture for me. I twisted the map around and made the Seine River flow north-south instead of its usual east-west. On the right side of the composition is the famous Eiffel Tower. On the left is Napoleon's Arc de Triomphe, symbol of multiple military victories starting with Napoleon.

It makes a great walk to start at the Arc de Triomphe and walk through the city, past the Seine, to the Eiffel Tower. Such history in every direction.
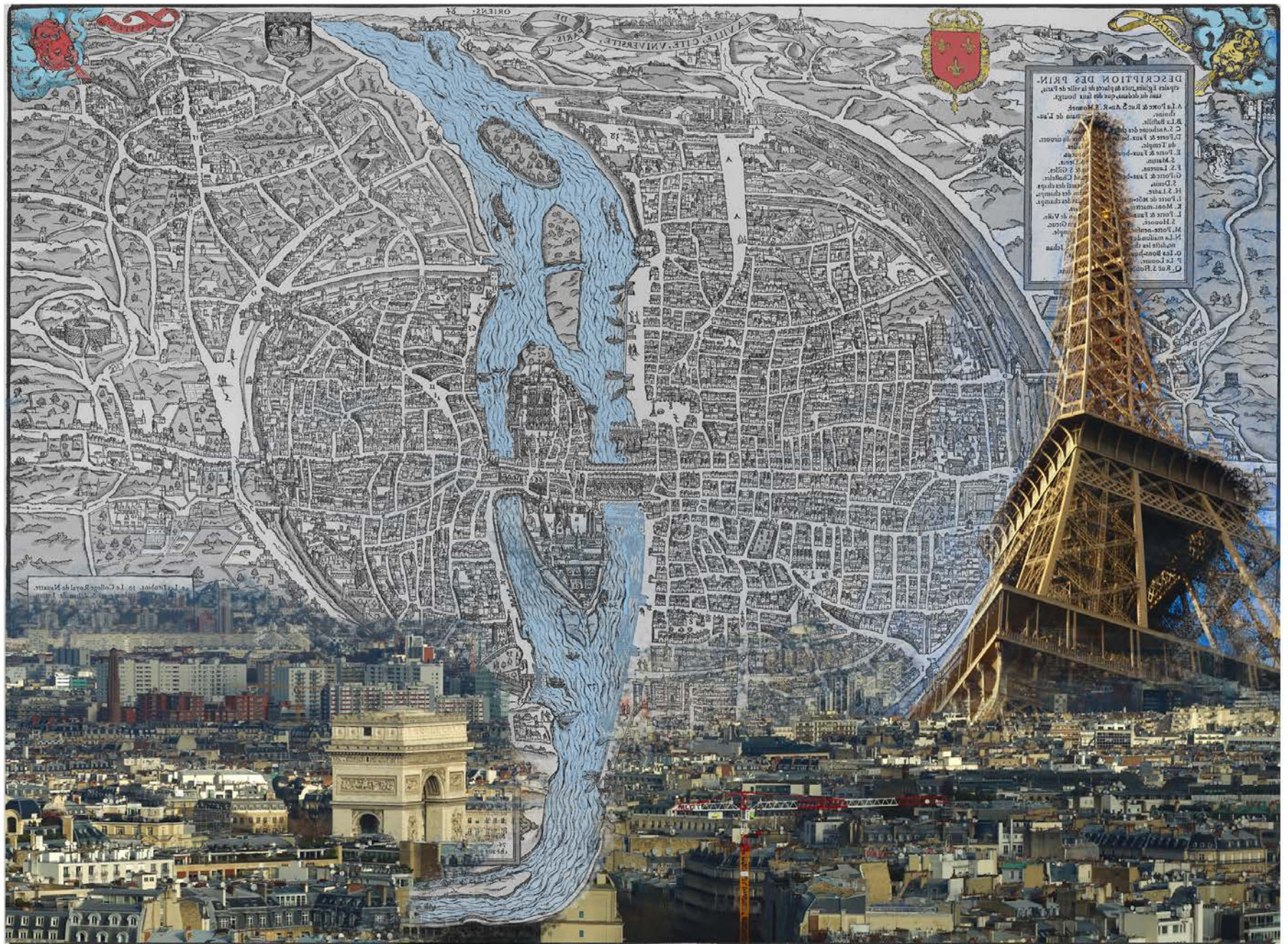
Rome

Rome is the largest city in Italy. There are artifacts from multiple millennia still visible to this day, dating back to the time of the Emperors. For this composition, I focused on the several of the multitude of statues and sculpture from the Renaissance on. In the lower left, the newest sculpture installed in St. Peter's Square in over 400 years is called "Angels Unaware." It depicts over 140 migrants and refugees. Through the centuries, Rome has been a crossroads for people from classical times to the present as the capital of the Catholic Church. In the lower right, is an image of the famous Trevi Fountain and Moses in St. Peter's Basilica. Rome is a wonderful blend of old and new from classical to modern imagery.
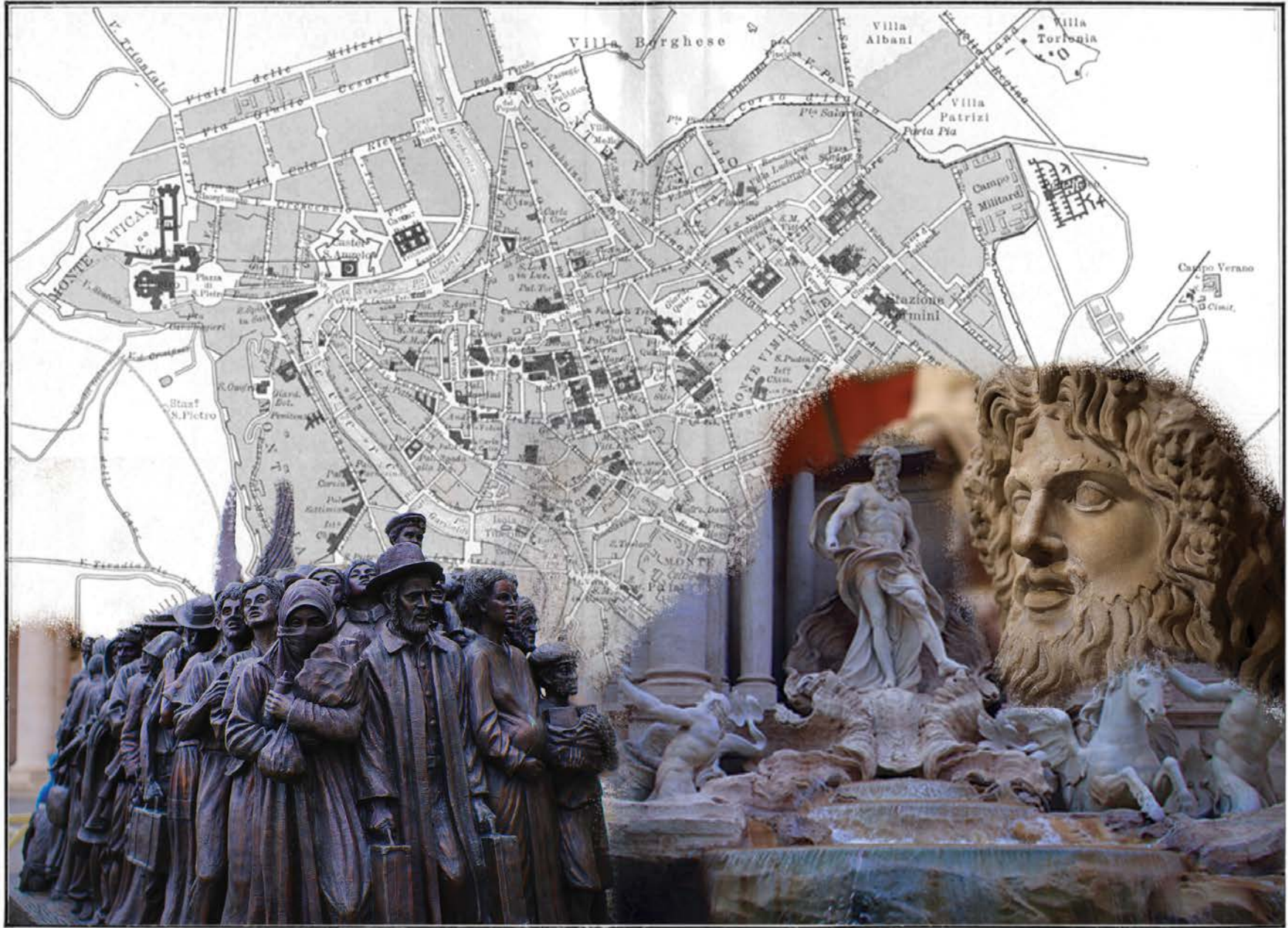
Roman Forum

The Forum is not what one expects when first visiting. I expected to see more.
But in reality, it is a city of ruins that has been cannibalized for materials, such
as the beautiful marble stone that was the facing on the old Forum structures.
These materials were used to build newer, more "modern" buildings like St.
Peter's Basilica. So, one has to use every ounce of their imagination to visualize
what it may have looked like at the beginning of the last millennium. I placed
several of my photographs of the Forum ruins on top of a vintage map of the
Forum and recreated what I believe the topography of the city would have
looked like.