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On the Cover:

A map is more than a crumpled piece of coated paper wedged into a glove box. Maps are communication devices that unify or divide cultures, tell stories, raise awareness, and help make life altering decisions on a daily basis. These visual representations of space help us understand where we are at and where we still yearn to go. Maps are collaborative. They require cultures to develop a unified symbology for interpreting them. The legend houses the symbols, patterns and shadings that give a map its importance. The legend is the secret decoder ring. It makes sense out of a confusing landscape and unlocks the mysteries of a mapmakers art. The interactive process of building a map legend lies at the heart of an article by Giacomo Rambaldi entitled "Who Owns the Map Legend?" The article looks at map making as community process where the public is trusted to keep and define geographic representation. Deciding what is "important" on a map is a collaborative event with the power to shape history.

