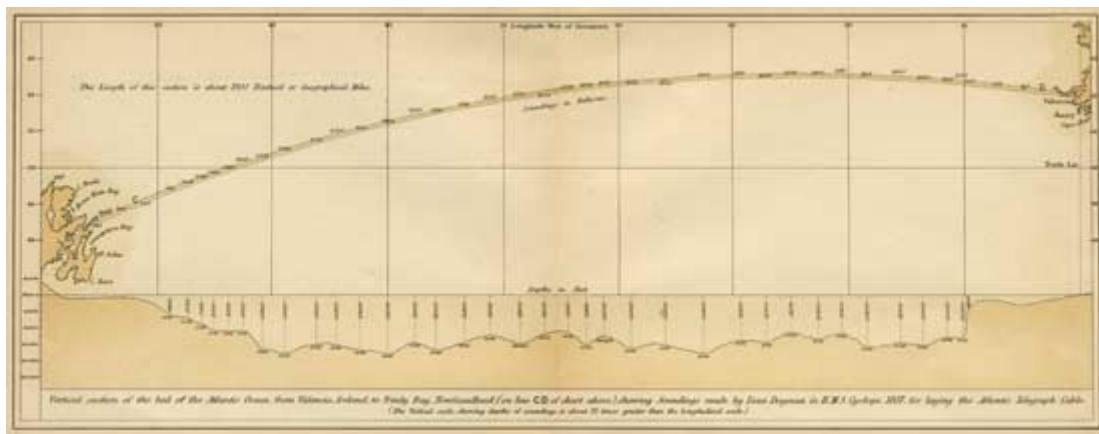


History of the Atlantic Cable & Undersea Communications from the first submarine cable of 1850 to the worldwide fiber optic network

Submarine Cable Route Maps

Early cable route maps were often published in the cable history books. Later maps were issued as promotional items by cable companies and government telecommunications authorities.

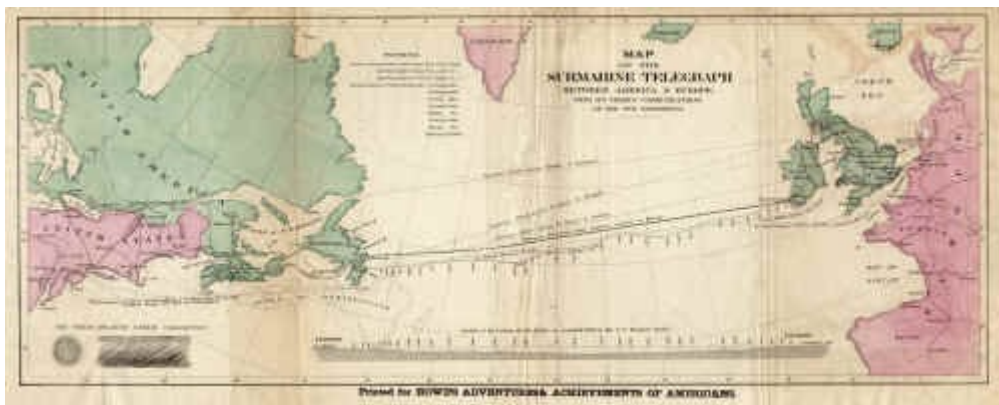
Each image links to a larger copy of the map



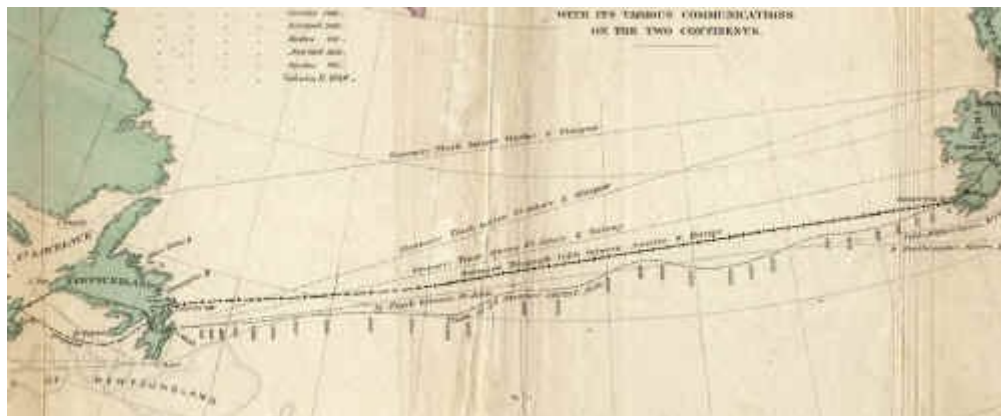
Vertical section of the bed of the Atlantic Ocean, from Valentia, Ireland, to Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, (on line C.D of chart above) showing Soundings made by Lieut. Dayman in H.M.S. Cyclops, 1857, for laying the Atlantic Telegraph Cable. (The Vertical scale, showing depths of soundings, is about 72 times greater than the longitudinal scale.)



Map of the 1858 Atlantic Cable route from [Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, August 21, 1858](#)



Another map of the 1858 Atlantic Cable route. Although no publisher is shown on this map, another copy is marked: "Korff Brothers. Practical Lithographers, 54 William Street, New York"



Detail of above map



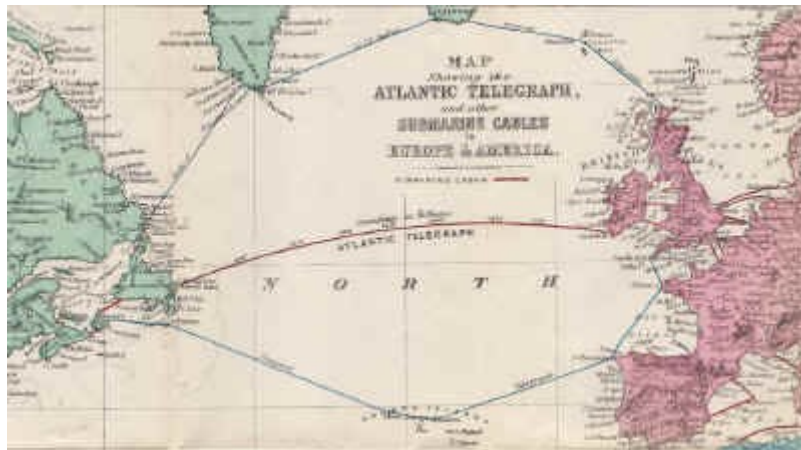
Map of the Telegraph Plateau, from Maury's *Physical Geography of the Sea* (1869 edition), showing the routes of the 1858 Atlantic Cable and the proposed 1869 French cable



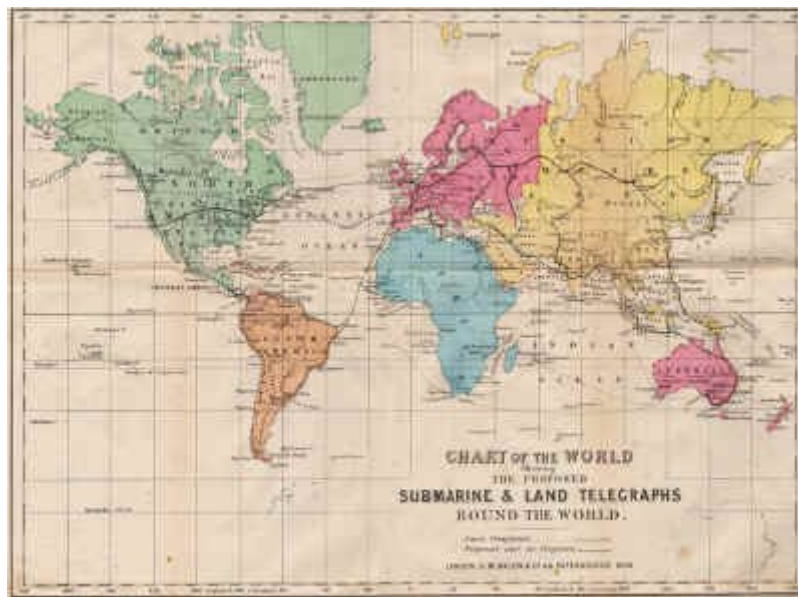
Australia and China Telegraph, 1859
Existing and proposed lines



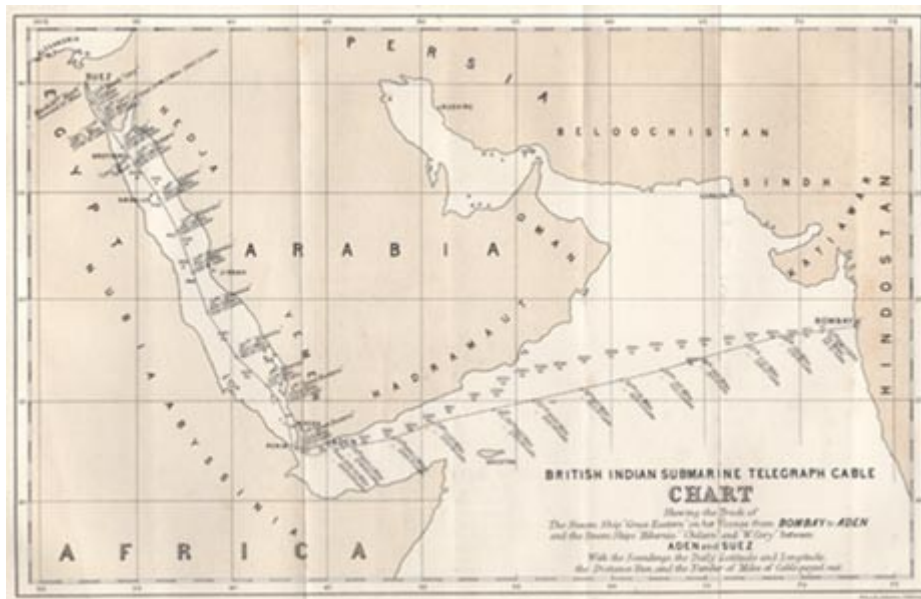
1865: Map Shewing the Atlantic Telegraph and other Submarine Cables in Europe and America from [The Atlantic Telegraph](#). Note also the route of Tal Shaffner's proposed northern cable.



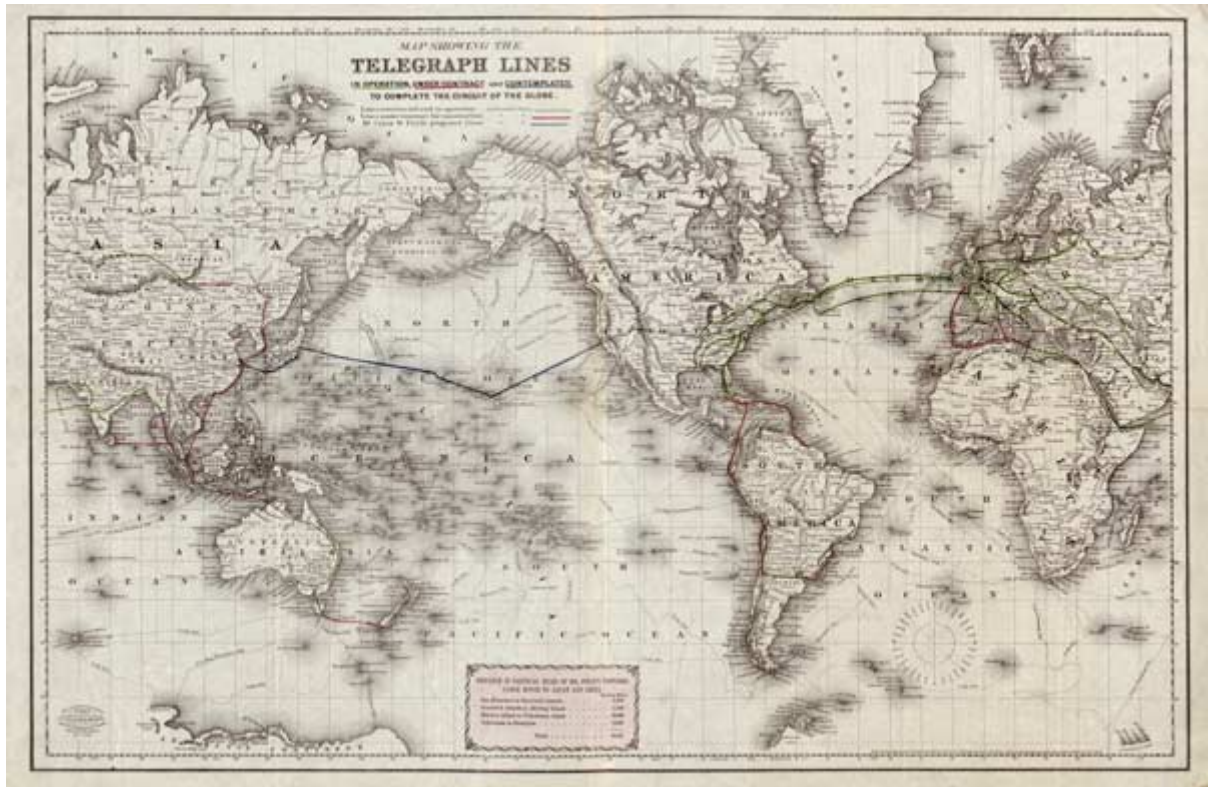
Detail of North Atlantic section of above map



1865: Chart of the World Showing the Proposed Submarine & Land Telegraphs Round the World from [The Atlantic Telegraph](#).



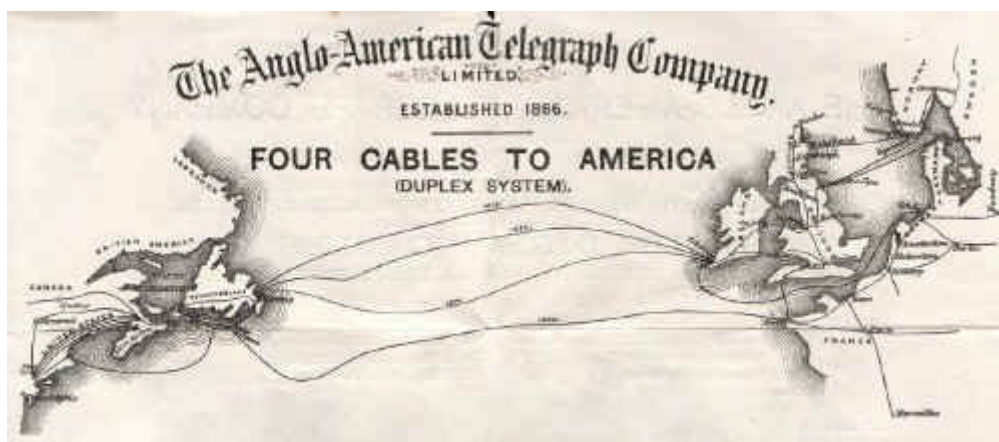
1870 British Indian Cable
Bombay-Aden, Aden-Suez



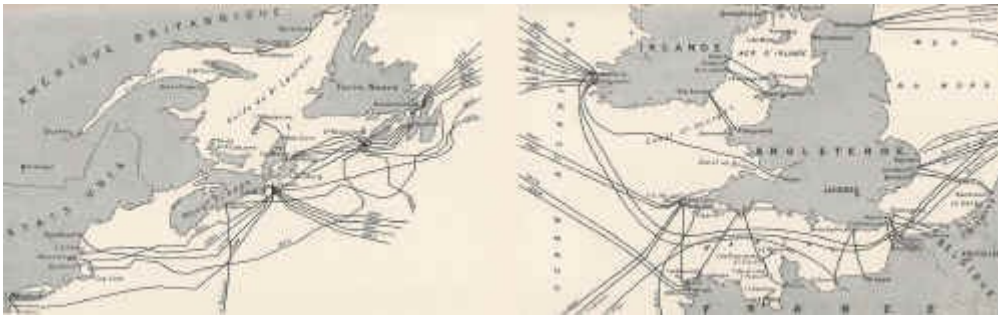
c. 1870 Map showing the telegraph lines in operation, under contract, and contemplated, to complete the circuit of the globe / entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1855 by J.H. Colton & Co. in the Clerks Office of the District Court for the Southern District of New York. 41cm x 63cm. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress, call number [G3201.P92 1855 .J51](#)

Note: This Colton world map is dated 1855, but it was re-issued about 1870 with the cable lines added, together with a new title and caption. Evidence for this is that one submarine cable, from France to North America, is shown as “in operation;” this cable was laid in 1869.

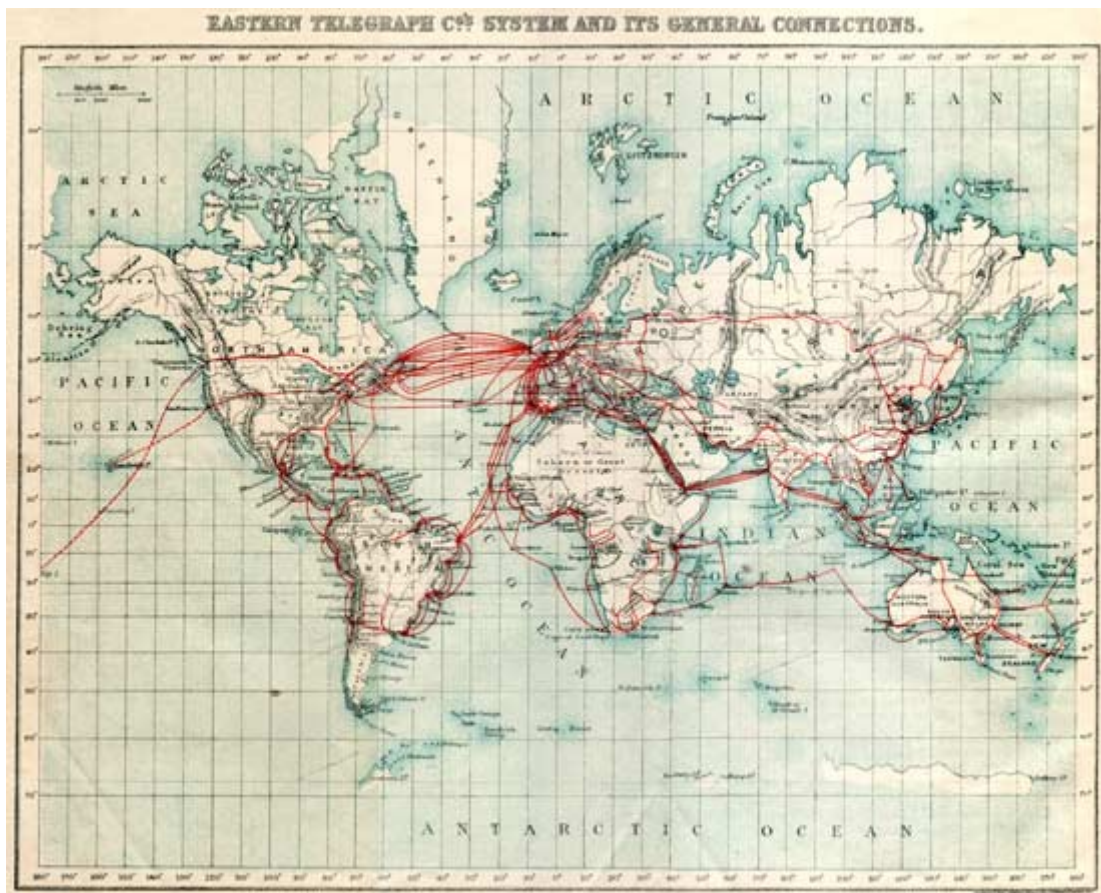
[North Atlantic detail](#) of above map



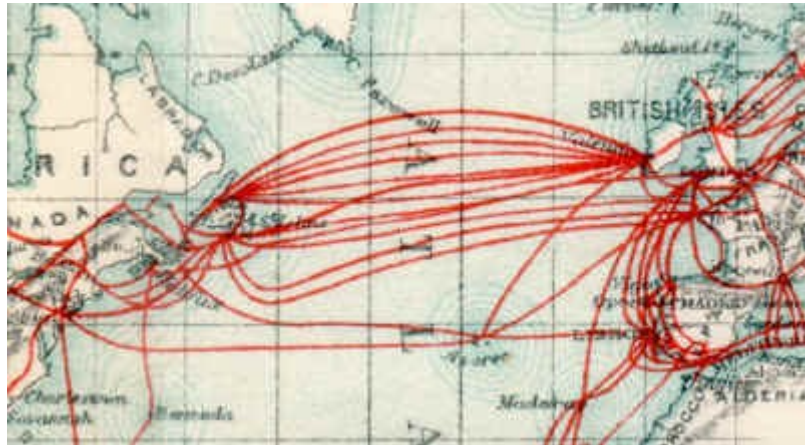
c. 1880 Anglo-American Telegraph Company North Atlantic map



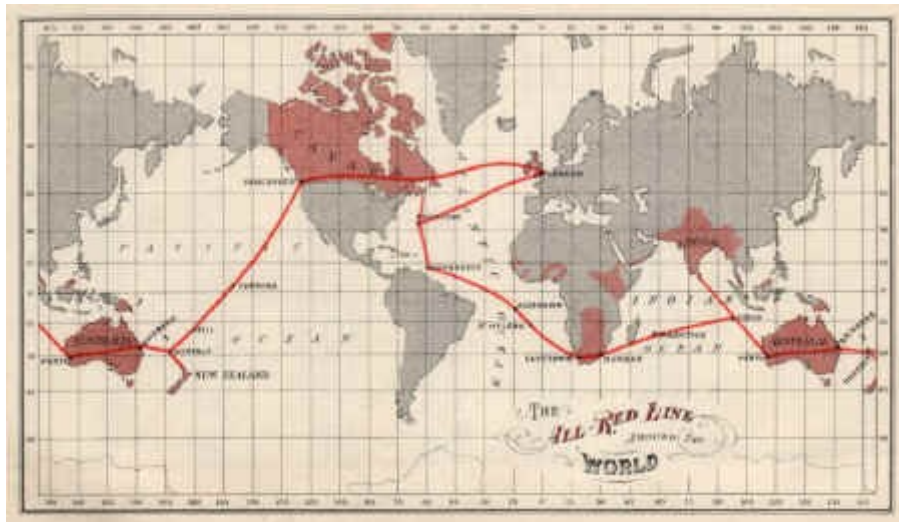
1893 map of North Atlantic cables (center section omitted),
from Charles Bright's *Submarine Telegraphs*



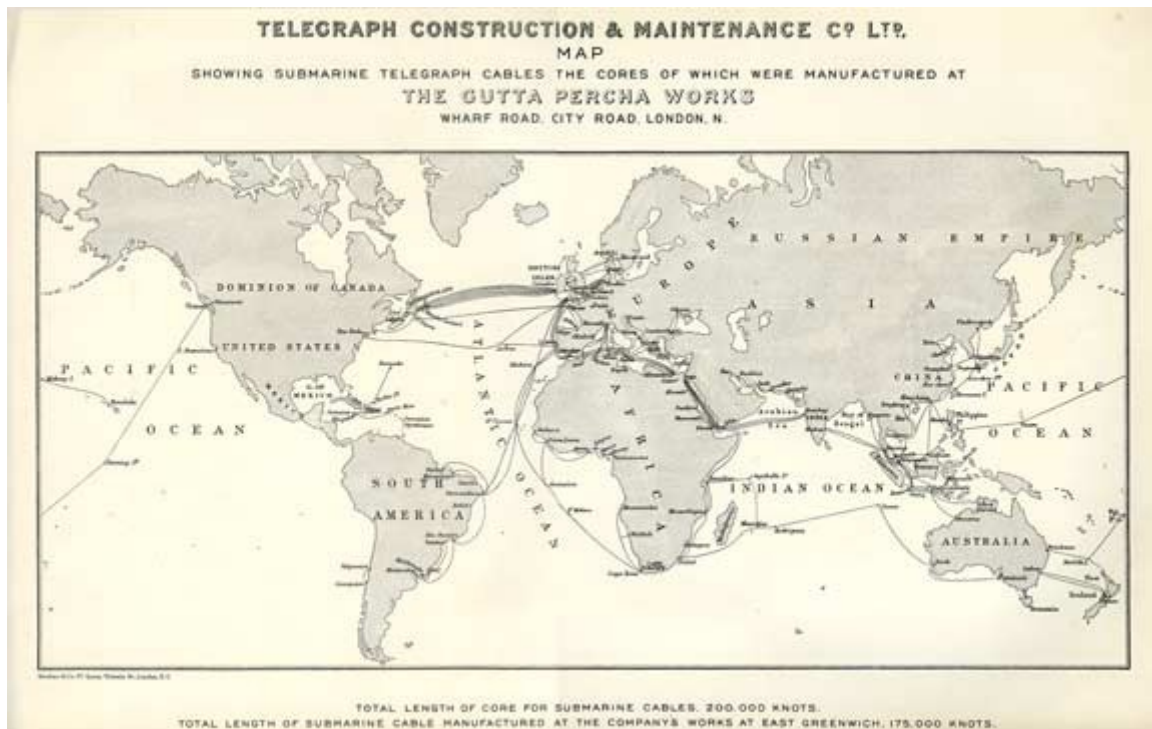
1901 Eastern Telegraph Company System Map
from *A.B.C. Telegraphic Code 5th Edition*




North Atlantic detail of above map

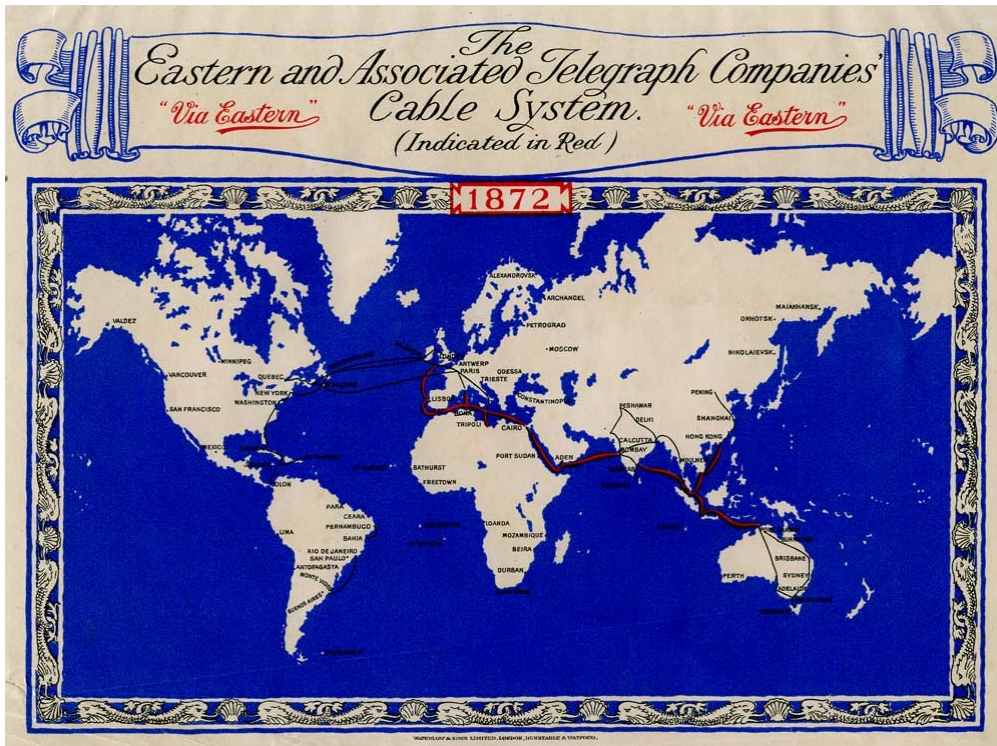


1902 British All Red Line map, from Johnson's
The All Red Line - The Annals and Aims of the Pacific Cable Project



1903 Map: Telegraph Construction & Maintenance Co Ltd
 Showing submarine telegraph cables the cores of which were manufactured at
 The Gutta Percha Works, Wharf Road, City Road, London N.

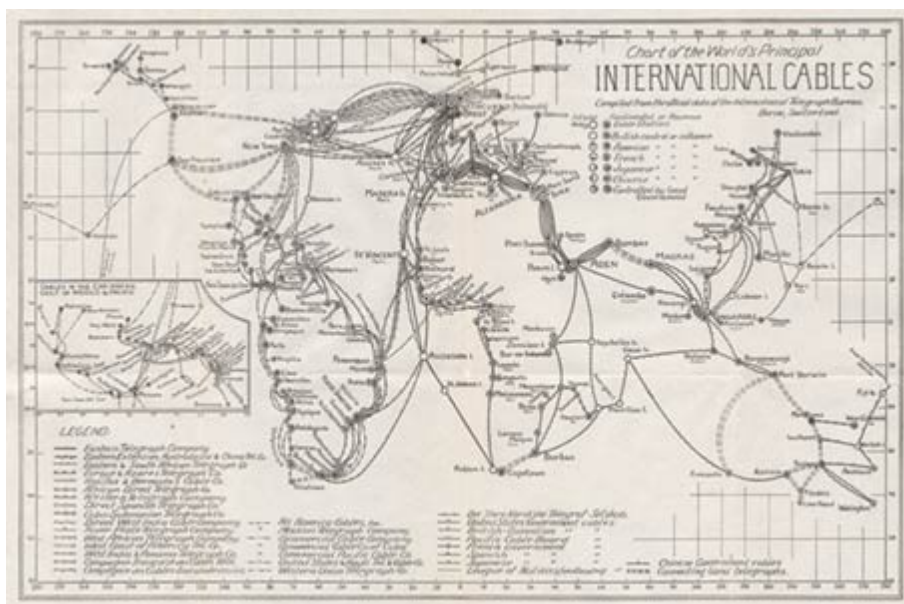
 Move your mouse over the image to see the changes in the cable routes from 1872 to 1922. [Click here](#) for a larger version of the 1922 map



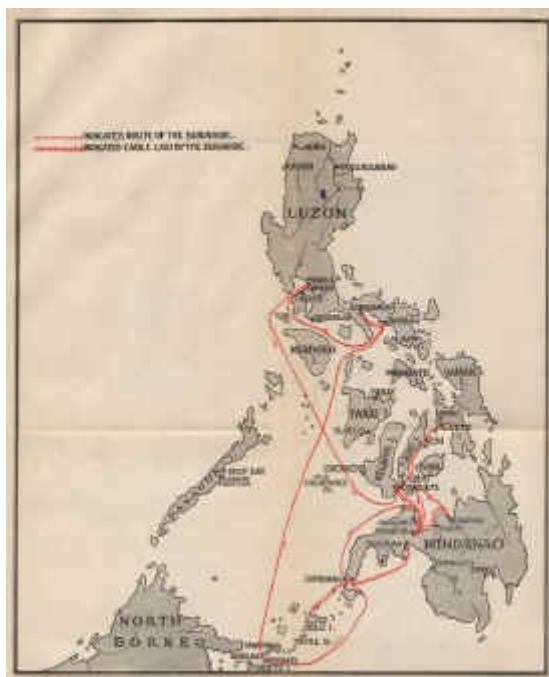
1872 and 1922 Eastern & Associated Route Maps



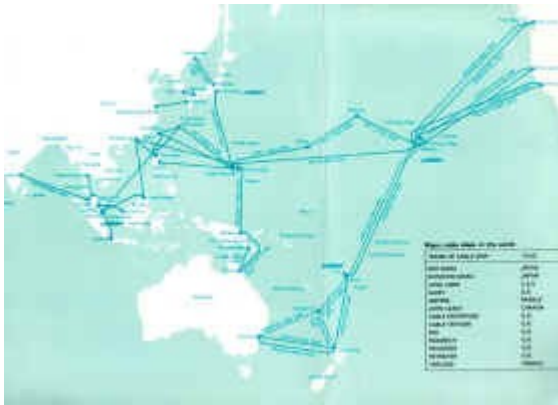
1924: The Eastern Associated Telegraph Companies' Cable System map



1924 International Cables map from Schreiner: *Cables and Wireless*
[Click for North Atlantic detail of this map](#)



Map of the Philippines, showing route of the cable laid by CS Burnside in 1901,
 from Florence Kimball Russell's *A Woman's Journey through the Philippines*



1982 Pacific region cable map



1983 MedArabTel map of the existing and planned telecommunication network in the Middle East and Mediterranean regions



1983 PanAfTel map - PanAfrican Telecommunication Network



1991 Hong Kong Telecom map of Asian cables



1992 British Telecomm map of Communications - Around the World



North Atlantic detail of BT map

Anglo-American, Eastern Associated, Hong Kong, MedArabTel, Pacific, PanAFtel, and British Telecomm maps courtesy of Bill Glover

Maps of cables laid by the company may be viewed at the [Alcatel-Lucent website](#)

Research Material Needed

The Atlantic Cable website is non-commercial, and its mission is to make available on line as much information as possible.

You can help - if you have cable material, old or new, please contact me. Cable samples, instruments, documents, brochures, souvenir books, photographs, family stories, all are valuable to researchers and historians.

If you have any cable-related items that you could photograph, copy, scan, loan, or sell, please email me: billb@fldesign.com

—Bill Burns, publisher and webmaster: Atlantic-Cable.com