

## ON THE MAIN OBJECT OF CARTOGRAPHY

Dr. Eugueni P. Arjanov  
Moscow Pedagogical State University  
127278, Moscow, Russia, Kibalchicha ul. 16

### Abstract

We consider some problems of cartography to choose the main object and discuss ways to solve it.

### 1. The range of problems

Many important problems have been drawn out to be the main aims of cartography by different specialists. Support of the national economy, the needs of society and simply making and using maps were considered to be the main object of cartography. At present, when the ultimate end of mankind's existence is realised, the timely revelation of global changes on the planet and appropriate generating of new information is raised as the object of cartography. Naturally, usage of technical achievements of automatized cartography is required. These are usually aerocosmical surveys provided with modern characteristics of distortion, resolution and sinopticity; available for computerization.

### 2. The selected main theoretical issues facing cartography

ICA - Working Group to Define the Main Theoretical Issues on Cartography has selected the following five items:

- Map functions;
- Spatial processes;
- Social context;
- Processing digital data;
- Map language.

### **3. Improving on carrying out map's major functions**

To our mind, we can consider improving on carrying out map's major functions as well as the main object of cartography. To differentiate from the earlier well-known opinions we think that the number of these functions is not large.

Maps are chiefly used for:

- space-time measurements;
- rapid transmission of information;
- arrangement of information (in particular, for its inventory);
- solving some tasks, using the map as a nomogram or a graph;
- compression and storage of information.

### **4. Problems of informative order**

An approach to cartography as a part of informative order puts the aims of collecting, regulating, transforming and displaying of information as the major ones. The first two should be achieved with help of Administration. Because of the failures to solve these questions cartographic culture of the population suffers, the necessity for radical improvement in quality of cartographic products and holding "Weeks of geography and ecology" appears. Evidently for this reason, the 10th conference on topical cartography (Saint-Peterburg, 1991) estimated the state of cartography by the opportunity for a citizen to get access to a sufficiently detailed and reliable map.

### **5. Problems of reflections**

If we consider cartography as a special case of reflection of reality then side by side with the aims of conformity between the causality of reflection and guaranteeing exact reflecting, the object of reaching the highest level of reflection - the level of social consciousness is standing. This very object seems to be the key-one for our society.

## 6. Some ways to solve the main object

The idea of this level of cartographic development is associated with much wider usage of cartographic notions in human activity, widening the system of cartographic products and cartographic supplying of all school courses, in particular.

This level is connected also with a notion about setting aside many informative limitations, more effective revision of maps.

A modern family possessing library, photo-album, musical instruments... should have and use a map and an atlas of the town, region, country, world and also educational, tourist and other topical cartographic products existing.

Together with cartography for branches of economy, administrative services, firms... there must come atlases of family, including family trees, the present day of the family schemes, plans of apartments and country-houses, graphic outlines of hiking-tours, surveys for excursions on foot, "where we have been", "where my friends live" maps up to the economic maps of family as means of labour upbringing of children.

At present aersurvey, photogrammetry and photometry sometimes are attributed to the remote sensing, but not to cartography. Sometimes they forget that photoimage, as well as map will turn out to be a model of space-time relationship; on the planet surface or relatively it; and in this model a natural language is used, which is aimed to use a visual channel; and which is intended to perform the same functions as a map.

Graphic components for the map agree intirely with the definitive signs of a photo. It is surprising that cosmic photoes is frequently used at school as a vague picture without explanation.

Stereo image of the Earth can strenghen the first-sight impression, which as it is known causes an explosion of emotions of astronauts seeing the Earth for the first time from a space-ship. There are no not only suitable hologrammes, but stereoscopes for airspace photoes.

Theory of cognition provides forecast that as the intellectual potential of society will grow, the use of iconic models such as maps and photoimage will increase. It is natural that this will touch upon geography firstly. As is concerned geographic (and other) coordinates of a school building should be signed in a well known place of every school. There must be geographical meridian designated, azimuths of the outstanding directions of the community, nearest slopes marked in every school yard. The best hand-made maps, globes, mental maps should be demonstrated.

Certainly, pupils must have an idea of old and modern systems of navigation.

These are some possible ways of solving the main object of cartography.