

**AESTHETIC ASPECTS OF EARLY MAPS - INSPIRATION FROM NOTES BY UNIV. PROF.  
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The contribution is a tribute to Czech Univ. Prof. Karel Kuchař and reminds us of the 35th anniversary, counted from his last public lecture named Aesthetics of Map Production. Unfortunately, Prof. Kuchař was not able to elaborate the issue of aesthetic aspects of cartographic production in further detail. The aim of this contribution is to categorize and summarize this knowledge. It is inspired by the structure of the mentioned lecture and the ideas outlined in it, following the thread and contributing new discoveries in the field. The contribution is based on a prerequisite that cartographic works underwent important changes throughout centuries, also in relation to aesthetics. While in the Middle Ages they were a common part of artistic production, in modern times, with the appearance of reproduction techniques, cartographic production gradually started losing its character, until it has become part of the non-artistic aesthetic.

The first part mentions the traditional, and we can also say never-ending, discussion on cartography and early maps being a form of art (expert specialization, mastery in map production and freedom of creation, evolution of cartographic language, more accurate mapping, evolution of reproductive techniques and technologies in general, J. B. Krygier's polemic on the dualism of science × art in cartography, establishment of the ICA Working Group called Art and Cartography). It is followed by a summary of aesthetic aspects of (not only) early maps (map format, sheet composition, use of space, shapes of map fields and structure of outlines, form of compositional elements, map contents, cartographic language, thematic cartography methods, use of colour and font in maps, author's style and handwriting). Finally, several pieces of evidence are offered confirming that "early maps" and "computer map production" are not incompatible. We can find such examples, among others, in Bachelor Theses dealing with artistic techniques used in current cartographic products for the public and with maps of fictitious worlds using similar means of expression as early maps.

Currently, the link between art and cartography is of a much ampler and more complex nature. However, the author intentionally focuses primarily on the concept of artistic means of expression as captured by Univ. Prof. Karel Kuchař and as was usual at the times when the Aesthetics of Map Production lecture was delivered.