Whole Number 1

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COLLECTORS OF MAPS ON STAMPS

The New CartoPhilatelist©

Welcome! by Alf Jordan

Welcome to the newly reorganized CartoPhilatelic Society and our quarterly newsletter, *The New CartoPhilatelist*! We have been busy laying the foundations for a new and vigorous group since last Fall, and this is our formal debut to former members and the interested philatelic community. We solicit your interest and inquiries.

The Carto-Philatelic group had been dormant since the retirement of its founding officers in 1995. But there has been a continuing philatelic interest in things cartographic. Lillian Kent has done a yeoman's job keeping the spark alive by answering the regular and steady stream of inquiries and by husbanding the resources of the society – although she did come perilously close to donating our nest egg to the APS Match Factory fund!

Since taking up the cause, we have put in place the several features we feel necessary for an up-to-date and vigorous society:

Checklist: updated and converted to electronic format under the direction and hard work of David Wolfersberger.

Newsletter: produced in glorious color by Bill Critzer and his staff.

Website: with the leadership of Martin Oakes and Val Jordan, the whole group has pitched together to build an informative and attractive web site. Be sure to check it out for all the details on membership, the checklist, and other matters of importance to the group:

www. mapsonstamps.com

Membership: we have had a skeleton announcement on the internet for a couple of months now, and as evidence of the continuing interest in cartophilately, no less than five collectors from around the world have tracked us down, paid their dues and become active, contributing members of the group. Special mention is due to Reese Plews and Diedrick Nelson who have already begun work on an inventory of back issues of the original newsletter.

Continuity: since the original carto-philatelic group was never formally dissolved, we have chosen to view our organizational efforts as simply a reconstruction under new leadership. We are keenly aware of the significant contribution made by the original group and its members. We hope that we can live up to their excellent standards. To this end, immediate past president Mikolos Pinther has agreed to serve us in the capacity of President Emeritus and ensure that we toe the line!

After we complete our membership solicitation this Spring, we will adopt a constitution and set of bylaws and hold formal elections. If anyone has an interest in serving as an officer, please contact me and I will arrange for formal nomination.

In the meantime enjoy the newsletter, check out the web site and support the cause of cartophilately!

With Best Regards,

Alf Jordan
Secretary and President *pro tem*
3/10/03

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Special points of interest:

- *After a seven year absence, the Society is back on the philatelic map with a slightly revised name and a new quarterly journal.*
- *A completely updated and expanded checklist of maps on stamps in electronic format will be available within a few months.*

Oh, What a Relief: **Martin Oakes examines the cartographic depiction of terrain.**

Early travelers drew maps of features as they saw them, that often appear more like pictures. This *eye level* map drawn by Linschoten in 1599 was issued by Ascension as a small sheetlet of four stamps depicting the complete map.

On this Argentinean sheet the cartographer, in 1492, used *tick-marks* to show mountains. This alerts us to the presence of high ground, but tells us nothing about the actual elevation.

Molehills of various size, developed by Christopher Saxon, provide more information about height.

About 200 years ago, map makers began to experiment with various methods of shading. This stamp, issued by Great Britain in 1984 to commemorate the Centenary of the Greenwich meridian, uses what has been called *hairy caterpillars*.

As survey methods improved *spot heights*, usually the highest point, were incorporated onto maps; like Andorra These, however, give no indication of the levels of lower terrain.

Improvements in cartography led to a transition from rendering maps as eye-level observations, through the oblique perspective, until we reach today's plan view.

The earliest maps were printed from wood cuts. The development of copper engraving in the 16th century, followed by the use of lithography in 1826, made it possible to print finer lines.

In 1799, John Lehmann developed a system of *slope hachure*. These are short lines drawn in the direction of the slope, the path along which water would flow down hill.

The length, thickness and spacing can be varied. Hachure marks placed close together indicate maximum slope, as on this map from Iceland.

The up-hill starting point and down-hill ending point are each supposed to represent lines of constant elevation. The angle of the slope is determined by the thickness of the strokes. Steep slopes have a heavy hachure, gentle slopes are finer. The absence of a hachure marks flat terrain as on this Russian map of the Cedar Valley Reservation.

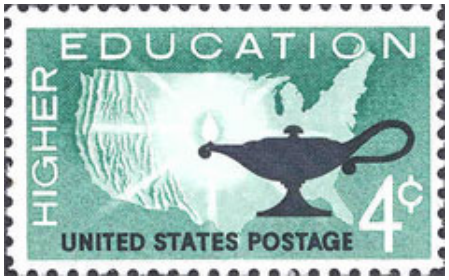
The hachure remained the most popular method for showing elevation into the 20th century, but requires considerable skill to render effectively.

In the late 1800's illumination was combined with the hachure and evolved into hill shading.

If a light shines directly down on a hill, flat areas will appear light, steeply sloped areas will be dark. *Slope shading* appears on a 1974 Norfolk Island stamp.

Slope shading may have an undesirable effect. On this stamp issued by Pitcairn Island, the peaks of Norfolk Is. are light in color, and could be misinterpreted as depressions.

To avoid this problem, the hill is illuminated from the side at an oblique angle. The slopes facing the light are bright, those in shadow are dark. On the USA higher education stamp, 'the candle of learning' is used for effect to produce *hill shading*.



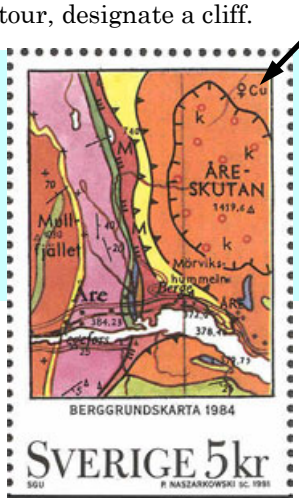
It is more conventional however to illuminate from the northwest as on the 1957 Norwegian stamp.

Even greater accuracy can be attained by changing the illumination in proportion to the angle of the hillside, shown on this Austrian stamp, promoting post codes.

Contours, shown on this Swedish stamp, are imaginary lines joining points of equal elevation, and provide the most reliable information about terrain.

Contours are drawn at equal intervals, say every 100ft. A series of concave lines indicates a valley, convex lines an outcrop. Wide spacing shows flat ground and close spacing a slope.

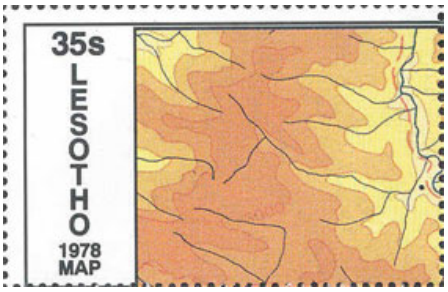
Short lines drawn perpendicular to a contour, designate a cliff.



This Norwegian stamp combines oblique illumination with contours, to create three dimensional *shadowed contours*.

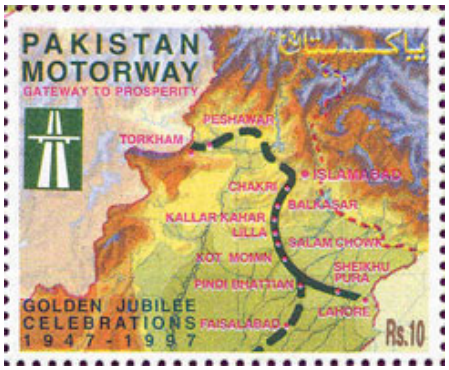
In this portion of the 1972 German sheetlet celebrating the Munich Olympics, light is used to illuminate the contours, producing a *3D map*.

Color can be added between the contour lines to provide visual interpretation. By convention lowlands are light in color, highlands darker. The contour lines are eliminated, and one color used to include several elevations. This stamp, part of a 1996 sheetlet of ten from Lesotho, shows *layer coloring*.



A 1996 stamp from Gibralter, uses layer coloring to show ocean depth.

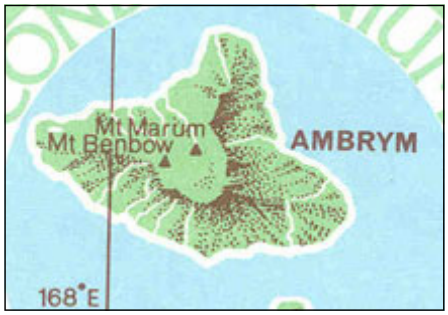
On this Polish stamp, contours have been retained and colors added between them to emphasize differences in elevation.



Von Hauslab introduced *graduated colors* in 1828. There are no contours on the light and shadow of hill shading.

Different colors are used, but within any range of elevation, there is a transition from light to dark shades.

This New Hebrides stamp uses stippling for slope shading.



Contours measured below sea level are *isobaths*.

Skeletal lines are used to divide terrain such as watersheds, seen here on Ecuador.

Sometimes map makers pretend to use relief but exaggerate the features.

By definition, a contour line links points of equal elevation, and should be a closed loop. This map of St Vincent simulates contours as swirls, but does not close them.

And finally with modern technology.