Relief Depiction in National Geographic Magazine
A Partial Retrospective

Martin Gamache
National Geographic Magazine
February 14, 2008
Late 19th Century
Scale, 1 inch - 4 miles

Hachure

Contour
200 ft.

interval
500 ft.

Scale, 1 inch - 1 mile

Hachure

Contour interval 40 ft.
HACHURED AND CONTOUNRED MAPS

REPRESENTATION OF A HILL ACCORDING TO THE TWO SYSTEMS
AND ON DIFFERENT SCALES.

From Supplement to Enthoffers Topographical Atlas
by permission of Mr. Enthoffer.
Stereogram of the
SHAWANGUNK MOUNTAIN
in
ULSTER CO., NEW YORK
by
N. H. DARTON, U.S. Geo. Survey
Scale
(1/32"
THE BASE IS 5000"
(2"
VERTICAL
HORIZONTAL
1"
(1"
(1"
(1"
1"
1"
1"
1"
1"
1"
(1"
LEGEND
SHAWANGUNK SCHIST
HUDSON SHALES
1889
SKETCH MAP OF MOUNT ST. ELIAS REGION, ALASKA

By
Mark B. Kerr.

Western part from maps by H. W. Seton-Karr and W. H. Topham.
Coast line from U.S. Coast Survey.
THE OLYMPIC COUNTRY
WASHINGTON
USA.

1896

The topography of the mountainous region occupying the central portion of this map is based on the explorations of W. B. G. Beltman, C. E., whose article, "The Olympic Country," appears in this number.
VALLEY OF THE MOSELLE, NEAR BERNCASTEL
Sheet 333. Map of the German Empire, 1:100,000
SERILAND
SONORA, MEXICO

From surveys by the American Ethnology Expedition, 1895

Scale: 7 miles to inch

W.D. Johnson, Topographer
W.J.M. Goe, Ethnologist in Charge

1896
Mt. McKinley, with an altitude of 20,464 feet, is the highest mountain in North America, and forms the central point of an enormous and surpassingly grand mountain mass, situated at the headwaters of the Susitna and Kuskokwim Rivers, in Alaska. The range is a portion of the Cordilleran system of North America, which follows in a general way the contour of the west coast of the continent through Alaska and down the Alaskan peninsula.

The mountain group is extremely rugged and is covered with snow and ice to within 2,000 or 2,500 feet of sea-level. Down the sides of the mountains flow many glaciers; one which flows off to the northeast is between 20 to 30 miles in length and six and eight miles in breadth, and extends to the Chulitna River, a branch of the Susitna forming the chief source of water supply of that stream. The Chulitna River at the base of the mountains has an altitude of only about 500 feet, showing a descent of 20,000 feet in the 30 miles between the summit of the mountain and the river.

Mt. McKinley was known to the Russians settled about the head of Cook Inlet nearly 100 years ago, and was called...
Sketch Map of Region West and South of Kananaskis Lakes
by W. D. Wilcox
New York, October 17, 1902.

Commander Robert E. Peary, U.S.N.,
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir:

The Peary Arctic Club acknowledges your preliminary report of the 17th ult., and letter of the 4th inst., and extends to you its cordial welcome upon your return to country and home. It honors you for patience, courage and fortitude, undaunted by formidable obstacles; thanks you for the wise and effective use of the means placed at your disposal, and congratulates you upon your achievements memorable in the annals of science and discovery.

Assuring you of our appreciation and regard, we subscribe ourselves —

Theodore Roosevelt.
Relief Map of the Philippine Islands, constructed by the U.S. Signal Corps, under the direction of General A.W. Greely.
Map Illustrating the Obstacles to Land Transportation which Rendered Early Commerce Between Occident and Orient Extremely Difficult
Topographic Map of the Cloud Peak Region, Summit of Bighorn Mountains, Wyoming
20th Century: 1910s
NUNatak Glacier in 1895, 1898, and 1900 (Topography after Gannet)

This has had continuous steady retreat, but may yet advance under the earthquake-ava impulse (see page 43)
MAP OF MALASPINA GLACIER, MOUNT SAINT ELIAS, AND YAKUTAT BAY

By Lawrence F. Martin, Department of Geology, University of Wisconsin. This glacier was discovered in 1791 by Alejandro Malaspina, a native of Italy in the service of Spain.
The Copper River and Northwestern Railway passing between Childs and Miles Glaciers and over the stagnant ice of Baird Glacier.

Trains now cross the Miles Glacier Lake on a car ferry, pending completion of the bridge across Copper River. (Map after U.S. Geological Survey.) (See pages 13 and 37.)
Sketch Map of THE UPPER SALWIN

TENG-YUEH-Tsuan (shown)

1910
OUTLINE MAP OF THE PROPOSED MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK, FROM SURVEYS BY THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
20th Century: 1920s
A MAP OF THE ISLAND OF HAWAII, SHOWING THE FOUR VOLCANOES, MAUNA KEA, HUALALAI, MAUNA LOA, AND KILAUEA, WHICH HAVE CREATED THE ISLAND

Drawn by A. H. Bunstead.
A PROFILE MAP OF TAHITI SHOWING THE ERODED VOLCANIC CORE, THE LAGOON, FRINGING REEF, AND BARRIER REEF
THE PAVLOF EXPEDITION OF 1928 MAPPED 2,500 SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY
20th Century: 1940s
Sprawling Celebes Is Traffic Center for a Far-flung Archipelago
Rich in Raw Materials, Industrial West Virginia is Strategically Located

The "Mountain," or "Panhandle State," is situated within easy reach of millions of people in the Midwest and East. Because the State is the leading producer of coal, and petroleum and natural gas also are abundant, its industrial growth has been rapid in recent years. Its history dates back to pioneer times when Virginia colonists fought against French and Indians for the possession of this valuable area. During the War between the States, West Virginia separated from Virginia and was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863.
By Boat and Bus the Author Crossed Chile's Lake District to the Argentine Border
As Elephant Hide Must Look to a Fly, So Iraq Appears to a Flyer
In New Guinea's Snow Mountains the Grand Valley of the Balim
Lay Hidden from White Men Until the
$Guba$ Flew Over It
Southern Mexico Reveals a New Store of pre-Columbian Jade
The Rugged Andes, Rising 20,000 Feet Above the Coast, Form a Barrier to Inland Peru

Through this mountain wall no rivers flow to the Pacific. Peruvian ships from Callao serving the interior at Iquitos have to go through the Panama Canal, around the northern part of the continent, and up the Amazon, a distance of 7,000 miles, though it is only 625 air miles away. Within the secluded mountain heights, centering around Cuzco and Machu Picchu, the Inca civilization flourished before Spanish Conquistadores came. Because Peru is such a three-dimensional land, the Society's cartographers carefully fashioned a clay model from accurate contour maps, then reproduced it here by photography. The boundary with Ecuador, long in dispute, was settled at the Pan American Conference in Rio de Janeiro, January 29, 1942.
Alaska—Springboard for Attack on Japan and Key to Continental Defense

Its Aleutian Islands stretch westward to within 750 miles of the northernmost Japanese islands, the Kuriles. The great circle ship and air routes—shortest distance between Seattle and Tokyo—pass within a few miles of Dutch Harbor, United States naval base. Control of Alaska and the Aleutians, together with the Hawaiian Islands, Midway, and west coast bases, assures United States domination of a huge "strategic triangle" in the northeastern Pacific. Alaska's life line, the new highway through Canada, is omitted by direction of the censors.
20th Century: 1950 & 1960s
"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act but a habit." (Aristotle)