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Some aspects of the prehistoric maps as cultural heritage

Keywords: prehistoric maps; cultural heritage; cartosemiotic heritage; cartography potential

Summary

Each science has its roots and to reach to them is not always easy. Cartography is not exception. The roots of the cartography, where they are outlined? Which discipline researches prehistoric maps? These and other questions and themes concerning prehistoric maps as cultural heritage in this paper will be discussed. The paper includes also a conception of the electronic-lecture (e-lecture with using PowerPoint) for cartosemiotic history of cartography. This lecture is held for cartography students in the training course "Introduction to the cartosemiotic". With 7 double hours this course is read in Institute for Cartography/Dresden University of Technology since the summer semester 2000. The course includes following themes: Semiotics, cartography, cartosemiotics; Cartosemiotics - a new cartographic discipline?; Structure of cartosemiotics; Manifestation forms of cartosemiotics; Map language and communication; Cartosemiotic method of research; Atlas cartography - atlas cartosemiotics: a system approach; Paleocartosemiotics and paleocartography; Cartosemiotic heritage; Cartosemiotic (research, training, management, heritage etc.) centres; Cartosemiotic study trips and excursions.

Preamble

For the questionnaires prepared by Takashi Morita at the ICC 2001 in Beijing, I have proposed a following definition of cartography: “Cartography in the contemporary society is a system of diverse manifestation forms with domination of making and using of traditional and virtual (electronic) cartosemiotic models of the reality and fiction”. The current ICA definition of cartography is the following: “Cartography is the discipline dealing with the conception, production, dissemination and study of maps”. My definition of cartography has a cartosemiotic accent. The system of cartographic manifestations one can also present in graphic form or model (fig. 1, with small modification after /Wolodtschenko 2002/). I call this model “Pentagram of cartography” or “Pentagram” of cartography potential. Not only scientific research but also the cartosemiotic education and training concerning cartographic heritage have to take part in further development of cartography. Today cartography and cartosemiotics focus their research and education interests, and other activities in interaction. It testifies that cartographic thought is not technological "one-way street". The some cultural-historical or aesthetic aspects of cartography concerning prehistoric maps as cultural heritage in this paper will be discussed.

Aesthetic or cultural-historical potential

The pentagram model (fig. 1) has five structural levels of cartography potential:

- scientific-technological or technical
- human-society or social
- profession or intellectual
- cultural-historical or aesthetic
- multimedia-communication or multi-informative.

Cultural-historical or aesthetic potential of cartography includes accumulation of diverse cartosemiotic models in analogical and digital forms. The prehistoric maps are map-like models. Fig. 2 shows cul-

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tural-historical structural level and place of prehistoric maps (cultural heritage) in system of cartosemiotic models.

![Figure 1. Pentagram of cartography /Wolodtschenko 2002/](image)

**Definitions of prehistoric maps**

A prehistoric map is a representation on mobile objects (ornament of ceramics or other objects) or petroglyphs; it is a graphic representation of topographic, cosmological or celestial objects (after Smith /1986/). From semiotic point of view the prehistoric maps are space-related typeless images of reality or fiction /Wolodtschenko 1997; Wolodtschenko, Schewtschenko 2004/.

**Presentation and popularization forms of prehistoric and early historic maps**

With popularization forms of prehistoric (and early historic) maps we have a connection with roots of the cartography, which are outlined in prehistoric art. Each science has its roots and to reach to them is not always easy. Cartography is not exception. Towards the end of the eighties of the 20 century, prehis-
toric and early historic maps have become object of increased interest of cartosemioticists within the framework of map language developments. Today many of these maps about 100 ones are known. Cartography has also its own presentation and popularization forms. Prehistoric and early historic maps as cultural heritage one can present and popularize in diverse forms. Fig. 3 shows some selected forms; they are following: museums/expositions; publications; media; education/training; souvenirs / postcards / postage stamps and excursions/study trips.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Museums/ Expositions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Prehistoric and early historic maps as cultural heritage</td>
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<td>Souvenirs/ Postcards/ Postage stamps</td>
<td>Education/ Training</td>
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<td>Excursions/ Study trips</td>
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Figure 3. Selected presentation and popularization forms in cartography and cartosemiotics

Conception of the cartosemiotic e-lectures

Conception of the electronic-lectures (e-lectures with using PowerPoint) includes basic of cartographic semiotic with a section of history of cartography. This lectures are held for cartography students in the training course "Introduction to the cartosemiotic" /Wolodtschenko 2002/. With 7 double hours this course is read in the Institute for Cartography /Dresden University of Technology/ since summer semester 2000. The course includes following themes:

1. Semiotics, cartography, cartosemiotics
2. Cartosemiotics - a new cartographic discipline?
3. Structure of cartosemiotics
4. Manifestation forms of cartosemiotics
5. Map language and communication
6. Cartosemiotic method of research
7. Atlas cartography - atlas cartosemiotics: a system approach
8. Paleocartosemiotics and paleocartography
9. Cartosemiotic heritage
10. Cartosemiotic (research, training, management, heritage etc.) centres
11. Cartosemiotic study trips and excursions.

For summer semester 2007 I am going to present some selected lectures of the training course "Introduction to the cartosemiotics" on the web site of the Institute for Cartography. Conception of cartosemiotic history of cartography concerning prehistoric maps includes following themes and subthemes:

1. Prehistoric maps as archaeological monuments
   1.1. Definitions of prehistoric maps
   1.2. The oldest prehistoric map (Pavlov map)
   1.3. Prehistoric maps of the Europe
   1.4. Prehistoric maps of the Ukraine
2. Semiotic peculiarities of prehistoric maps
   2.1. Topographic elements
   2.2. Cosmological elements
   2.3. Celestial elements.
3. Semiotic peculiarities of early historic maps
4. Cartosemiotic study trips/excursions and cartosemiotic heritage
5. Selected museums with prehistoric and early historic maps
   5.1. Selected museums in the world
   5.2. Selected museums in the Europe
   5.3. Selected museums in the Germany
   5.4. Selected museums in the Ukraine.

References


