

The Art and Science of Depiction

Representation Systems

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Rouen revisited

- Paul Debevec

Assignments for Monday 23.

- *Solso Cognition and the Visual Arts*
 - Chapter 7
- Essay
 - Peer review
 - Final essay
- Final project
 - subject

Plan

- A paradigm: Cartography
- Representation systems
 - Drawing and projection
 - Denotation
 - Tone & color

Digression: infamous “Paradigm”

- A personal pet-subject
- Paradigm:
 - An outstandingly clear or typical example or archetype
- After Thomas Kuhn,
The Structure of Scientific Revolutions
 - A philosophical and theoretical framework of a scientific school or discipline within which theories, laws, and generalizations and the experiments performed in support of them are formulated
- Vocabulary inflation (see also “framework”)

A paradigm: Cartography

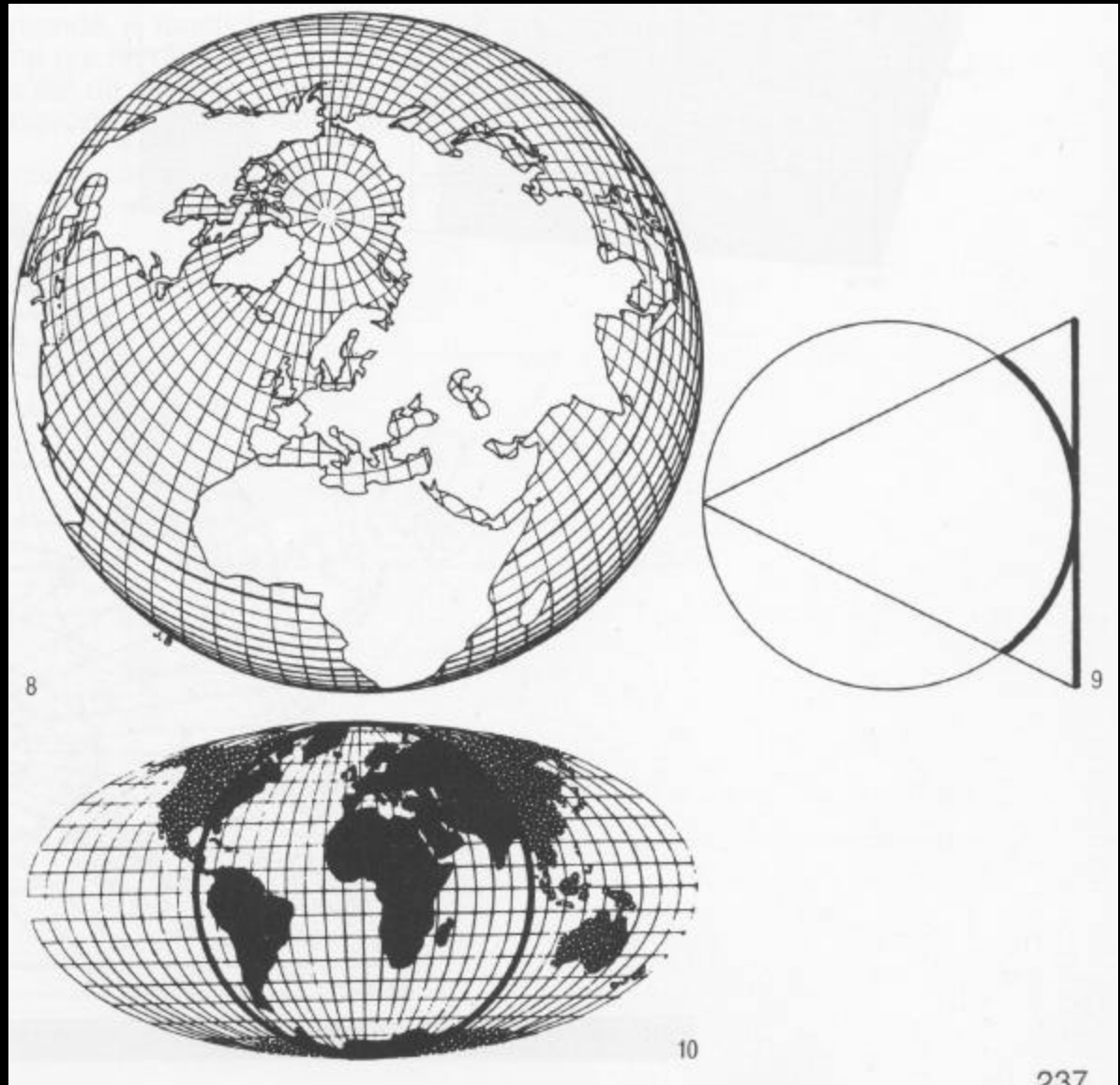
- A map is a depiction of a reality
- Can be more efficient than photo
- There is no perfect universal solution

- However, quantitative is more important than for most pictures
- The systems are usually explicit
- And same issues as studied before (Gestalt, etc.)
- Amount of detail

Map making

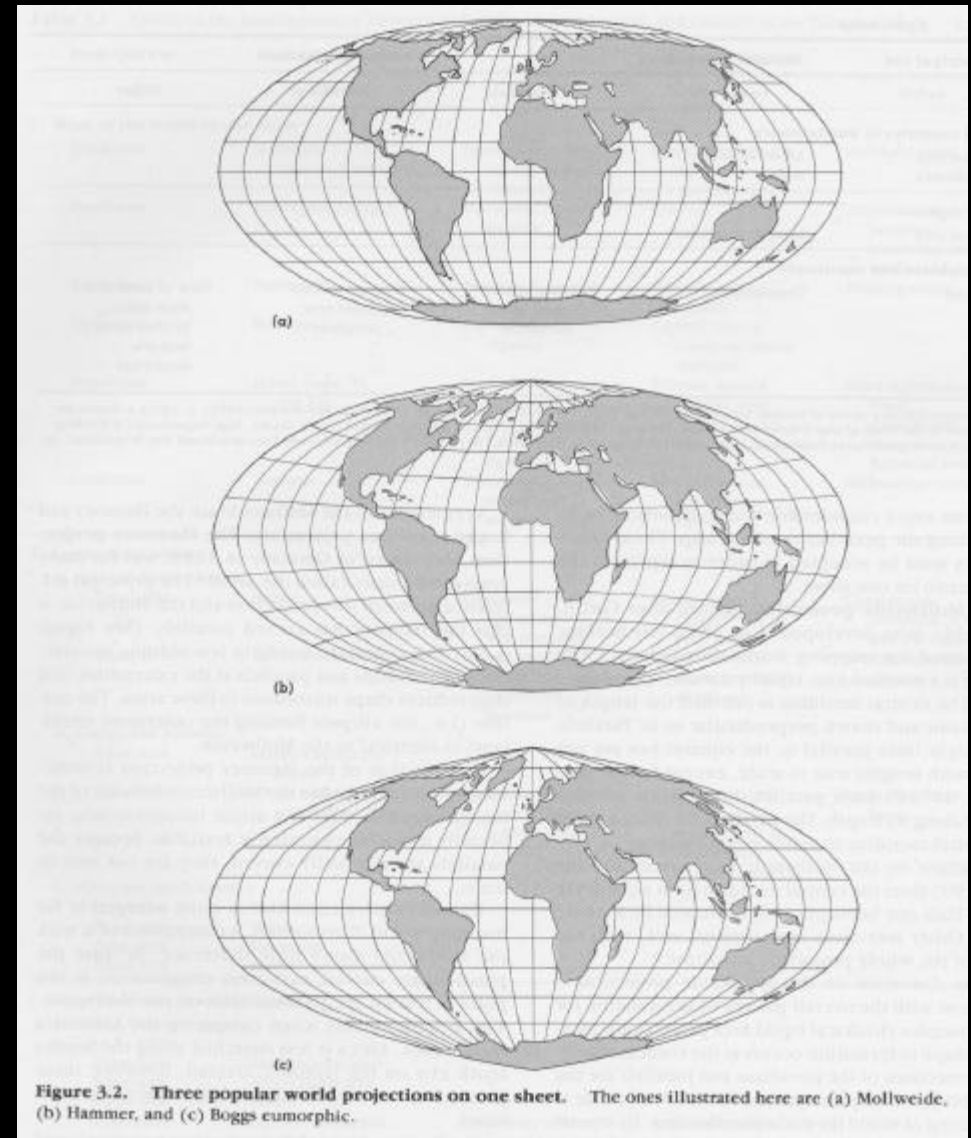
- Which information will be represented
- Projection
- Which kind of symbols will be used
- Color codes

Projection

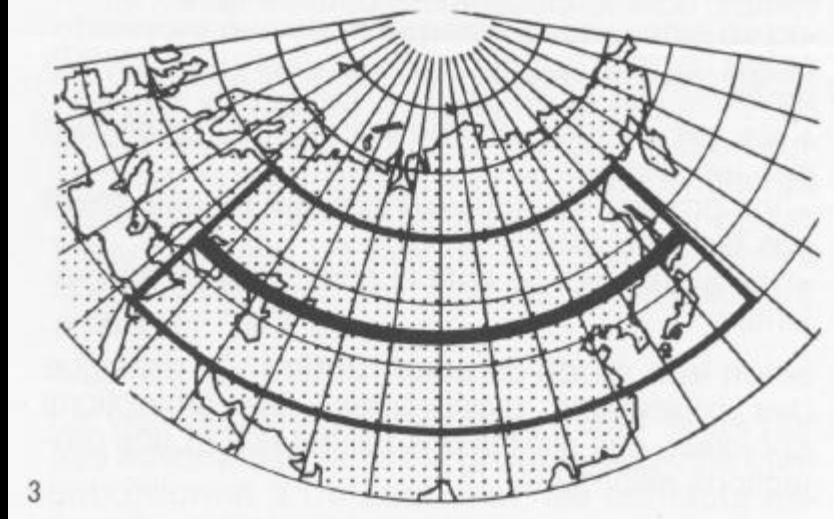
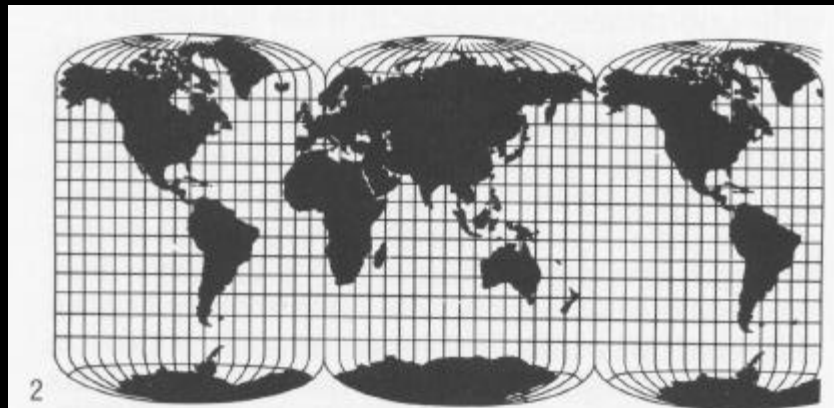
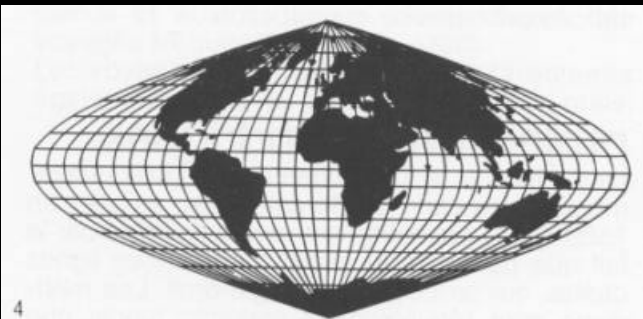


Limitations: contrast & palette

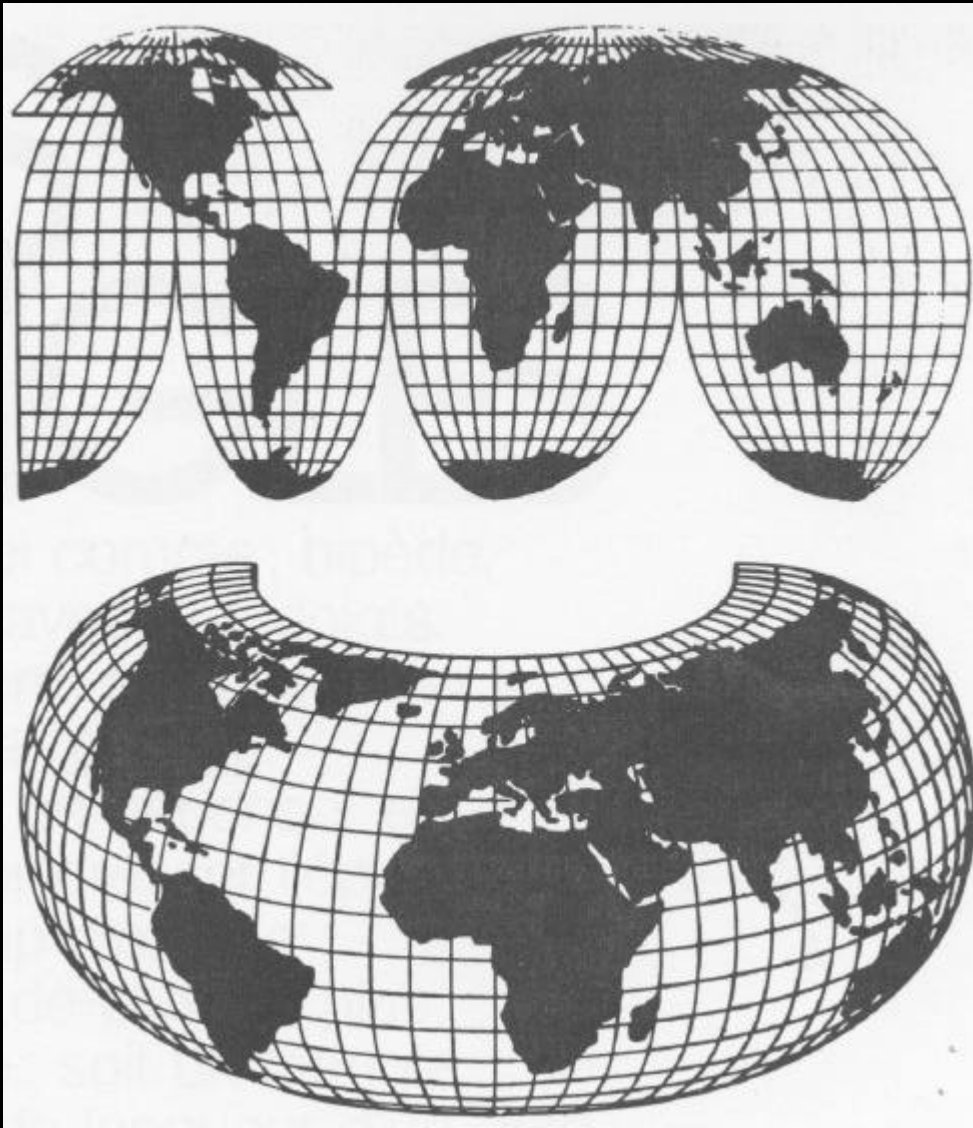
Projection



Projection



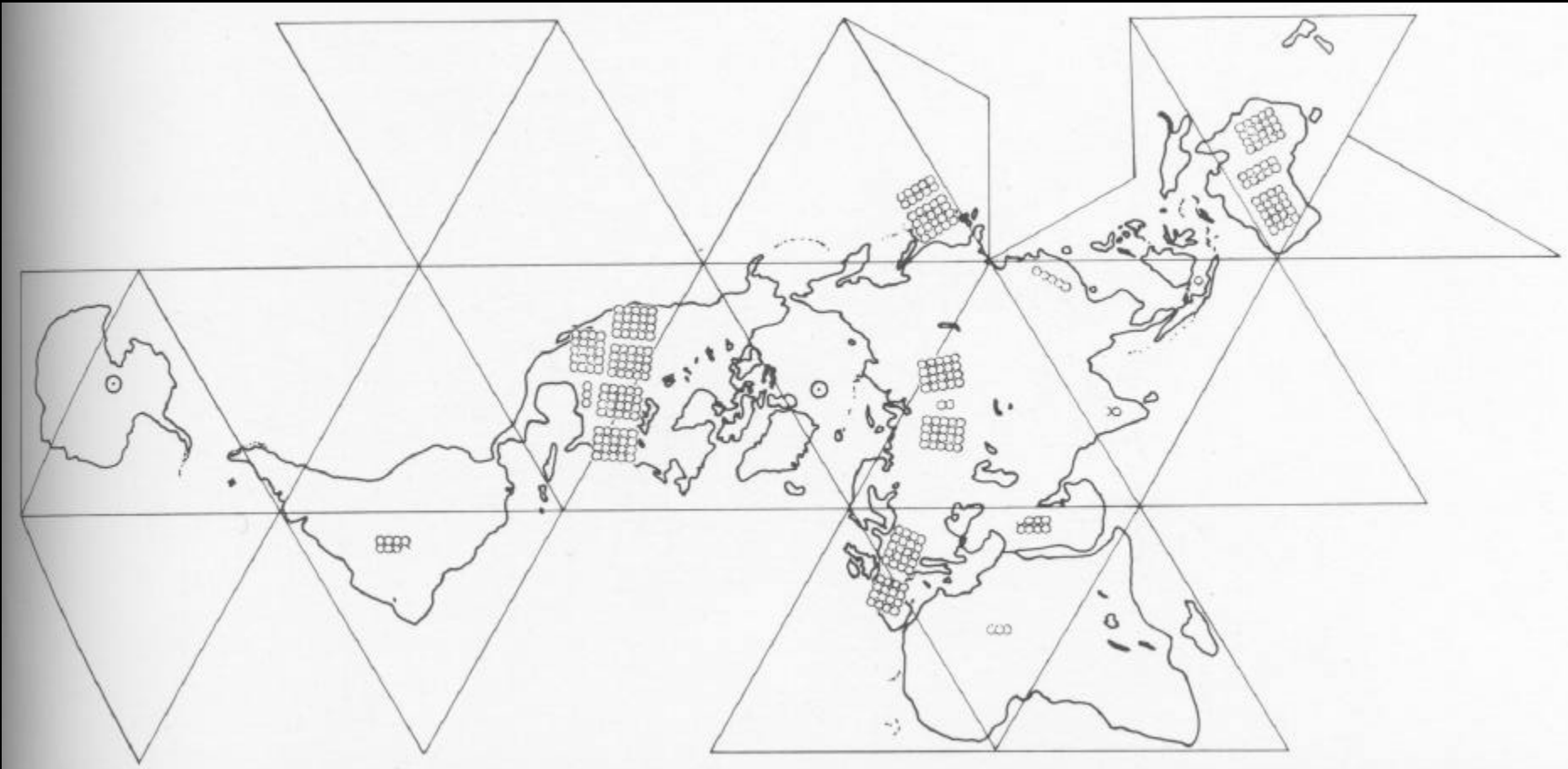
Projection



Limitations: contrast & palette

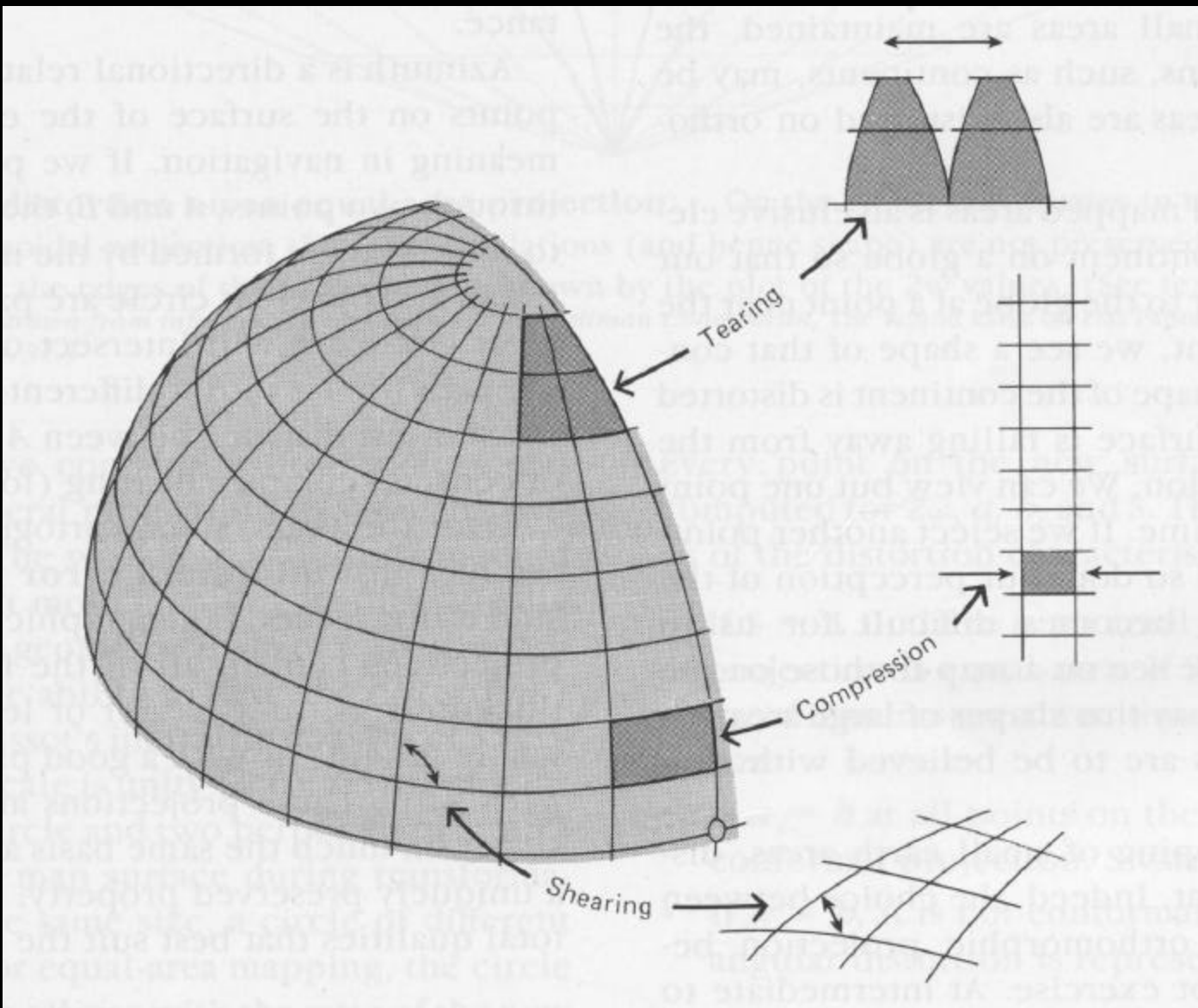
Projection

- Buckminster Fuller



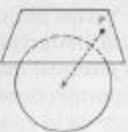
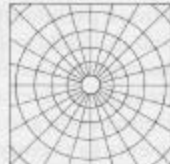
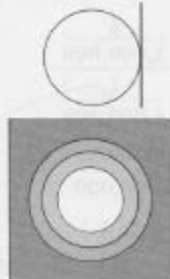
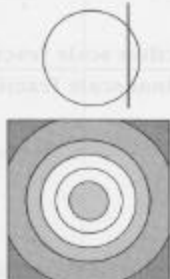


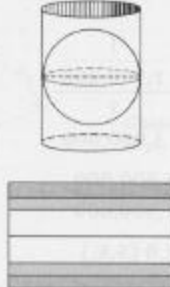
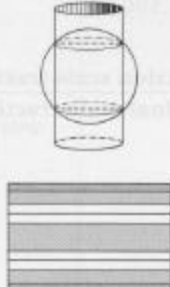

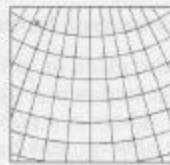


Limitations: contrast & palette

Projection & distortion



Limitations: contrast & palette

Projection & distortion

Family	Grid appearance	Simple	Secant
Normal aspect			
 Azimuthal			
 Cylindrical			
 Conic			

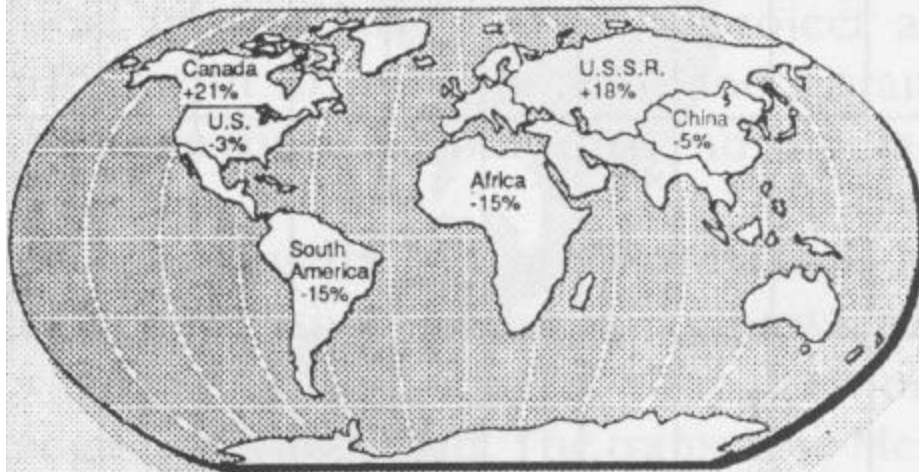
Limitations: contrast & palette

Distortion and politics

New Look at the World

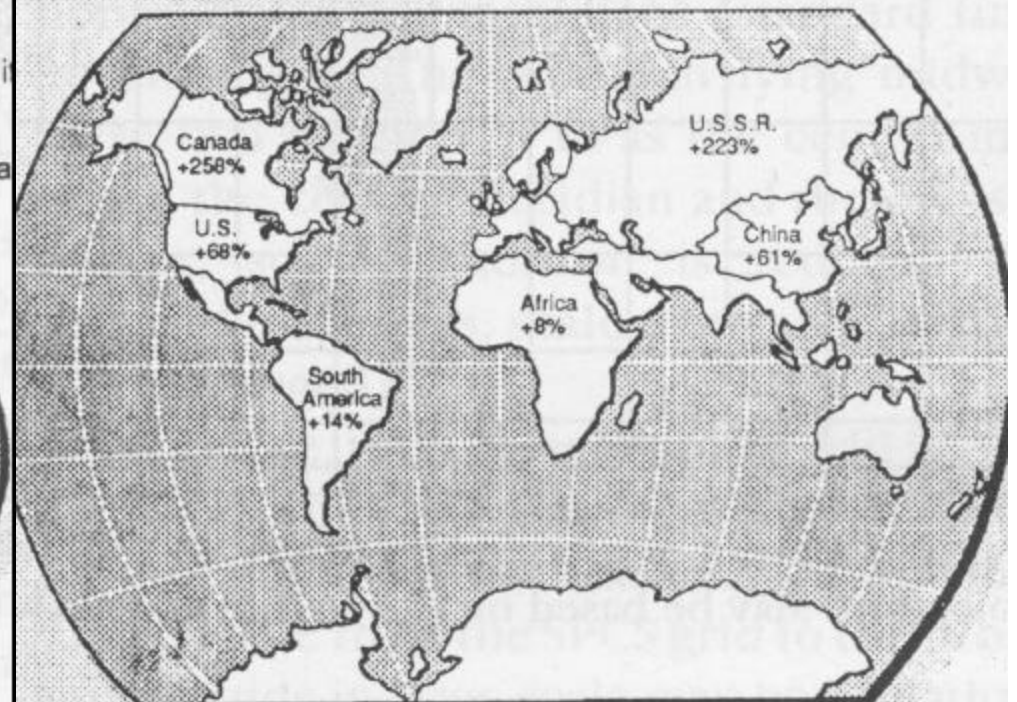
After more than 50 years of using the Van der Grinten projection for world maps, the National Geographic Society has adopted the Robinson projection.

Percentages show the distortion of land area



ROBINSON (new map)

(Robinson map shows the United States as 3% smaller than it appears on a globe. Van der Grinten shows it 68% larger.)



VAN DER GRINTEN (old map)

Source: National Geographic Society

Topological map

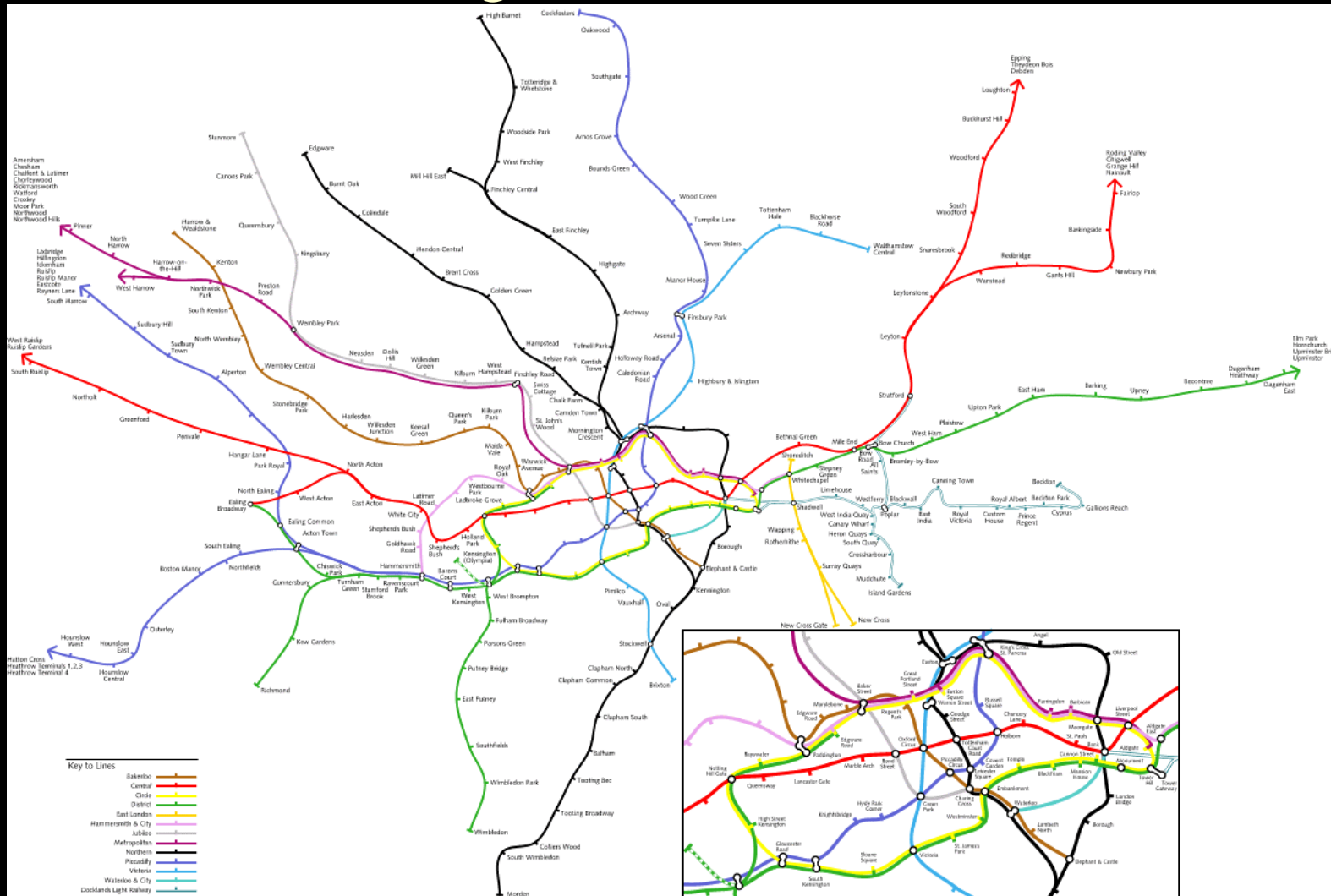
- Beck's map of London underground, 1931



Limitations: contrast & palette

Geographical map

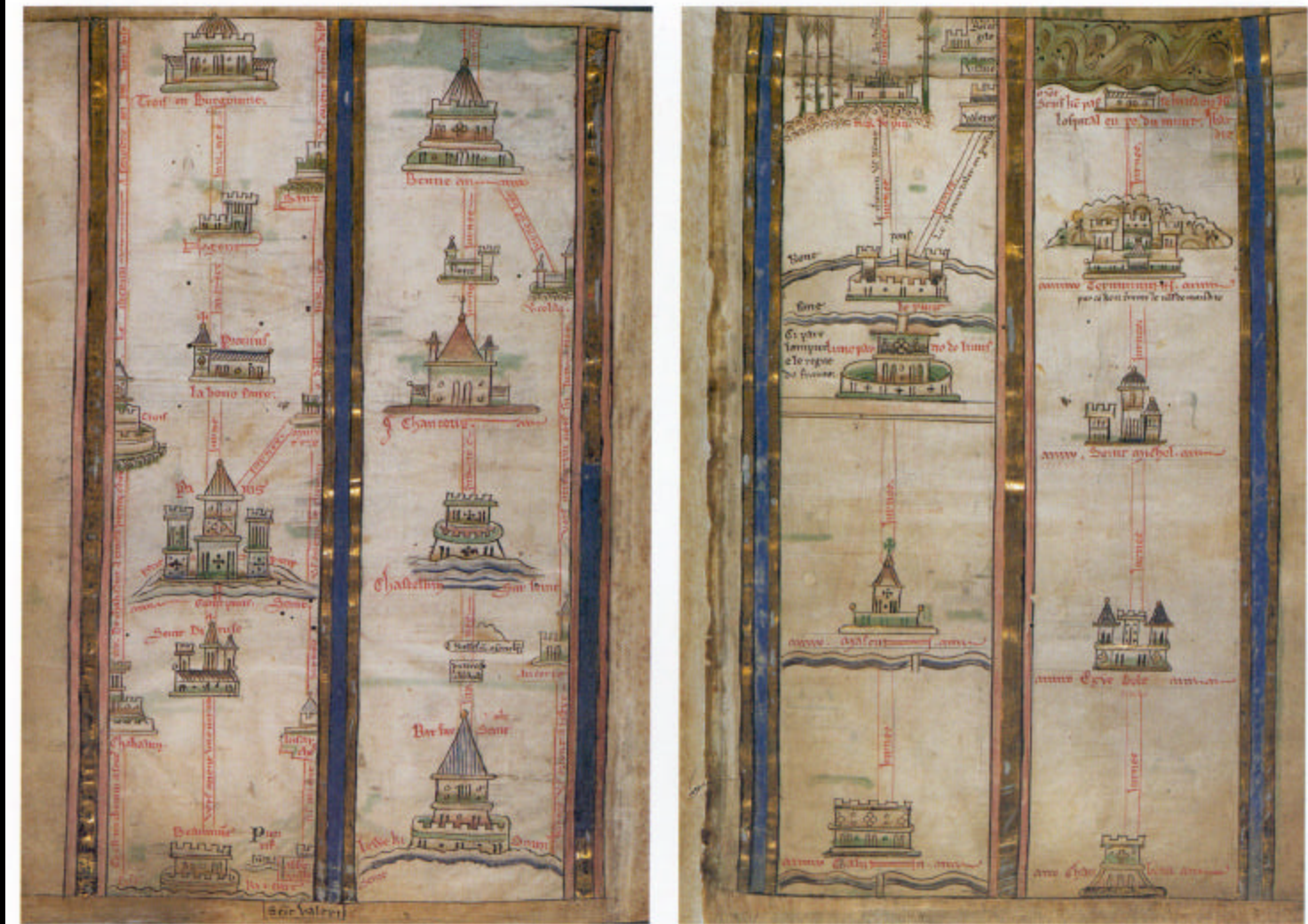
- London underground



Limitations: contrast & palette

Topological map

- Itinerary, 13th century



Limitations: contrast & palette

Metaphoric Projection

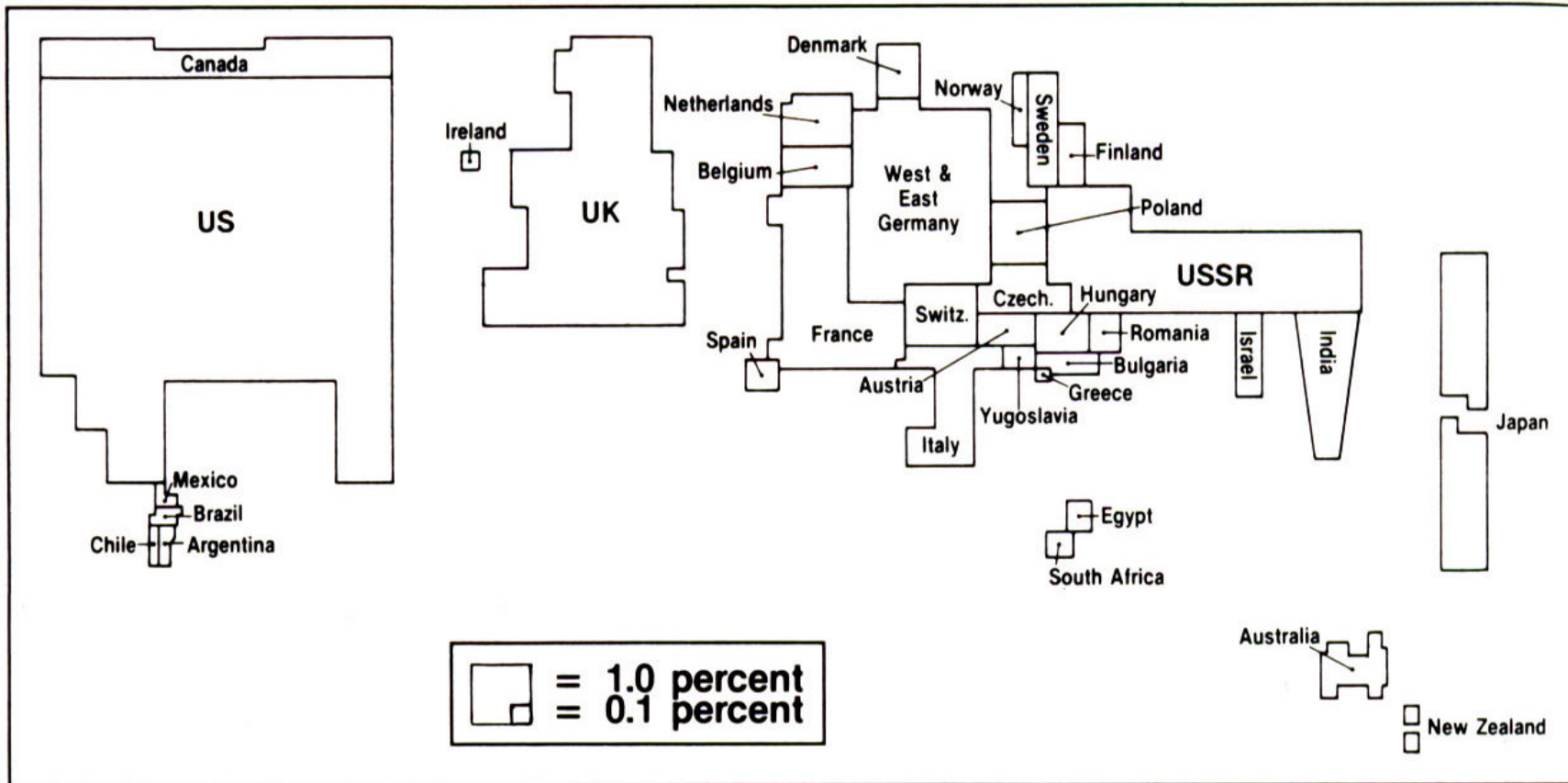


Figure 10.2. Contribution of countries to world scientific authorship. (Source: Anthony R. deSouza, "Scientific Authorship and Technological Potential" (editorial), *Journal of Geography* (July/August 1985):138. Reprinted by permission of the National Council for Geographic Education.)

Error: Columbus's map



Limitations: contrast & palette

Error/choice/distortion

- Descelier, 1546



Limitations: contrast & palette

Error/choice/distortion

- Descelier, 1546
- E.g. huge elephant



Limitations: contrast & palette

Map making

- Which information will be represented
- Projection
- Which kind of symbols will be used
- Color codes

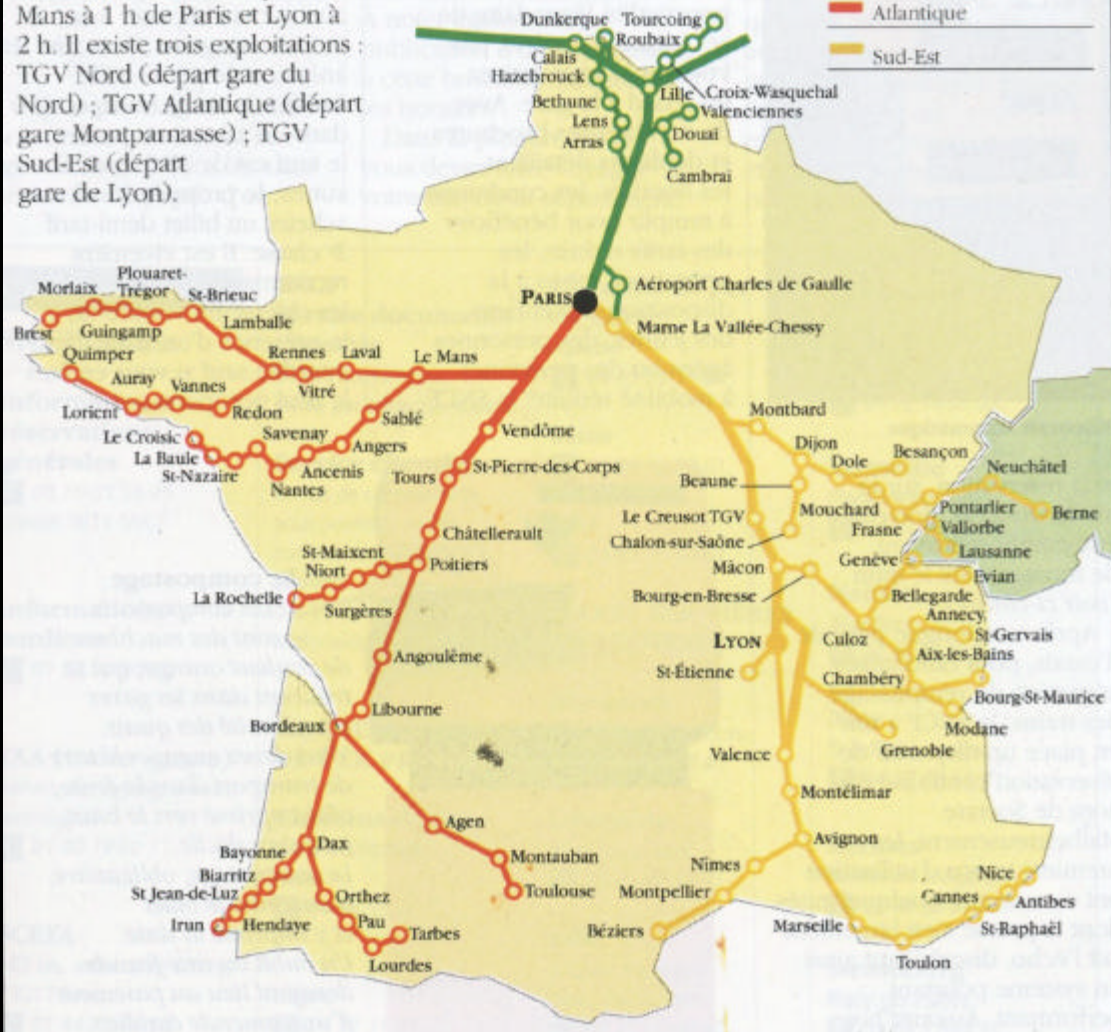
Denotation

LE RÉSEAU TGV

En vitesse de pointe, le TGV roule à 300 km/h, ce qui met Le Mans à 1 h de Paris et Lyon à 2 h. Il existe trois exploitations : TGV Nord (départ gare du Nord) ; TGV Atlantique (départ gare Montparnasse) ; TGV Sud-Est (départ gare de Lyon).

LÉGENDE

- Nord
- Atlantique
- Sud-Est



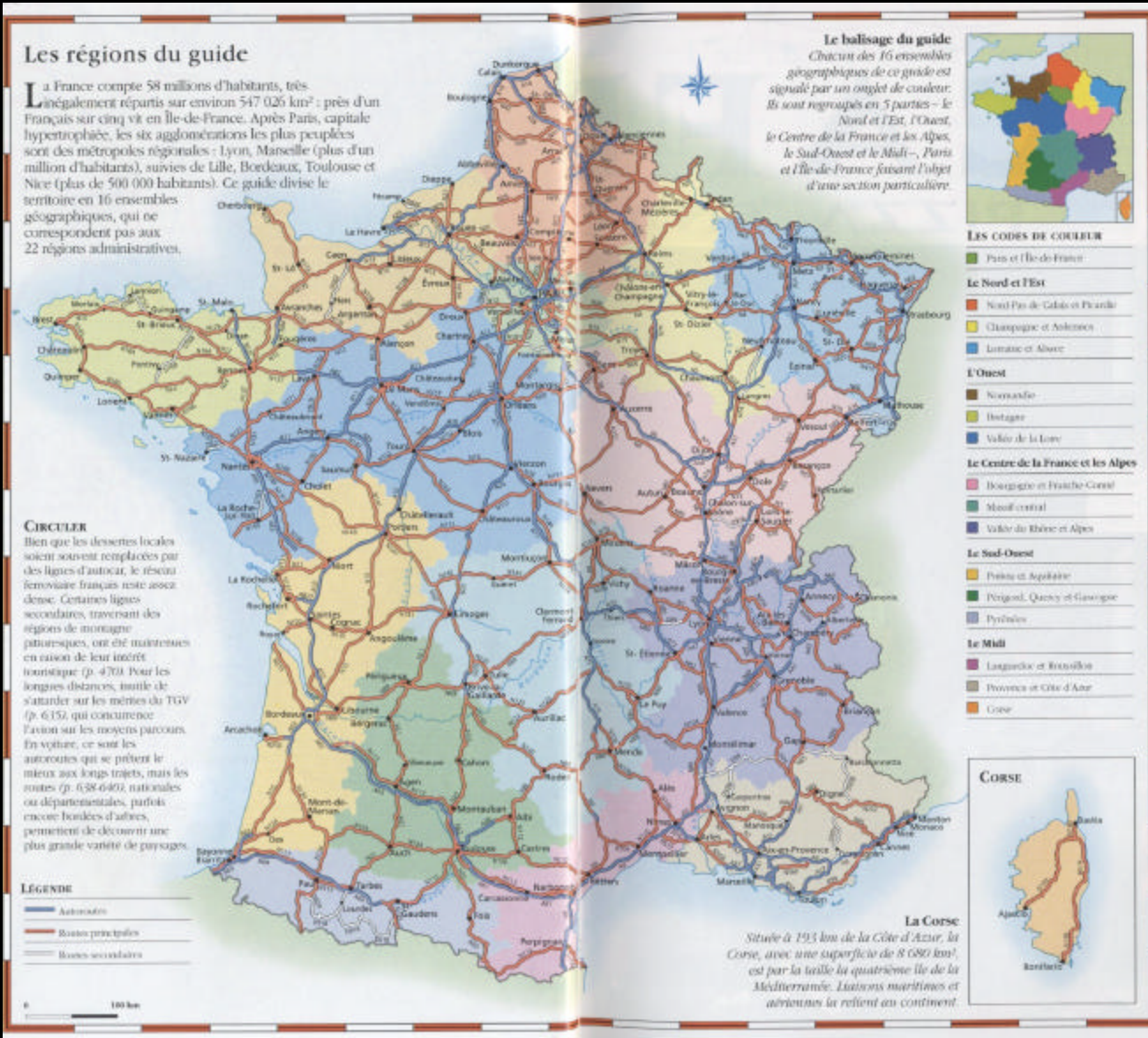
Limitations: contrast & palette

Denotation



Limitations: contrast & palette

Denotation




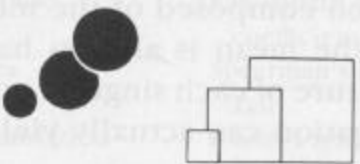

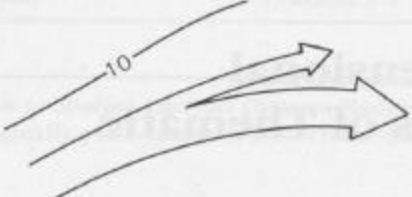
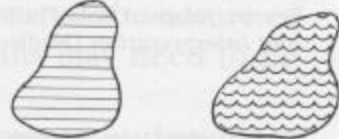
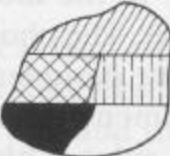
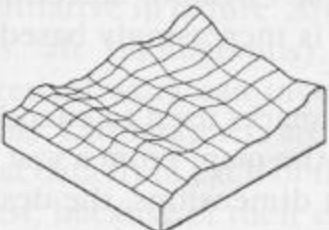
Limitations: contrast & palette

Denotation



Limitations: contrast & palette

Symbols: dimension

Symbol type	Map type	
	Qualitative	Quantitative
Point		
Line		
Area		
Volume		

Limitations: contrast & palette

Denotation: a complete example



Limitations: contrast & palette

Denotation






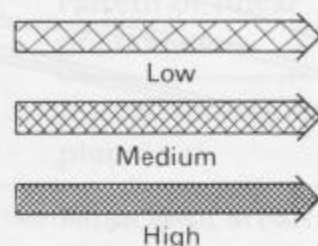
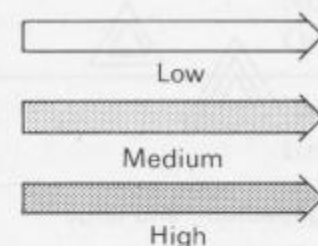
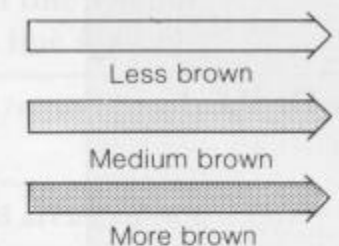
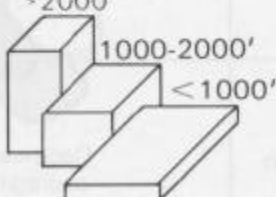
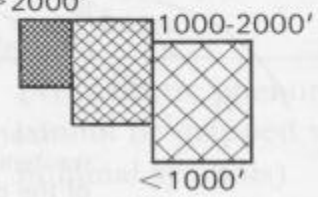
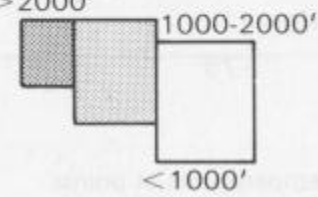
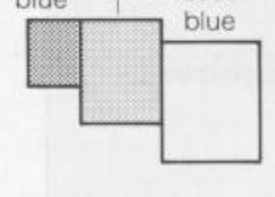


Limitations: contrast & palette

Map making

- Which information will be represented
- Projection
- Which kind of symbols will be used
- Color codes

Symbols: dimension & tone, color

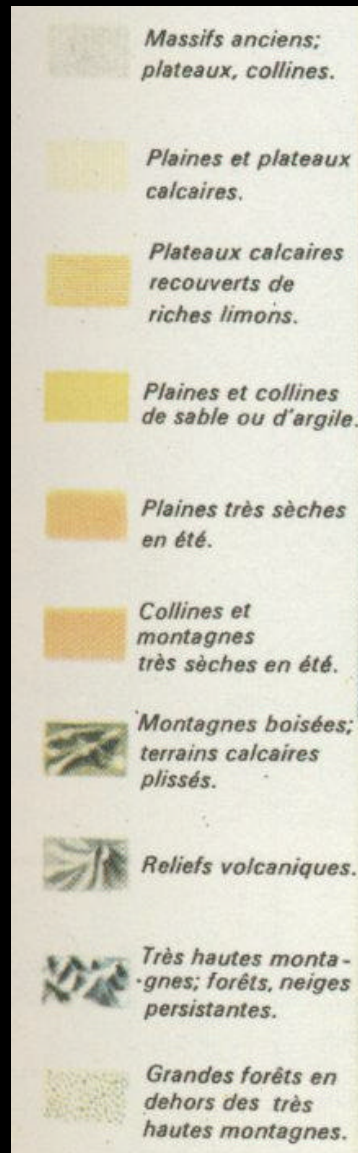
Type of symbol	Visual dimensions			
	Size	Pattern texture	Color value	Color saturation
Points	<p>Temperature in degree days</p> 	 <p>Low Medium High</p>	 <p>Low Medium High</p>	 <p>Less red Medium red More red</p>
Lines	<p>Average stream flow</p> 	 <p>Low Medium High</p>	 <p>Low Medium High</p>	 <p>Less brown Medium brown More brown</p>
Areas	<p>Elevation above MSL</p> 	 <p>>2000' 1000-2000' <1000'</p>	 <p>>2000' 1000-2000' <1000'</p>	 <p>More blue Medium blue Less blue</p>

Color: elevation



Limitations: contrast & palette

Color: geology



Limitations: contrast & palette

Color: influence of cities



Limitations: contrast & palette

Ambiguity: color or denotation?



A complex example

- Population of the Bay Area



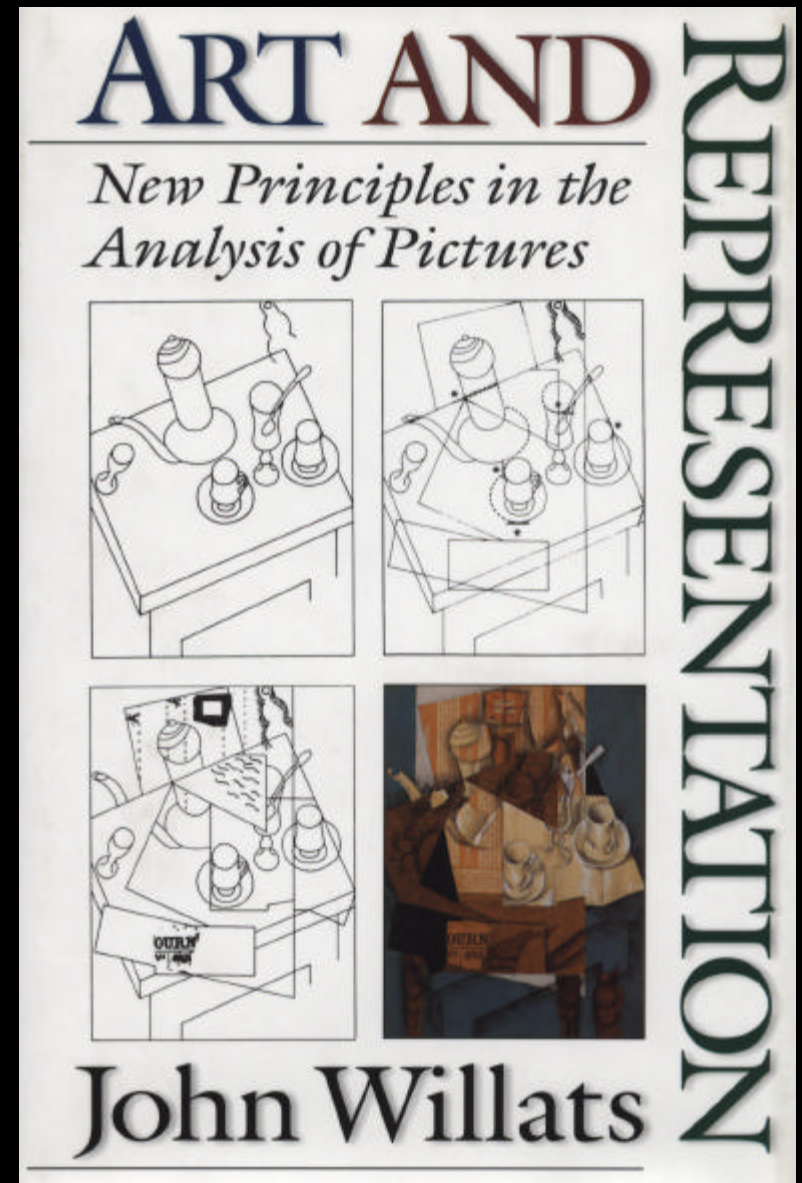
Limitations: contrast & palette

Plan

- A paradigm: Cartography
- Representation systems
 - Drawing and projection
 - Denotation
 - Tone & color

Representations systems

- John Willats
*Art and Representation:
New Principle in
the analysis of pictures
1997*



Goals and context

- Coarse-grain description of style
- Independent systems, independent decisions
- Description and comparison
- Synthesis (NPR)

- This is an exploratory system!
 - In progress
 - Incomplete
 - Different categories may overlap
- More a vocabulary

Representation systems

- Drawing and projection
- Denotation
- Tone & color

- The two first systems are classical
- Because painting was the only recognized art form

Drawing system

- Linear perspective
- Orthographic
- Topological
- Other

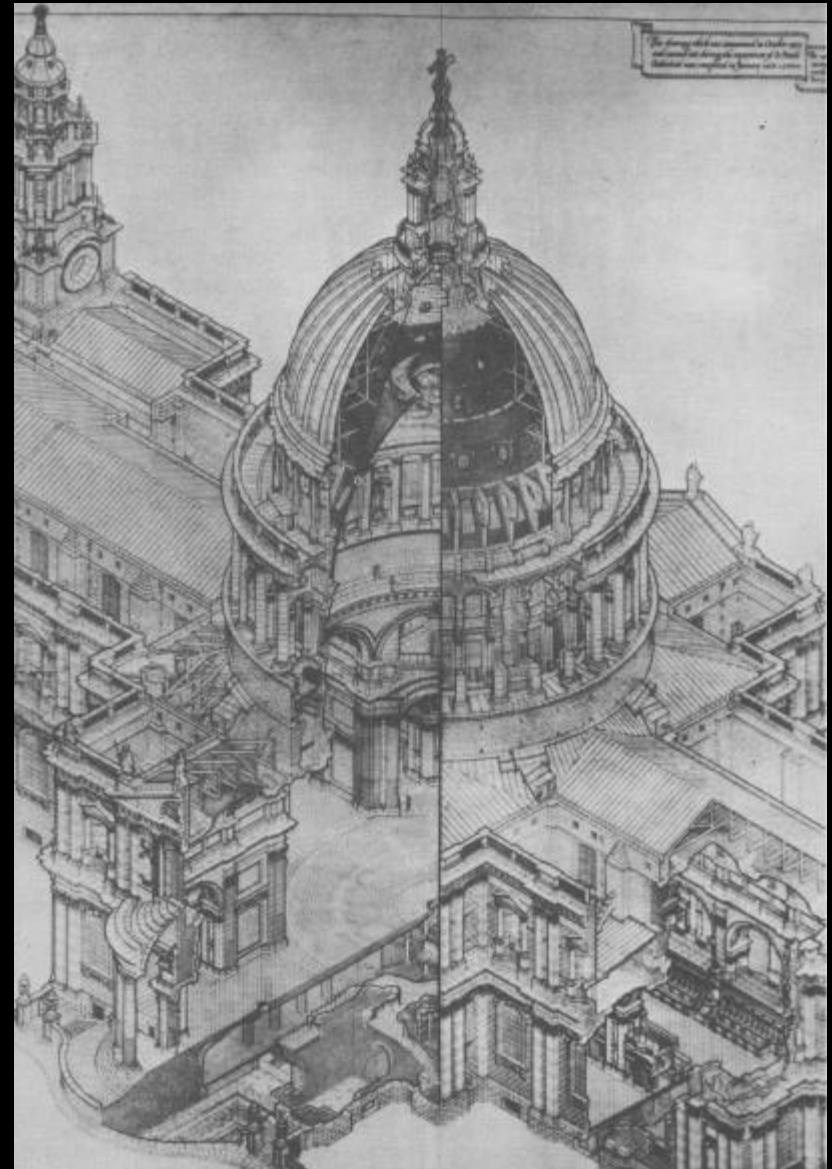
Drawing system

- Linear perspective
 - *Interior of St Bavo's church at Haarlem, Pieter Jansz Saenredam, 1648*
- Orthographic
- Topological
- Other



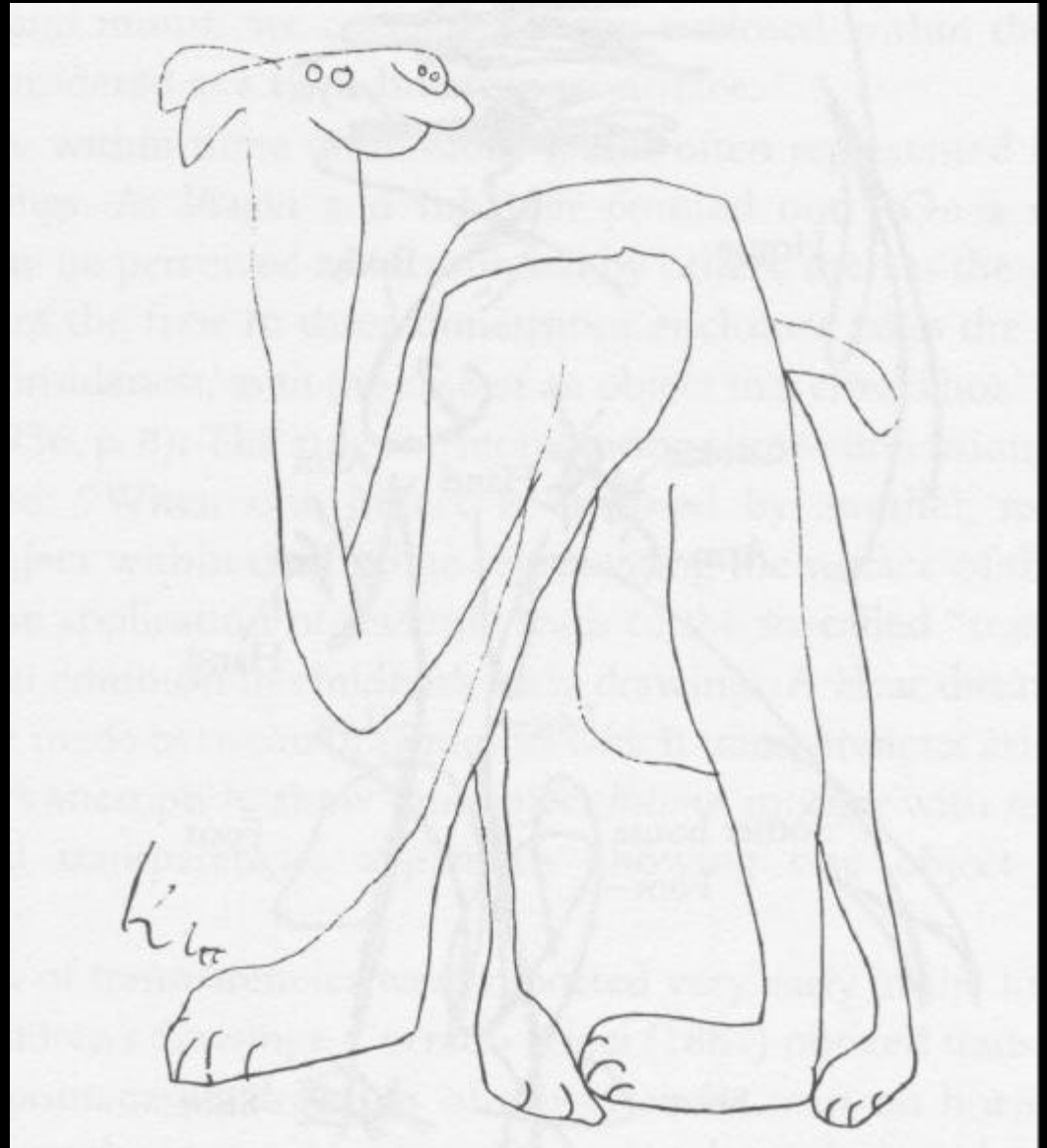
Drawing system

- Linear perspective
- Orthographic
 - Brooks-Greaves
St Paul's Cathedral
1928
- Topological
- Other



Drawing system

- Linear perspective
 - Orthographic
 - Topological
 - Paul Klee
- Another Camel*
1939
- Other



Drawing system: symbolic

- Linear perspective
- Orthographic
- Topological
- Other
 - Piero de la Francesca
Mercy



Representation systems

- Drawing and projection
- Denotation
- Tone & color

Denotation system

- Silhouette:
 - 2D (regions)
- Line Drawing
 - 1D (lines)
- Optical
 - 0D (points)

Denotation system

- Silhouette:
 - 2D (regions)
 - Picasso, *Rite of Spring*
- Line Drawing
 - 1D (lines)
- Optical
 - 0D (points)



Denotation system

- Silhouette:
 - 2D (regions)
- Line Drawing
 - 1D (lines)
 - Picasso,
Portrait of Stravinsky
- Optical
 - 0D (points)



Denotation system

- Silhouette:
 - 2D (regions)
- Line Drawing
 - 1D (lines)
- Optical
 - 0D (points)
 - Picasso, *Paul as Arlequin*



A fourth denotation system

- Sculpture
 - 3D (volume)
Picasso, *Head of a Woman (Fernande)*, 1909
- Silhouette:
 - 2D (regions)
- Line Drawing
 - 1D (lines)
- Optical
 - 0D (points)



Representation systems

- Drawing and projection
- Denotation
- Tone & color

Tone & color system

- (Often a mix)
- Extrinsic
- Intrinsic
- Symbolic

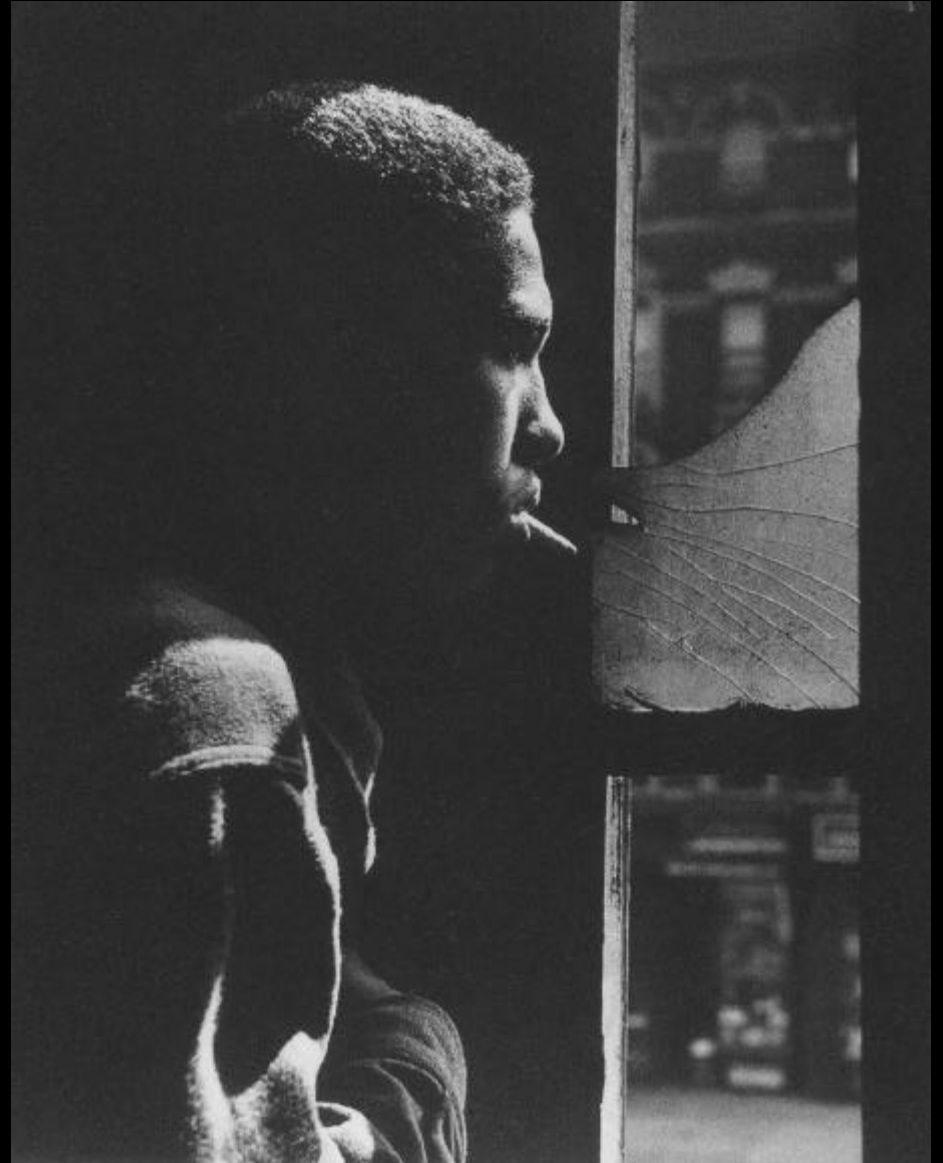
Extrinsic color

- Renzo Piano
Tjibaou
cultural
center
1991-98



Extrinsic black and white

- Gordon Park,
Red Jackson
Gang Leader



Optical intrinsic

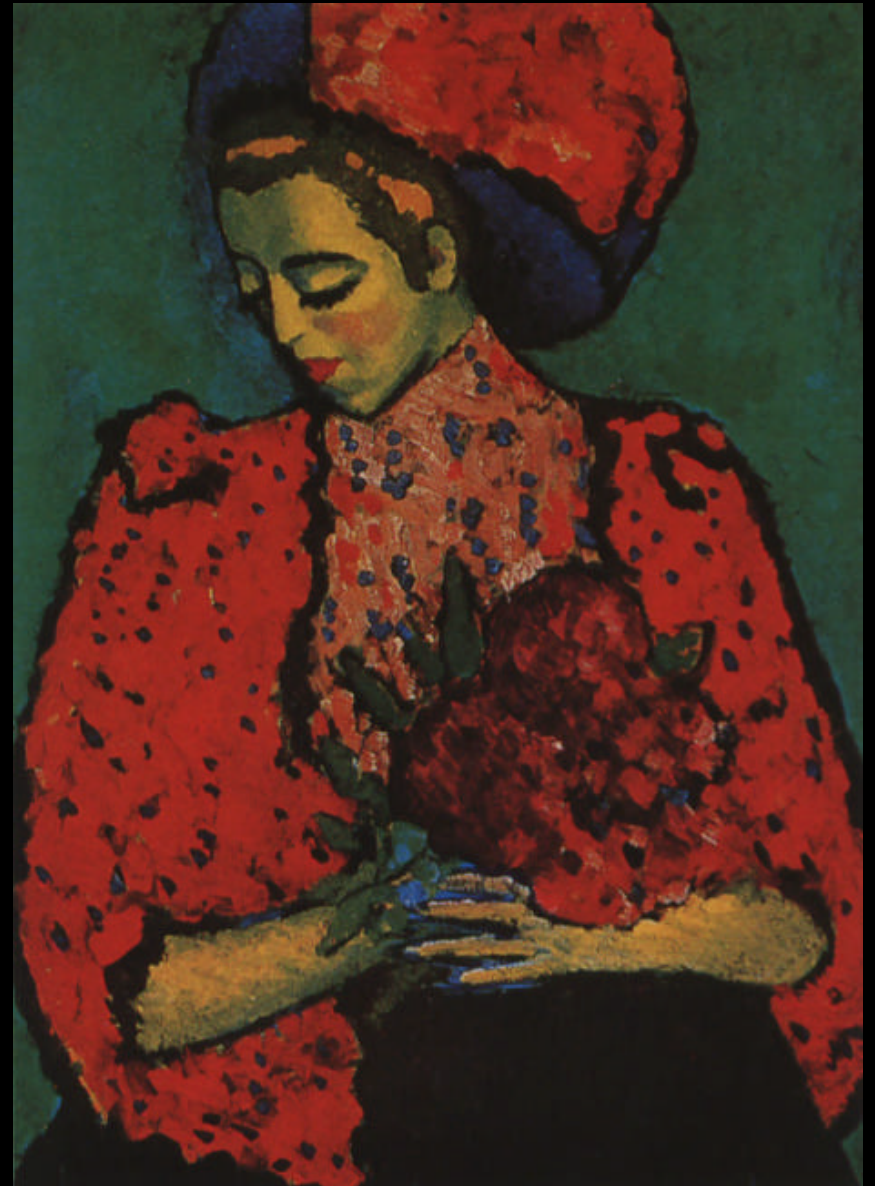
- Boticelli *Primavera* 1482



Limitations: contrast & palette

Pure intrinsic colors

- Jawlensky
Girl with Peonies
- +*symbolic*+*harmony*



Limitations: contrast & palette

Next sessions

- Linear perspective
- Canonical view
- Drawing systems
- Distortion and constraints