

tom patterson



Shaded relief is my major interest in cartography, which began when I was a graduate student at the University of Hawaii (UH) in 1980 working on an atlas of American Samoa.

Needing shaded relief for the atlas and not having anyone in-house skilled with an airbrush or pencil, UH hired Michael Wood, University of Aberdeen, to do the work. A few months later a mailing tube arrived in Honolulu that influenced the course of my career. Inside was a sheet of drafting film covered with delicate graphite tones. Wood's shaded relief depiction of the complex Samoan landscape with only modulated light and shadows was easy to understand – and beautiful.

I was inspired to do similar work. After a couple of years' practice, I developed a knack for relief drawing and a style of my own. This arcane craft that I practiced mostly as a hobby eventually landed me a job with National Park Service in 1992, just as digital production was first becoming practical – and soon much more. Digital techniques now allow me to create relief maps in ways that I previously only imagined, mimicking the work of the best cartographic artists of the late manual era, such as Heinrich Berann, Eduard Imhof, Erwin Raisz, and Hal Shelton. The 391 national park areas are an ideal testing ground for these techniques.

I now work on many more types of maps, including bird's-eye views of historical sites, animations, interactive exhibits, and solid terrain models. The idea of "cartographic realism" guides my approach to map design. When appropriate, and in moderation, I add natural environment effects to a map, effects that people are familiar with and find pleasing – sun glints on water, warm illumination, organic textures, and natural colors. The goal is to make a map that will attract and hold the attention of readers for as long as possible, encouraging visual exploration. This is what happened to me nearly three decades ago with Michael Wood's shaded relief of Samoa.

Tom Patterson | US National Park Service | USA
| tom_patterson@nps.gov

The *Physical Map of the World*, a wall map with over 3,200 place name labels, is the latest item on Tom Patterson's website, www.shadedrelief.com. Creating it involved the synthesis of four new mapping techniques developed over several years by the author and associates.

www.cartography.ch

Cartography in Switzerland can look back on 500 years of history, leading amongst others to the development of the famous topographic maps published by the Federal Office of Topography.

Academic cartography in Switzerland started in the second half of the 19th century. One of the major milestones was the foundation of the Institute of Cartography at ETH Zurich in 1925 by Professor Eduard Imhof. He had a broad experience in international scientific collaboration and educational activities with the 1957 "International University Course in Cartography" offered in Zurich being seen as one of the first international continuing education activities in academic cartography. Imhof was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of ICA in Berne in 1959, being also its founding president.

However, it seems that national activities were rather eclipsed at that time: the Swiss Society of Cartography was only founded in 1969 in the aftermath of the early ICA years. Nevertheless, Swiss cartographers were always engaged in ICA activities; Ernst Spiess and Lorenz Hurni were for instance founder chairs of the ICA Commissions on Map Production and on Mountain Cartography respectively. Swiss map specialists were also involved in the elaboration of teaching guides, e.g. on topographic generalisation or on cartographic techniques, always focusing on design and quality aspects.

Today the Swiss Society of Cartography has a record high of 350 members and is organising regular meetings and symposia. In 2006, the "Prix Carto", an innovation award for the best map of the year was established and has since then significantly helped to further increase the recognition of cartographic products in Switzerland.

Lorenz Hurni | ETH Zurich | Switzerland



Rock drawing of Monte Leone by Prof Ernst Spiess, 1987



Students of ETH Zurich drawing rocks in the Swiss Alps in 1969 | Photography Ernst Spiess



Publications on Cartographic Generalisation edited by the Swiss Society of Cartography

