

**ICA Commission on Atlases
ICC Preconference Workshop – Abstracts**



**Atlases
and
Infographics**

Erwin Raisz Atlases – an early multi-method approach to cartographic communication

Eric Losang

Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig

e_losang@ifl-leipzig.de

Hungarian-born American cartographer Erwin Raisz is best known for his physiographic maps which describe landforms using a variation on an isometric projection, to show scenery on maps (Raisz 1931). These hand drawn "landform" maps are still sold today. In his seminal textbook *General Cartography* Raisz wrote "The good cartographer is both a scientist and an artist" and this thoroughly characterizes his approach to communicate spatial data through adapted visualizations.

More silently, Raisz developed three atlas that followed his approach employing hand drawn maps accompanied by carefully arranged text, pictures and statistical graphics, thus pre-empting infographics that are common today.

The *Atlas of Global Geography* (1944), *Atlas de Cuba* (1949) and the *Atlas of Florida* (1964), even though published in different production contexts, show a development of Raisz idea to use rather simple maps but add additional information features to simplify rather complex topics and thematic interrelations. The scope of the visualization methods used exceeds those of recent atlases and corroborates the importance of aesthetic variety in successful user-oriented cartographic communication.