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The Geodetic Basis of the Romanian Historical Topographic Maps in Lambert–Cholesky projection

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Before the World War I the territory of Romania was represented on more type of topographic maps. In 1916 the projection was unified: it was used the Lambert–Cholesky Conformal Conic Grid on the datum Clarke 1880. The scale of the base-maps were 1: 20 000. The maps were used until the publication of the Gauss–Krüger maps in 1959.

The significance in the European cartographic heritage of the maps in Lambert–Cholesky projection consists in the fact that they represent the first cartographic product referring to the entire Romania, under an unique projection system, and having an unitary legend. Furthermore, these ones are the maps achieved at the highest scale up to that moment. In the mean time, they represent a public and not classified cartographic product, as well.

The map sheets are digitized and georeferred by the authors – so these topographic maps can be used as a basic material for historical and geographical researches.

In this presentation we present shortly the history of these maps (antecedents, basic materials, content, nomenclature etc.) and we present in more detail the geodetic basis of these historical topographic maps (our substitute projection and datum, the precision of georefering etc.).