

PHOTOGRAMMETRIC MAPPING IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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INTEREST in photogrammetry and the use of aerial photographs by the public and by commercial concerns continues at an all time high. Notable among recent requests for data and information have been several from large lumber companies which now must cruise farther and farther into regions formerly considered inaccessible for the hauling of the timber; from numerous major oil companies interested in new territory showing promise of oil; from certain State governments, one of which contemplates launching a tax map program for the entire State; and from mining companies interested in major iron ore deposits in the United States.

The Map Information Office reports considerable progress in assembling current information regarding maps, aerial photographs, mosaics, and geodetic control for the production requirements of map making and map compiling agencies and for dissemination to Federal and State Government departments, engineering concerns, industrial firms, and the public.

The status of topographic mapping in the United States—a study, first published in 1946, showing in map form all areas that have been topographically mapped by Government agencies and indicating a comparative appraisal of the various maps—has recently undergone revision and is now available on request from the Geological Survey. For these status studies, the administrative planning map of the United States, scale 1:5,000,000, with the 15 minute geographic grid included, serves as the base. Copies of this map may also be obtained without charge, upon request to the Map Information Office.

The aerial photography of Puerto Rico, taken during the winter of 1941 with a 6 inch focal length lens at the approximate scale 1:27,000, is proving particularly useful to engineers, industrial firms and administrative officials of the island because of the availability of copies of the original large scale multiplex manuscript *with photo-centers located thereon* in true geographic position. The manuscript, scale 1:10,000, contains contours and all the planimetric data discernible on the original multiplex models—buildings, fences, land lines, roads, trails, minor as well as major drainage. Much of such detail is necessarily deleted from the final published map, scale 1:30,000. Since by use of the plotted centers the photographs can be definitely fixed both in position and orientation with respect to the manuscript copy, extreme flexibility for interchange of information is attained and any part of the map can be supplemented by detailed field or office stereoscopic study of the related photo-model. This is the first instance where such manuscripts with plotted photo-centers have been made available. Undoubtedly there will be many requests for similar combinations in the future.

We regret that an article, "Commercial Photogrammetry in Italy," by Harry Tubis was not available in time for publication in this issue. Due to some delay which Mr. Tubis experienced in getting his illustrations from Italy, the material reached us too late. You will find it a source of interesting reading in the December 1947 issue.