



Analysis of color signs and projections of the old Hungarian geological maps

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The first geological map about Hungary was published by Robert Townson in 1797. This map distinguishes 13 different rock types, along the route of the cartographer only. The map of a Frenchman, Sulpice Beudant, was completed in 1818 and it shows the whole territory of the country. In that time, the different rock types was signed usually by numbers and the usage of the colours was rather casual. The 1:1 million-scale map of János Böckh and the 1:900,000 map of Lajos Lóczy represents a high end in geological maps of Europe in that time. The uniform colour key and legend of geological maps was elaborated during the 2nd International Geological Conference held in Bologna in 1881. It was a basic rule that the older the formation the darker the attached map colour.

Analysing the coordinate grids of these map products, the older ones can be rectified in equidistant conic projections while the ones of Böckh and Lóczy can be interpreted as both conic and Budapest-centered Stereographic projected. The ambiguity is because of the relatively low scale of the maps, enabling projection errors of several hundred meters without practical consequences.