
The Next Forty Years: A brief history of ICA 1984-2023

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Abstract:

Since the publication of *ICA 1959-1984: The first twenty-five years of the International Cartographic Association* compiled by Ferdinand J. Ormeling Sr, there is no publication nor resource that systematically records the history of our Association. This paper attempts to fill this gap by providing the results of the work undertaken by the ICA Working Group on the History of ICA. By necessity, but also because of the difficulties in finding the necessary documents and records, this is only a brief account covering the next forty years since 1984, the concluding year of Ormeling's classic.

The paper begins with making a few short references to *ICA 1959-1984* book, particularly its role in inspiring this research and demonstrating the value of investing time and effort in documenting and preserving organisation's past for posterity. We will take a tour of the International Cartographic Conferences, and follow the story of our members, both national and affiliate. We will share some findings (or lack of) concerning the ICA General Assemblies, particularly the Minutes and ICA Statutes. We will look at composition of our Executive Committees and the dynamic nature of ICA Commissions, Working Groups and... a single Presidential Task Force. We will celebrate with the ICA awards recipients and remember those who have helped to shape our Association. And we will highlight the role of ICA website and *ICA News* in recording and documenting, digitally and in print, ICA endeavours over the years.

This paper tries to illuminate the Association's growth and maturity. It also touches on the way we build and protect our identity as a leading international organisation focused on cartography.

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