

The Early Stages in the Development of Orienteering Maps in East Germany

by HARALD GROSSE

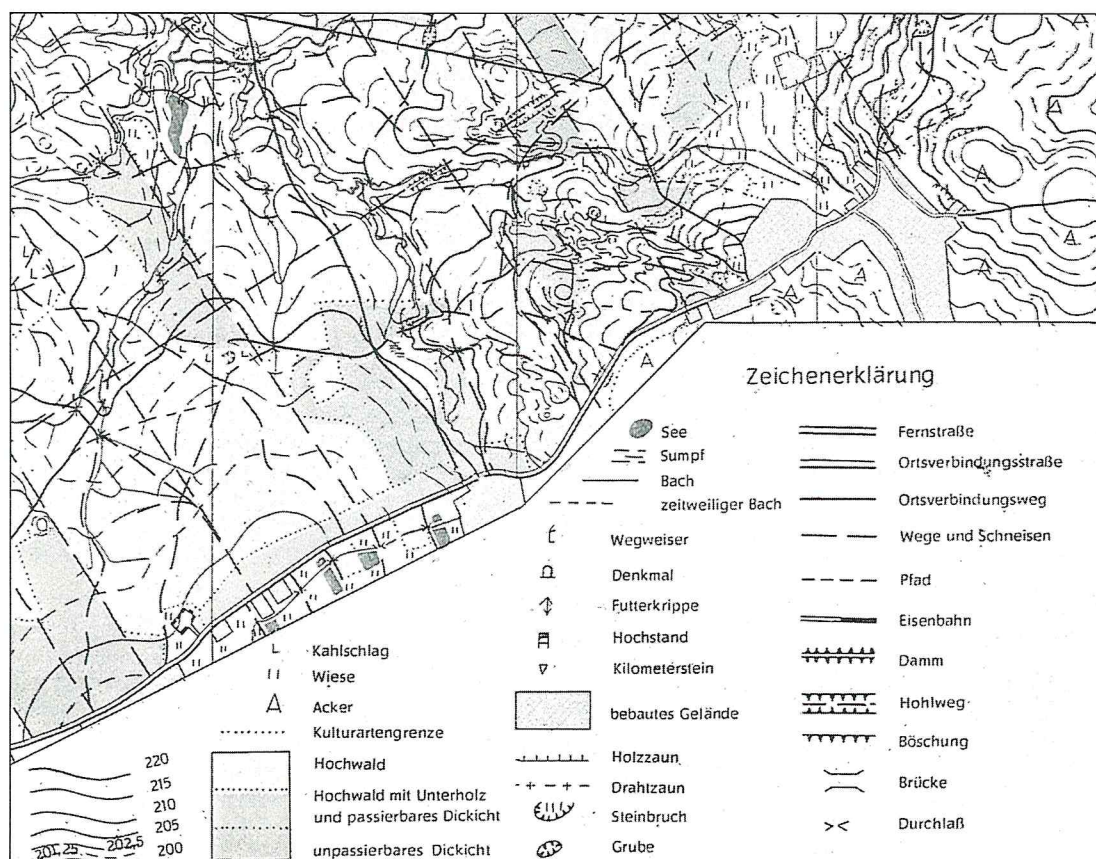
Dresden was, in the former East Germany, one of the most important centres in orienteering. The first clubs (TU Dresden, Dynamo Dresden, Medizin Dresden, Lok Dresden and others) were founded about 1960. The sport at that time was named Touristischer Mehrkampf ('touristic multi-competition').

In 1964 in Dresden, Saxony the first multi-coloured special maps for orienteering outside Scandinavia were created. In this area the norms for O-maps were created which are almost valid today. The symbols used were not selected from maps in use at that time, but from the Saxonian topographic maps which originated before 1900.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| | felsen |
| | grube |
| | steinbruch |
| | böschung |
| | damm |
| | graben |
| | quelle |
| | denkmal |



Part of the map of Moritzburg (above), scale 1:25,000, made in 1964, with some of the symbols used



In 1965 the same group of orienteers used for the first time three different shades of green for classifying vegetation: the map of Dresdner Heide (left) is at 1:25,000 with 5m contours - with 3 form lines allowed between each pair of contour lines.

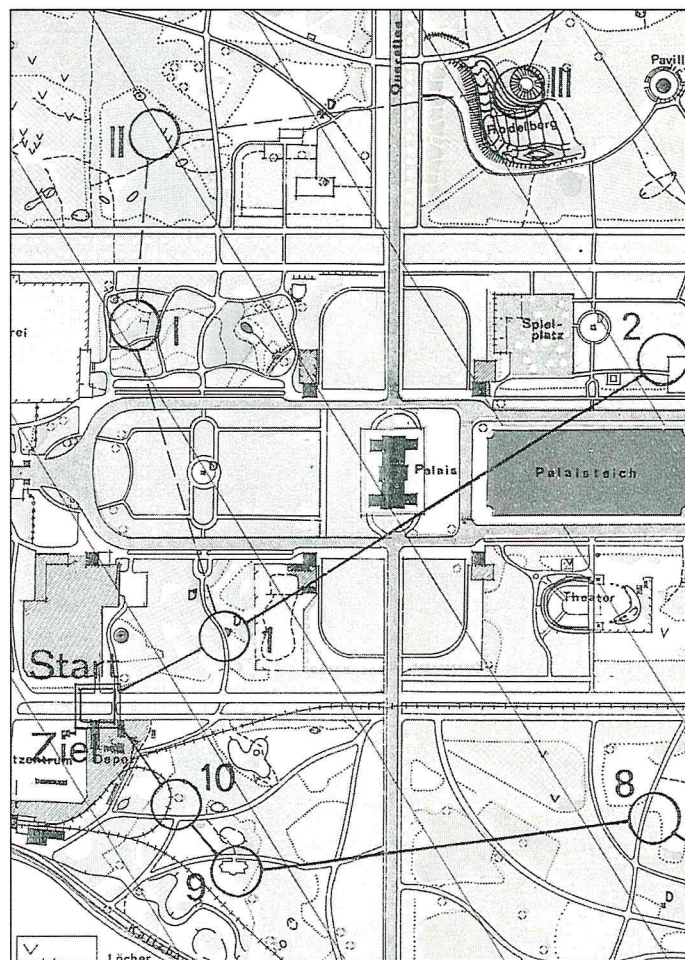
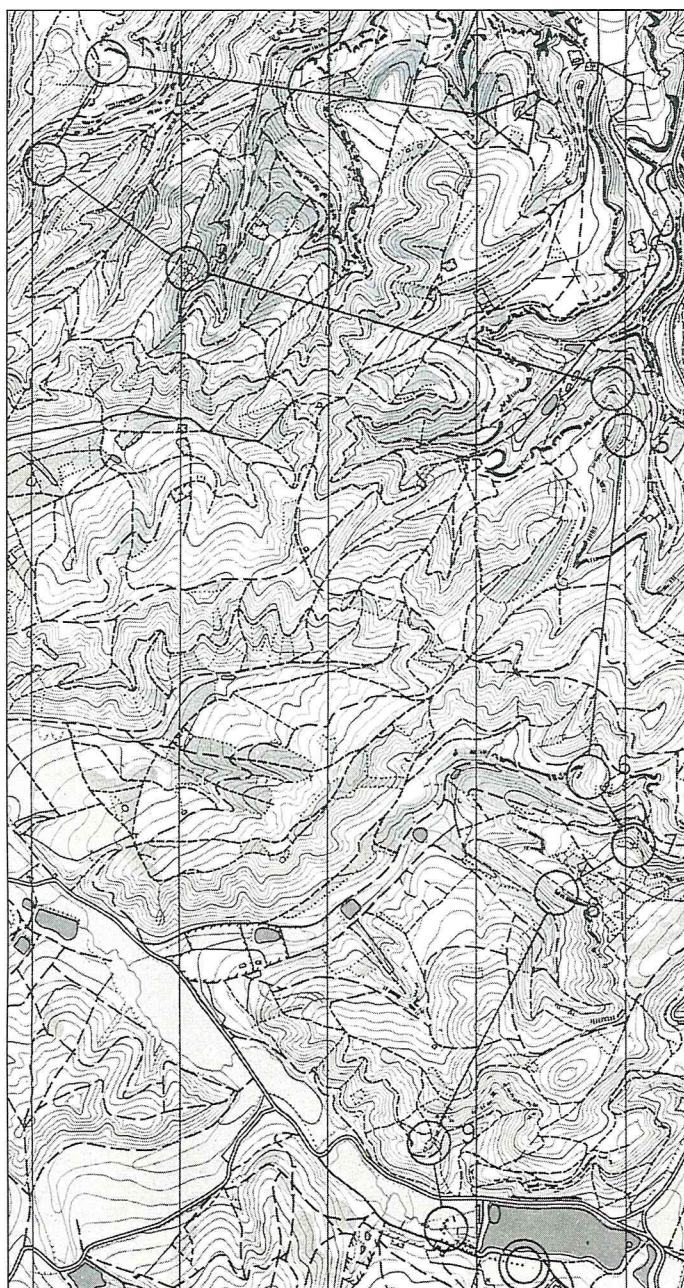
Park Races in Dresden - 21 years ago!

In 1975, to popularise orienteering, the first special map of a park in Dresden (right) was made to a large scale - 1:5,000. In the first competition in 1976 (a so-called 'Volksorientierungslauf') more than 2,000 people participated over 2 days; the youngest were still sitting in prams!

The 1970 World Championships

The absolute top point in the orienteers' work in East Germany was the World Championships in 1970 in the mountains of Thuringer Wald. The maps were drawn as so-called blue-copy before printing. It was only with great difficulty that the map-makers were granted a deviation from the IOF map norms, which had only been agreed shortly beforehand; these norms had not taken into account the dense net of paths and roads in middle Europe and thus the high proportion of black on these maps. The IOF Controller, Ib E. Nielsen from Denmark, turned a blind eye to enable the map drawers to classify all paths and roads downwards by one grade.

The map below (1:25,000, 7.5m contours) shows the women's individual course.



The first use of symbols for describing a post's location occurred in 1968 during the International Cup Orienteering (Interpol). These were not pictograms, of course, but enlarged details from the map. Three of the symbolic descriptions are shown below.

