AN INDEX TO U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS OF MINNESOTA

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Conventional U. S. Geological Survey maps are based on quadrangles bounded by either 15 minutes or 7½ minutes of latitude and longitude with scales of 1/62,500 and 1/24,000, respectively. The average 1/24,000 scale quadrangle is approximately 15 x 22 inches in size and covers about 50 square miles of land area. Contour interval for most maps is 10 feet. Since 1949 all maps have been constructed from aerial photos by accurate photogrammetric methods with control points established by field survey and with subsequent field checking of detail.

Published maps may be purchased from the U. S. Geological Survey at Washington, D. C., or at the Federal Center, Denver, Colorado, for 30¢ per sheet, or from private map supplying companies. Preliminary maps may be purchased for 50¢ per sheet from the U. S. Geological Survey, Box 133, Rolla, Missouri. Indexes of published Minnesota maps may be obtained from the Geological Survey in Washington, D. C., and indexes of advance maps from Rolla, Missouri. Quadrangles should be ordered by name (if known) or specification of latitude and longitude. The latter may be accurately determined from most county maps when used in conjunction with the index map in the figure (see over). Contact prints of air photos on which the mapping was based may be purchased from Washington, D. C., as well as photo index sheets of individual quadrangles.

In addition to these conventional 7½ minute and 15 minute quadrangles, a completely different set of topographic maps at a scale of 1/250,000 is being prepared for the entire state. These maps are based on high-altitude photography and each covers an area bounded by 1 degree of latitude and 2 degrees of longitude. To date only 3 sheets have been published, all in the Red River Valley: (1) FARGO, 46-47° latitude by 96-98° longitude; (2) GRAND FORKS, 47-48° latitude by 96-98° longitude; and (3) THIEF RIVER FALLS, 48-49° latitude by 96-98° longitude. These maps may be purchased for 50¢ per sheet from the U. S. Geological Survey at either Washington, D. C., or the Federal Center in Denver, Colorado.

The U. S. Geological Survey maps of Minnesota and other states may be consulted in the Library Map Room (basement of Johnston Hall) at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus. The library also has a file of aerial photographs covering the entire state (alternate prints, scale of 1/20,000, circa 1939), and will soon have available a complete set of the high altitude series (alternate prints, scale of 1/60,000).

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Index map of 7½' and 15' quadrangles.