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Joint Committee on Standards for Graphic Presentation

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS FOR GRAPHIC
PRESENTATION.

PRELIMINARY REPORT PUBLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF
INVITING SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
COMMITTEE.*

As a result of invitations extended by The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a number of associations of national scope have appointed representatives on a Joint Committee on Standards for Graphic Presentation. Below are the names of the members of the committee and of the associations which have coöperated in its formation.

Willard C. Brinton, *Chairman*, American Society of Mechanical Engineers. 7 East 42d Street, New York City.

Leonard P. Ayres, *Secretary*, American Statistical Association. 130 East 22d Street, New York City.

N. A. Carle, American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Robert E. Chaddock, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Frederick A. Cleveland, American Academy of Political and Social Science.

H. E. Crampton, American Genetic Association.

Walter S. Gifford, American Economic Association.

J. Arthur Harris, American Society of Naturalists.

H. E. Hawkes, American Mathematical Society.

Joseph A. Hill, United States Census Bureau.

Henry D. Hubbard, United States Bureau of Standards.

Robert H. Montgomery, American Association of Public Accountants:

Henry H. Norris, Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education.

Alexander Smith, American Chemical Society.

Judd Stewart, American Institute of Mining Engineers.

Wendell M. Strong, Actuarial Society of America.

Edward L. Thorndike, American Psychological Association.

*Copies may be had from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 29 West 39th St., New York. Price, 10 cents. Discount on quantities.

The committee is making a study of the methods used in different fields of endeavor for presenting statistical and quantitative data in graphic form. * * * * If simple and convenient standards can be found and made generally known, there will be possible a more universal use of graphic methods with a consequent gain to mankind because of the greater speed and accuracy with which complex information may be imparted and interpreted.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE HAS THUS FAR CONSIDERED AS REPRESENTING THE MORE GENERALLY APPLICABLE PRINCIPLES OF ELEMENTARY GRAPHIC PRESENTATION

1 The general arrangement of a diagram should proceed from left to right.

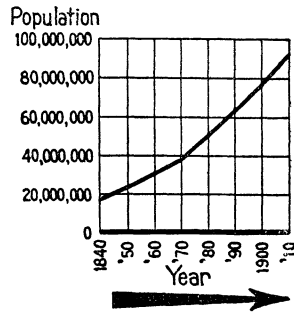


Fig. 1

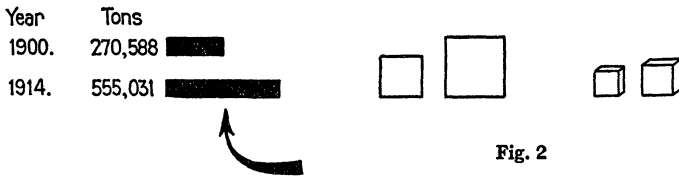


Fig. 2

2 Where possible represent quantities by linear magnitudes as areas or volumes are more likely to be misinterpreted.

3 For a curve the vertical scale, whenever practicable, should be so selected that the zero line will appear on the diagram.

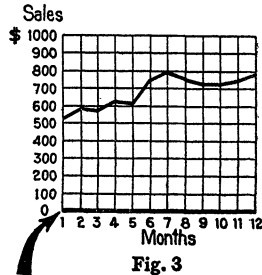


Fig. 3

4 If the zero line of the vertical scale will not normally appear on the curve diagram, the zero line should be shown by the use of a horizontal break in the diagram.

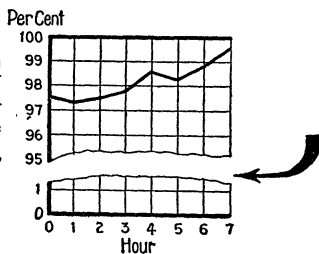


Fig. 4

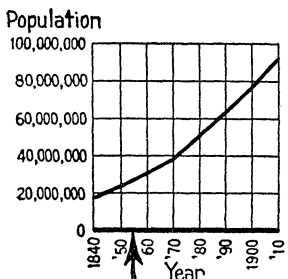


Fig. 5A

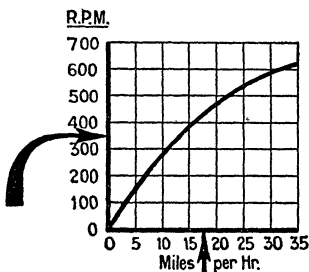


Fig. 5B

5 The zero lines of the scales for a curve should be sharply distinguished from the other coordinate lines.

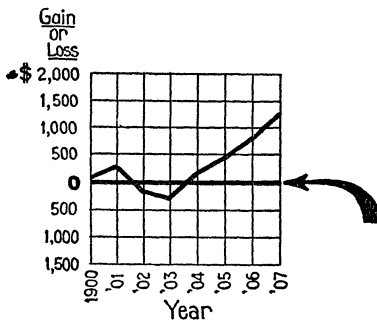


Fig. 5C

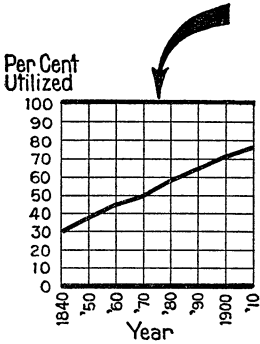


Fig. 6A

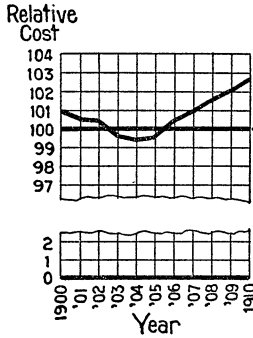


Fig. 6B

6 For curves having a scale representing percentages, it is usually desirable to emphasize in some distinctive way the 100 per cent line or other line used as a basis of comparison.

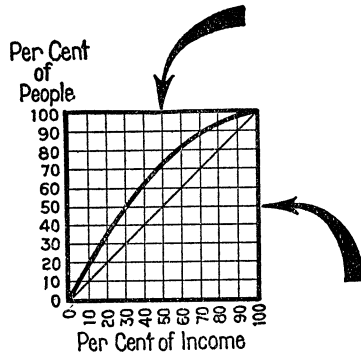


Fig. 6C

7 When the scale of a diagram refers to dates, and the period represented is not a complete unit, it is better not to emphasize the first and last ordinates, since such a diagram does not represent the beginning or end of time.

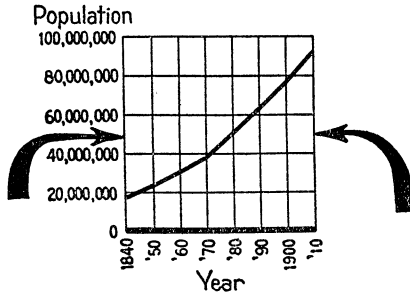


Fig. 7

8 When curves are drawn on logarithmic coordinates, the limiting lines of the diagram should each be at some power of ten on the logarithmic scales.

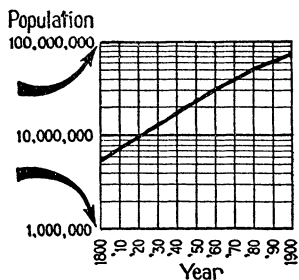


Fig. 8

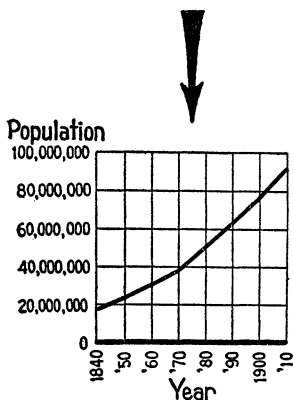


Fig. 9A

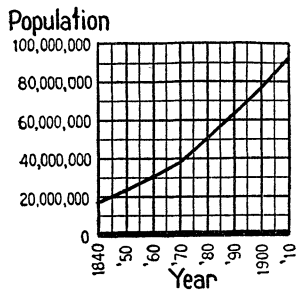


Fig. 9B

9 It is advisable not to show any more coordinate lines than necessary to guide the eye in reading the diagram.

10 The curve lines of a diagram should be sharply distinguished from the ruling.

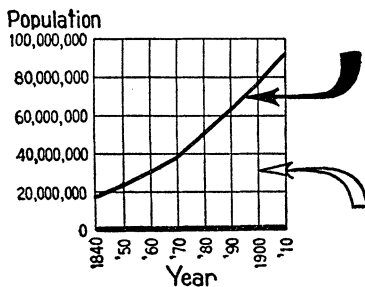


Fig. 10

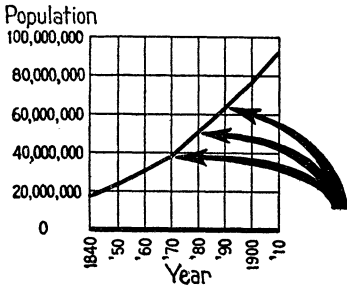


Fig. 11A

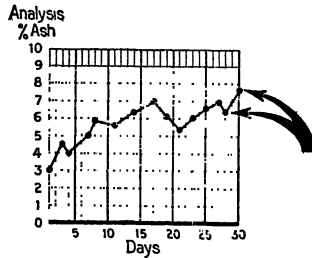


Fig. 11B

11 In curves representing a series of observations, it is advisable, whenever possible, to indicate clearly on the diagram all the points representing the separate observations.

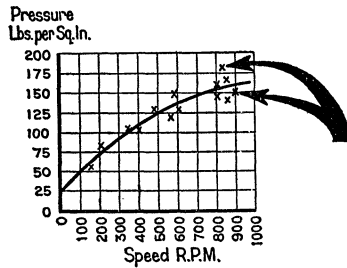


Fig. 11C

12 The horizontal scale for curves should usually read from left to right and the vertical scale from bottom to top.

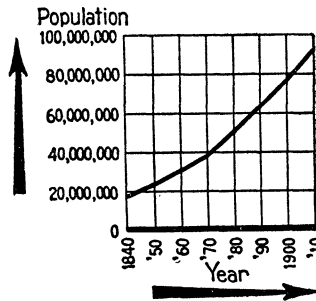


Fig. 12

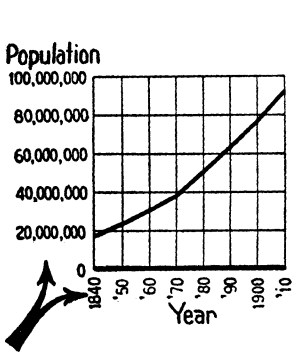


Fig. 13A

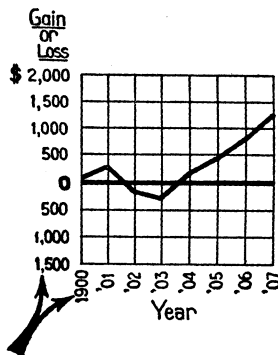


Fig. 13B

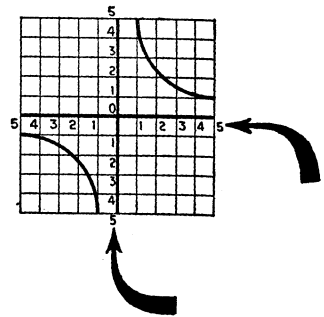


Fig. 13C

13 Figures for the scales of a diagram should be placed at the left and at the bottom or along the respective axes.

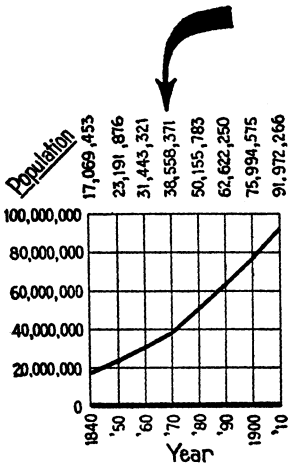


Fig. 14A

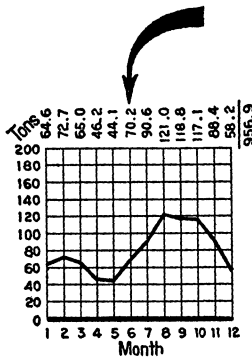


Fig. 14B

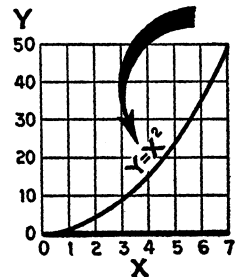


Fig. 14C

14 It is often desirable to include in the diagram the numerical data or formulae represented.

15 If numerical data are not included in the diagram it is desirable to give the data in tabular form accompanying the diagram.

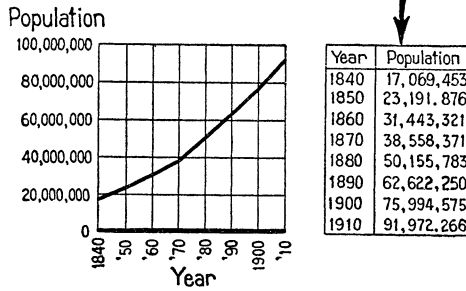


Fig.15

16 All lettering and all figures on a diagram should be placed so as to be easily read from the base as the bottom, or from the right-hand edge of the diagram as the bottom.

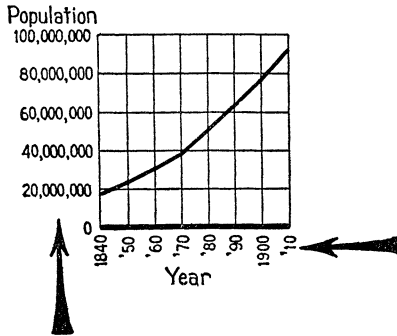
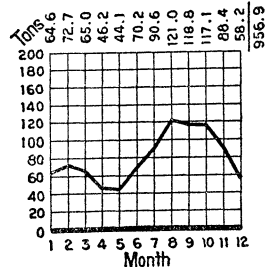


Fig16

17 The title of a diagram should be made as clear and complete as possible. Sub-titles or descriptions should be added if necessary to insure clearness.



Aluminum Castings Output of Plant No. 2, by Months, 1914.

Output is given in short tons.
Sales of Scrap Aluminum are not included.

Fig. 17