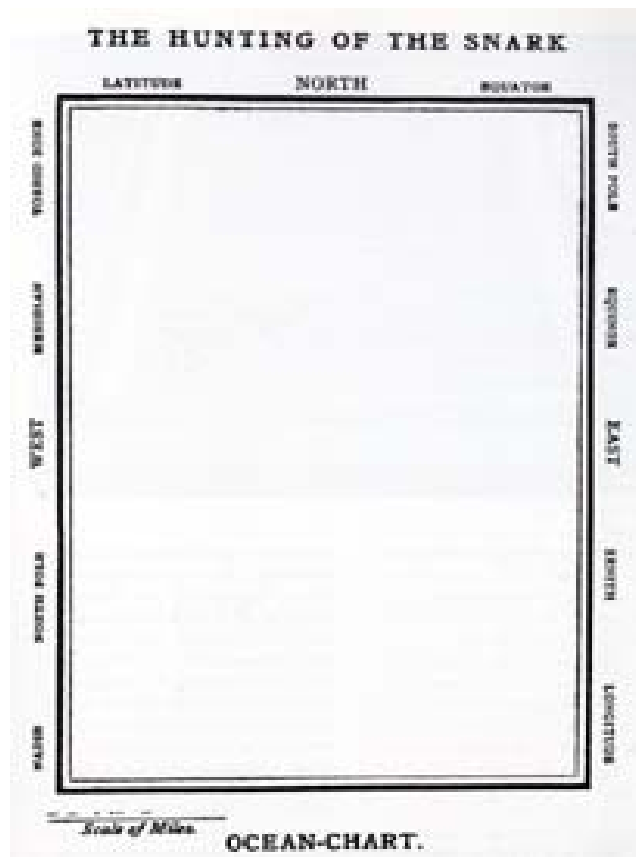


The map: a trustable tool to understand the world ?

Here is a famous extract from a novel written by Lewis Carroll: under the direction of the bellman, some characters were led to hunt a fantastic animal: the snark. They needed a map to sail and found it.

THE BELLMAN'S SPEECH

089 The Bellman himself they all praised to the skies—
090 Such a carriage, such ease and such grace!
091 Such solemnity, too! One could see he was wise,
092 The moment one looked in his face!
093 He had bought a large map representing the sea,
094 Without the least vestige of land:
095 And the crew were much pleased when they found it to be
096 A map they could all understand.



097 “What’s the good of Mercator’s North Poles and Equators,
098 Tropics, Zones, and Meridian Lines?”
099 So the Bellman would cry: and the crew would reply
100 “They are merely conventional signs!
101 “Other maps are such shapes, with their islands and capes!
102 But we’ve got our brave Captain to thank:
103 (So the crew would protest) “that he’s bought *us* the best—
104 A perfect and absolute blank!”

Lewis CARROLL, *The Hunting of the Snark, An Agony in Eight Fits*, 1876

The 9 Illustrations were made by Henry Holiday