

Emil Fischer,

Guide to the San Juan Mines

By
Larry Godwin

Mapmaker Emil B. Fischer accomplished much to assist the mining community and to advance the economic and artistic development of southwestern Colorado in the late 1880s. A surveyor's son born in Dresden, Saxony, an eastern German state, in 1838 or 1839, he came to America in about 1872. He moved to Durango, Colorado, in 1880, when the building of the Denver and Rio Grande Railway into the San Juans attracted widespread attention,¹ then settled in Silverton, where he crafted six detailed maps of the area before his death in 1898. Fischer's maps aided silver and gold prospectors to file their claims; they enabled investors to locate mines and view their proximity to their famous neighbors; and they encouraged tourists to visit the depicted mining regions and thereby invigorate the local economies.

Early Map Making in the San Juans

Fischer was not the first to represent this area on paper. In 1875 H. L. Thayer published his "Map of the San Juan Mines, Comprising the Eureka, Animas, & Part of the Uncompahgre and Lake Districts in La Plata County, Colorado." The following year, civil engineer Louis Nell teamed up with G. M. Wheeler to issue a 135-page topographical atlas containing, on sheet 61, a map of the "S.W. Colorado, San Juan Mining Region." The Hayden U.S. Geological Expedition facilitated the publication of "Williams' Tourists' Map of Colorado and the San Juan Mines" in March 1877; it shows the entire state's cities with their elevations, and

towns, counties, railroad lines, mountains, rivers, and roads—but had no inset specific to the San Juans.

Then in 1880, Edwin Bolitho offered his “Map of San Juan, Colorado,” covering San Juan, Ouray, and Hinsdale counties. The same year, Nell created his “Topographical & Township Map of Part of the State of Colorado, Exhibiting the San Juan, Gunnison & California Mining Regions” from a broad perspective, indicating county seats, post offices, and trails, as well as roads. In 1881 Moritz Stockder published his “Map of San Juan Mining Region,” compiled from U.S. Surveys and “other authentic sources.” Also in 1881, Arthur Lakes issued his elongated “Profile Map of Locations of Mines Near Animas Forks and Mineral City, San Juan County, Colorado,” showing the dozens of such properties situated in that part of the upper Animas Valley.²

Again in 1881, August F. Kibbe, resident of San Miguel City, Colorado, published his “Geographical and Geological Map of The San Juan Mining Region,” a sophisticated, much more detailed effort than previous ones to illustrate the features specific to this section of the state. It differentiates among wagon roads, stage routes, and trails; depicts minor as well as major creeks; and includes proposed and existing railroads. He employed the scale of one-half inch to one mile. His originals incorporate a multicolor rendition of major geologic zones, such as eruptive, metamorphic, and carboniferous.³

Enter Emil Fischer. According to Freda Peterson’s local history, *The Story of Hillside Cemetery*, this quiet, unobtrusive German immigrant made many mountain-climbing pilgrimages to produce his meticulous drawings of San Juan and adjacent counties, which he subsequently transferred to maps that were as attractive as they were functional. (Color images of Fischer’s six maps, his 1895 painting, and his grave marker are available on the Mining History Association’s website: www.mininghistoryassociation.org)⁴

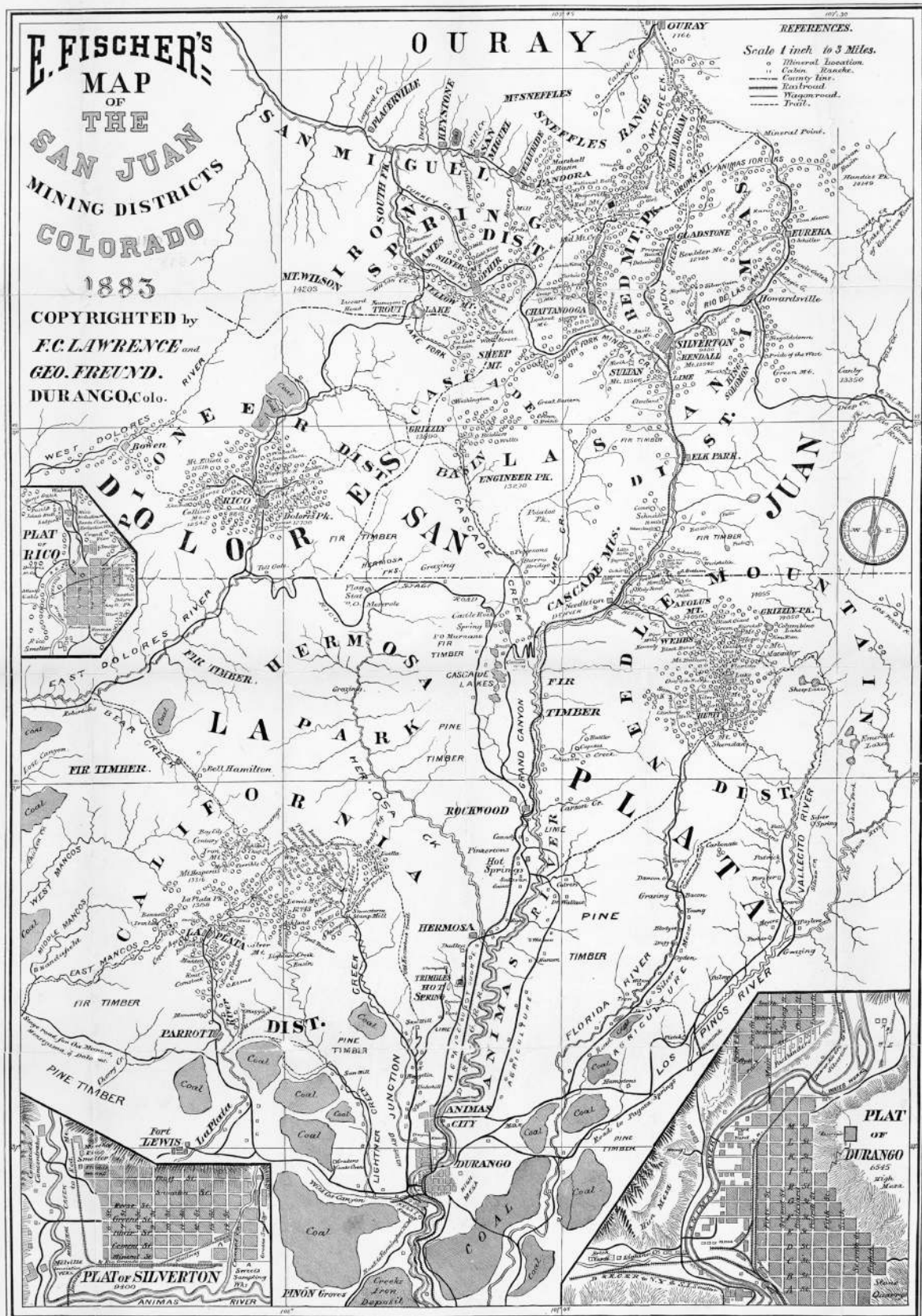
Fischer’s Earlier Maps

Fischer drew his finished maps, even the text elements, entirely by hand before engraving and printing,⁵ distinguishing them from the typeset variety that came before. They are scrupulously correct in detail and were regarded as authoritative for many years.⁶ The complex terrain of the San Juans, characterized by precipitous peaks ranging from eleven thousand to fourteen thousand feet, rugged passes, deep gorges, alpine valleys, and glacial basins, rendered accurate maps indispensable for miners and created a niche for this cartographer.

On 15 August 1882, a month after the Denver and Rio Grande reached Silverton, John Robinson discovered ore rich in gold, copper, and silver on Red Mountain, seven miles north of the city.⁷ A stampede followed. In 1883, at age 45, Emil Fischer capitalized on the excitement with his first publication, a “Map of the San Juan Mining Districts” (opposite), which focuses on this new region, along with the lucrative ones already in the process of feverish development in this small portion of the state.

Fischer’s map covers the section from Ouray on the north to Durango on the south, and from Eureka on the east to Rico and Parrott (City) on the west. It measures forty-eight by sixty-one centimeters, with a scale of one inch to three miles. Place names, printed in black ink on beige, include four mining districts—the Iron Spring, Pioneer, California, and Needle Mountain—wagon roads with tollgates, trails, railroads, and mines—or “mineral locations,” as he called them—with the prominent ones named.

Fischer’s “Map of the San Juan Mining Districts” departs from his predecessors’ efforts by adding several new categories: smelters, sawmills, coal deposits, timber stands, and grazing areas. He provided insets with plats of Durango, Silverton, and Rico. The copyright notice bears the names of F. C. Lawrence—merchant in jewelry, watches, and fine diamonds, and Fischer’s close friend in



Durango—and inventor George Freund, perhaps because these men possessed the financial resources Fischer lacked to make publication possible.⁸

Fischer published his second creation, entitled “Map of Red Mountain and the Mining Region of San Juan, Ouray, San Miguel and Dolores Counties” (opposite), in 1886. Unlike his 1883 map, it delineates relief by hachures, consisting of series of short, vertical parallel lines, to roughly portray elevations; the closer the lines appear together, the steeper the slope. White space denotes the beginning of timberline, and, on the left side, the map lists the various mining districts by county, each one numbered.⁹

Fischer outlined the counties in color: San Juan in yellow, San Miguel in red, Ouray in blue, and Dolores in light green. He colored lakes blue and the trails red and underlined towns in red. The map encompasses the territory from Portland, north of Ouray, on the north, to Rico and Elk Park, which lie north of Durango, on the south; then it stretches from Eureka on the east to Rico and Placerville on the west. A small inset portrays the system of wagon roads connecting Telluride and Ouray with Montrose.

Like his earlier map, this one indicates mine locations, though a smaller number, as well as stamp mills and concentrators. The detail in this larger work—seventy-six by eighty-one centimeters, using a scale of one inch to one mile—is extraordinary for the period. Lithographed by A. Gast Bank Note Company, it reflects Fischer’s artistic talents and individualism, lending it an almost folk-art appearance. As on his subsequent efforts, except that of 1894, Fischer’s name appears as copyright owner.

Fischer’s Later Maps

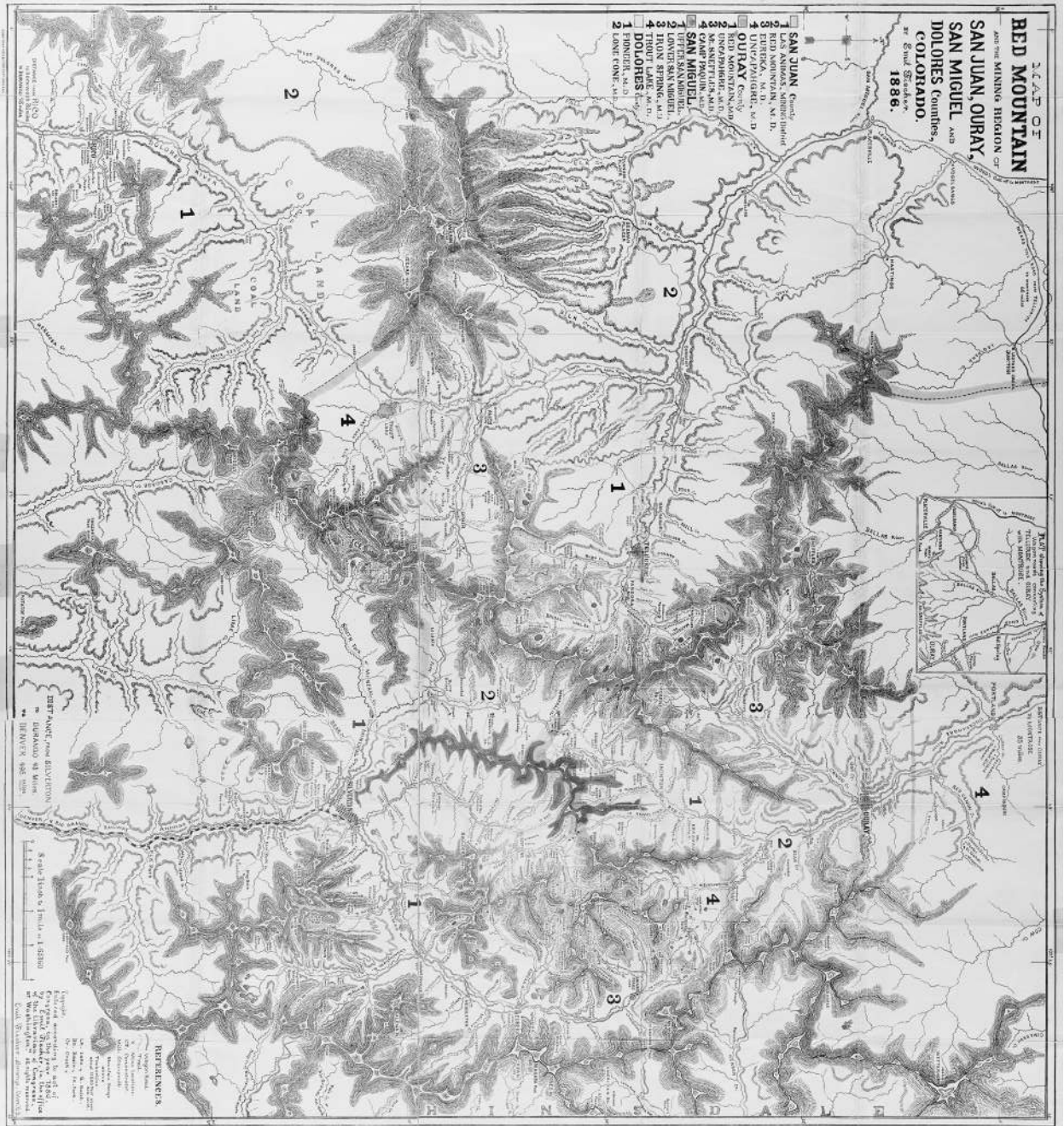
The cartographer’s third publication, his second “Map of Red Mountain and the Mining Region of San Juan, Ouray, San Miguel and Dolores Counties,” debuted in 1891 to update its predecessor. His largest to date, at eighty by ninety-two

centimeters, the map repeats the scale of the previous work—one inch to one mile—and, likewise, represents relief by hachures and indicates spot heights. It encompasses the area from Ridgway on the north to Rico and Elk Park on the south, and, like the 1886 edition, extends from Eureka on the east to Rico and Placerville on the west. Inset plats focus on three mining locales of contemporary interest: Newman Hill at Rico, the Red Mountain area, and Silver Lake in Arrastra Basin east of Silverton. Each of these insets illustrates the precise positions of overlapping claims.¹⁰

Like its counterpart published five years earlier, Fischer’s 1891 map (p. 74) features an updated, numbered index of mining districts within each color-coded county. San Juan County, this time outlined in blue, now sports six rather than four such districts;¹¹ Ouray and San Miguel Counties display one new district, boosting each of their totals to five;¹² and in Dolores County, the Lone Cone has become part of the Mount Wilson Mining District. This ambitious project shows the locations of hundreds of the San Juan region’s named mines and placers and may constitute a comprehensive compilation.

Fischer also brought the area’s railroad network up to date, noted the Montrose, Durango, Gunnison, and Del Norte land district boundaries, and indicated the site of a brewery near Silverton. The map bears this notation: “The Author claims Ten years original topographical field work of this section. . . . Sketches from Nature in Pencil, Ink and Water-Colors, executed by Emil B. Fischer.”

Unfortunately, Fischer traced his 1891 achievement on the wrong side of his prepared paper, making it impossible for the Chicago printer to make an impression. Consequently, he had to draw it a second time, delaying publication at least two months.¹³ However, the *Silverton Standard* proclaimed the finished product “the most reliable map of the district” and said that “to eastern people interested in the San Juan, it is invaluable.”¹⁴ Fischer began selling copies of his new map that



August for three dollars apiece,¹⁵ which translates to about seventy-eight dollars today.¹⁶

Fischer's fourth major project was his sprawling 1893 "Map of Southwestern Colorado" (p. 75). Measuring 110 by 78 centimeters and drawn to a scale of one quarter inch to one mile, this map covers the huge expanse from Dallas, Colorado, on the north, to Farmington, New Mexico, on the south, and from Del Norte, Colorado, on the east, to Bluff City, Utah, on the west. It embraces geographic and political features, including irrigation canals and land districts, covering part or all of thirteen Colorado counties.¹⁷

This work's most remarkable characteristic is its striking beauty, demonstrating Fischer's artistic talent. He distinguished one county from its neighbors via filled-in pastel colors of buff, gray, rose, and peach. The Colorado Southern Ute Indian Reservation appears on the state's southern boundary with New Mexico—with the towns,

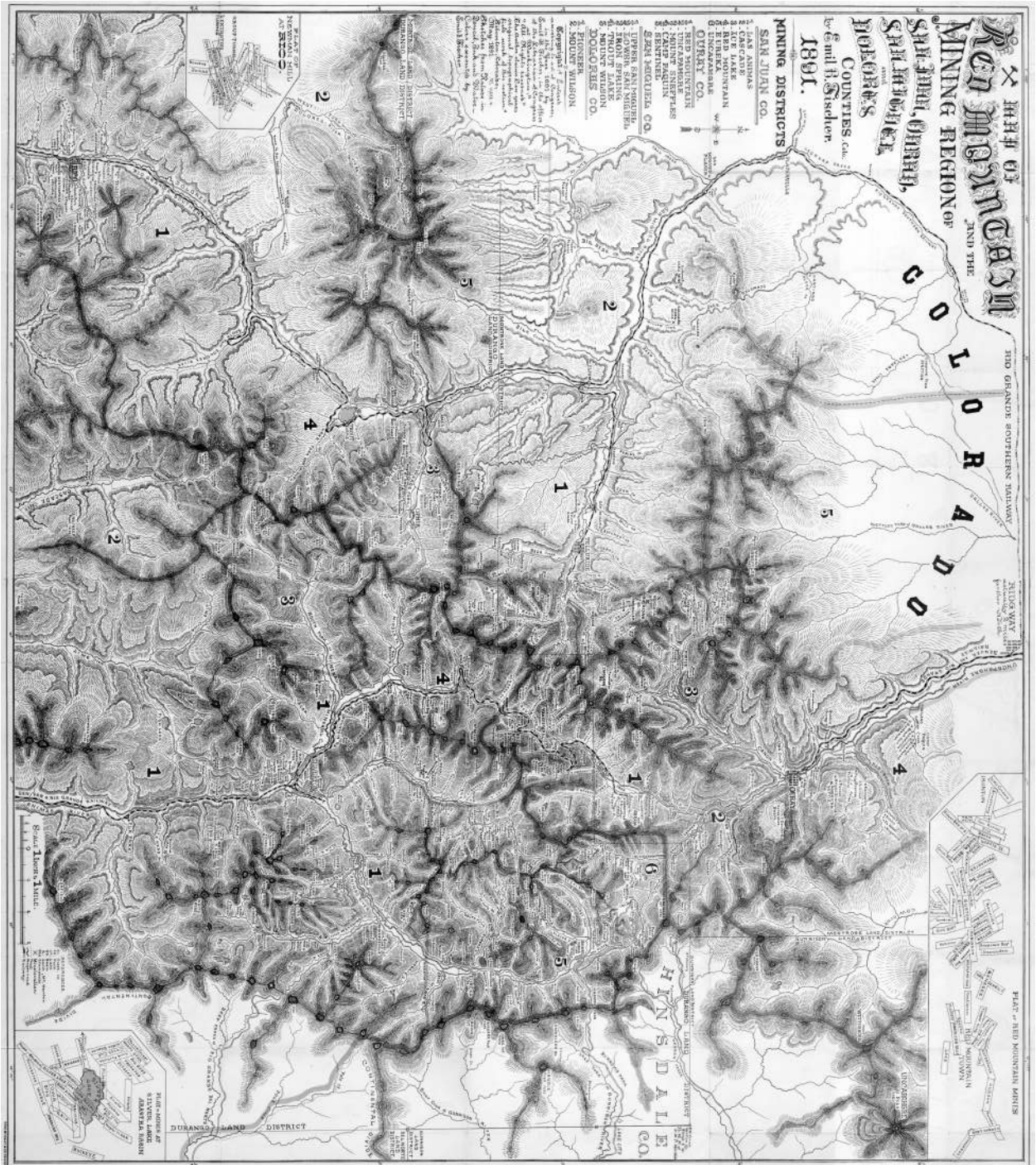
roads, and rivers of northwestern New Mexico below it—along with a portion of the Navajo Indian Reservation.

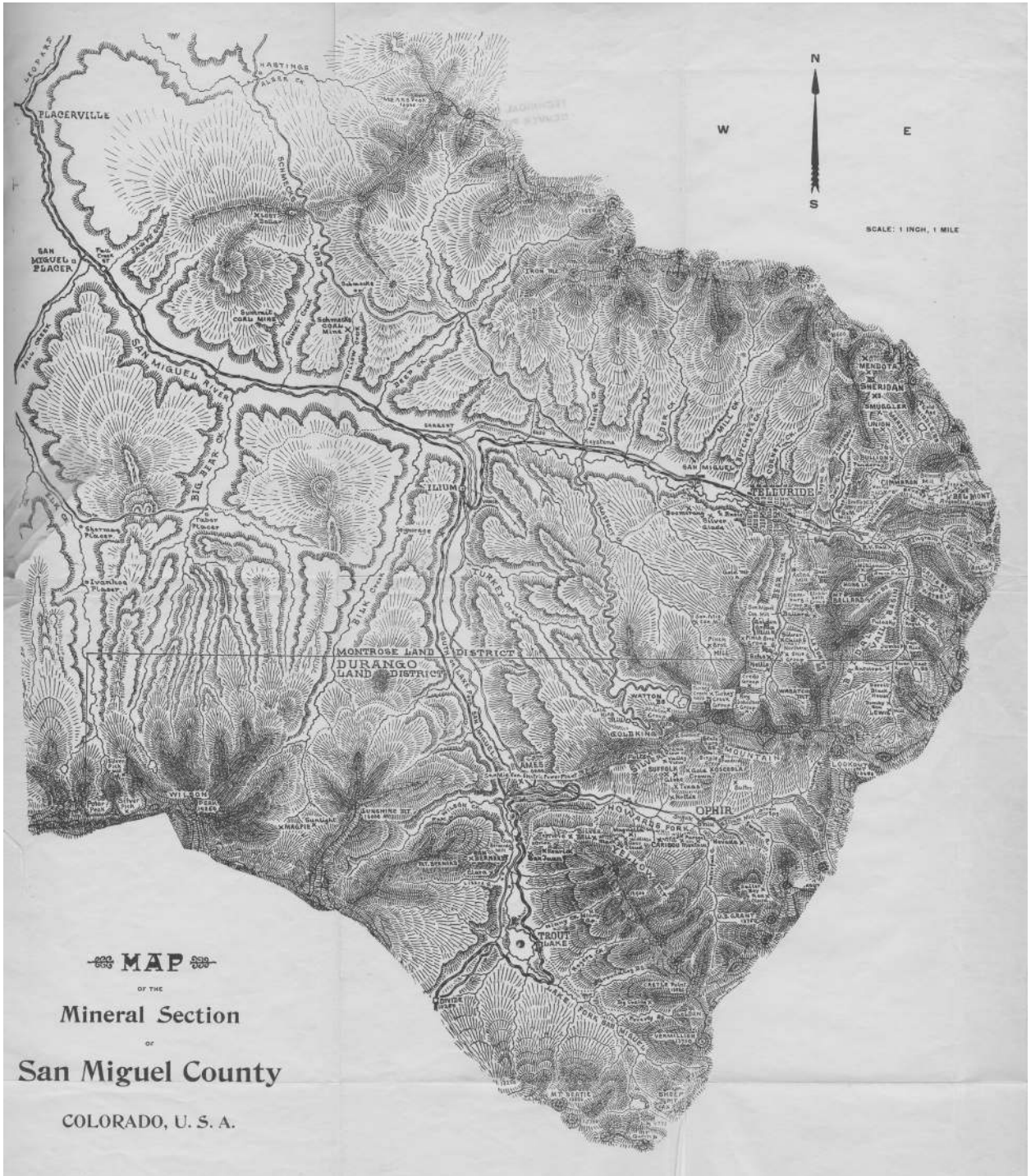
One inset pictures a plat of the city of Durango and its surroundings, and another shows part of the proposed Southern Ute Reservation along with the existing Navajo Reservation extension, both in eastern Utah. Insets in one corner highlight San Juan County, Utah's geographic attributes, and southwestern Colorado's California Mining District, the latter giving numbered locations for eighty-two mining properties. Yet another inset shows the network of railroad systems reaching Durango from Cheyenne, Denver, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, and Phoenix. A final inset offers a plat of the Needle Mountain mines between Silverton and Durango in La Plata County.

Except within these insets, the map, with its broader scale, indicates only a few prominent

Name	Mining District	Name	Mining District	Name	Mining District
Caribou	Iron Spring	Ivanhoe Placer	Mount Wilson	Champion	Upper San Miguel
Fulton	Iron Spring	Magpie	Mount Wilson	Cimmaron	Upper San Miguel
Globe	Iron Spring	Silver Pick	Mount Wilson	Dan Rice	Upper San Miguel
Gold Crown	Iron Spring	Sunlight	Mount Wilson	Domby Son	Upper San Miguel
Grand View	Iron Spring	Big Casino	Trout Lake	Dorril	Upper San Miguel
Mack	Iron Spring	C A	Trout Lake	Echo	Upper San Miguel
Magnolia	Iron Spring	Clara	Trout Lake	Flora	Upper San Miguel
Monteru	Iron Spring	Fox	Trout Lake	Gold Age	Upper San Miguel
Nettie	Iron Spring	Kenrick	Trout Lake	Gold King	Upper San Miguel
Nevada	Iron Spring	Minny Group	Trout Lake	Gold Mountain	Upper San Miguel
Osceola	Iron Spring	Mountain Queen	Trout Lake	Jumbo	Upper San Miguel
Parson	Iron Spring	Orion	Trout Lake	Lewis	Upper San Miguel
Red Cloud	Iron Spring	San Bernard	Trout Lake	Lizzlee	Upper San Miguel
Sailor Boy	Iron Spring	San Juan	Trout Lake	Mendota	Upper San Miguel
Silver Bell	Iron Spring	76	Upper San Miguel	Millionaire	Upper San Miguel
Silver Cloud	Iron Spring	Alta	Upper San Miguel	Nellie	Upper San Miguel
Suffolk	Iron Spring	American Exchange	Upper San Miguel	Pandora	Upper San Miguel
Summit	Iron Spring	Andrus	Upper San Miguel	Pulasky	Upper San Miguel
Terrible	Iron Spring	Antelope	Upper San Miguel	Royal	Upper San Miguel
Texas	Iron Spring	Arctic	Upper San Miguel	S M	Upper San Miguel
Valley View	Iron Spring	Argentine	Upper San Miguel	Sheridan	Upper San Miguel
Watchear	Iron Spring	Ballard	Upper San Miguel	Silver Chief	Upper San Miguel
Lost Dollar	Lower San Miguel	Basie	Upper San Miguel	Silver Glade	Upper San Miguel
San Miguel Placer	Lower San Miguel	Belmont	Upper San Miguel	Smuggler	Upper San Miguel
Schmecks Coal	Lower San Miguel	Black House	Upper San Miguel	Swan	Upper San Miguel
Sherman Placer	Lower San Miguel	Boomerang	Upper San Miguel	Union	Upper San Miguel
Summit Coal	Lower San Miguel	Bullion	Upper San Miguel	Waterloo	Upper San Miguel
Tabor Placer	Lower San Miguel				

San Miguel County mines Fischer located on his 1891 map.





Fischer's 1894 "Map of the Mineral Section of San Miguel County."

mines (e.g. the Yankee Girl south of Ironton). It omits hachures except within Colorado's south-western Montezuma County and three of the insets. As with his previous projects, latitude and longitude figures are hand-inked into the margins.

The following year, 1894, Emil Fischer issued his lesser-known, limited-scope "Map of the Mineral Section of San Miguel County" (p. 76). It measures only thirty-six by forty-one centimeters. The publisher, the Telluride Board of Trade, attached it to a booklet entitled *Resources and Mineral Wealth of San Miguel County, Colorado: Past, Present and Future*. Fischer employed the scale of one inch to one mile for this black-ink map, which spans the eastern part of the county from Mears Peak on the north to Sheep Mountain on the south, and from Ingram Lake, just west of the San Miguel-Ouray county line, on the east, to Placerville on the west.¹⁸

Fischer's 1891 map formed the basis for this one, for the cartographer lifted, in the identical script, the San Miguel County part of the San Juan region from the earlier map, and, in his own handwriting, added a dozen mines to bring it up to date. In addition, he included the new alternating-current power plant at Ames, south of Illium, the first in Colorado.¹⁹ Fischer returned to the global use of hachures to designate relative elevations but, for unknown reasons, omitted longitude and latitude numbers. Although this map is untitled and without credit or copyright, Fischer obviously created it.

The artist's final cartographic achievement was his 1898 map of "The Principal Mining Section of San Juan County" (opposite). Fischer intended it to update his somewhat larger 1891 creation. Smaller in scope than its predecessors, except the 1894, it covers the area from Mt. Abram and Mineral Point on the north to Elk Park on the south, and from the Continental Divide east of Eureka on the east to the Ophir Loop and Trout Lake on the west.²⁰

In a departure from his 1891 map, it denotes

San Juan County's six mining districts filled in with bold colors: the Las Animas and Uncompahgre (spelled "Uncompahgre") in red; the Cascade and Red Mountain in green; and the Ice Lake and Eureka in gold. The 1898 map also displays three eastern San Miguel County mining districts, Upper San Miguel in gold and Iron Spring and Trout Lake both in red, and the southern portion of the Red Mountain Mining District of Ouray County, in beige. Lakes appear in green. The map notes relief via hachures, but contains no insets.

The 1898 map omits some mines illustrated in the 1891 version, perhaps because they had lost prominence; however, it adds a dozen mines southeast of Silverton and two dozen east of Elk Park, both in the Las Animas Mining District, as well as a number of others in Picayune Gulch, north of Eureka in the Eureka Mining District. The newer map also indicates more tramways and tunnels than the earlier effort.

The 1898 map measures seventy-three by ninety-one centimeters, with a superlative scale of one and a half inches to one mile. Along the right margin appears the following text: "Copyright: Entered by Emil B. Fischer 1898, in the office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington. All rights reserved. The author claiming 17 years original topographical field work of this section. Silverton, Colorado. 1898."

Fischer had just placed this artwork on the market before his death in September of that year.²¹ Sales of the 1898 map languished, perhaps due to the appearance a year earlier of the first USGS topographic map of the region, which likely was distributed free or sold for a sum as nominal as five cents.²² In 1903, however, San Juan County officially adopted this Fischer map as part of its description of election precinct boundaries.²³

Fischer produced these six maps, except the 1894 and possibly the 1898, as "pocket maps," i.e., they came folded and packaged in printed enclosures for safe, easy transport. Perhaps the cartographer produced other maps that have not survived. An 1885 article alluded to one he constructed of

the routes from southwestern Colorado to the gold placers north of the San Juan River near the Henry Mountains in southeastern Utah.²⁴

The interested reader may view Fischer's originals at a number of libraries and other locations in the U.S., principally in Colorado.²⁵ Some institutions, including the Denver Public Library, which houses all six of his maps, sell high-resolution digital images.

Emil Fischer the Artist

Emil Fischer's artistic gifts bore fruit through his paintings and sketches as well as his maps. His most famous, painted in 1895, depicts Francis Marion Snowden's cabin, the first in Baker's Park, where Silverton now stands. It portrays both the majestic physical setting and, with a touch of humor, the 1874 founding settlers' revelry. In vivid colors it features a man racing a horse at full gallop; another man swinging a rabbit over his head by its ears while a child tugs at his pants, evidently trying to stop him; a man chugging liquor from a jug; another passed out, leaning against the cabin; and a settler throwing up beside a cabin corner. Fischer's figures appear a bit stilted rather than entirely natural.

Fischer presented this treasure, in which he "took much pride,"²⁶ to San Juan Lodge No. 33 of the Masonic order in Silverton, which may have specifically commissioned it.²⁷ The San Juan County Historical Society has recently acquired the painting for its Silverton museum.

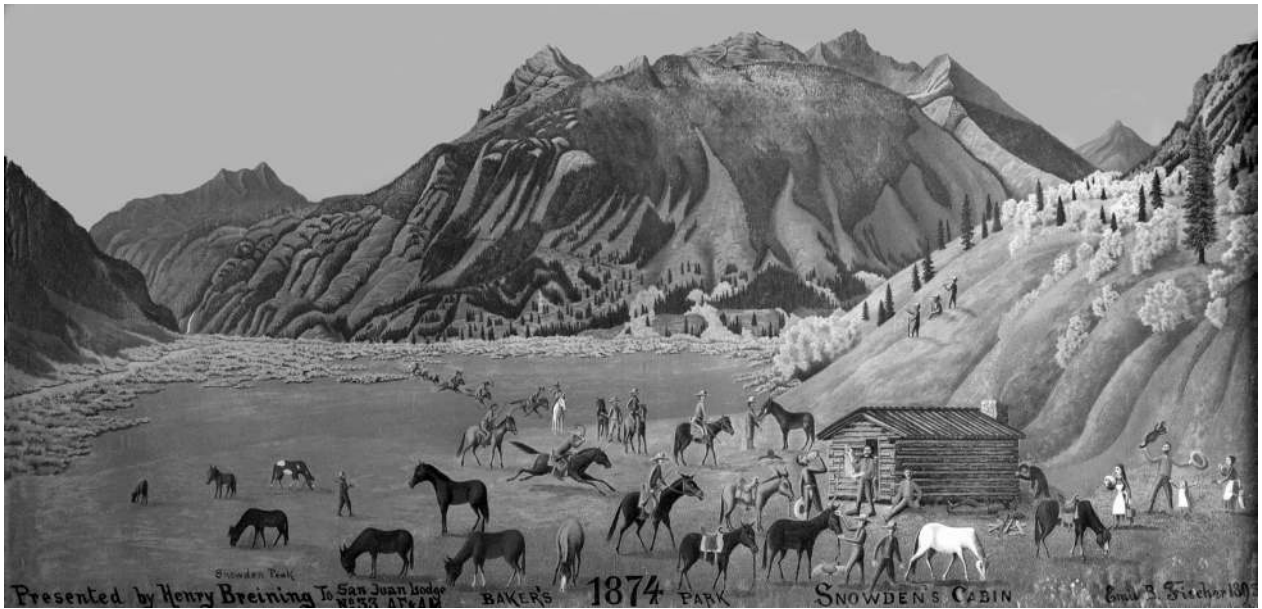
A black-and-white photomechanical reproduction of another Fischer painting—"Parrott City, County Seat of La Plata County, Colo., June 1881"—enhances the art collection of the Denver Public Library. The work presents a panoramic view overlooking the now-defunct mining town of Richmond (Parrott City), lying at the foot of dramatic peaks.²⁸

The writer is not aware of other paintings or sketches by Fischer that have survived. However, a May 1881 newspaper article related that

Fischer was laboring on a painting of Durango, "which when finished will show the town and its surroundings in all the[ir] natural beauty."²⁹ The same paper reported the painting completed the following month.³⁰ The next year, 1882, Fischer sketched, in watercolors, the La Plata Mountains near Durango. From that sketch and other drawings, he intended to paint one grand picture of the entire district, twelve by thirty-six feet, for a Denver exhibition.³¹ Apparently Fischer also painted a likeness of the original hotel at Trimble Hot Springs and an image of the area around Baker's Bridge, both north of Durango,³² and probably others. He frequently sketched mining properties for their owners, including the Mastodon Mine northwest of Eureka, an illustration which Rasmus Hanson commissioned in 1894.³³ In 1895 Fischer drew the upper part of Eureka Gulch for the miners in that locality.³⁴

It seems that Fischer led the life of an inconspicuous artist, and for that reason biographical details emerge only with difficulty. The writer has not been able to discover Fischer's physical description or a photo of him or evidence that he married. An exhaustive review of articles of the time from the Silverton, Durango, Cortez, and Telluride newspaper archives has yielded few glimpses of his personal life. These periodicals occasionally spelled his name "Fisher." Several referred to him as "Prof. Fischer," most likely an honorary title related to his status as an artist. (Orchestra conductors of that era were often called "professor.")³⁵

Fischer prospected occasionally, once up Cement Creek. On another excursion, while sketching Engineer Mountain and the Cascade Creek area southwest of Silverton from Grizzly Peak, he came upon an ore specimen near his campsite that assayed rich in gold, but several parties he directed there later could not locate the site.³⁶ By habit he seemed to spend summers in Silverton,³⁷ and, perhaps for health reasons, wintered at his small ranch in the Montezuma Valley,³⁸ which lies west of Durango at a much lower altitude. However, he passed the summer of 1890 surveying for the



Fischer's 1895 painting of Francis Marion Snowden's Cabin

Rio Grande and Utah Railroad.³⁹

It is tempting to speculate about how Fischer conducted his business. Likely he packed his compass, field glasses, sketch pad, pencils, and erasers in saddlebags and headed off to climb mountains to gain panoramas of the terrain and a sense of perspective. A packhorse laden with his tent, bedroll, food, and hunting rifle would trail along behind. He would ascend ledge trails and stop to chat with miners and freighters and pat a burro's nose. From atop Kendall Mountain, Fischer would have noticed how Arrastra Creek curves slightly to the west before it empties into the Animas River near the Aspen Mine. From this vantage point, he would have spotted details of elevation and mining activity on the opposite side of the valley.

Fischer would draw mine portals for owners while their ore cars clattered over rails from inside tunnels to dump loads of fragmented vein rock dotted with galena and iron pyrite. He would crane his neck passing beneath whirring tramway cables whose buckets carried silver, gold, and lead ores from mines to mills adjacent to railroad lines, and transported sides of beef, drill bits and hammers, dynamite, and lumber back up the moun-

tain. In the spring, perhaps he dodged avalanches in a compulsion to finish plotting a key sector to meet a self-imposed deadline. His expedition completed, Fischer would return to his home and, from his sketches, add detail to the story in geography he was constructing.

Emil Fischer's Legacy

Emil B. Fischer died on 23 September 1898, at the age of fifty-nine, of "paralysis of the heart."⁴⁰ He collapsed on the sidewalk in front of the First National Bank in Silverton, where he had just transacted some business. Reportedly his only known survivor was a sister in Dresden.⁴¹ Dave Ramsey of Durango cut Emil Fischer's headstone.⁴² His obituary in the *Durango Democrat* revealed his final circumstances and paid a poignant tribute to the guide to the San Juan mines:

Judge Richard McCloud has a letter from Fischer, written on the 17th. It is very pathetic. He said he was then a physical and financial wreck; there had been no sale for his excellent maps recently issued and he expressed the regret that there was

so little to do in his line to earn money. He told a sorrowful story of his condition of health.

Since his residence here he has, in his labors to earn a competency by map making and sketching, rendered the country many valuable services which have been very poorly paid. Prof. Fischer was unfortunately one of the great class whom God had richly endowed with talents, but to serve the public for a miserable existence, a pittance now and then and some crumbs.

Fischer was a genius who could have shone in comparison with the world of genius. He was unfortunate not to have found a niche in his life career which would better have enabled him in his last hours to enjoy life a little longer.⁴³

Although the details of his decline are poorly documented, it appears Emil Fischer died alone and relatively poor despite his notable abilities.



Emil Fischer's grave marker, Hillside Cemetery, Silverton, Colorado. Photo by the author.

His six maps and his paintings showcase the rich mining history of the San Juans. Unlike his predecessors, contemporaries, or the USGS that followed, he combined aesthetic flair with accurate cartography, making his work unique and creating a market for it more than a century after he died. California rare-map dealer Barry Ruderman recently sold one of Fischer's 1893 maps for \$6,500.⁴⁴

Fischer's fate seemed to parallel that of other struggling artists. The writer believes he remained intent on following an inner fire that drove him to reveal the land he loved, to share its essence with others, and to help them comprehend and traverse it. He remained fiercely committed to his calling in defiance of financial setbacks and in spite of health complications that likely arose from the region's altitude. He would not move on to another mining region nor would he embrace a more lucrative trade. Instead, doubtless due to strong emotional ties, he persisted in surveying this particular terrain and then interpreting it with faithfulness and beauty.

Acknowledgements

The writer would like to thank these individuals who significantly contributed to his research: Telluride map collector and historian Dirk A. de Pagter; Christopher J. J. Thiry, map librarian, Colorado School of Mines; Casey Carroll, archivist, and Beverly Rich, chairman of the board of directors, San Juan County Historical Society; Carolyn Bowra, director, the Animas Museum; Mark Esper, editor, the Silverton Standard; Sarah Gilmor, reference librarian, History Colorado; Jackie Dorr, manager of special projects, Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration; Brian King, fellow at the Center for Southwest Research; Jay T. Harrison, director, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College; L. Michael Kaas, web coordinator, Mining History Association; Freda Carley Peterson; Noel Kalenian, reference librarian, and Coi Drummond-Gehrig, Digital Image Sales and Re-

search, Western History-Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library; Tom Overton and James Speed Hensinger, Rocky Mountain Map Society; Jovanka Ristic, American Geographical Society Library; Ruth Lambert, cultural program director, San Juan Mountains Association; Robert McDaniel, former director of the La Plata County Historical Society; Laura Schneider, Hinsdale County Museum; Abraham Kaleo Parrish, head of the Map Department, Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University; Paul and Mary Beaber, Hillside Cemetery Committee; and former Silverton mayor Terry Kerwin. ■

On the morning of 28 July 1987, while strolling through historic Hillside Cemetery above Silverton, Colorado, Larry Godwin spotted Emil Fischer's grave marker. That afternoon he began researching the map-maker at the town library through articles in the Silverton Standard. He feels a deep connection to Mr. Fischer, which he believes originated in a previous life. He discovered the Mining History Association in 2013. A retired accounting professor, Godwin lives with his wife, Cathy, in Missoula, Montana. He invites any reader who knows additional details about Emil Fischer to please contact him at: lbg@mtwi.net.

Notes:

1. *Montezuma Journal* (Cortez, CO), 30 Sep. 1898, 4 (reprinted from the *Durango [CO] Democrat*). The article, Fischer's obituary, reported that he traveled in 1872 or 1873 directly from New York to Omaha, where he worked for Kountze Brothers in mercantile and banking for two or three years. Prior to locating in Durango, he visited California and also resided in Denver.
2. The Hinsdale County Museum in Lake City sells copies of this map for one dollar.
3. Allen Nossaman, *Many More Mountains, Volume 3: Rails into Silverton* (Denver: Sundance Publications Ltd., 1998), 258.
4. Freda Carley Peterson, *The Story of Hillside Cemetery, Silverton, San Juan County, Colorado, Volume 1, A-L, Revised* (Silverton: San Juan County Historical Society, 1996), p. F-10.
5. Note attached to an image of Fischer's 1886 map posted on rare-map dealer Barry Ruderman's website: www.raremaps.com
6. Peterson, *Story of Hillside Cemetery*, F-10.
7. Nossaman, *Many More Mountains* 3, 264-5.
8. Emil Fischer, "E. Fischer's Map of the San Juan Mining Districts, Colorado," Durango, CO: s.n., 1883. Advertisements for both Lawrence and Freund appear on the map packet.
9. Emil Fischer, "Map of Red Mountain and the Mining Region of San Juan, Ouray, San Miguel, and Dolores Counties, Colorado," St. Louis: A. Gast Bank Note & Litho. Co., 1886. The mining districts denoted were Las Animas, Red Mountain, Eureka, and Uncapahgre [*sic*] for San Juan County; Red Mountain, Uncapahgre [*sic*], Mt. Sneffles [*sic*], and Camp Paquin for Ouray County; Upper San Miguel, Lower San Miguel, Iron Spring, and Trout Lake for San Miguel County; and Pioneer and Lone Cone for Dolores County.
10. Emil Fischer, "Map of Red Mountain and the Mining Region of San Juan, Ouray, San Miguel, and Dolores Counties, Colo.," Chicago: Rand McNally and Co., 1891.
11. San Juan County's additions were the Cascade and Ice Lake districts.
12. The Sentinel District was added in Ouray County and the Mount Wilson District in San Miguel County.
13. *Silverton [CO] Standard*, 20 June 1891.
14. *Silverton Standard*, 23 July 1892.
15. *Silverton Standard*, 15 Aug. 1891.
16. Based on estimates from the Consumer Price Index [$\$3 \times (701.5/27)$].
17. Emil B. Fischer, "Map of Southwestern Colorado," s.l., s.n., 1893. The counties covered are Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Rio Grande, Dolores, San Juan, Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, Conejos, and Saguache.
18. [Emil Fischer], "Map of the Mineral Section of San Miguel County, Colorado U.S.A.," [Telluride, CO: Telluride Board of Trade, 1894].
19. Eric Twitty, *Historic Mining Resources of San Juan County, Colorado* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, revised Mar. 1992), 75.
20. Emil B. Fischer, "The Principal Mining Section of San Juan County, Colorado," Silverton, CO: Emil B. Fischer, 1898.
21. (Telluride, CO) *Daily Journal*, 26 Sep. 1898, 1 (reprinted from the *Silverton Miner* of 24 Sep.).
22. Conversation with a USGS representative, 5 Aug. 2013.
23. *Silverton Standard*, 3 Oct. 1903.

24. *The Idea* (Durango, CO), 14 Mar. 1885.
25. Locations with Fischer map holdings include: Denver Public Library (all six maps); Colorado School of Mines (1883, 1886, 1891, 1893); Colorado College (1886, 1891); Fort Lewis College, Center of Southwest Studies (1886, 1891); Fort Lewis College, John F. Reed Library (1898); Univ. of Colorado, Denver, (1894); Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs (1894); San Juan County Historical Society Archives, Silverton (1886); Office of San Juan County Treasurer, Silverton (1891); Library of Congress (1893, 1898); Yale Univ. (1886, 1891, 1894, 1898); Columbia Univ. (1894); Brigham Young Univ. (1893); Univ. of Nevada, Reno (1893); Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (1893); Southern Methodist Univ. (1893); Autry Institute for the Study of the American West, Los Angeles (1893).
26. *Silverton Standard*, 12 Sep. 1896.
27. Allen Nossaman, *Many More Mountains, Volume 1: Silverton's Roots* (Denver: Sundance Publications Ltd., 1989). The painting appears on page 205.
28. *Durango [CO] News*, 14 Aug. 1936.
29. *Durango [CO] Record*, 21 May 1881 (and *Durango [CO] Herald*, 14 Aug. 1936).
30. *Durango Record*, 4 June 1881.
31. *Durango Weekly Herald*, 29 May 1882.
32. Robert McDaniel, former director of the La Plata County Historical Society, e-mail to the author, 13 May 2013.
33. *Silverton Standard*, 25 Aug. 1894.
34. *Silverton Standard*, 20 July 1895.
35. Carolyn Bowra, director of the Animas Museum, e-mail to the author, 11 June 2013.
36. Retrospectives from the *Durango Herald*, 21 July 1911, and the *Durango Semi-Weekly Herald* of the same week.
37. *Silverton Standard*, 22 June 1895.
38. Peterson, *Story of Hillside Cemetery*, F-10.
39. *Silverton Standard*, 12 Apr. 1890.
40. *Daily Journal*, 26 Sep. 1898, 1.
41. Peterson, *Story of Hillside Cemetery*, F-10.
42. Peterson, *Story of Hillside Cemetery*, F-10.
43. *Montezuma Journal*, 30 Sep. 1898, 4.
44. Barry Ruderman, e-mail to the author, 12 Aug. 2014.