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Thomas Preveraud* (thomaspreveraud@yahoo.com), Lille, France. *The Early Teaching of Descriptive Geometry in the United States (1817-1915)*.

In the United States, descriptive geometry was a subject very few mathematicians, teachers or engineers knew about before 1820. Most of them were self-taught, as it was not introduced in any curriculum before 1817. This communication presents the first course of descriptive geometry ever taught in the United States by French polytechnician Claude Crozet, professor of civil engineering at West Point between 1817 and 1823, who introduced the subject in West Point curriculum in 1817. Descriptive geometry soon became a subject taught in colleges, especially in those that had already started to offer their students elective courses, or special engineer-training programs. Thus, descriptive geometry went gradually from a restrictive audience subject to a general-interest subject often shown as a sequel of the classical geometry course. Textbooks authors introduced then new élémentations of the method of projections in order to fit the changing readership and the changing place of the subject in the various curricula. After 1875, the practical role played by descriptive geometry remained crucial in emerging technical institutions and it found back there its original mission as a graphic art for the training of engineers. (Received August 25, 2016)