

TIMELINE OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

1851 -In September a committee formed to draft a Constitution. On October 9th, 1851, a meeting held in John Dursturnell's Geographical and Statistical Library at 179 Broadway in New York City adopted the Constitution. At the founding of the Society, women were included as active members and participants because the Constitution stated under "membership" that, "any person of good standing and character may be admitted."

1852 -George Bancroft is the first president elected by the Society and serves until December 1854.

The American Geographical Society moves to New York University at Washington Square. The University's chapel was used for some of the Society's lectures. The Society remained at this location until 1858.

1853 - John Romeyn Brodhead's [one of four of the Society's founders] first volume of *History of the State of New York* appeared in 1853.

1854 -Francis L. Hawks is elected the second President of the American Geographical Society. The Society was fully established on December 7th, 1854, under a charter granted by legislators of the State of New York.

1855 - William Coventry Henry Waddle's First Term as Recording Secretary for the American Geographical Society began in December 1855 and lasted until 1857. Mr Waddle was described as "one of the most energetic figures in the early history of the Society."

1856 -George Folsom, Esq. [one of the gentlemen that suggested the formation of the Society] served on the Society's Council in 1856.

1857 - Volume 2 of the *Bulletin of the American Geographical and Statistical Society* is published. Additionally, the Society endorses Isaac Israel Hayes' Arctic expedition. This expedition was an attempt to reach the North Pole.

1858 -Two rooms located in Clinton Hall, formerly the Astor Opera House, became the Society's new home in December of this year.

1859- In 1859, Archibald Russel's services to the American Geographical Society were declared by John Jay (a member of the Society's board) as "publicly acknowledged" and

“aided in preparing the way for the labors of this association [the Society] whose infancy he so faithfully nursed.” Russel was deemed to be incredibly influential in the Society’s affairs and held the important post of Chairman of the Council.

1860 -On February 2nd, 1860, the Society’s by-laws were amended to move the annual meeting from December to the first Thursday after May 1st of every year.

1861 - Henry Grinnell was elected President of the American Geographical Society in November, 1861, and served until May 1864. Mr Grinnell was described as “one of the Society’s most esteemed members who did more than any of his colleagues to advance the Arctic explorations from which the Society gained its largest measure of repute during these times.”

1862- The Society’s most ambitious attempt to influence governmental policy was made early in 1862. On January 7, a special committee was appointed on the subject of “devising a system of taxation and in connection therewith a financial plan, which shall be adapted to the present state of public affairs.’ The committee prepared a report which was printed and distributed to members of the Society, members of Congress, and other public functionaries throughout the United States. It received “much commendation from the press”.

1863- The first paper presented before the Society was read by Asa Whitney at a closed meeting in 1851. Mr Whitney’s topic proposed a railroad to the Pacific, a project that he had been ardently advocating. The Society did not publish Mr Whitney’s address, but it did publish papers on the subject that AGS Councilor Henry Varnum Poor had read at two AGS meetings, the second of which was in 1863.

1864 –In May, 1864, Judge Charles P. Daly is elected President and served until September, 1899. Judge Daly was described as “more than an interested amateur of geography [unlike most AGS Councilors].” He was an “able and productive geographer in his own right whose spirit of enquiry animated the Society.”

1865- In 1865, John Disturnell, an editor who kept up a lively interest in the American Geographical Society, claimed that he himself had given the Society the name ‘American Geographical and Statistical Society’; possibly due to the fact that the organizational meeting was held in his ‘Geographical and Statistical Library’.

1866- The American Geographical Society moved to Cooper Union at Cooper Square on Ninth Street, where it remained for ten years.

1867 - In 1867, through the good offices of Abram S Hewitt, former Councilor and an associate of Peter Cooper; the Trustees of the Cooper Institute offered the AGS a home in their new building. They would surely not have done so if Cooper and Hewitt lacked faith in the AGS. A lecture room, a library, and map room had been “liberally and handsomely fitted up at the expense of the Trustees of the Cooper Union.”

1868 - Although Judge Charles P Daly was elected President of the Society in 1864, the long period throughout which he was the dominating figure in its affairs may be said to have begun in May, 1868. The year 1868 was the beginning of a period marked by calm and steady advance, with the Society starting to grow in prestige, membership, and wealth.

1869 - The Powell expedition began exploration of the [Grand Canyon](#), on May 24, 1869. The [Powell Expedition](#) ends its exploration of the Grand Canyon on August 29, 1869, by exiting the Canyon at Grand Wash. Daniel Coit Gilman who taught geography at Yale and delivered two addresses before the AGS, describes the Powell Expedition as “work of great geographical value.”

1870 - In his address of 1870, Judge Charles P Daly demonstrated that the “alleged evidence cited in favor of open water around the North Pole was inconclusive and misleading;” opposing the work of a number of authorities such as Captain Silas Bent.

1871 - On April 8th 1871, the Society amended its Charter and drops the “and Statistical” from its title, thus becoming the ‘American Geographical Society’, as opposed to the ‘American Geographical and Statistical Society’.

Francis Aquila Stout (a member, Foreign Corresponding Secretary and future Vice President of the AGS) was sent by the American Geographical Society to attend the 1st International Geographical Congress. This representation marked the Society’s emergence into the International Geographical Community, a role it continues to play today.

1872 - On March 13th 1872, the AGS Financial Committee was established, the only standing committee from then until 1876. It functioned as an executive committee as well, for administrative questions were referred to it.

1873 - George Kennan lectures at the American Geographical Society. The lecture is on ‘The Mountains and Mountaineers of the Eastern Caucasus.’

1874 - On February 16, 1874, The AGS holds a reception for the survivors of the *Polaris* Expedition. This reception is also Henry Grinnell's (previous AGS Vice President) last appearance at a public meeting of the Society.

1875 -The American Geographical Society was an Honorary Member at the 2nd International Geographical Congress held in Paris, France.

1876 - The Society relocated to 15 West 29th Street, where it remained until 1899.

1877 – AGS President Judge Charles P. Daly had an eye for the unusual and the dramatic, even though it did not fall within the strict definition of ‘geographical work’. Thus in 1877, he called attention to the “Oral Telegraph” (an invention by Mr Graham Bell), a device in which “a person at one end of the wire delivers the message by word of mouth, and a person at the other, by applying his ear, hears the words that are uttered.”

1878 - In the spring of 1878, John C. Morison, who was a Fellow of the AGS, called Judge Charles P Daly's attention to a statement made by Thomas F Barry. Mr Barry claimed to have learned from the Eskimos that white men, years before, had come to an island in the Gulf of Boothia, where they erected a cairn in which they had enclosed a book. A possible conclusion was that this might be a missing record of the Franklin expedition. Hence a vessel was sent out to visit and examine the spot, and thus originated the Society's Franklin Party.

1879- Judge Charles P. Daly sent two AGS representatives to an international conference focused on building a proposed canal across Central America. Afterwards, he resented the self appointed leadership by Europeans and insisted that AGS has a special duty “to acquire and diffuse as much information as can be procured and to have the question of the best route discussed...upon the basis of the ascertained facts...a question for civil engineers and physical geographers, not for congress.”

1880 -[Ferdinand de Lesseps](#) is honored by the Society with a reception. He was in the apex of his glory as builder of the Suez Canal – an important achievement as transportation problems held the Society's closest attention at this point in time. The Society was mainly concerned with the bearing of geographical knowledge upon the selection of the best route.

1881 - Arctic explorer Dr. Isaac Israel Hayes – one of the first explorers on the AGS Council - died in 1881.

1882 – In 1882, the AGS established a Committee on Lectures. This committee system developed to meet needs as they arose, rather than planned in advance.

1883 - On August 26, 1883, a massive eruption begins of the [Krakatoa volcano](#) on an island in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra.

John J. [Montgomery](#) made the first controlled flight in a glider on August 28, 1883, at Wheeler Hill, California.

1884 -The AGS hosts a reception for survivors of the disastrous Greeley Expedition to the Arctic.

1885 – Judge Charles P. Daly (AGS President) served as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas until 1885

1886- In an Annual Report for 1886, it was announced by Mr. William Remsen (an influential AGS Councilor) that “a reasonable certainty exists that, when the library and the maps shall have outgrown their present accommodations, an ample fire-proof building will be in the readiness to receive them.” Fourteen years passed before this dream came true.

1887- [Alfred Russel Wallace](#) gives a lecture on "Oceanic Islands," harbinger of evolutionary theory, at the Society, and Professor Franz Boas gives a talk on his "Year among the Eskimos.”

1888 – In the address of 1888, Judge Charles P. Daly importantly stated: “When I began, many years ago, to give an account of the geographical work in the world, what was then done was so small...however, in the course of time, the field of exploration become so great that I found it difficult to compress an adequate account of it within the narrow limits of such an address.”

1889 - Annie Russell speaks to the Society on "South African Republics."
The [Paris Universal Exposition](#) opened on May 6, 1889.

1890 – In regards to building up the Society’s library, in 1890, \$1000 was appropriated for the purchase of books at various sales including the Barlow Sale and the Brevoort Sale.

1891 - [Robert E. Peary](#) lectures to the Society about his Polar travels.

1892- A large number of charts of the Indian Ocean, “its seas and gulfs,” were presented to the Society’s library by Mr. Alexander I. Cotheal, who had been a Councilor of the AGS many years earlier.

1893 - Francis M. Bacon presented the Society with a brick from the Great Wall of China on May 6, 1893.

1894 – Judge Charles P Daly lost his wife in 1894. This wrought a change in him, described by Abram S Hewitt (previous AGS Councilor) as “the blow which left him alone manifested himself, as we could all see, in the decay of that vitality which had enabled him to accomplish so much useful work in the world.” Judge Daly sadly died a short while after this tragic event, in September 1899.

1895- Judge Charles P. Daly, with Professor Libbey and C.C Adams, represented the Society at the Sixth International Geographical Congress in London, illustrating the high level of participation the Society had in international affairs.

1896 -The Cullum Geographical Medal was designed by Lydia K. Emmet and was established in 1896. George W. Cullum willed to the Society the establishment of a medal given “to those who distinguish themselves by geographical discoveries or in the advancement of geographical science.” George W. Cullum was a Major General of the United States Army. During his career he was Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in 1833. He also served in the Corps of Engineers and published *Register of The Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy*. Cullum was Vice President of the Society from 1874 until his death on February 28, 1892.

1897 –The Society seldom found it necessary to change the By-Laws – the only important change was adopted in 1897 (with a view to the probable termination of Judge Daly’s presidency in the near future), provided that no one could be a candidate for election to the board unless nominated by the Council or unless his nomination by at least nine Fellows had been conspicuously posted in the office of the Society for ten days prior to annual election.

1898 - The Peary Arctic Club was established in 1898 to promote Robert E Peary’s polar explorations. The club was founded by three influential AGS Councilors – Anton A. Raven, Henry Parish Senior, and Morris K. Jesup.

1899 -The Society moved to 15 West 81st Street, the Society’s home until 1911.

1900 -Seth Low, President of Columbia College, was elected President of the AGS and served until November 1901.

1901- Seth Low resigned as AGS President on November 15, 1901. Low only served as president for nineteen months due to the fact that he was elected Mayor of New York City in 1901– since the Society could hardly expect the Major to continue as chief executive, the Council reluctantly accepted his resignation.

1902 - The Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal was established in 1902. Designed by Laura G. Fraser, this medal recognizes achievements and pioneering in “geographical research.” Samuel Finley Breese Morse was a painter, but also noted inventor. After extensive travel in Europe, Morse invented the first recording telegraph, for which he submitted a patent application in 1837. His system of dots and dashes, equipped with a dictionary and words, later was known as Morse Code. After his death on April 2, 1872, the Society was willed funds “for the encouragement of geographical research.”

The Charles P. Daly Medal is awarded to individuals “for valuable or distinguished geographical services or labors.” This medal was originally designed by Victor D. Brenner, but the destruction of the dies caused the medal to be redesigned in 1924 by Brenda Putnam. Charles P. Daly was President of the AGS from 1864 until September 19, 1899. However, during this time he rose to prominence in New York State as a Judge on the Court of Common Pleas and became Chief Justice in 1871. In 1902, Daly’s willed funds were used to establish this medal.

1903 - Robert E. Peary became President of the AGS and served until January 1907.

1904 -. On December 21, 1904, the American Geographical Society held a dinner at Delmonico’s restaurant to commemorate the semi-centennial of its incorporation by act of the State Legislature. One hundred and fifty Fellows and their guests attended.

1905- Robert E Peary, President of the AGS, departed for the Arctic in 1905 and resigned shortly after his return. Peary was held in great esteem by the Board as an explorer, but a number of issues came up during his presidency in which he and the Board did not see eye to eye.

Mr Archer M Huntington confirmed his regard for the Society by making notable gifts to its collections – one of the Society’s principle treasures, a copy of the 1478 edition of Ptolemy’s *Geography* was donated by Mr Huntington in 1905.

In 1905, the possibility of acquiring the Leardo Map was brought to the Society’s attention.

1906 - Robert Bell, and Robert Falcom Scott received the Cullum Geographical Medal.

Robert was a Canadian geologist, professor and civil servant. He is considered Canada's greatest exploring scientist, having named over 3,000 geographical features.

Robert Falcon Scott was an English Royal Navy officer and explorer who led two expeditions to the Antarctic regions: the [Discovery Expedition](#), 1901–04, and the ill-fated [Terra Nova Expedition](#), 1910–13.

1907- Archer M. Huntington elected President and served until April 1911. Huntington had been a Fellow of the AGS since 1893 and a Councilor since 1904. He was not only the Society's outstanding financial benefactor but its most influential leader. By enabling the Society to build its present house in upper Manhattan, he provided it with facilities for enlarging its staff, collections, and activities.

1908 - The Cullum Geographical Medal was given to William Morris Davis. Professor Davis was recognized as a foremost authority in the field of physiography and as an ardent advocate of new methods of teaching geography all along the line from primary school to college. The American Geographical Society first published one of his articles in the *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society* in 1904, and although Davis did not contribute to the *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society* before 1904, his ideas and the ideas of those in essential agreement with him were clearly reflected in its pages.

1909 - Francisco P. Moreno and Sir Ernest Shackleton were honored with the Cullum Geographical Medal.

Francisco P. Moreno (was a prominent explorer and academic in Argentina. He is also known for his role in defending Argentine interests and his defining surveys leading to the Boundary treaty of 1881 between Chile and Argentina. These surveys and others yielded Moreno a vast collection of archaeological and anthropological findings, for which he created a museum in Buenos Aires in 1877.

Shackleton was explorer who was one of the principal figures of the period known as the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. A special meeting of the Society was held at the Engineering building on Monday evening March 28 to welcome Sir Shackleton and present to him the Cullum Geographical Medal in honor of the great results of his Antarctic expedition of 1909.

1910 -Herman Wagner received the Cullum Geographical Medal in 1910. Hermann Wagner was a German geographer and cartographer. In 1880, he became Professor of Geography at the University of Gottingen where he established the institute of geography.

1911 -The ociety moves to 3755 Broadway at 156th Street. The building was designed by Charles Pratt Huntington, while John Clark Udell served as the contractor. This three story building was built on the land donated by Archer Milton Huntington's mother. The building was originally designed with the first floor containing the Council Room, an office, a bulletin room and an exhibition hall. On the second floor there was a reception area, with librarian and assistant librarian offices, a reading room and two editors' offices. The third floor contained the assistant editor office, the map room, the atlas room, the map curator, and two studies. All three floors possessed book stacks. As the evolution and growth of the AGS progressed, the departments and their areas within the building changed. The Society remained at this location until 1981.

Roald Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole on December 14th 1911, by means of his ship, *Fram*. His expedition team included Olav Bjaaland, Helmer Hanssen, Sverre Hassel, and Oscar Wisting. Roald Amundsen's signature and route are located on the Fliers' & Explorers' Globe.

1912 - A Transcontinental Excursion is arranged and executed by the AGS in 1912. The idea for this excursion was generated by Professor W.M Davis who, in 1908 "tried the unique experiment of conducting a geographical excursion in Europe, open to students of European and American universities". In February 1910 he submitted a plan and cost estimate to the Council of the American Geographical Society and the Council referred the matter to Mr Archer M Huntington. Davis considered setting up a committee of American geographers to organize the excursion, and also a committee of European geographers to nominate the foreign members. The Excursion would increase the knowledge of American geography by Europeans and it would promote the acquaintance of European geographers with Americans. Huntington agreed to become the actual patron for this project, financing the project on the basis that the excursion should be made under the name of the American Geographical Society and that it should be announced as 'The Transcontinental Excursion of 1912' in celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the AGS.

1913 - In March of 1913 The David Livingstone Centenary Medal was established by the Hispanic Society of America. The establishment commemorates the 100th anniversary of David Livingstone's birth. Livingstone led the Zambezi Expedition from 1858 to 1864. He returned to Africa in 1868 to Zanzibar where he found Lake Victoria and the Lualaba River. Designed by Gutzon Borgium, this medal is awarded by the American Geographical Society for "scientific achievements in the field of geography of the southern hemisphere".

1914 - The Cullum Geographical Medal was awarded to Sir John Scott Keltie and Ellen Churchill Semple.

Sir John Scott was a Scottish geographer, best known for his work with the Royal Geographic Society. He joined the Royal Geographic Society in 1883, and quickly became heavily involved in its activities. He was appointed the Royal Geographic Society's Inspector of Geographical Education in 1884, and undertook a thorough review of the state of geography education in the UK.

Ellen Churchill Semple is most closely associated with work in anthrogeography and environmentalism. Semple had a prevailing interest in [environmental determinism](#), a theory that the physical environment, rather than social conditions, determines culture however she is also associated with environmental influences as opposed to determinism.

1915 - Isaiah Bowman is appointed the Director of the Society. Dr Bowman was already favorably known to the Society, with several articles by him appearing in the Bulletin of the American Geographical Society. He was known as Professor W.M Davis's "right hand man" in the leading of the Transcontinental Excursion of 1912. The efficiency with which Bowman conducted this expedition and the harmony maintained with the AGS Council were influential factors leading to his selection as Director.

1916- John Greenough elected President and served until 1924. Mr Greenough served as President during the first eight and in many ways the most critical years, of Dr Bowman's regime. Greenough first became a member of the AGS in 1900.

1917- George W. Goethals received the Cullum Geographical Medal in 1917. Goethals was a United States Army officer and a civil engineer, best known for his supervision of the construction and the opening of the Panama Canal.

1918- Frederick Haynes Newell was awarded the Cullum Geographical Medal. Newell was famed for the construction of twenty-six projects, including reservoirs, canals and related works which were completed in whole or part - notably the Roosevelt, Shoshone, Arrowrock, Gunnison Tunnel, irrigating canals and ditches with regulating works, bridges, steam and hydro-electric generators, transmission lines, pumps and devices connected with supplying water to 20,000 farms. Special efforts were made to attain the highest practicable economy and efficiency in the execution of the work and to meet the need and desires of the settlers under them.

1919- Emmanel de Margerie and Henry Fairfield Osborn were each awarded the Cullum Geographical Medal. Margerie (1862–1953) was a French geographer after whom the Margerie Glacier was named, which he visited in 1913. Henry Fairfield Osborn an American geologist, paleontologist and eugenicist. Fairfield Osborn joined the US Geological Survey in 1900 and became a senior vertebrate paleontologist in 1924. He led many fossil-hunting expeditions into the American Southwest,

During both World War I and World War II, the American Geographical Society rendered important services to the Government in connection with the military effort, and more particularly in the preparation for the establishment of peace. Use was made of the map collections, and forces had been organized to gather and prepare data for use at the prospective peace conference. It was obvious that geography would play a large part therein, and the headquarters of “The Inquiry” (as it came to be called) were set up at the Society’s building. The personnel of The Inquiry numbered “some 150 geographers, historians, economists, statisticians, ethnologists and students of government and international law.”

1920- On December 16, 1920 the AGS Council undertook and established the School of Surveying.

1921- Albert I, Prince of Monaco was honored with the Cullum Geographical Medal. Albert showed his ingenuity by devising a number of techniques and instruments used for measurement and exploration. Accompanied by some of the world's leading marine scientists, he recorded numerous oceanographic studies, maps and charts. He then founded what would become the world renowned "*Oceanographic Institute*" in Monaco that included an aquarium, a museum, and a library plus research facilities in Paris. He also discovered the Princess Alice Bank of the Azores in 1896 on an oceanographic survey of the area.

1922- Edward A. Reeves received the Cullum Geographical Medal. Reeves was known for giving courses of instruction in survey methods at the Royal Geographical Society. Mr Reeves work had impressed Dr Alexander Hamilton Rice, who concluded that similar instruction should be offered at the Society. Consequentially, Rice founded the School of Surveying at the AGS the following year.

1923 - The School of Surveying opens at AGS. The School had the scheme of topographical surveys in connection with the millionth map and field astronomy.

1924 - Jovan Cvijic received the Cullum Geographical Medal. Cvijic was a Serbian geographer, best known for his work in geology (geomorphology, tectonics, paleogeology and neotectonics). His speech on the structure and classification of the

mountains in the Balkan Peninsula made him famous as the first Southern-Slavic geotectonist. In 1910, with other geographers and natural scientists, he founded the Serbian Geographic Society in Belgrade.

1925 - In January, John H. Finley was elected as President of the AGS and served until January 1934. Finley has strong geographical interests and he loved to get close to land and people on walks of prodigious length. He was assistant editor of the *New York Times* and later became Editor in Chief in 1937. His position at the *Times* placed him in contact with the great explorers and fliers of the day.

1926- The Cullum Geographical Medal was presented to Professor Lucien Gallois in Paris. The medal was presented in this location as Professor Gallois was unable to come to New York to receive it, hence the Society often arranged to have the presentation made at an American Embassy.

Professor Gallois made major contributions to the *Annales de géographie*, a geographic journal and additionally, he assumed directorship of the *Géographie universelle*, a major project involving the regional geography of the whole world.

1927 - Charles Lindbergh becomes the first pilot to fly the Atlantic solo from Long Island, New York, to Paris, landing on May 21, 1927. Lindbergh also importantly placed his services to the Society a few years later in 1929. He underwent archaeological research in Central America, and under his leadership, Pan American Airways and the Carnegie Institution of Washington undertook experimental exploratory flights over parts of the Maya area of South-Eastern Mexico British Honduras and Guatemala.

1928 - Sir George Hubert Wilkins becomes the first recipient of the Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal for using an airplane in “geographical research” – a means of transportation unknown in Morse’s day. The Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal was established in 1902 with funds bequeathed to the Society by Professor Morse, inventor of the recording telegraph, upon his death in 1872. The medal is for “the encouragement of geographical research”

1929 - The American Geographical Society acquired the Fliers’ & Explorers’ Globe. The globe was a gift from the society’s President John H. Finley. At the time of the gift, John H. Finley was the assistant editor of the *New York Times*. Finley had already begun to invite early pioneers of exploration and aviation to sign the globe as they drew their routes. The society continues this tradition today.

1930- *The Point d’ Interrogation* completed the first non-stop Paris, France to New York, NY flight on September 2nd, 1930. Maurice Bellonte served as navigator with

Dieudonné as pilot, to complete the flight in thirty-seven hours and eighteen minutes. Their route and both signatures are located on the Fliers' & Explorers' Globe.

1931 - The Cullum Geographical Medal was awarded to Mark Jefferson. Jefferson was a member of the Transcontinental Excursion and his career involved training geography teachers. Isaiah Bowman (AGS Director) was taught by Jefferson in his early years, before he went to Harvard.

1932 - The Second International Polar Year was promoted by the International Meteorological Organization. This year was focused on investigation and understanding the role of "jet streams" on the global community. With the cooperative efforts of 40 nations advances in meteorology, radio science, atmospheric science, magnetism, and technology occurred. Also 40 permanent observation stations were established in the Arctic. The United States on the second Byrd Antarctic Expedition established the first research station inland.

Bertram Thomas was honored with the Cullum Geographical Medal. Thomas undertook a number of expeditions into the desert, and became the first European to cross the Rub' Al Khali from 1930 and 1931.

1933- Rev. Arthur A Brooks, a Harvard graduate who was a gentleman of great integrity, precision and accuracy, "stopped proof reading the *Geographical Review* and the Society's book publications in 1933".

1934 - Roland L. Redmond is elected President and served until February 1947. Redmond had been a member of the AGS Council for 11 years.

William Beebe performed a 3,028 feet, record-breaking ocean dive. Beebe achieved this in 1934 with the use of a bathysphere, a cable suspended, powerless metal chamber designed and reinforced for sea emersion. His signature is located on the Fliers' & Explorers' Globe.

1935 - John H. Finley began his term as Honorary President and served until March.

1936- In 1936, "an event of outstanding importance to American geography" took place – the appearance in the French series, *Géographie Universelle*, of two volumes of Professor Henri Baulig's geography of North America.

1937 - Co-pilots, Alexander Beliakov and Valeri Chkalov and navigator Alexander Belyakov completed the first transpolar flight. The single engine plane left Moscow on June 17, 1937 and arrived in Vancouver, Washington on June 20th, 1937. Beliakov's and Chkalov's signatures and their route are on the Flier's and Explorers' Globe.

1938 - Louise Arner Boyd was awarded the Cullum Geographical Medal. Boyd was an American explorer of Greenland and the Arctic, who wrote extensively of her explorations. The American Geographical Society sponsored a series of her scientific expeditions to the east and north-east coasts of Greenland in 1931, 1933, 1937 & 1938. At the age of sixty-seven, she became the first woman to fly over the North Pole privately chartering a DC-4 and crew.

1939 - The Cullum Geographical Medal was awarded to Emmanuel de Martonne. Emmanuel de Martonne was secretary of the Association de Geographes Franois, and produced a map portraying regions of interior damage.

1940 - Robert Cushman Murphy was awarded the Cullum Geographical Medal. Murphy was an American ornithologist and former Lamont curator of birds for the American Museum of Natural History. He was the author of over 600 scientific articles throughout his scientific career.

1941- When news of actual or potential fighting broke on in the daily press, recent background information could often be found in the *Geographical Review*, often describing the geographical setting of the events or interpreting them in the light of geography. In 1941, Derwent Whittlesey's "Dakar and other Cape Verde Settlements" appeared a month after the British Raid on Dakar had caused the Vichy Government to bolster the defenses of that town.

1942- A paper on Rangoon was published in January 1942 in the *Geographical Review*, two months before the city fell to the Japanese. Additionally, in 1942, Dr Isaiah Bowman and Dr George Kish discussed the sinister development in Germany of political geography into geopolitics, a trend noted in *Geographical Review* as early as 1925.

1943 - Arthur Robert Hinks received the Cullum Geographical Medal. As an astronomer, he is best known for his work in determining the distance from the Sun to the Earth. His later professional career was in surveying and cartography, an extension of his

astronomical interests. He was involved in the development of radio time signals and geodesy.

1944 - In 1944, Dr Richard U Light, a neuro-surgeon, then a member of the Council of the AGS and a future president, pointed out in *Geographical Review* although geographers until very recently have stood on the sidelines, under the impression that there was little they could contribute to combat; physicians and surgeons however, have been aware of the fact that disease and mortality may be studied to advantage from the geographical point of view. Much was to grow out of this statement in regards to the Society's contacts with medical geography. Subsequently, on February 29, 1944, Dr Light proposed to the Board that the Society consider the production of an Atlas of Diseases.

1945 - Archer M. Huntington was awarded the Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal. Archer M. Huntington is a previous AGS President and Fellow and is deemed to be one of the Society's most influential leaders.

1946 - The George Davidson Medal honors the "exceptional achievement in research for exploration in the Pacific Ocean or the lands bordering therein". George Davidson was a geographer and scientist noted for his work with the U.S. government exploring and charting the western United States and Alaska. He also published *The Discovery of San Francisco Bay* in 1907. His daughter established the medal to honor her father.

1947 - Richard Upjohn Light becomes AGS President and the AGS Council established an Executive Committee in 1947. Dr Light was not only a geographer, but also an eminent surgeon who wrote *Focus on Africa* (upon returning from his African travels), which was published by the Society in 1941.

1948 - Hugh Hammond Bennett was awarded the Cullum Geographical Medal. Bennett was a pioneer in the field of soil conservation in the United States of America. He founded and headed the Soil Conservation Service, a federal agency now referred to as the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

1949 - In 1949, at Dr Light's (AGS President) request, the AGS Director appointed a staff planning committee. In May, 1949, a small conference of geographers from the outside was held at the Society's house to discuss the report and proposals of the staff committee.

1950 - The Cullum Geographical Medal was given to Hans Wilson Ahlmann in recognition of his studies of glaciers and climate fluctuations, as well as human geography.

1951- In the spring of 1951, Dr. Seymour delivered at The John Hopkins University the first of the Isaiah Bowman Memorial Lectures, under a trust fund created by Mr Huntington and administered by the American Geographical Society.

1952 - The Cullum Geographical Medal was awarded to Roberto Almagia.

Roberto Almagia was a geographer with a specialised interest in cartography and naturalism. In addition to writing numerous books, he collected and edited the fundamentals of *Monumenta italiae Cartographie*, which are general and regional maps of Italy from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. He also founded and directed the prestigious series *The Regions of Italy's* UTET.

1953 - E.P. Hillary, Dr. Charles Evans and George Lowe reach the summit of Mount Everest on May 29th, 1953. The signatures of this British Expedition are located in the Director's Office of 3755 Broadway at 156th Street.

1954 - The entire British Everest Expedition received the Cullum Geographical Medal.

1955 -On July 19, 1955, the [Yarkon Water Project](#) opens to supply water to the Negev desert in Israel.

On October 18, 1955, a new atomic subparticle called a [negative proton](#) (antiproton) is discovered at U.C. Berkeley.

Drs. Clarton-Schwerdt and Schaffer announce the discovery of the [polio virus](#) on November 2, 1955.

1956 - J. Russell Smith received the Cullum Geographical Medal. He began his teaching career as an instructor in the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania, and he subsequently became professor and head of the Department of Geography and Industry. A serious lack of good geographical texts for college students turned his attention to writing

1957- The International Geophysical Year began on July 1st, 1957 and ended on December 31st, 1958. The focus was applying new technology of World War II to enhance atmospheric research. Also the theory of continental drift was proven true and the world's first satellites were launched.

1958 - The submarine Nautilus becomes the first vessel to cross the North Pole by water under the command of William R. Anderson. His signature and route is featured on the Fliers' & Explorers' Globe, placed there in 2004.

Charles Warren Thornthwaite received the Cullum Geographical Medal. Thornthwaite was an American geographer and climatologist. He is best known for devising a climate classification system, published in 1948, that is still in use around the world, and also for his detailed water budget computations of potential evapotranspiration.

1959 - In the Spring of 1959, the society published its first newsletter.

From January 1, 1959 until March 7, 1959, the society and the Office of Naval Research co-sponsored the Southern Chile Expedition. With the cooperation of the University of Chile and the Chilean government the "object of the expedition was to correlate late-Pleistocene environmental changes in the Southern Hemisphere with those in the Northern Hemisphere. The focus of the expedition was Laguna de San Rafael in Chile.

In May of 1959, the Council voted to increase membership (Fellow) dues from \$10.00US to \$12.50US. This increase was the first since 1876. The Council also created two new forms of membership: Subscribing member and a Student member. A subscribing member paid annual dues of \$17 and Student member, which included undergraduate and graduate students, paid \$5 a year, but it was only renewable for two successive years. The Library membership was discontinued

1960 - On January 28th, 1960 at the annual society dinner at the St. Regis Hotel in New York City, medals were awarded. Dr. Richard Hartshorne – who was part of a key geographical debate in the 1950s over the nature of geography as a subject- was awarded the Charles P. Daly Medal. The David Livingstone Centenary Medal was awarded to William E. Rudolph- who wrote about "Vanishing trails of Atacama Desert".

On February 3, 1960, Louise A. Boyd became the first woman to be elected to the Council. Boyd stands unique among women associated with the AGS. She was the premier female scientific explorer of the first three-quarters of the twentieth century. She led eight expeditions to Arctic and sub-Arctic regions.

1961 - Dr. Charles B. Hitchcock, then Director of the Society, was elected to the Council. He became the "first staff member in the Society's history to be elected to the governing board."

On April 26, 1961 the “Night of Exploration” dinner was held at the Explorer’s Club. Former President Herbert Hoover received the Explorer’s Medal “for his humanitarian achievements and for his exploration in Australia, Burma, and China as a mining engineer.”

Six leading geographers of the Soviet Union toured the United States with Chauncy Harris and the U.S. Department of State during the month of July. During their tour, the society scheduled activities and engaged in social and scholastic exchanges. The Soviet geographers gave the American Geographical Society a number of books and maps of their lands. In exchange, the society gave the Soviet geographers some of its recent publications.

1962 - On February 26, 1962, Lieutenant Colonel John H. Glenn Jr. signed the Flier’s and Explorer’s Globe at the White House. With President John F. Kennedy, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and the AGS Director Charles B. Hitchcock, Glenn signed the globe in President Kennedy’s Office .

1963 - The Society prepared their first terrestrial globe for retail sale. The globe was twelve inches and displayed physical and political information. The globe used color in “the portrayal of bathymetry and in the delineation of political boundaries for 2,300 places”.

On October 7, 1963 the American Geographical Society awarded the Cullum Geographical medal to Rachel Carson, the author of “The Sea Around Us” and “Silent Spring”. Carson was an American marine biologist and nature writer whose writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement.

1964 - John Leighly was awarded the Cullum Geographical Medal. Leighly regularly offered classes in climatology, meteorology, and cartography, as well as the history of geographic thought and, at times, the geography of Europe or of Scandinavia. He was best known for his publications on climatology (including its history) and cartography.

1965 - Fred L. Austin, Harrison Finch, and Jack L. Martin were three pilots of the twelve member crew who manned the first airplane to fly around the world over both the North and South Pole. On November 17th, 1965 they completed there three day journey in the *Pole Cat*. Included as passengers, were scientists, photographers, members of the press and scholars, who brought the on board total to thirty-five. Beginning and ending in Honolulu, HI the *Pole Cat* refueled in London, England, Lisbon, Portugal, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Christchurch, New Zealand. The route and signatures of all three men are featured on the Fliers’ & Explorers’ Globe.

1966- The Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal is awarded to Charles B. Hitchcock, who supervised the Society's Hispanic-America program and was also an honorary Fellow of the AGS.

1967 - Peter Haggett was given the Cullum Geographical Medal. Haggett is famed for his significant research contributions to the field of human geography, and is the author or editor of over 30 books on geographical practice, theory and individual research topics. In the latter half of his career Haggett specialized in the geographical study of epidemiology and the spatial relationships and distribution of infectious diseases.

1968 - Apollo 8 completed the first lunar orbital mission. William A. Anders was the Lunar Module Pilot, Frank Borman was the Mission Commander, and James Lovell was the Command Module Pilot. These men and their route are featured on Fliers' & Explorers' Globe.

The O.M. Miller Cartographic Medal was established in 1968 by the AGS Council. Miller, whose forty-six year career with AGS was only one of the many accomplishments of his career. While on staff, Miller headed, researched, and taught at the Society's School of Surveying, specializing in photogrammetry and cartography. He developed the Miller Cylindrical projection in 1942, and completed many other aerial photography and surveying projects. The O.M. Miller Cartographic Medal honors "outstanding contributions in the field of cartography or geodesy".

1969 - On July 20th Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin become the first and second people, respectively, to land on the Moon. This success was part of the Apollo 11 mission, which was the first manned mission to land on the moon. Michael Collins was the Command Module Pilot for this mission while Armstrong was the Commander, and Aldrin the Lunar Module Pilot. Neil Armstrong's signature was placed on the Fliers' & Explorers' Globe in 2000.

Neil Armstrong, Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. and Michael Collins are each awarded the Cullum Geographical Medal.

1970 - Dr. Eugene Van Cleef was a Professor Emeritus of Geography at Ohio State University. He holds the distinction of having taught the first course in urban geography at an American university. Throughout his career Van Cleef sought to apply geography to the business world. With his book, *Trade Centers and Trade Routes*, Van Cleef became the first American Geographer to publish a book on urban themes. In 1970, Dr. Van Cleef established the Van Cleef Memorial Medal in honor and memory of his wife,

Frieda. This medal, designed by Joseph DiLorenzo, honors “scholars who have done outstanding original work in the field of urban geography, preferable, though not necessarily in applied rather than theoretical aspects”.

1971- Albert Lincoln Washburn’s research at Mesters Vig, which provided tremendous insight into the geomorphological processes in the Arctic, earned him the Geological Society of America’s Kirk Bryan Award in 1971.

1972- President of the American Geographical Society was William A Hance. Hance was famed for his important work on the “Geography of Modern Africa” and was also an honorary Fellow of the AGS.

1973 - Bruce Heezen was awarded the Cullum Geographical Medal. Heezen was an American geologist. He is most famous as being the leader of a team from Columbia University which mapped the Mid-Atlantic Ridge during the 1950s.

1974- Richard H Nolte was the President of the American Geographical Society. Nolte was an honorary Fellow of the AGS and led the Society's 1978 negotiations with the University of Wisconsin–Madison when the AGS transferred ownership of its maps and artifacts to the school.

1975 - The Cullum Geographical Medal was given to Rene Dubos. René Dubos was a French-American microbiologist, experimental pathologist, environmentalist, humanist, and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction for his book; *So Human An Animal*. He is credited as an author of a maxim "Think globally, act locally". He devoted most of his professional life to the empirical study of microbial diseases and to the analysis of the environmental and social factors that affect the welfare of humans.

1976 - Sarah Kerr Myers was appointed Director of the American Geographical Society in 1976 until September 1982.

1977 - June 27, 1977: After 117 years of French rule, Djibouti, in East Africa, gains independence.

American paleontologist Elso S. Barghoorn of Harvard announces on October 23, 1977, the discovery of Pre-Cambrian spherical one-celled algae microfossils (*Eobacterium*) 3.4 billion years old, earth's earliest life forms.

Chiron, the farthest known asteroid is discovered on November 1, 1977.

Deep-ocean researchers found an extraordinary oasis of extremophile life on February 19, 1977, when John B. Corliss and John M. Elmond used the research submersible *Alvin* to descend to the Pacific Ocean floor off the Galapagos Islands.

1978 - In the summer of 1978, the AGS map, photograph, book, journal and atlas collections were transferred to new quarters in the library on the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, where its use has flourished and the collection continues to grow.

1979 - Bryan Allen becomes the first person to fly a human-powered aircraft across the English Channel. Allen in the *Gossamer Albatross* flew the 22.2 mile crossing in two hours and 49 minutes on June 12, 1979. Dr. [Paul MacCready](#), inventor and designer of the *Gossamer Albatross*, received the Kremer Prize for Allen's successful piloting. Bryan Allen's route and signature is located on the Fliers' & Explorers' Globe, placed there in 2004.

1980- The [Very Large Array](#) (VLA) radio telescope network in New Mexico was dedicated on October 10, 1980. At its inauguration ceremonies on November 19, 1980, Boricua College opened its new Manhattan Centre in the building that served as the AGS headquarters from 1911 until June 23, 1980.

1981 - The Society moves to 25th West 39th Street where it remains for three years.

1982- Sarah Kerr Myers resigns as Director of the AGS on June, 30, 1982, after six years of service.

1983 - Mary Lynne Bird was chosen as the Director of the American Geographical Society.

R.W. Richards, the last survivor of Lord Shackleton's expeditions, was made an Honorary Fellow of AGS at the November meeting of the Society's Executive Committee.

On October 20, 1983, the AGS explored some of the reaches of New York City with a group of visiting French geographers. The tour was designed to let the visitors experience a variety of urban rhythms and impressions.

1984 - The Society moves to 156 Fifth Avenue and remains there until 1996.

1985 - Chauncy D. Harris received the Cullum Geographical Medal. Harris was a pioneer of modern geography. His seminal works in the field of American urban geography, along with his work on the Soviet Union during and after the Cold War

era established him as one of the world's foremost urban geographers. He also made significant contributions to the geographical study of ethnicity, specifically with respect to non-Russian minorities living within the Soviet Union. Harris traveled regularly to the Soviet Union and played a key role in establishing a healthy dialog between Soviet and American scholars.

1986 - The *Geographical Review* marked its seventieth anniversary during 1986.

1987 - F. Kenneth Hare and Yi-Fu Tuan were each honored with the Cullum Geographical Medal. Hare was a Canadian climatologist and academic, who researched atmospheric carbon dioxide, climate change, drought, and arid zone climates and was a strong advocate for preserving the natural environment. Yi-Fu Tuan became a full professor at the University of Minnesota in 1968 and there began his focus on humanistic geography.

The AGS travel program expands, doubling each year in number of trips, number of passengers, number of geographers serving as guest lecturers and number of institutions where lecturers come.

1988 - Paul P. Vouras was an Emeritus Professor of Geography at William Patterson College in New Jersey. In 1988, he established the Paul P. Vouras Medal. Hilary Lambert Hopper designed this medal, which honors "outstanding work in regional geography."

1989 - Several months of contact between the AGS and *Sesame Street*; the popular children's television show, bore fruit with a May 1989 meeting of Hilary Lambert Renwick, editor of *Focus*, with scriptwriters, producers and editors of the show. Discussions centered on ways in which the teaching of geography was to become one of the show's programming goals.

1990 - The U.S. "[Magellan](#)" spacecraft lands on Venus on August 10, 1990. A ten-page letter in his own hand from David Livingstone, who was a corresponding Fellow of the American Geographical Society, was found in the AGS archives and information on this letter was published in the 1992 AGS *Newsletter*.

1991 - Alexander Melamid received the Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal. Melamid wrote an important publication entitled "*Oil and the Economic Geography of the Middle East and North Africa*," which is unique in the genre in that it contains the major publications of Melamid rather than the writings of others.

Alexander B Murphy became a member of the editorial advisory board of the *Geographical Review* at the beginning of 1991. Murphy is an authority on the cultural,

political, and economic geography of Europe, who frequently states that geographical factors are essential considerations in understanding the vast changes under way in Europe.

Courtesy of the AGS, three geographers were featured speakers at a seminar on “Emerging Market Investing” held on Feb 8th, 1991, by the New York Society of Security Analysts.

1992- The United States Military Academy hosted the 1992 Annual Meeting of the AGS Council.

Walter Wood was elected Councilor Emeritus at the 1992 Annual Meeting of the AGS Council. Dr. Wood was first elected to the Council in 1954 and has been an AGS Councilor longer than any current member of the body.

1993- The Wrigley-Fairchild Prize was established in 1993 with a gift from retired Geographical Review Editor, Douglas R McManis, in honor of two legendary predecessors, Gladys Wrigley (1916-1949) and Wilma Fairchild (1950-1972). The Wrigley-Fairchild Prize is awarded every three years to the author of the best article by a younger or early-career scholar published in the most recent three volumes of the *Geographical Review*.

1994- The *Geographical Review* began to receive manuscripts on floppy disk as well as by hard copy.

William P Doyle was elected to the AGS council at the May 23rd Annual Meeting. Doyle is President of Texaco’s Middle East/Far East Division and his election follows the Society’s traditional practice of including business executives with global experience and focus on the Council.

On December 8th, Gilbert F White was presented with the National Geographic Society’s Hubbard Medal. White, who is a Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of Colorado, was previously honored by the AGS – in 1971 he was awarded the Charles P. Daly Medal by the Society, which cited him as an “eminent educator, innovative scholar, and concerned citizen.”

The first book and activity guide and the erasable wall map of AGS’s ‘Around the World’ Program were printed.

1995 - Two astronomers, Alan Hale in New Mexico and Thomas Bopp in Arizona, almost simultaneously discover a [comet](#) on July 23, 1995.

Subscribers to the AGS “Around the World Program” started their armchair tour with a trip to Japan early in 1995.

Professor Paul F Starrs of the Department of Geography at the University of Nevada, Reno, is chosen as the new *Geographical Review* editor due to his excellent “vision and broad ranging geographical interests.”

1996 – The "[Latin America](#)" issue of the *Geographical Review*.

In 1996, there were many leadership changes at AGS, with the Society electing a new chairman, new president and new chairman emeritus.

1997- The Society moved to 120 Wall Street.

Melvin G. Marcus received the Cullum Geographical Medal and was described by AGS Councilors as having a “breadth of vision, commitment to education, and fascination with the world in which he lived.”

1998 - "[Environmental History](#)" issue of the *Geographical Review*.

["J.B. Jackson and Geography"](#) issue of the *Geographical Review*.

Read Dr. Jerry Dobson's article in *GeoWorld* magazine on how the American Geographical Society serves [Geography and GIS](#).

At the 1998 Awards Ceremony and Banquet in Milwaukee, the Society's most prestigious medals were presented. Award recipients include: Professor Arthur H. Robinson of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, who literally "wrote the book" on modern cartography and geodesy; academician Chen Shupeng of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, who pioneered and championed automated cartography, remote sensing and GIS in China; Professor Robert C. West of Louisiana State University, a renowned regional geographer specializing in Latin America; and science writer Dava Sobel, author of *Longitude* (1995), an in-depth history of the quest for longitude, which has sold over 2 million copies in 17 languages.

1999 - Donald J. Lloyd-Jones received the Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal for “extraordinary service to the Society and to the field of geography at large.” Donald J. Lloyd-Jones was President of the American Geographical Society, and joined the AGS Council in 1972.

Jack Dandermond and David Lowenthal were each honored with the Cullum Geographical Medal. Mr Dandermond is the founder and president of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and has been the foremost leader of one of the greatest revolutions in the history of geography – the advents of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Dr Lowenthal devoted much of his prodigious energy to the American Geographical Society, serving as a Research Associate and as Secretary to the AGS Council.

The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Golda Meir Library announced that a funding commitment (in effect a matching grant) from the UW System Administration will allow the library to embark on a large-scale project to recatalog the American Geographical Society collections.

2000 - The AGS Prepares for its Sesquicentennial - 150 years of Geographical Inquiry.

Throughout the coming year, the American Geographical Society has special events planned to celebrate 150 years of geographical inquiry.

Read [Dr. Jerry Dobson](#)'s article in *GeoWorld* magazine on the AGS's [Sesquicentennial](#).

On December 11, 2000, six heroes of geography sign the AGS Fliers' and Explorers' Globe. Walter Pitman, Bill Ryan, Brian Jones, Bertrand Piccard, Don Walsh and Neil Armstrong add their names to the AGS Fliers' and Explorers' Globe.

Neil Armstrong speaks with John Gould, AGS chairman, and Jerry Dobson, AGS Director of Exploration.

2001 - The Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal was awarded to Douglas R. McManis. Dr McManis edited the *Geographical Review* for nearly 20 years and fiercely upheld standards that have made the *Geographical Review* a premier geographical publication.

Wilbur Zelinsky received the Cullum Geographical Medal. The Cullum Geographical Medal awards those “who distinguish themselves by geographical discoveries or in the advancement of geographical science.” Zelinsky was described by Councilors of the AGS as “an authentic and original voice in American cultural geography.”

The AGS celebrates its 150th year anniversary.

2002 - The Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal was established by Ilse Melamid in 2002. This medal honors “outstanding work on the dynamic relationship between human culture and natural resources.”

2003 - In August 2003, the American Geographical Society launched the op-ed distributions program under the direction of Deborah E Popper. The first op-ed was an essay by Jerry Dobson.

The AGS joined the American Association for the Advancement of Science efforts to involve families in children’s learning of science.

2004 - Romald F. Abler received the Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal. The Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal is awarded “for the encouragement of geographical research.” Abler was described as having “great impact on the contemporary landscape of American academic geography.”

In January 2004, the American Geographical Society began distributing OpEds, thus providing highly qualified geographers to speak to the media on a variety of issues critical to human, environmental, political, and economic development. Additionally, Jackie Ronne [a member of The Society, who underwent an expedition to Antarctica] signed the American Geographical Society’s Fliers’ and Explorers’ Globe, an honor extended to only eighty people during the past century.

2005- On October 10, 2005, Mary Upjohn Meader was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Geographical Society. Ms Meader is considered not only a geographer but also a pioneering aerial photographer who, in 1937, photographed large portions of South America and Africa from air.

2006- Pioneering cartographer and geologist Marie Tharp died on August 25, 2006. She had co-authored a volume in the Society’s Antarctic Map Folio Series, concerning the morphology of the earth in the Antarctic and the sub-Antarctic. The Floor of the Oceans map, based on Tharp and co-author Heezen’s bathymetric studies, was for many years the most popular map distributed by the Society.

2007- Early in 2007, AGS Councilor David Keeling laid out important territorial considerations of an open northern sea, ahead of the images of stranded polar bears.

Jennifer Helzer wins the McColl Family Fellowship for 2007. Dr Helzer will be going to Australia to work on a comparative study of Italian immigrants in California and Australia. She is interested in contrasting the role Italian immigrants played in shaping

socioeconomic development and regional identity in two such distinct Pacific Rim destinations.

The AGS library experiences unprecedented demand, as the 2007 “Festival of Maps” held in Chicago requires the use of the AGS Library for its materials to be exhibited at this event.

2008 – For 2008 and 2009, the *Geographical Review* averaged 1.07 months from submission to initial decision on manuscripts and 7.3 months from acceptance to publication. This is a very quick turn-around on manuscripts.

2009 - Dr Larry Ford, one of America’s leading urban geographers, who served on the American Geographical Society’s Council between 1996-2002 and 2004-2009, dies. Dr. Ford was also a member on the *Geographical Review* Editorial Board from 1979 until his death in 2009. He also served on the selection committee of the McColl Family Fellowship for six years. An article “In Memoriam” of his time with the Society was published in the December 2009 issue of *Ubique*.

2010 - The American Geographical Society will serve as a sponsor of the fifth biennial Race, Ethnicity and Place conference.

Additionally, a one-year long celebration of the *Geographical Review*’s centennial volume began in January 2010.

The winners of the McColl Family Fellowship for 2010 are Chie Sakakibara and Kim Diver. This fellowship provides its recipients with a plane ticket to their research site. Dr Sakakibara is a post doctoral research fellow at Columbia University’s Earth Institute and will go to Pico Island, a major historical whaling centre in the Azores, in order to explore the way the people of the Azores have adapted their traditional cultural relationship with the sperm whale in light of climate change. Dr Diver, a visiting scholar at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, intends to use the fellowship to travel to Panama for a project. The fellowship will allow Dr Diver to collect data on insular plants that can be used to test updated models of island biogeography that allow broader and more functional application, particularly as such places face the effects of climate change.