

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD

A MAP OF THE WORLD*

W. GEORGE LOVELL

One's destination is never a place, but a new way of looking at things.

—Henry Miller, 1891–1980

I had barely one-quarter the time that Jules Verne allotted Phileas Fogg, but when the opportunity arose I took it: a journey around the world, not by the fictional gentleman's varied and at times unconventional means of transport but by private jet. The invitation arrived courtesy of the American Geographical Society, whose travel program forms part of its mission "to link the business, professional, and scholarly worlds." Although I had some reservations about the cultural and environmental implications of such a lavish undertaking, discussions with AGS colleagues who had previous experience of similar forays convinced me that it was too enticing a prospect to miss. Seattle-based TCS Expeditions had promoted the trip under the banner "Natural Wonders around the World," but we would encounter little that had not been shaped in some manner by human hand. As we made our way, my interests and training meant that I could emphasize the connections between culture and history over the face of the earth. The lectures I prepared for our journey, organized loosely around the impact of Europe on the non-European world, were designed to appeal to an educated but general public, not a planeload of avid specialists. A log (of sorts) follows.

DAY 1

Where better to begin than Seville? Its pivotal role in the age of European expansion made it for two centuries, in the words of Fernando de Herrera (1536–1599), "not a city but a world" (Lovell 2001). It was from Seville that the expedition led by Ferdinand Magellan set off to be the first to circumnavigate the globe. Of the five ships that departed on 10 August 1519, only the *Victoria* made it back to the banks of the Guadalquivir on 8 September 1522. Out of the original crew of 243, 18 returned.

* The trip recounted in this "traveler's tale" took place between 21 January and 13 February 2006. For her solicitation of my services as ambassador as well as lecturer on behalf of the American Geographical Society, I thank our Executive Director, Mary Lynne Bird. AGS President Jerome E. Dobson heard about my writing up the experience through William Woods and encouraged me to pursue publication in the *Geographical Review*. The evaluation process called for me to rethink key issues and how to deal with them narratively, for which I thank all concerned. For her transformation of the manuscript from handwritten scrawl to digital text, I am indebted to Kari Pries. Maureen McCallum Garvie looked at what I had to say through her critical literary lens; any infelicities that remain are my responsibility alone. The staff of the AGS Travel Program, Education Manager Lauren Cummings above all, kept track (and me straight) of myriad logistics. On several occasions during the trip I found myself thinking of the geography classes I took from two memorable teachers, Miss Marks and Mr. Dewar, whose lessons when I was a schoolboy back in Glasgow truly did open up the world.

✪ DR. LOVELL is a professor of geography at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6.