

UBIQUE – Notes from the American Geographical Society

Vol. XXIV, Number 1, March 2004

The President's Prerogative

A Unified Legislative Agenda for Geography and GIS
by
Jerome E. Dobson

Looking back over the past year, it's clear that Baghdad, like Hiroshima, marks a new era in warfare impelled by weapons that eclipse all others before them. The atomic bomb brought a quantum leap in the magnitude of indiscriminate annihilation. Today's geographically savvy weapons bring a quantum leap in the precision with which selective destruction can be administered anywhere on Earth. This new warfare—*relatively* cost-free in allied casualties and guilt-free in civilian casualties—will be employed more freely than the A-bomb ever could. The implications for foreign policy, international relations, and global ethics are staggering.

Back home, the same geographic technology is changing how you drive your car, buy or sell land, and pay your taxes; how goods are moved and facilities sited; how hunters hunt, boaters boat, and voters vote; how criminals are caught and confined. It's improving efficiencies for just about everything involving location, movement, or flow. Served increasingly via the Internet, it's democratizing access to and analysis of information of vital importance to citizens and decision makers at all levels of government.

The simplistic explanation for precision bombing, trumpeted by national leaders and pundits alike, is the Global Positioning System (GPS), but that's just one of many data streams flowing in a grand, global geographic information system (GIS) that encompasses every battlefield. With GPS alone, a missile's guidance system couldn't distinguish Baghdad from Babylon, much less determine which buildings to hit, hills to dodge, and people to avoid. GIS is a digital model of the earth that makes sense of all geographic information. It does so by faithfully recording the precise three-dimensional geometry and descriptive attributes of physical and cultural features (elevation, buildings, land cover, population, satellite imagery, boundaries, plus GPS-derived latitude/longitude coordinates of troops in the field and missiles in flight), keeping track of highly complex spatial relationships among them, and uniquely providing the functionality to model, analyze, and display all features that occupy geographic space.

What science underlies GIS? For thousands of years, geographers, cartographers, geodesists, and surveyors advanced the science that made GIS possible. In the last century, remote-sensing specialists, landscape architects, spatial statisticians, computer scientists, and topologists have joined them. Geography is the "G" in GIS and *the*

intellectual home of GIS, as it was already the intellectual home of cartography and other geographic sciences. Geographers may differ in many ways, but all agree their venerable discipline is defined not by its subject matter but by its emphasis on earth space and spatial relationships among earth features. Geographers do not “own” the GIS movement, but they have been prominent leaders from its inception to the present.

Earth-changing forces are at play, and it’s startling how little society seems to know or care. Following Baghdad’s “shock and awe,” it’s as if national leaders in 1945 had lauded the A-bomb without knowing or caring what lies behind it; citizens gawked at it’s mushroom cloud without concern; and authorities carelessly allowed one and all to take a little “nuke” home to do with as they please. Hence, the same technology that guides a missile can monitor and control a child, wife, employee, or slave, and society now must contemplate “geoslavery,” a new form of human slavery characterized by location control via human-tracking devices. The implications for social relations, human rights, privacy, and freedom are staggering. Yet, after decades of fretting over George Orwell’s vision in *1984*, there’s hardly a whimper about far-superior surveillance and control technology being sold for \$400 today.

Popular misconceptions about geography and simplistic conceptions of GIS continue to hamper public awareness and debate while GIS unleashes the power that traditional geography always had. Now, an informed public must vigorously instruct politicians and geographers on ethical bounds for a discipline that suddenly has joined physics and chemistry among the most beneficial *and* most dangerous of sciences. Course corrections in science, education, and policy are essential. They must be as sweeping as those of the nuclear age, and they must begin now.

First and foremost, geography must be restored to its rightful place as a preeminent academic discipline. In elementary school, this means separating it from the mishmash called “social science.” In high school, it means requiring geography as a college preparatory course and offering GIS as a vocational course. In college, it means recognizing geography as neither a social nor physical science, but rather a spatial, integrative, holistic science that every student needs regardless of major. And, it means reconnecting “area studies” programs to their intellectual home, geography, where they can be nurtured as place-based science.

In the highest realms of science, geography must have its own identity. The discipline, at present, is not listed as a category of membership in the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). In shaping national science policy, chemists (197 members) and physicists (183), who have their own NAS sections, certainly wield more influence than geographers (11) and geographic information scientists (1), who do not. Sadly, geography is not even permitted as a topical listing for articles published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

In social policy, an informed public must pay attention to geography and the explosive growth of GIS throughout society. Geographers have no say in how their technology is used in war, taxation, or divorce, but we still have responsibilities. We cannot dictate,

but we must inform. Ultimately, millions of non-geographers must help thousands of geographers define the ethics and politics of a new age.

In science policy, funding for geographic education, development, and research must be increased by at least two orders of magnitude, partly to solve the employment crisis in GIS and partly to educate the general public. These funds are needed to fulfill six modest principles:

1. Every elementary and high school student must have the opportunity to learn basic geography and experience GIS technology.
2. At a minimum, every freshman should reach college knowing that geography is a viable major with solid career prospects after graduation.
3. Every college student must have access to a full geographic curriculum—thematic, regional, methodological, and technological—within the set of college destinations among which he or she normally would choose.
4. Scholarships must be available to support the “best and brightest” students who choose to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in geography.
5. Research grants must be available to encourage substantially increased geographic research, including fieldwork both foreign and domestic, by faculty and students.
6. Development grants must be available to upgrade or create geography faculties throughout the nation; to ensure topical, regional, methodological, and technological coverage; to upgrade GIS facilities; and to promote community outreach.

It will be in everyone’s interest, not just our own, to position the discipline so that geographers may help lead society into this new era of geographic capability and awareness. Success will depend on heightened recognition in the public arena, pro-active leadership of science by geographers, and rapid enhancement of geographic and other scientific institutions.

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“Hidden Geographers”

*Remarks given at William Patterson University
on November 18, 2002*

Mary Lynne Bird, Executive Director, The American Geographical Society

This morning, as you had your breakfast, if the jam you spread on your toast was Smuckers jam, it was the perfect way to get ready for what I have to say.

The fruit that went into making that jam was selected and purchased by a geographer.

Reid Wagstaff, a PhD in geography, is the fruit buyer for the Smuckers company. He is the fellow who makes the deals to buy all the various kinds of fruit from all over the country that Smuckers uses for its products. When you stop to think about all the issues that go into determining the quality of the produce the company uses: soil, climate, irrigation, distance from the field to the plant, transportation options—it makes a lot of sense that a geographer is in charge of those decisions. But who would have guessed it was a geographer in that position without hearing about it?

Dr. Wagstaff is not the only geographer, however, to turn up in a surprising career. I want to talk this morning about some of those hidden geographers.

This is Geography Awareness Week—or close to it---but let's think about it instead as Geographer Awareness Week. That might give us a more realistic, hands-on take on just what the discipline of geography and those who practice it mean to our economy and our society.

It would be a rare and wonderful thing if we could scan the help wanted ads and see Fortune 500 companies advertising to hire people identified as geographers. The fact that we seldom see such notices, however, is misleading. There are numerous geographers ensconced neatly in what might seem like unlikely corporate berths. There are many other geographers doing nicely as well in other non-academic but non-corporate positions where one might never think to look for them.

There are brochures about careers in geography that have been put out by various organizations or counseling centers, but the categories of employment stated in them are so broad that they may not be very helpful to someone who really needs to figure out where the jobs are or—equally important---where they could be. This is a case where real-life examples, rather than impersonal generalities, can be a lot more useful and more likely to make one think creatively about yet other possibilities.

At the American Geographical Society we enjoy taking note of geographers in unusual places. AGS has traditionally been the bridge between the academic geographical community and the outside world. So the Society has always had an especially strong relationship with individual geographers in business and government. That pattern goes back to 1851, when AGS was founded by people in business, law, finance, journalism, and government.

But we started paying particular attention to geographers out in the non-academic world over a recent fifteen-year period when we recruited many of them for a volunteer, business-geography teaching program in their local schools. To find potential volunteers, we asked geography departments around the country to identify their geography majors who had wound up in the business world so that we could contact them. We wound up with some 85 volunteers over the course of the program, but in the process we learned about and were in touch with many more.

In addition, for some years AGS held networking meetings in New York City for geographers in business and government in the Tri-State area. Those gatherings put us in touch with more geographers in a wide range of positions.

It was a revelation to find out just where some geographers had landed. In addition to all the obvious places you would expect to find them, there are some truly unusual careers to take note of, and those are what I thought you might find interesting and thought provoking to hear about this morning.

No one has much good to say about meals on the airlines these days, when a pretzel and a soft drink pass for lunch, but I've been willing to look with more tolerance on American Airlines because, for several years, the Vice President in charge of their food service operations globally was a geographer. Rob Britton, with a PhD in geography from the University of Minnesota, was the person who dealt with the logistics, sources of supply, and quality issues involved in serving millions of passengers on flights around the world. A most logical challenge for a geographer, when you stop to think about it. Dr. Britton has since moved on and up in the company to a position where he is dealing with other airlines--the code-sharing program frequent fliers have encountered. His job involves the coordination of flight schedules of several of the largest airlines as well as business arrangements among those airlines.

American Airlines also had the services at an executive level of another geographer, Donald Lloyd-Jones, with a PhD in economic geography from Columbia University. He was the Chief Financial Officer of American Airlines for many years and later moved on to American Express, where he bought airliners and on behalf of AmEx leased them to most of the larger airlines. Dr. Lloyd-Jones got his start at American Airlines dealing with very geographical challenges: the economics of alternative routes and the logistics of staffing. By the way, he served as President of the American Geographical Society for several years.

Let's get out of the air and back down to earth now to talk about a geographer whose research on the environmental history of plots of land led to a nicely remunerative job at a law firm doing work in real estate. Craig Colten, with a PhD in geography from Syracuse University, published an article in the *Geographical Review* about how to track down and fix legal responsibility for the pollution of a piece of property. Just who is going to pay for the cleanup of that plot of land and any affected property in its vicinity is obviously a major issue when a piece of real estate is being sold. The *Geographical Review* has a readership that extends considerably beyond academe. So Dr. Colten's article was read by a lawyer at a law firm specializing in real estate. She concluded that he would be a significant asset to their firm. He was hired and worked at the firm for several years. Dr. Colten says it was a great break for him and that he could have made a very rewarding career for a lifetime, doing environmental legacy research for law firms fulltime if he had not finally chosen to go back into academe. He is now the chair of the geography department at Louisiana State University, but his lengthy stint at the law firm left him well positioned to continue to do consulting on environmental real estate issues for other law firms at his convenience for many years to come.

Law firms are not the only places where real estate questions call for the expertise of geographers. We have been surprised to discover how many geographers wind up working at large banks--in the mortgage and real estate investment divisions. We found them in particular at Citibank in the Northeast and Wachovia in the South, but there were geographers at other banks as well. In the case of the banks, their interest in employing geographers probably has to do with real estate development forecasting instead of the pollution liability issues that concern law firms. One geographer at Citibank, Rick Nesper, however, was not in the real estate division. He was involved instead in research and planning for the placement of branch offices.

As you might guess, we found geographers working directly for land development and large construction companies rather than for the banks that finance them. They are surely dealing with the same issues, however: logistics, environmental questions, and forecasting. Anyone who rearranges the landscape or alters land use has good reason to seek input from geographers. Development and construction companies seemed like fairly predictable places to find geographers, however. It was the banks that we had not expected.

A few of the less surprising perches for geographers that we encountered were the environmental consulting firms that advise land development and construction companies and local governmental offices. Add to those the several waste management companies with geographers

on staff. And a traffic management consulting firm on Long Island whose entire professional staff is made up of geographers. These seem like more familiar haunts for geographers.

But back to the not so obvious. We discovered a program manager for a national public radio station whose only degree was a bachelors in geography. She contended that the study of geography is the best possible preparation for anyone doing serious journalism. She may be right. There is a geographer at the *New York Times*, Seth Feaster, who started out doing maps for the newspaper but whose byline as a reporter is appearing on more and more stories.

Now for a hero—someone's friendly neighborhood firefighter, who is a geographer. He turned up at one of our networking gatherings and said that there were more firefighter geographers where he came from--somewhere in New Jersey. He spends a lot of his time actually fighting fires, but one of his responsibilities at the firehouse has been to create a GIS database that enables the emergency vehicles to respond to a fire alarm via the fastest route. His database takes into account all the factors that affect traffic and the choice of routes: day of the week, time of day, weather, construction impediments, parades and other events, one-way streets, and so on. The database has to spit out that route within seconds from the time the call comes in and make it available to be read on the screen in the cab of the fire engine. Quite a challenge. I think we have all heard about police departments—in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and elsewhere--making some use of Geographic Information Systems for smarter policing—If you watch the District television series, you get a taste of that—but we had not heard about the fire departments. And it was interesting that a real geographer, able to conceptualize issues that might not occur to someone who is simply a GIS practitioner, had been given this assignment.

As for other folks who keep society functioning, we discovered geographers working at the telephone company—what is Verizon now but was Nynex then. It hadn't occurred to us to find them there, but, of course, it made all kinds of sense once we did. They were involved in assessing and predicting geographical patterns of the growth in demand for services. That could range from something as simple as where to place and maintain pay telephones to questions of where to place cellular towers.

We found a few geographers in positions with power companies in New York City and Long Island. Like the geographers with the telephone company, they were involved in forecasting and planning for changes and growth in power demand, but they were also dealing with questions of energy production. The placement and impact of power plants are

quintessentially geographical questions, whether it be windmill farms, nuclear power plants, dams, or fuel burning facilities.

One geographer who came to our networking sessions, has since relocated but was then in charge of the economic development office for the state of Connecticut. We are not sure how unusual that was, but it would be interesting to find out how many geographers hold similar positions in other states.

A couple of years ago the AGS Council had a whole day of private briefings from a dozen geographers working in the research division of the Central Intelligence Agency. One of the most riveting presentations was from an unnamed key person in the CIA section that tracks the global illegal drug trade. She spoke about the flow and volume of the drugs, sources and destinations; the impact on economies, social structure, health, and corruption; the environmental impact of drug production, narco-terrorism, and governmental stability around the world. It was a blockbuster presentation and we left impressed and pleased that it was a geographer who gave it.

Another geographer with an offbeat career comes to mind. With a PhD from Rutgers and based in New York City, for several years this geographer ran an independent consulting business, organizing and marketing conferences for corporate and organization clients. Before she struck out on her own, she worked for a consulting company that did just that on a larger scale.

AGS takes interns, and occasionally they land in places we would not have thought of. One of the young geographers who did an internship at AGS has wound up in the promotions department of Madison Square Garden, where you can be sure he is applying what he knows about geographical segmentation of markets.

AGS takes interns from abroad as well as from all parts of the United States. They often find careers we never would have predicted. One of our international interns returned home to Singapore to put her geographical training to use as a navigator for the navy of Singapore. When she first told us about it, the Singaporean navy sounded like a joke. But, of course, Singapore was founded and developed as a port, and its role as a port is still a crucial part of its economy. The flourishing of pirates in the South China Sea means that ships going to and from Singapore are passing through a very bad neighborhood. The small but scrappy Singaporean navy is tasked with keeping the pirates from destroying this important part of the Singaporean economy. And the one-time AGS intern, is making sure her ship knows where it is going.

Now consider this. Speaking only about those sectors where we encountered these individual geographers, I have touched upon the travel industry, communications, energy, marketing, the military, public safety, food production, banking, the law, environmental protection, real estate development, the media, the commercial world of sporting events and conferences, local economic development, intelligence gathering and analysis, and traffic management and planning. And these have been just the offbeat venues of a few geographers who have struck off on different paths to do something away from the rest of the crowd. Think how much of our economy and society is being informed and enabled by just these few geographers.

If we add to that the more usual sectors where geographers can be found at work, we see that the role of geographers in the structure of the economy and society in this country is already truly pervasive. As the range of activities for geographers is expanded through the use of such technology as GIS and GPS, that role is only going to grow.

Recognizing that is an appropriate way to mark Geography Awareness Week.

It is also a realistic way for undergraduate geography majors to think about their future.

There is almost no part of the economy, the government, or society at large where a geographer cannot make a professional contribution. The trick is to identify what a geographer could do in any given situation and to persuade others to give the geographer a chance to do it.

We have so many inquiries at AGS about job possibilities, so many requests for career counseling... We have found that the most genuinely helpful thing we can do is to get someone to think out of the box, forget looking for a specific job description that they think fits them and look instead for a job where they can be creative in putting their geographical knowledge and training to work. That is pretty much what the individuals I've been talking about this morning have done. They have been creative and imaginative. And every individual geographer who does that, who blazes a new trail, expands the outreach of the discipline while doing very well for her or himself.

I would also humbly suggest that any geographer planning to reach out beyond academe become familiar with the American Geographical Society and with its publications. The society has always had an especially robust relationship with geographers outside of academe as well as a healthy relationship with academic geographers.

Finally, to suggest the breadth of sectors that geography touches on, I could do worse than to cite the professional identities of the members of the Council, i.e. board of directors, of the American Geographical Society. It includes eleven academic geographers—all members of university faculties, as well as the senior science correspondent of the New York Times, an archeologist, an architect, the owner of a gas and oil exploration company, a partner in a Wall Street law firm, a senior executive of ESRI, the owner of a theater supply company (who has a PhD in geography and markets worldwide), the recently retired president of Texaco Far East/Middle East, a senior staff member of the U.S. Geological Survey, a consultant to companies in the minerals industry worldwide, the retired chief executive of a global electronics corporation, the chief risk officer of Delta Air Lines, the owner of a map and globe store, and the president of the New York Society of Security Analysts. What an assortment! But the discipline of geography is of vital interest to all of them. Just as the discipline of geography and the contributions geographers have to make are essential to this country, its economy, its polity, its environment, and its society.

That is what Geography Awareness Week should make us realize and should make us remember.

EARTHWORKS

By Peter Lewis

Lawrence Osborne wished to feel comfortable with his likes and dislikes in wine, to breathe free of the floodtide of wine opinion, so he takes to the road to educate himself---to California, France, Italy---in *THE ACCIDENTAL CONNOISSEUR* (North Point), a personable and keen-minded wine journey.

"Is there anything better than drinking? When the happiness of drinking overwhelms you, you cannot resist it." But Osborne did feel terribly self-conscious about drinking wine, whether or not his choices in wine were the promptings of others or the authentic thing his tongue was signaling to his brain as good. That meant, in measure, coming to know himself and as well as something about what the winemaker was after.

He had to dig into the notions of taste and the realities of terroir, into hugeness versus finesse, into the usable nuggets of prejudiced wisdom from the wine police threshed from the ego and dross. By temperament, Osborne was drawn to the stranger byways and backrooms of winemaking; he's not about to pass up a sampling from Angelo Gaja or lunch with Robert Mondavi---though both will have him sweating his self-confidence---but he is happier in the company of California garagiste Bill Cadman, a man of "dark forces, mistakes, passions, and truculent convictions,") or bad-boy alchemist Randall Grahm.

Like Kermit Lynch and Simon Loftus, Osborne is looking for a connection between grape, place, and himself, a trifecta that---with growing exposure to ideas, intentions, and product---Osborne hits more often than he would at the racetrack. The writing has a pleasing, gentle flow, with eddies of humor and yeastiness; Osborne displays a hungry mind, and a gift for taking in the landscape even if he dislikes the wine: "a distant field of mustard switching off for the night," or "cypresses stabbing into the dark blue air...silhouettes of umbrella pines along the hills." But don't forget the wine; consider him an oddfellow looking for a mouthful of personal happiness.

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In *THE BANK MANAGER AND THE HOLY GRAIL* (Aurum/Trafalgar), Byron Rogers tenders a shrewd and sorry, splendid and celebratory portrait of Wales, his homeplace.

The Welsh have a strong dislike to being observed, even by a native son, writes Rogers, let alone occupied by a foreign presence: "What had the English ever done to the Welsh?" ask the untutored, and Rogers reminds them: "Conquest, ethnic cleansing, then colonisation with the attitudes that bred in coloniser and colonised, that's all."

But Rogers is not here to wail and moan; rather, to paint a picture of how Wales is faring these days. Or at least how the town and environs he grew up in have weathered the last half of a century: What has become of the language, the traditions, all the physical and dispositional manifestations of the place that once was? Remarkably, despite the best efforts of both the English and compliant overseers, the language has held on---the great lyric tradition of the oldest vernacular language in Europe" (even if it possesses "no word for orgasm.").

In a voice that is wary, and an eye that is versed and unwilling to genuflect before sentiment or glaze before personal history, he recounts the history of his house, his town, his school and neighboring lands, all rich with fertile irony: "This turns on the purest elements of old romance, a lost palace, the last prince of a ruined dynasty...But chiefly it is the story of a woman who, two years ago, bought a chicken farm in north Wales."

There might be some moss on Rogers, but he is also sitting next to you at the pub. He will tell you about Martin Borman's phonebook, located nearby, or the living archaeology of a coracleman and his demands for the river Towy. There are museums, but mostly the everyday: "It was a wild morning...": There is a launch that Rogers' finds comfort in.

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In what seems almost as miraculous as the cure, naval historian Stephen Bown treats *SCURVY* (St. Martin's) as a spirited and stimulating topic in this fascinating history of the disease.

Scurvy is anywhere there is a deficiency of vitamin C, writes Bown, but it became a scourge during the Age of Sail, when perhaps 2,000,000 seamen died from its effects. Bown addresses the issue from two fronts: how treatment of the disease hinged on the slow evolution of medical science from what now may be considered the preposterous foundation of humours---as, say, a problem of the black bile of the spleen---to the early controlled experiments of the scientific method; and also the pivotal role of social and political connections that allowed, first, incorrect notions of the disease's origins to have

the ear of men with the power to do something about the conditions that caused scurvy, and then, later, just the opposite.

In writing that is fast on its feet, Bown introduces both drama and incredulity into the mix. By the late 16th century, it was understood that citrus could stall scurvy's march: "Somehow, lemon juice, or 'lemon water,' faded as the known and trusted remedy," Bown says. This is in keeping with the generalized mystery that surrounded the disease, its origins and treatment, and the turning away from known, if not understood, preventions.

Bown singles out the work of three men as critical to scurvy's demise: James Lind, a ship's surgeon who conducted controlled experiments; the great mariner James Cook, who had an instinctive regard for hygiene and diet; and Gilbert Blane, a fashionable and well-connected physician whose advice, because of his social standing, was listened to by naval authorities. In addition, Bown describes how the disease played a significant role in international affairs, particularly the outcomes of the American Revolution and the defeat of the French navy by the British in the late 18th century in this splendid, popular telling of the scurvy story.

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David Carroll's memoir *SELF-PORTRAIT WITH TURTLES* (Houghton Mifflin) reveals the making of a naturalist/writer, all the touchstones that turned him from a Turtle Boy to a Turtle Man.

It wasn't until he was eight years old that Carroll came across his first wild turtle, first swamp, first real border: "For some time I stood still, absorbing, becoming absorbed. A shivering intensity came over me." With a *Golden Nature Book* as his grail map, he takes to the wetlands, the rush of spring thaw, barely containing himself and honing the focus he will need to really see even a fragment of what there is to see.

A spotted turtle becomes his all and only during the early days and he conveys with enough oomph the effect it has on his sensibilities to make it seem utterly natural that a native place name for this continent is Turtle Island. But turtles will not be his only fixation; art will also help him make the connection he wants with the raw world.

It is impressive to witness the trajectory of his life, as true as a well-fledged arrow: the economic wretchedness of an artist scraping by, the moves throughout New Hampshire as he seeks employment, the melding of his painting and drawing with his avocation (and the influences that draw it in other directions as well), the square peg in a round hole that finds him at odds with more conservative elements.

Always there are the bogs and backwaters and turtles: spotted, painted, wood, box, Blanding's, and snapping. There is an episode with the last-mentioned---a 4 1/2-foot, 46-pound behemoth---that will give readers who have any familiarity with the creature an inkling of Carroll's fine madness. Throughout, there is the ping of authenticity to his words; doubtless, Carroll is an environmentalist who lives the word right down to his wet sneakers. A pitch-perfect memoir, skirting sentimentality as it embraces sentiment, getting at nature's marvel and its endless transfigurations.

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Thoroughly dazzled by their subject, Diana and Michael Preston have no need to embellish the life of buccaneer-hydrographer-naturalist Dampier, so rich is it with incident and novelty, in *A PIRATE OF EXQUISITE MIND* (Walker).

The Prestons convey Dampier's life in punchy, declarative sentences, their seams threatened by the sheer plentitude of his doings, all the pioneering qualities, all the inexhaustible curiosity. Most of the material comes from his published works---Dampier pretty much invented the modern travel narrative---the bestseller borne on "the accessibility of his writing and the exoticism of his experience," and from records at the Court of Admiralty, for Dampier was an active buccaneer and a lousy leader of men.

Dampier was, the Prestons make clear, cut of standard English buccaneering cloth, a rumbustious plunderer of Spanish ships and towns, an eye always skinned for booty or opportunities for ransom. He was also a man of the times, "when inquiry was fashionable and ingenuity admired."

The Prestons present readers with an ambiguous figure, a man who would engage himself in daring and bloody raids, then turn around and write the essay "A Discourse of Trade-Winds, Breezes, Storms, Seasons of the Year, Tides, and Currents." Dampier was hungry not just for filthy lucre, which would often evade his grasp, but also for appreciating and appraising the strange lands he visited as he circumnavigated the globe three times (he visited Australia years before Cook). No silver or gold? No problem for Dampier, who would take his payment in observations of flamingoes---so many they looked like "a wall of new brick" (good, pink 17th-century brick, that is)---or hunting with the raja of Mindanao, or savoring the local oysters. The Prestons are as impressed by his descriptive writings as were Alexander von Humboldt and Charles Darwin, a claim few cutthroats could assert.

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The all but forgotten origins of New York City are told with both humor and an eye scouring emergent primary source material by Russell Shorto in the bright social history, *THE ISLAND AT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD* (Doubleday).

It is good to remember, suggests Shorto, that the early 17th century was the time of Shakespeare and Descartes, Vermeer and Bacon, a time of change and tumult. Not the least part of that tumult was Dutch political and legal progressivism, "their matter-of-fact acceptance of foreignness, of religious differences, of odd sorts." Tolerance, in a word, though Shorto is quick to point out that meant "putting up with," rather than celebrating diversity.

By the time the colony---the business settlement, the West India Company town--of New Amsterdam had been established, its Babel of nationalities were seeking balance between chaos and order, liberty and oppression: "Pirates, prostitutes, smugglers, and business sharks held sway in it. It was Manhattan...right from the start," suggests Shorto. But the crux, the element that set the town apart from its neighbors north and south, was--despite the tyrannical leanings of early directors of the colony, from Willem Kieft to Peter Stuyvesant---its strivings toward democracy, namely in the person of Adriaen van der Donck, student of Dutch jurist Hugo Grotius and Rene Descartes, natural law and human reason.

"Who was there, how they got along, how they mixed---that is the colony's unheralded legacy," writes Shorto, a struggle that played out between military and

diplomatic maneuverings and the revamping of the colony's political structure. It was a legacy lived by the ruck of Manhattanites, written by Grotius as much as by John Locke, by van der Donck, a veritable Founding Father, though, again, Shorto notes that the authorship of many of the documents illustrating the push toward relative democracy in the colony can only be inferred to van der Donck, though the evidence appears solid.

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THE DEVIL'S HIGHWAY (Little, Brown) is Luis Alberto Urrea's rueful, fate-wracked story of twenty-six men who tried to cross into the United States from Mexico but chose the wrong time, place, and guide.

More than half of the men would die, turned to cinder in the sun-blasted desert of southern Arizona. Urrea tells this grim tale finely; like the trackers of the Border Patrol, he cuts back and forth, looking for signs, following tracks wherever they might lead. This means the various stories of the walkers themselves, what drove them north, from a whole new life to a desire for a season's work in the orange groves to build a new roof on a house. It means delving into the disastrous Mexican state: "the catastrophic political malfeasance that forced the walkers to flee their homes and bake to death in the western desert."

Urrea notes the shift in tactics, thanks to the extremely effective interdiction and prevention policies of the Border Patrol, compelling guides to take walkers over the most remote and dangerous routes. Walkers will often be abandoned if the going gets too tough, as happened here. Urrea spends time in the ratty border hotels and towns--- "Sonoita smells like bad fruit and sewage. Blue clouds of exhaust leak from the dying cars"---and he spends time with the Patrol, especially the trackers and all they can read from a footprint, which, frankly, is scary.

But not as scary as hyperthermia and its ugly progress: the first stages of stress and fatigue, on through syncope and cramps, to the dreadful sludge of exhaustion and stroke. It is not the peaceful sleep-death of the ice; it is reeling and raging, and when a father's son dies in his arms, "the father lurched away into the desert, away from the trees, crying out in despair." A horrendous story, highlighting the whole sordid, greedy mess that attends illegal broader crossings, told with bitter skill.

Martin Lewis to Be AGS Representative to Geography Bowl

Martin W. Lewis of Stanford University has accepted the appointment to be the American Geographical Society's representative to the annual Geography Bowl held at the Association of American Geographers convention. Lewis, the associate editor of *Geographical Review* under the tenure of Paul Starrs, will be one of the question setters, a task that requires both a subtlety of thought and a broad understanding of the field. Catherine Lockwood, who teaches at Chadron State University and who has served as a consulting editor to *Focus*, was the previous AGS representative. We extend our thanks to Catherine and welcome Martin.

IN MEMORIAM

Chauncy D. Harris

Chauncy Harris, AGS Cullum medalist and former vice-president and councilor of the Society, died on December 26th, 2003. An extended appreciation of Professor Harris, who was the Samuel N. Harper Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus at the University of Chicago, will appear in the next issue of *Ubique* as well as the *Geographical Review*.

Anastasia Van Burkalow

AGS Honorary Fellow Anastasia Van Burkalow died in January of this year. She was awarded the Honorary Fellowship in 1997, some fifty years after she had put in a three-year stint as an editorial assistant at the American Geographical Society, during a brief leave from Hunter College, where she taught for thirty-four years.

“During World War II,” reads in part her citation for the Honorary Fellowship, “she came to the American Geographical Society as a research and editorial assistant, the initial job description said. But somehow she wound up doing groundbreaking work in a new specialty--- medical geography. And, in a continuing relationship with the Society even after she left the staff, she edited such classics as Jean Gottman’s *Megalopolis*, contributed numerous articles of her own to Society publications, and served as a contributing editor to the *Geographical Review* for twenty-four years.”

“When she was asked to assume the chairmanship of the Hunter College geoscience department with little notice and less preparation, she turned the sudden assignment into a tour de force that lasted twelve years.” She also kept geography alive in a department peopled mainly by geologists, the field in which she herself received a Ph.D. from Columbia in 1944. Her remarkable accomplishments are recognized by Hunter College Geography Department’s Anastasia Van Burkalow Distinguished Service Award.

Robert E. Huke

Bob Huke, a Life Fellow of the American Geographical Society for over thirty years and Professor Emeritus of Geography at Dartmouth College, died in January 2004. He contributed pieces to both the *Geographical*

Review and to *Focus*, as well as serving as a lecturer on South Asia for the American Geographical Society Travel Program.

In comments made to the Dartmouth College newspaper a few years ago, George Demko, Professor of Geography at Dartmouth, referred to Professor Huke, who taught at the college for thirty-seven years, as “the backbone of the department.” Demko noted that he “had very strong teaching, very strong research. It plugged into the real world.”

CALL FOR AUTHORS
Encyclopedia of World Geography

We are inviting academic editorial contributors to *The New Encyclopedia of World Geography*. This is a three-volume encyclopedia for public, high-school, and college libraries to be published by Facts On File. The work is made up of some 800 articles about the human, political, and physical geographies of countries, states, cities, land features, climate, and other geographical subjects including biographies, profiles, and descriptions of historical events affecting geography. As a world reference, the articles cover numerous international subjects, from economic associations to political structures.

Each article, ranging from 350 to 4,500 words, is signed by the contributor. The General Editor for the *Encyclopedia* is Robert W. McColl, Ph.D., University of Kansas, who will review each article for content and consistency.

If you are interested in contributing to the *Encyclopedia*, it can be a notable publication addition to your resume and broaden your publishing credits.

There is a small honorarium paid for each article, \$20 to \$135, depending on article length. Each contributor needs to write 5 to 15 articles (many are quite short) by MAY 1, 2004.

The list of articles is already prepared, and as a next step we e-mail you the article list (Excel file) from which you can select unassigned topics that best fit your expertise and schedule. Additionally, you will receive Style Guidelines that detail article specifications.

If you would like to contribute to building a truly outstanding reference with *The Encyclopedia of World Geography*, please contact me

by e-mail or phone below. Please provide a brief summary of your background.

Thanks very much.

Geoff Golson

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GEOGRAPHY in the NEWS INDEX REACHES ARTICLE #708

The latest version of the *Index to Geography in the News*, a weekly newspaper series, just reached article #708 at the end of 2003. *Geography in the News*, or GiN as its called here at the AGS office, was started in 1987 by Neal G. Lineback, a professor of geography from Appalachian State University, and GiN shows no sign of slowing down. Dr. Lineback's columns for future indexing and cross-referencing are now filling up a new folder labeled "GiN 2004". The first comprehensive edition of the *Index*, edited by James W. Thomas of the American Geographical Society, covers the years 1987 to 2000. And the AGS Travel Program instigated the whole thing.

It all started innocently enough in early 1988. Every trip on the AGS travel schedule calls for a small library of particular AGS articles from *Geographical Review* and *Focus on Geography* so the passengers can peruse these selections pertaining to the trip. In 1988 AGS added *Geography in the News* to the libraries, with usually a dozen *News* articles per trip. From its beginning in 1987, we had been getting the *News* week by week and year by year, so the pages were filling up their designated folders. In early 1992, I asked AGS office intern Diana Lys to put together a chronological list of articles that would scan easily. She went on ambitiously to set up the first version of an index, although in the beginning there was only one subject entry per article. Because these articles discussed so many subjects and countries, I thought too many of the *News* pieces needed cross-referencing. Since I already had the experience of writing the *Focus* magazine index, I changed the simple index in late 1992 to the current comprehensive model. Some articles have only one entry, almost always a general, single country topic, such as "Poland", although "Polish Americans" has six entries. Others can have more. "Holy Cow! Your Public Land" and "Westward, Ho!" both have nine entries and "Geography of Fall Colors" has ten. These *News* articles are jam packed with information.

So for Travel Program libraries in 2003 - let's see - I needed *Geography in the News* articles for the Egyptian odyssey in January. How many could I find to cover the Mississippi River cruise in March or the transcontinental U.S. rail journey in November? For Egypt there's "Better Dead Than Red" on the Red Sea and the Mississippi trip could use "Goober Peas" and "The Buffalo Commons". The train trip fits "Tornado Warning!" through "Update on Killer Bees" to Yucca Mountain Nuclear Storage". I don't think I'll ever use "North Korea: Axis of Evil?" anytime soon and "Lost at Sea" probably won't go into a cruise ship library, although "Capt. Cook Lives Again" looks good for its sea legs. The Stepping Stones of the Atlantic cruise library just shipped out with old favorites such as "Hot Geography!" and "Learning World Geography by Crisis" as well as "Antarctic Ice Sheet Collapse?" and "The Sahara Wobble". But I'm dreaming of the flying trip Around the World by Private Jet. Oh well. I'll daydream a while at my desk and then find another dozen *News* articles to match this trip that skips along from the Galapagos Islands to the Taj Mahal to the Serengeti Plain. I can use "The Galapagos' Fish Fight" and "India's Milk Drinking Statues?" as well as "Africa's Serengeti Plain". They're all in the *Index*. And the fun part is, I get to reread them again.

James W. Thomas

McColl FAMILY FELLOWSHIP Sixth Annual Competition

The McColl Family Fellowship, given by **Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. McColl**, consists of round-trip airfare to any place in the world of the candidate's choosing. The candidate must secure funding for other expenses from other sources.

The only obligation of the Fellow is to write an article based on the visit abroad that is suitable for publication in *FOCUS on Geography* magazine and that is submitted to the editor within six months upon return from the trip.

As is true of all *FOCUS on Geography* authors, candidates must be geographers or others "who think like geographers and write like journalists." Currently, one fellowship is being offered for each year. Selection is by a committee chosen by the AGS Council.

The winner of the first McColl Fellowship was Dr. Joseph Hobbs of the Department of Geography, University of Missouri-Columbia for travel to Madagascar in 2000 for first hand study of the human use of caves there. His article appeared in the summer 2001 issue of *FOCUS on Geography*. The second McColl Fellowship was awarded to Dr. Kendra McSweeney for work on indigenous response to hurricane damage in the rain forest of eastern Honduras; her article appeared in the Spring 2002 issue of *FOCUS on Geography*. The third award went to Dr. Roger Balm for work in 2002 on early exploration sites in Peru; his article appeared in the issue of the magazine just published. The fourth fellowship was awarded to Josh Lepawsky for research in 2003 on intelligence technology in Malaysia. The fifth award is going to Dr. Susan Mains for research this year on the experiences of Jamaican migrants living in Toronto.

The sixth McColl Fellowship is to be awarded for the year 2005. Applications for it must be received in the AGS offices by October 15, 2004. **They are to consist of the candidate's**

curriculum vitae; a covering letter of no more than three pages that describes a) the proposed trip, b) the reasons for selecting that itinerary, and c) the candidate's particular competence for doing field there; and a statement of the sum requested.

Applications should be sent to:
McCull Family Fellowship Committee
The American Geographical Society
120 Wall Street, Suite 100
New York, New York 10005-3904

For further information contact Mary Lynne Bird at (212) 422-5456 voice, (212) 422-5480 fax, MLBird@amergeog.org or see the AGS website at <http://www.amergeog.org>

What is AGS Doing On eBay?

AGS depends upon its members for the vast majority of its financial support through your membership dues, revenues received from our top quality publications, as well as more market based opportunities like our world class travel programs offered through AGS Travel. As a Councilor of the AGS, I can tell you we are constantly watching our costs on behalf of our members, and we continually look for creative ways to raise funds to support the vital mission of the AGS. As a small, non-profit scholarly society, having sufficient financial support is a constant challenge for us.

AGS is proud to announce an additional way that its members, and others who support the AGS and geography, can help the AGS, without having to reach for their checkbooks. AGS is now an approved non-profit of eBay Giving Works. eBay Giving Works is a fundraising platform for nonprofits that offers buyers and sellers the opportunity to support their favorite causes (the AGS!) through trading on eBay. MissionFish is the provider of The Giving Assistant™, the listing for items posted on eBay in the eBay Giving Works program.

What does this mean to you and to the AGS? Well, the AGS leadership is convinced the AGS has some of the world's most interesting and well-traveled (not to mention generous) people as its members and supporters. eBay Giving Works allows you to list items on eBay, and direct a portion or all of the proceeds to be donated to AGS, while providing you documentation of your donation for tax purposes, all in a very efficient, low hassle way. So whether it's junk in the garage that others would find of value, or unique items, geography related or not, that you've collected over the years that might be worth a lot more to collectors, you can convert some or all of that item's worth into financial support for the AGS. We think this is a creative way to extend your ability to support the AGS (check out www.ebay.com/givingworks or www.missionfish.org, as well as the AGS website at www.amergeog.org for more information).

This is how it works...

Step 1. Prior to posting an item for sale, log onto www.missionfish.org and register for free. You'll need to have a valid eBay account setup to do this.

Step 2. If you are a casual seller on eBay (less than 10 items ever), or a first time user at eBay, once you are signed up on Missionfish, please email AGS@amergeog.org and request that you be placed on our Buddy List to sell an item on eBay for the AGS. *The AGS will need a brief description of the item you will list for sale, and most importantly, your eBay login name (not your password) to pre-approve you and your item, adding you to the AGS's Buddy List.*

Step 3. You log in to Missionfish.org and pick a non-profit (The American Geographical Society) from the Missionfish menu.

Step 4. The menu will take you through selection of how much as a percentage (1-100%) of the proceeds from your item will be a contribution to AGS, and completes the listing with The Giving Assistant™ process (works just like listing on eBay).

Step 5. If you're not on AGS's Buddy List of approved sellers, we're notified of the new item listing and are given one business day to review and approve its participation in the item for sale, otherwise it's automatically posted to eBay.

Step 6. It is listed for sale on eBay based on the schedule and choices in pricing, shipping, etc. you decided upon. There is only a nominal increase in the "fee" charged on eBay to cover the administrative cost of Missionfish administration of the donation. Your item appears in eBay with an eBay Giving Works icon featuring AGS and the percentage donation indicated in the item description.

Step 7. When your listing ends, and the buyer pays you, AGS's portion of the sale goes to Missionfish, which holds it in escrow until the refund period ends (typically one month after the month in which the item is sold, plus 15 days)

Step 8. After the escrow period, Missionfish then pays AGS, and sends a receipt to you for the tax deductible donation via email.

Step 9. You feel really pleased to have helped out the AGS!

We hope that this will be a program that all those who support the AGS will consider to increase their support of the Society!

Chris Duncan
Councilor, AGS

GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW FIELDWORK ISSUE

Sales of the Geographical Review special issue on fieldwork have been brisk and very gratifying to us here at the AGS. Individual issues are finding their way to Europe and Asia, and classroom orders have been steadily rising, like hotcakes before they fly off the shelf. Have you missed this classic? If so, you can have one at the modest price---for this 508-page gold mine of experiences garnered in the field from sixty-three writers---of \$39.95 (plus 15% postage and handling; US orders are mailed at priority rate). Sent in plain brown wrapper, as protection from envious colleagues.

GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW ANTHOLOGY

The compilation of the *Geographical Review* anthology is proceeding apace; so important an undertaking can't be rushed, and we continue to receive good ideas from geographers and readers all over the world. It is a great pleasure to read the reminiscences of geographers for whom the *Review* has been an influential part of their professional careers. We are also fascinated by the range of articles that have been recommended for inclusion, a wonderful sampling through time and topic. Those who haven't had the opportunity to send in their suggestions, please do so as soon as you can. Send your ideas to: Peter Lewis, The American Geographical Society, 120 Wall Street, Suite 100, New York, NY 10005

Best Research Fellowships at the AGS Library
By Christopher Baruth
The American Geographical Society Library

Over the past four years, a total of nine scholars have been able to visit Milwaukee to pursue their research interests at the American Geographical Society Library with the assistance of a Helen and John S. Best Research Fellowship grant. This program was made possible by a grant from Mrs. Helen Best in memory of her late husband, John S. Best, a prominent Milwaukee attorney, book-collector and conservationist.

In addition, the Library has received funding from UW-Milwaukee's Center for International Education (CIE) to increase the number of fellowships available for the years 2004-2006. Fellowships can last up to four weeks and provide a weekly stipend of \$375.00 (\$1,500 maximum) to help defray the travel and living expenses relative to the fellowship.

Best Fellowship recipients have been a diverse group, coming from as far away as New Zealand, Russia and the United Kingdom, ranging from doctoral students to established scholars, and pursuing a wide variety of topics relating to geography and cartography, especially with a historical dimension.

The recipients for 2004 are Dr. Paul Longley Arthur, Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia; Dr. M. Sean Chenoweth, University of Louisiana-Monroe; Sandra Gaskell, Mariposa, CA; and Viva G. Nordberg, University of Kentucky.

Application should be made in writing to Dr. Christopher Baruth, the AGSL Curator. The application should include 1) a two-page letter describing the project to be pursued, the proposed end result of the project (publication, dissertation, etc), an explanation of how the AGS Library will be utilized in completing the project, and the number of weeks of support requested (up to 4); 2) a brief curriculum vitae; and 3) a letter of support from a reputable scholar in the field.

Applications must be postmarked by September 15, 2004, and awards will be announced on or before December 1, 2004 for fellowships to be held in 2005. For complete information please see <http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/AGSL/best.html>

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The Galileo Circle is a group of special friends of The American Geographical Society who give to or obtain for the Society a donation of at least \$1,000.00 a year. They play an important part in the work of the AGS, and they help to ensure the strength of the Society

Galileo Circle members enjoy priority access to the AGS staff and Council and through them to authorities on economic, cultural, political, environmental, and other geographical issues. They attend special events and private briefings with the Council as guests of the Council.

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