

**UBIQUE – NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
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EVERY STEP YOU TAKE, EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE

By Jerome Dobson

President, The American Geographical Society

(This editorial appeared in the February 25, 2005, editorial page of the *Chicago Tribune*.)

The logo for the Chicago Tribune, featuring the words "Chicago Tribune" in a white, stylized, gothic-style font against a dark blue background.

When public school students in Sutter, Calif., were ordered to wear radio frequency identification tags around their necks, the children's parents objected and the principal backed down. Already, schoolchildren in Osaka, Japan, are required to carry similar tags tucked into their belongings. The government of Mexico tracks court officials with RFID tags implanted in their shoulders. Finland changed its national laws to allow cell-phone tracking of children. A woman in Kenosha discovered her estranged husband had hidden a Global Positioning System tracker in her car. All are current news items.

Once viewed as a futuristic nightmare, human-tracking is now affordable and available without restriction. For \$200, plus a monthly service fee of \$20, anyone can purchase an electronic device that puts George Orwell's 1984 surveillance technology to shame. They're marketed as "kid-tracking" devices, though some ads also mention pets and senior citizens. In vivid shades of doublespeak, one company offers service plans named "Liberty, Independence and Freedom," but surveillance and control are their purpose.

At the very least, human-tracking devices will alter relationships between some parents and children, husbands and wives, employers and employees more dramatically than any other product emerging from the information revolution. Ultimately, they offer a new form of human slavery based on location control. They pose the greatest threat to personal freedom ever faced in human history.

Whatever legitimate uses there may be--to safeguard a child or incapacitated adult, for example--abuses will occur. Even full-blown geo-slavery is inevitable: The uncertainty is how many people will suffer from it--hundreds, thousands or millions.

People welcome GPS receivers for personal navigation, especially for travel and outdoor recreation. There's much good and certainly no harm as long as the coordinates go directly to the user and no one else. Current devices display maps produced by geographic information systems containing detailed information about businesses, residences and individuals. Human-tracking devices add radio communication that reports location data to a service center with its own powerful GIS. Subscribers pay for the privilege of peeking in at will to check on the individual being tracked.

After decades of fretting over Orwell's vision, hardly a whimper has been heard since the devices went on sale. Media attention has focused entirely on the advertised case: parents of good intention watching over their own children. Far from critical review, news and talk show coverage amounts to little more than blind acceptance of manufacturers' claims.

Will the practice really protect children? Or will it introduce new risks? How will children react, emotionally and behaviorally, to constant surveillance and control? Will tracking be confined to children and incapacitated adults? Or will it become a ubiquitous tool of control throughout society? Peter F. Fisher, professor of geographic information science at the University of Leicester and editor of the *International Journal of Geographic Information Science*, and I have raised these and other crucial questions in scholarly journals and trade magazines, but questioning of any sort is strangely absent elsewhere.

It's time for an explicit national debate on human-tracking that goes far beyond privacy, per se. Which applications are acceptable and which are not? Which will require informed consent, legal proceedings or medical hearings? Which existing laws must be amended to place electronic means on a par with traditional means of branding, stalking, incarceration and enslavement? Should human-tracking companies be licensed? Should their employees undergo background checks? What other safeguards are needed?

Initially, the front line will be in the workplace. How will union leaders value workers' rights with human-tracking as a bargaining chip in contract negotiations?

None of this debate will happen until citizens become alarmed enough to educate themselves and demand answers, and it's not clear they will resist.

At church one recent morning, a fellow member told me how a friend, the owner of a construction firm, uses GPS-based cell phones to track "his 20

Mexicans." He envied his friend's constant control and hoped to adopt the technology himself though he has only "three Mexicans of his own."

That conversation occurred in the oldest church in Kansas, established by abolitionists who came to make Kansas a free state and thereby sparked the Civil War. The irony was overwhelming.

The American debate begins in Sutter, Calif.

American Geographical Society's Writers Network

By Deborah E. Popper, AGS Councilor

Over the last two years the AGS has developed a new initiative, the American Geographical Society's Writers Network. This project sends opinion pieces written by AGS councilors and fellows to newspapers around the country in an effort to increase public discussion of geographical issues. The effort has been built slowly and surely and should continue to strengthen. The project began with an occasional article sent to a few papers. The pace is picking up. We now send out about one opinion piece a month to several hundred media outlets.

Jerry Dobson's articles on geo-slavery exemplify the worth of this effort. Applications of GIS and GPS to keep track of people represent a powerful geographical technology that is spreading rapidly and is marketed energetically, but with little discussion of its consequences. How could AGS help get the technology the thoughtful exposure and discussion it so clearly deserves? Dobson wrote several articles explaining the ongoing expansion of the technology for tracking people. He laid out both its benefits—like keeping those with Alzheimer's from being lost—and the unpalatable—tracking the movements of unwitting spouses or workers. He called for public discussion in order to ensure proper regulation. Each of his articles has received a bit more coverage. His most recent was picked up by several news outlets, including the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Casper, Wyoming Star Tribune* and he was interviewed by public radio in Madison, Wisconsin.

Last fall, as geopolitics seemed each week to bring yet another poorly understood region into the news, David Keeling wrote several articles that brought together solid regional explanation and suggestions for future policy direction. His largest media splash came with an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. James Wiley's clever demonstration of the interaction between technology, demography, and elections allowed him to imagine an entirely different outcome to the 2004 election. If only air-conditioning had never been invented, the blue states would still be running the show, Wiley noted, and the red-state *Ft. Worth Star Telegram* printed it.

More recently, Dick Janson pointed out the need to evaluate soils when siting concentrated animal-feeding operations, an increasingly widespread concern. Juha Uitto warned that any public (or private) investment in a large-

scale project must factor in the potential impacts of global warming, and doing so requires immediate adoption of risk-management strategies based on a thorough geographical understanding of hazards. I wrote about how we may associate skyscrapers with the world's biggest cities, but the greatest number of skyscrapers per capita is particularly likely to be beachfront communities; in the U.S., Miami Beach has the largest number of skyscrapers per capita. These coastal communities, often vulnerable to hurricane damage, must ensure that their building and zoning codes and emergency-preparedness plans safeguard the many vulnerable people. Coastal Biloxi, Mississippi's *Sun Herald* ran the op-ed.

This initiative has many benefits. Through it, AGS provides a way for geographers to talk directly to the general public. It allows us to demonstrate what geographers do---what they study and how they study it---and thus to increase appreciation of the field. Articles have been picked up by newspapers and websites across the country, in large cities and small towns. In some cases, writers have been contacted for more information. We know we are reaching people. We reach the editors as well, who thus become familiar with the approaches and concerns of geographers. They may or may not print a particular item, but we hope to implant ourselves in their head for future reference. We hope the effort is useful to geographers, giving them a way to get their research out to many who might profit from it.

We hope AGS fellows will send us op-eds for possible distribution. Send me an idea or an article for consideration. If you have just finished a research project or published a book, think about what you most want the public to know from it. Op-eds should be approximately 650, jargon-free words. Topics tied into current news are most likely to generate editor interest. Mary Lynne Bird and I will read whatever you send us, see whether we think it has possibilities for this particular forum, and possibly fiddle with wording or suggest you do. I look forward to reporting on the ever-widening spread of geography through AGS's Writers Network.

New AGS Initiatives

Jerome Dobson, President, AGS

AGS Helps Global Landmine Effort

Approximately 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 landmines are in the ground worldwide today. Mapping each minefield is an essential step in the de-mining process, and mapping all minefields throughout the world is a daunting task. The penalty for misreading a minefield map is great, of course, and thus it is crucial to make all cartographic symbols clear, consistent, and informative. Until now, there has been no international standard in humanitarian de-mining for the symbols used to represent landmines, minefields, and mine actions such as accidents and various steps in the de-mining process. Even neighboring countries, in the Balkans for instance, have widely varying symbols for the same hazards.

Now, AGS is promulgating a cartographic standard that will be employed by as many as 60 countries that are currently engaged in de-mining. Our task is to promulgate the standard globally beyond the de-mining community to major mapping agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and geographic information system (GIS) vendors. We are funded by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), which represents the 17 donor nations that fund most of the world's de-mining operations.

As part of these efforts, on June 7, 2005, AGS hosted a workshop with participants from Carl, Levine, Foreman, and Margulas; ESRI, Inc.; FGM, Inc.; GICHD; the United Nations (UN Cartographic Division, UN Mine Action Service, and UN Office for Project Services); United States Census Bureau; and University of Kansas. A second workshop is scheduled for November 7, 2005 in Reston, Virginia, with assistance from the United States Geological Survey.

The standard itself was developed by the University of Kansas under separate funding from GICHD. Its principal designer is John Kostelnick, a graduate student working under the direction of AGS President Jerry Dobson with additional review and advice by Stephen Egbert and Matt Dunbar.

AGS Leads Foreign Fieldwork

AGS has taken a bold step to address the overwhelming need for better understanding of foreign lands and peoples. Troubled by the current state of geographic knowledge among politicians of all parties, analysts, journalists, and the voting public alike, we initiated a program to send teams of geographers to conduct field investigations of their choice in foreign areas and report findings in scholarly journals and popular media. The full concept is to send a professor and at least two graduate students to every country in the world for a full semester every year. Each team would return on a five-year rotation so that at least five teams would become familiar with each country or sub-national region. That ambitious goal will require vastly more funding than funds currently available, but we have begun with a prototype project in Mexico, and additional countries may be funded in the coming year.

Our first sponsor is the United States Department of Defense, and we hope others will be added in the near future. Regardless who the sponsors may be, AGS is responsible for leading each effort and ensuring its academic freedom, independence, and openness to the public. All of the information gathered in each project will be open source and unclassified.

The prototype project is conducted in conjunction with the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and the University of San Luis Potosi, and is led by Peter Herlihy of the University of Kansas. It focuses on radical changes in Mexico's land-tenure systems resulting from government programs related to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

EARTHWORKS

By Peter Lewis

With precious few exceptions, post-colonial African countries tanked: sometimes politically, sometimes economically, sometimes socially, sometimes---horribly and spectacularly---all three at once. Not only did the center fail to hold, but the windows blew out, the walls caved in, and the roof collapsed.

If promise went begging, what promise was there to begin with, asks Martin Meredith in *THE FATE OF AFRICA* (PublicAffairs), a thoroughgoing (at over 800 pages) yet easy-to-imbibe (if not easy-to-stomach) history cum geography of the continent since the end of World War II.

Well, there were natural resources to be thankful for: gold and diamonds and oil, plus an entire alphabet of minerals and agricultural goods that were in world demand. Art, music, and literature were experiencing a strong revival. And, never to be sniffed at, the weather was friendly for a couple of decades.

But wait, writes Meredith; as a garden of possibilities, Africa was not the healthiest. Its ground had not been nourished but mauled by the colonial powers that staked their claim to the continent at the end of the 19th century. Areas of interest were demarcated without regard to the diverse and independent groups of Africans living there. Thus the modern states of Africa, a geopolitics of ignorance and presumption, with 10,000 African polities amalgamated into forty European colonies and protectorates. Come independence, “traditions of autocratic governance, paternalism and dirigism were embedded in the institutions the new leaders inherited.”

The result was the emergence of one-party states, and even more to the point, of Big Men. The Big Man will be the bugbear Meredith finds squatting upon every rotting African country, and he has plenty of material to back his assertion that “Africa has suffered grievously at the hands of its big men and its ruling elites. Their preoccupation, above all, has been to hold power for the purpose of self-enrichment.”

Certainly, they were aided and abetted by Cold War machinations, yet the Big Men would persist after the Soviet Union fell apart and the United States lost any rationale for supporting someone like Mobutu. The few instances of effective government, such as South Africa’s emergence as a democratic state with a modern constitution, or Botswana’s enduring multiparty government and sound economic management, make the continuing preponderance of demagogic Big Men particularly galling. The faces can change with alarming celerity (or last grotesquely for decades), but not the behavior.

Meredith doesn’t lay every African ill at the Big Man’s door. Foreign intervention, from Che Guevara in the Congo, to the French in Bokassa’s Central African Republic and the Soviet’s in Ethiopia, to the United States in Somalia, has been unproductive when not catastrophic. States that accepted IFM/World Bank support stagger under debt service. Nor did the Big Man unleash AIDS (though he turns a blind eye) or have much say about the weather; drought has been one of Africa’s grimmest reapers.

Though today an independent scholar, Meredith was one of those now-too-rare journalists who knew his beat intimately, having lived on and off (mostly on) in Africa for forty years, informing a keen and humane mind with all things African. It shows here in the depth and fluid familiarity of his narrative, light on its feet for so wildly complex a picture. Meredith isn't afraid of venturing an opinion, but what he dines on are basic realities: who did what, when, and the consequences.

The Great Garbage Tour---sounds like a grunge music extravaganza, but is actually Elizabeth Royte following her "rejectamenta" to its final resting place in *GARBAGE LAND* (Little, Brown).

Who hasn't wondered about where the colossal amount of garbage we produce goes? Royte wants to know about ultimate destinations: how does recycling work; when we flush the toilet, what is its cargo's destiny; and what about all that plain old putrescence? We in the U.S. produce 369 million tons of garbage a year: 1.3 million tons per person, annually. A gladdening 27% is recycled or composted, nearly 8% is incinerated, and a godawful 65% goes into the ground.

It will come as little surprise that for years, "garbage has changed hands through cronyism and favors, and landed on the backs of disenfranchised," great landfills that bring dollars to destitute communities, as well as health and standard-of-living problems: these are the aptly named brownfields, with their attendant groundwater contamination, litter and leachate, scavenging birds, guarded like strategic targets for whatever secrets they hold. Only 100 years ago, 100,000 pigs patrolled New York City's streets of the organic wastes casually thrown there, but now the pigs are gone---they created their own organic wastes, it must be said---and our wastes are different: more paper, more glass, more plastic.

Plastic will prove to be the real bugaboo; it can be recycled to a point, then degradation simply turns it into landfill material. Paper, in particular, Royte shows, doesn't get the attention it deserves---only 19% gets recycled---despite its clear economic value. You may not even want to know about the sludge-farm experiments, where our concentrated fecal material created the ultimate of brownfields. While there are obvious ways to cope with our waste---Royte clearly outlines them---our biggest problem is mindset: we are accustomed to the ease of the toss.

Few but Royte, a natural storyteller and skillful natural historian, could have pulled off turning our feculence into fascination, a dirty little object lesson.

William Bryant Logan offers up in *OAK* (Norton) the biography of a tree, one that has been collectively embraced for its multifaceted grandeur.

The oak has never been taken for granted. It may not be the tallest of trees, nor the oldest or strongest, but it is common, easy to shape, flexible, and generous in its many applications. In this superb and inviting profile, Logan tells of how post-glacial humans followed the oak much as Basques followed cod, eating of their bounty---acorns in this case---on their way to new worlds, be they Kurd, Kashmiri, or Korean.

Logan offers one savory oak tidbit after another, knowing that his subject is a coat of many colors that will add up to a critical mass, spilling over in pure awe. Early people used oak to make roads through fens and oak cysts as coffins (“a suit of oak”). They were prized for their spiritual qualities---Druid comes from *dru*, meaning oak, and *wid*, meaning to see or know: oak knowledge---and for sacred sites (or at least that is what they appear to be, though their function is still guesswork), such as the great floating wooden island of Flag Fen, or the many henges that were more often made of wood than stone.

There is so much more, all of which is handled with care and thought by Logan: the construction of northern longboats, the brilliance of the oaken barrel’s design, the superiority of gall ink (Leonardo’s favorite), the oaken ships that allowed for world trade. Then he delves into the tree’s physical make-up, from its clouds of altruistic roots to the mechanics of leaf making. Logan is in such joy of his subject, he can even find the humor in the tanners’ toil: “When the bark came away, it made a noise like a quack, so a party of barkers sounded like a flock of ducks.”

The Royal Oak, the democratic oak, an oak for every season and purpose, all respectfully, admiringly, and insightfully laid out for the reader to marvel upon.

A duck out of water attempts to win over his neighbors with his rural skills, and gain an accepted place in their midst, in *AN ENGLISHMAN A LA CAMPAGNE* (Simon & Schuster), a pratfall-filled tale of expatriotism.

Michael Sadler is English, his neighbors are country French, and they are not impressed. He has just moved into a farmhouse in the Loire owned by friends. While the farmhouse is passable, the garden surrounds are an Amazonia of six-foot high lettuces; Sadler has eyes on winning the village garden contest, thus to prove his worthiness among the august peasantry. And his heart is purely taken with the French countryside: “a less stressful, more ancestral, old-style, slow-cooking, gently unfolding France that I have always found attractive: *la France profonde*.”

He is being sincere, but this is as serious as Sadler gets. Sadler is far happier savoring the food and wine and serving as a foil to his neighbors (he knows when taking a poke in the eye is worth getting two slaps on the back). Here is how he interprets a formal conversation with his farmer neighbor: “Elle est bien basse.” (Trans: “Too bad for you, fatface.”); “Pour etre basse elle est basse?” (Trans: “Please, Aime, don’t be a shit.”) This, by the way, is a conversation of soil dryness.

Yet Sadler is such a genial and peculiar sort, it isn’t long before he attends a ribald Communion lunch, or takes with relish his role as an old goat, or perversely starts a search for an ugly village amidst all the blousy charms of the region. Strange anecdotes pile up, highlighting his ability to come both directly at a topic and from left field at the same time: he kicks an ostrich in the rear---no harm done---and wins a case of fine Chinon wine; he decides to triumph in the garden contest by growing sexy vegetables like John Malkovich (a story of miscommunication, of which there are many).

Formidably droll, with a touch of the wacko---the perfect Englishman in the campagne.

Another transplanted Englishman, Joe Bennett, takes a middle-age hitchhike the length and breadth of his adopted New Zealand in *A LAND OF TWO HALVES* (Scribner).

Bennett wants serendipity to guide his ramble about the two big islands that make up New Zealand, which is why he decides to become a pilgrim of the thumb, despite having more hair on his forearms than his head. "I've seen much of this country over the years, but I have never traveled merely to observe it," and so Bennett works hard at the exigent art of seeing: muttering magpies, mudpots, whales; glow-worm caves and bad hotels ("The bed is as narrow as Calvinism."); high-country sheep stations, vineyards, urban complexes; trout streams, rugby teams, and a sky the color of a thrush egg.

In a voice that is unselfconsciously, wryly hip, yet also with the clarity of the plainspoken, Bennett can neatly delineate a landscape, from the feral indifference of the wild West Coast of South Island to the most northern outpost, a dwarfing, wordless place where two oceans clash. "But bush is eye-candy, and only from a distance. Close up it's cold, wet, impenetrable and inimical."

And so, Bennett turns his observant eye on his drivers. They give Bennett insights into the towns and countryside he would never have been able to discern in his brief passage, though what really gets to Bennett is the fleeting intimacy, like a confessional on wheels, a psychiatric couch barreling through the landscape. He learns things about his traveling companions that they likely never shared with their mates and if they turn creepy, he knows that soon he will never see them again. No national character will emerge, but there is a good, long look through the eyes of working-class New Zealand, as truck drivers are his most common lift.

As others get on with it---the great, uncaring it---Bennett "will be swanning, going where I wish at the pace that I wish, and exploiting their goodwill to travel for free." In return, he has written this shrewd entertainment. Everybody won.

And another book of trees, those that never were and always were---and a few that should have been for comedy's sake---which taps some very deep roots of the human psyche, comes from Joseph Bulgatz

In *A FIELD GUIDE TO IMAGINARY TREES* (Xlibris), Bulgatz parades a handful of arboreal specimens full of divine wonder and aesthetic pleasure, those for which we have special affinities and that resonate on the atavistic level, that speak of our species' first homes, of life, of good and evil, of the oracular. Bulgatz paws around the earth from which these trees sprouted, looking for signification, finding allegory, parable, metaphor.

He is a playful guide, sometimes speaking as a cherub, sometimes as a scholar, discoursing on the cooperative undertakings by the plant and animal kingdoms in the Barnacle Goose Tree and the Vegetable Lamb of Tartary. He introduces readers to the Schadenfreude, which exercised a reversal of fortunes on those with whom the tree was associated, a product of those "closed, close, and competitive societies where kindness was often in short supply but jealousy

and envy were not,”; to the farcical folk of Chelm, into whose hands one day came a miraculous box of oranges, (“It was a gift, the paper enclosed said, sent from ‘Harry and David, Fruiterers of the World.’”); and to the blessed Shmoo Pear, a tree that adapted perfectly to the Atkins diet.

But the laughs are spaced out in Bulgatz’s greater exploration of our desire to anthropomorphize trees; far from a pathetic fallacy, Bulgatz sees in the stories of Philemon and Baucis, the Tree of Liberty, Yggdrasil, the forest-intoxicated Celts, the age of the sacred grove, all the way to an interpretation of the battles of succession waged by species over a disturbed piece of land, a profound exercise of the imagination that he joins as neat as a jigsaw puzzle to whatever worldview prevailed at the time.

A guide as enchanting as the symbolic freight, both shimmering and hefty, of its subject.

A fine and lively collection of exploration stories has been gathered by Fergus Fleming in *OFF THE MAP* (Atlantic), from the famous to the obscure but guaranteed not to be forgotten.

Fleming brings to these tales a fine round-the-campfire storyteller’s verve and a poet’s gift for compression. The feats are divided into three sections---reconnaissance, inquiry, and endeavor---and there are forty-four of them, ranging from Marco Polo to Umberto Nobile’s crazywild airship journey to the North Pole.

Fleming provides the context and consequences of the deeds---why James Cook got his goose handed to him in Hawaii; the impact of Lewis and Clark’s transcontinental trek, nothing less than a great colonial detonation, on the American West; how the Great Survey of India’s “secondary function was to provide the military with topographical intelligence on the surrounding countries of Afghanistan, Turkistan and Tibet”---though it is the narrative oomph that propels the stories forward.

Brevity is another of Fleming’s strong suits; none of the pieces is more than twenty pages long, some as short as five (and though they are not especially designed as such, they make for good bedtime reading and interesting dreams). There are deliciously clandestine characters like the pundits of the Great Survey, all manner of otherworldliness (see in particular Edward Whymper’s visit from an apparition) and ill-fated souls aplenty, including Adolphus Greeley’s expedition to Ellesmere Island that found the starving crew munching on their oilskin sleeping bags, George De Long’s grisly end in Siberia, and the mystery of John Franklin’s end in his search across the badlands of Canada for a northwest passage.

There isn’t a dud in the lot, and Fleming has provided a bibliography of both primary and secondary sources for readers whose tastes for any one of these exploits has been well whetted and wish to fully flesh the stories. Adventure reading of a high order: brisk, fresh, and full of color.

IN MEMORIAM

William Bruce Wood, III
November 14, 1956 to July 4, 2005

Geographer of the United States

Remembering Bill Wood

Bill Wood was born in Djakarta, Indonesia , to Glenn and Kathrine Wood. He had two older siblings, a sister Allane and brother Mitchell and later, a younger brother, Craig. His family moved to Singapore in 1963. His early experiences, seeing abject poverty and the human struggle for survival, may have given him his abiding drive to learn about and help the populations of the world.

He graduated from the Singapore American School in 1975, earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley in urban planning and non-renewable resources in 1980, and received his Masters in urban and regional planning and his Ph.D. in geography from the University of Hawaii in 1985.

Bill began his government career in 1985 with an assignment to the Office of the Geographer in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the U.S. Department of State. He was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in 1990 when he became Director of the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues and Chief Geographer of the United States. In 1992 he was promoted to Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research and retained the title of Chief Geographer of the United States.

His accomplishments were many, including important publications on population, humanitarian, and other geographic issues, which helped form geographic thought and drive U.S. foreign policy. He worked tirelessly to incorporate geographic principles and technologies into the U.S. Department of State and into U.S. international activities.

What most people do not know is that Bill was a great chef. Bill was the best stone soup chef I have ever seen. He was a man full of ideas of how to use geographic information for diplomatic and humanitarian efforts. He believed in the power of knowledge to improve the condition of society, whether the most downtrodden, most developed, or anywhere in between. Those ideas were the stones for the soup and his belief and drive made up the fire that brought the soup to a boil.

Bill would have a good idea, Geographic Information for Sustainable Development (GISD), for instance, but knew he did not have the resources to make it happen by himself. He would call together people from his vast list of contacts in other organizations. He would convince them, cajole them, encourage them, and even embarrass them to participate and contribute to his simmering soup. Soon all would be working hard on a project to bring the fruits of geographic science to the aid of the poor. The result of the GISD project was the most effective scientific contribution to African development presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. That project alone had numerous

spin-offs. That was only one pot of stone soup in a long menu that he created throughout his career.

Bill was a prime mover in incorporating geographic information systems into the Department of State. He recognized the value of remote sensing and geographic information to diplomacy and humanitarian efforts and worked constantly in the diplomatic community to expand their use. He negotiated tirelessly for the release of Shuttle Radar Topography Mission data for humanitarian uses. The Humanitarian Information Unit (HIU), which he conceived of and established, has used geographic data, science, and tools to help humanitarian efforts after the Sumatra-Andaman Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami and during the genocide in Darfur, as well as helped establish geographic information linkages for Iraq and identify the nations with most critical humanitarian needs. His many accomplishment benefited people throughout the world.

In 1994, I had the good fortune of meeting Bill when I gave a presentation on the scientific response to the floods in the Upper Mississippi River Basin to the Federal Geographic Data Committee, to which he was the Department of State representative. I heard of him before that and apparently he had heard of me. Bill told me the integrated science and geographic information approach I presented was exactly what we needed in foreign policy. At that, I felt the respect of people you respect is the highest honor. After a brief exchange of comments we went our separate ways. But over several years I heard more of the work he was doing. At an Association of American Geographers meeting in New York we talked about starting the GISD project. We became friends while working on that project and my respect for him grew.

When, in 2003, Chip Groat, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey at the time, agreed with me that we should start a project to look at the earth science findings with foreign policy implications, Bill immediately saw the benefit it would provide to the Department of State and offered me an office to work on the project in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He had caveats, of course. Those were that I would provide the scientific advice needed for the HIU and many other projects. I accepted knowing that if they were projects in which Bill was involved they would be interesting and the right thing to do. His advice was invaluable on my activities. I only hope mine was as useful to his.

Bill was an active Geographer. He wrote widely and participated in geographic activities. He published in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Professional Geographer*, and *Political Geography Quarterly*. He wrote a piece for the *Geographical Review* in 1986 entitled *Intermediate Cities on a Resource Frontier*. He co-edited, with George Demko, *Reordering the World – Geopolitical Perspectives on the 21st Century*. In January 2005 he wrote an essay for teachers involved in the AP Human Geography Program of the College Board titled *Globalization and International Relations: A Geographical Perspective*. Bill was active in AAG and highly supportive of AGS. He hosted the AGS Council meeting at the Department of State in 1995.

I will miss his optimism, energy, enthusiasm, charisma, and ideas; but mostly, I will miss his friendship.

Bill passed away peacefully due to complications from cancer treatments on July 4, 2005, at the George Washington University Hospital. Loving family and friends were with him.

John Kelmelis
Senior Science Advisor for International Policy
U.S. Geological Survey
and
Senior Counselor for Earth Science
U.S. Department of State
and
AGS Councilor

Harold "Duke" Winters

Longtime AGS Fellow and contributor to the *Geographical Review* Duke Winters died in Las Vegas---where he made his home with his wife of near fifty year, Marjorie, since retiring after thirty years teaching at Michigan State University---on June 26, 2005.

Duke's research interests were in glacial geomorphology and, later, military geography. He was an advocate of classic regional geography and will be remembered as a legendary field trip leader, as well as a gifted teacher. He had seven visiting professorships to his credit, in addition to nearly fifty appearances as a guest lecturer.

Duke was also a friend of the table. When he visited the Society offices in New York, he would routinely take a couple of staff out to lunch. We will miss his generosity, his good conversation, and his many labors on behalf of geography.

Muriel H. Parry

Muriel Parry passed away in October 2004 after a long illness; she was 82 years old and a member of the AGS Galileo Circle. Born in New York City, Ms. Parry got her start in geography as a high school intern in the AGS Map Library in the early years of World War II. Her experience in the map library soon led to a job offer at the University of Illinois to establish and develop a map collection. After three years in the Midwest she was offered a job in the Department of State's map library in 1947, where she worked for twenty-eight years. She enrolled in the newly created masters program in geography department at the George Washington University. There, the first woman in the program, she worked with Professor Robert Campbell and graduated with a MA in 1952.

Upon retirement in 1975, she began a book project that occupied her for over two decades, a geographically referenced and lavishly illustrated dictionary of the world's watercraft with some 5,600 entries: *Aak to Zumbra: A Dictionary of*

the World's Watercraft, published in 2000. (Not wanting to call attention to herself, she only listed herself as a contributor to the book and not its author.)

Due to her generosity, the Muriel H. Parry Award was established in 2000 and is given to the graduating senior at George Washington University with the highest GPA. This year the award will be given to Mr. Patrick Ryan who, appropriately, will be pursuing a master's degree at GW in the fall.

By Marie Price, AGS Councilor

SPECIALIZED INTERNSHIPS

Asuka Okuhira did an unusual ten-week internship at the American Geographical Society beginning in mid-February. Unlike most interns who work on a variety of assignments, Asuka worked solely on financial accounting, assisting the society's bookkeeper, Steven Cusumano.

Asuka, an international student from Japan, is majoring in accounting at Baruch College--City University of New York. She brought to us a strong body of classroom knowledge in both accounting and database work. She took away a considerable amount of hands-on learning in her field.

When Asuka applied for the internship, she wrote that she had not had any experience working in the U.S. Upon completion of her internship, she wrote to say how much she had appreciated the opportunity to gain some of that experience here. We appreciated the intelligent and knowledgeable contributions she made here and the charm with which she made them. And we were entertained by the encounter between native speakers of English and Japanese, with communication generally winning the day.

By Mary Lynne Bird

Catherine Fryszczyn was an intern at AGS for ten weeks this summer.

As a Russian Literature major in her senior year at Rutgers, I seem an unlikely candidate for an internship with the American Geographical Society. However, my background in library work -- I've spent the past three years working in my local public library -- has lent me an affinity for research, and my involvement with my local historical society has given me an appreciation for archives. When I spotted a listing in the Princeton Review's Internship Bible for a research internship -- with the possibility of archival work -- with the AGS, I jumped at the chance.

Though the internship was not what I expected -- my visions of hours of unsupervised rifling through the Society's archives didn't exactly pan out -- I did get to put my research skills to use when seeking out newspapers who would publish the Society's periodic letters to the editor. And in between the usual office work -- making calls and copies, mailing letters, programming the fax machine -- I talked with Ms. Bird about my goals, and asked her for career advice. Through her, I was able to find out about the ICWA fellowship program, and view the

monthly newsletters from past fellows; I've since passed on that information to a number of friends of mine who seem like likely candidates. My suggestion to future interns: talk to as many people as possible at your internship about what you're interested in doing to get their input, feedback, and advice; they have many more years of experience than you do, and, speaking as a librarian at heart, the most interesting (and potentially valuable) information is usually found when you least expect it -- provided you're paying attention.

I'm still not quite sure of what I want to do professionally, beyond knowing that I want to work in writing or research, and travel whenever possible; traveling to Russia to do archival research is a possibility, as is becoming a Slavic studies librarian. As luck would have it, I'm taking a grant writing course in fall 2005, and so have promised to stay in touch with the AGS, on the chance that I might be able to complete the required grant writing internship with them. Even if that doesn't come to pass, however, I'm still going to keep abreast of the AGS' goings-on, and keep them abreast of mine.

By Catherine Fryszczyn

A Short Stay.

By Will Church

In May I finished my second year exams at University College, London. As is almost the norm these days, many of my contemporaries set about undertaking various internships throughout the city in law firms, accountancy offices and the like. I was horrified. Here we were, still students with little pressure at this time with the glorious, somewhat temperamental, weather, hugely conducive to wallowing outdoors and doing very little. However, my tutors soon assured me that, even with a year to go before the big world became reality, this was the right thing to be doing. Personally, I have only vague ideas about a career after college. I have never been attracted by the 'office' world, which is perhaps the reason I ended up studying geography, but beggars can't be choosers and experience is the key. A compromise, I thought.

In truth, the option of coming to the AGS had been playing on my mind for some time. My sister, Lizzy, had come as an intern in January 2003 and ended up staying for 5 months, and still lives in New York. I had less time to play with and, at somewhat late notice, the AGS agreed to take me for only 4 weeks as opposed to the usual 10 or 12, right at the end of my summer break.

My work has been mostly on the administrative side. With only 4 weeks it has been hard to get stuck into any major projects. The most time-absorbing has been compiling and consolidating lists of names and addresses for those people interested in workshops run by the AGS about demining Symbology. This also involved spending time searching for additions whilst emailing certain parties searching for changes of abode and new information. Another large project was updating the AGS database that lists all the books suggested by lecturers on the AGS travel program, assorted into categories of country or region. This had not been done for some years, but now the list is as comprehensible and ready to use

as it was originally intended. James Thomas and I also updated and smartened up the information booklet used at the AGM.

I have also spent much time doing smaller tasks; writing lists, doing small bits of research for Mary Lynne or James, sorting out the library or running errands. I have found it extremely easy to get distracted whilst going about such chores. The office is a small treasure trove in itself with countless journals and old memorabilia. Whilst looking for information on the Roald Amundsen flight over the North Pole, for instance, I ended up just reading about the finer points of the history of polar exploration for a considerable time.

I'm fortunate to have 2 sisters living in the city with whom I can stay, which has meant that I have been able to make the most of my time here. I have loved every minute of it – from a Yankees game to the presidential motorcades and the fun and games associated with them.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my internship here as the staff have been tremendously kind and made it very easy to settle in. The time has flown by, and by the time this reaches *Ubique* I will almost certainly be back in London with my head in some books studying hard. At least I will have had an internship worth talking about.

American Geographical Society Library Fellowships for 2006

The American Geographical Society Library, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, welcomes applications for two short-term fellowship programs:

McCull Research Program fellowships. This is a new short-term fellowship program available to individuals who wish to communicate their geographical research results to a broad, educated general audience. Awards of \$3000 for four-week fellowships will be provided to support residencies for the purpose of conducting research that makes direct use of the Library, and results in publication in a mutually agreed outlet.

Helen and John S. Best Research Fellowships. Stipends of \$375 per week, for periods up to 4 weeks, will be awarded to support residencies for the purpose of conducting research that makes direct use of the Library.

The AGS Library, the former research library and map collection of the American Geographical Society of New York, has strengths in geography, cartography and related historical topics. Applications must be received by October 21, 2005. All fellowships are tenable in 2006. For further information, write, call or e-mail the AGS Library, P.O. Box 399, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0399, Tel. (414) 229-6282, E-mail agsl@uwm.edu.

Web site: <http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/AGSL/fellowships.html>

Christopher Baruth, Ph.D.

Curator, American Geographical Society Library

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Galileo Circle Members and AGS Councilors Visit NOAA

By Susan Hardwick, AGS Councilor

The day prior to the regular AGS spring Council meeting on May 6, 2005, American Geographical Society *Galileo Circle* members joined AGS Councilors on a visit to the U.S. Department of Commerce National Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Ocean Service Coastal Services Center a few miles outside of Charleston, South Carolina. Following a warm greeting from the NOAA Deputy Director, Jeffrey L. Payne, we were treated to a full day of presentations describing various projects the Center is involved in at the present time. A few of these included an overview of the coastal management services branch, mapping social changes in coastal states, an overview of the coastal information services branch, and ocean planning information systems.

The NOAA Coastal Services Center opened its doors in 1994 to help fill the void in developing and improving the use of new technologies and coastal resources management techniques to gather and analyze data available for the coastal states. Each year the center partners with state programs to link them to the people, information, and technology they need to resolve specific problems. Primary areas of expertise to accomplish these goals include Remote Sensing, GIS, other types of data gathering and analysis, and training programs. Sample products and other services include:

- Satellite-based land-cover maps for the coastal zone
- Training courses that teach negotiation skills, remote sensing technology, and natural hazard mitigation techniques
- Two award-winning trade publications for coastal resource managers
- A regional GIS for the ocean
- Digital data for coastal mapping
- Fellowship programs
- Customized data management tools

During our lunch break, members of the AGS Council gave brief presentations on current AGS initiatives and projects in an effort to build collaboration with NOAA and help scientists understand our many mutual areas of research interests. During this session, John Gould thanked NOAA for hosting us and provided them with a brief overview of the goals and status of AGS; Mary Lynne Bird talked about the history of the organization and listed a few of the organization's noteworthy accomplishments over the years; Jerome Dobson discussed AGS's involvement in marine mapping and other related oceanic projects; Marie Price reported on the AGS Collections and Library; Alec Murphy, Deborah Popper, and Chris Duncan provided information on research, fieldwork current publications, and outreach efforts of the AGS; and Susan Hardwick briefed everyone on the AGS's current efforts to provide support for K-12 education in the U.S.

It became clear during our day together, and in follow up conversations, that geographers have a vital role to play in research centers and initiatives such as the NOAA Coastal Services Center. We learned a great deal about graduate fellowship and internship opportunities at NOAA for our students while, at the

same time, also informing NOAA administrators and staff about the many ways geographers could contribute to their work. At the end of the day it had become clear to us all that geographers, once again, remain on the forefront of spatial analysis techniques, environmental and social problem-solving, and addressing the needs of people and places on both land and sea.

GEOGRAPHERS WITH IMAGINATION

It is intriguing to discover the startling career paths some geographers take. Over the years we've encountered, among others, the program manager for an NPR radio station, a dispatcher for a fire department, the economic development manager for a New England state, and a homeland security officer in a Southeast Asian country—geographers all.

We would like to learn about more geographers who have broken away from the ordinary and applied their geographical skills and perceptions in creative ways and surprising places.

If you are one of those marvelous mavericks, or if you know of one, please write and tell us so that we can share your report with our readers and--even better--with the young people who write us, asking what geographers can do.

The uncommon can be far more inspiring than the expected. You could help us expand minds, by sharing with us what you know about any geographer who has successfully struck off in an unusual direction.

By Mary Lynne Bird

The American Geographical Society Travel Program

AGS scholars are excellent lecturers and traveling companions for educational travel, having spent **a lifetime exploring and lecturing on the physical, biological, and cultural character of particular regions**. An AGS scholar provides you with an expansive and comprehensive understanding of a region. What are we looking at; why is it here; and why is it important? Our AGS lecturers - all outstanding professors of geography - have been carefully **selected for their ability to lecture** and present fascinating insights into each region's *specific* natural and cultural development. They are especially **eloquent and dynamic speakers** who also enjoy exchanging ideas and impressions with fellow travelers. In short, AGS lecturers make congenial travel companions for our small groups of AGS travelers.

Most AGS trips are conducted aboard **small, luxurious ships** that follow age-old maritime routes along beautiful coastlines and rivers. The intimate size of these luxury vessels provides an exclusive shipboard experience, plus **opportunities to dock and anchor at historic ports and towns that larger ships simply cannot visit**. Relax in luxurious accommodations, savor fine food (including regional specialties), and enjoy the pampering of first-class service. **Unpack once** in your comfortable stateroom while your ship provides an ever-changing panorama of beautiful landscapes.

Enjoy splendid (included) excursions to World Heritage and lesser-known sites. You'll explore dramatic natural landscapes, important archaeological sites, magnificent architectural wonders, old town centers, and museums...plus enjoy special meetings, behind-the-scenes visits, and enchanting performances.

Professional trip directors and guides handle all the details and "smooth the way." AGS provides educational sponsorship for the trips offered through its Travel Program. We select the finest tour operators, organizing each program, protecting your tour payments in an **escrow account**, and doing myriad other tasks to ensure that your AGS trip is unsurpassed.

2006 Travel Program Schedule

Voyage to Antarctica

January 21 – February 3 (14 days)

Lecturer: Robert Dodson, geographer and Antarctic explorer/historian.

Natural Wonders Around the World: An Exploration of the World's Mysteries by Private Jet

January 22 – February 13 (23 days)

Lecturer: George Lovell, Professor of Geography at Queen's University, Ontario.

Treasures of Brazil

February 28 – March 13 (14 days)

Lecturer: Brian Godfrey, Professor of Geography at Vassar College.

The Ancient Lost Cities of Libya and Tunisia

April 10 – 21 (12 days)

Lecturer: Christine Drake, University Professor of Geography at Old Dominion University.

Seven Seas Odyssey

April 19 – May 10 (22 days)

Lecturer: David Keeling, Professor and Head of the Department of Geography and Geology at Western Kentucky University.

Waterways of Holland and Belgium

April 19 – May 1 (13 days)

Lecturer: Douglas Sherman, Professor and Head of the Department of Geography at Texas A&M University.

Incredible Iberia: Portugal & Spain in Spring

April 20 – May 1 (12 days)

Lecturer: Robert Kent, Chair and Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Akron.

Waterways of Russia

July 26 – August 6 (12 days)

Lecturer: Ralph Clem, Professor of International Relations at Florida International University.

In Harriman's Wake

Part I: Voyage to the Bering Sea

August 4 – 17 (14 days)

Lecturer: Frederick Nelson, Professor of Geography, University of Delaware

Part II: Alaska Coastal Odyssey

August 17 – 28 (12 days)

Lecturer: Susan W. Hardwick, Professor of Geography at University of Oregon

The Black Sea: Crossroads of Culture from the Ancient Past to the Present

August 28 – September 8 (12 days)

Lecturer: David Hooson, Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley.

Danube River

August 30 – September 12 (14 days)

Lecturer: Larry Ford, Professor of Geography at San Diego State University.

In Search of Alexander the Great

September 25 – October 10, 2006

Lecturer: James Wiley, Associate Professor of Geography at Hofstra University.

Currents of Culture: Great Rivers of Africa, Asia, and Europe

October 26 – November 17 (23 days)

Lecturer: Alec Murphy, Professor of Geography and Rippey Chair in Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Oregon, Eugene.

Lost Cities of Libya, Tunisia & Algeria

November 9 – 21 (13 days)

Lecturer: TBD

Atlantic Voyage: From the Straits of Gibraltar to Patagonia

November 20 – December 22 (33 days)

Lecturer: Christine Drake, University Professor of Geography at Old Dominion University.

Beyond Timbuktu: North Africa by Air

November 24 – December 15 (22 days)

Lecturer: David Keeling, Professor and Head of the Department of Geography and Geology at Western Kentucky University.

For more information, please contact
The American Geographical Society Travel Program
888-805-0884

or 603-756-2553

Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm, ET

Fax: 603-756-2922

Email: AGStravl@sover.net

Website: www.amergeog.org

McCOLL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Seventh Annual Competition

The McColl Family Fellowship, given by Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. McColl, consists of round trip air fare 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 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*. A McColl Fellowship was awarded to Dr. David Zurick for work in the Himalayas in 2001. A 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 next award went to Dr. Roger Balm for work in 2002 on early exploration sites in Peru; his article appeared in the Spring 2004 issue of the magazine. A fellowship was awarded to Josh Lepawsky for research in 2003 on intelligence technology in Malaysia. Dr. Susan Mains received a fellowship for research in 2004 on the experiences of Jamaican migrants living in Toronto. The award, for research this year, has gone

to Dr. William G. Moseley for research on the knowledge and attitudes of farm workers about land reform in South Africa.

Applications for the McColl Family Fellowship for the year 2006 must be received in the AGS offices by October 14, 2005. **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. Samples of writing similar to the style of FOCUS on Geography may be included.**

Applications should be sent to:
McColl 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>

AGS Treasurer John McCabe Receives Ethics Award

John McCabe, the treasurer of the American Geographical Society, received the Daniel J. Forrestal III Leadership Award for Professional Ethics and Standards of Investment Practice from the CFA Institute. McCabe is one of the country's early leaders and recognized authorities on corporate governance and shareholder rights. Currently, McCabe is the chief equity strategist at Shay Assets Management.

Marie Price Wins 2005 Trachtenberg Teaching Prize

AGS Councilor Marie Daly Price, chair of the geography department at George Washington University, received the 2005 Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Teaching Award. The award recognizes outstanding undergraduate teaching and is given to one GWU professor each year based on nominations by students and faculty. Price was lauded for effectively communicating current scholarship and debate in the field of geography to undergraduates and for the intellectual development of her students by challenging, motivating, and nurturing them. A Latin American specialist, her current research focuses on Latin American immigration and the impact of immigration on urban areas. Price has taught at GWU since 1990.

NEW HAND ON THE BALANCE SHEET

A new person is monitoring the finances at AGS. Over the summer Maria Lucena took over the society's bookkeeping from Steven Cusumano, who has moved to Pennsylvania.

Maria has been a full charge bookkeeper and/or office manager for Murray Hill Studios, Branin Investments, and the New York State Development Center at Bronx Community College. She was on the Dean's List at Monroe College, where she earned her Associate Degree in 1989. She has approached her job at AGS with cheerfulness and a can-do attitude. We enthusiastically welcome her to the staff.

In the six years that Steve was at AGS, he vigorously put in place new systems for financial accounting and upgraded the Society's technical capabilities. We regret to see him go but must admit that the grueling commute from Honesdale, PA was too much for even someone with his energy and determination. He takes with him our thanks and best wishes.---Mary Lynne Bird

GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW BIOGEOGRAPHY DOUBLEHEADER

The two most recent issues of *Geographical Review* will be of special interest to biogeographers. A special issue on "People, Places & Invasive Species" appeared three months back, and now, hot off the press, comes "People, Places & Gardens."

Guest Editor Paul Robbins handled the duties on the "invasive species" issue and Maria Elisa Christie did the honors for "gardens." Both issues contain globe-spanning case studies as well as formidable reviews of published material. They will make an important and pleasing addition to any biogeography course.

NEW DAVA SOBEL BOOK

Dava Sobel, AGS Honorary Fellow, has a new book due in the bookstores on October 11th. *The Planets* is an intimate and personal tour of the Sun and its planetary system. Advance reviews speak of the book as "lovely," possessing a "subtle balance," and, simply, "a joy to read." None of this will come as a great surprise to those who have read her previous books, *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter*.