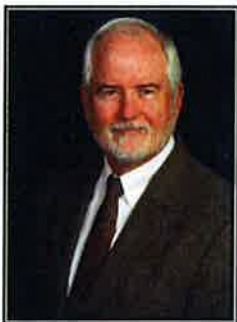


U B I Q U E

Notes from THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY



Jerome E. Dobson
President, AGS
Professor, University of
Kansas
Jefferson Science Fellow

A Voice From the Past Promotes U. S./Russian Friendship

On June 18, 1937, a single-engine Soviet ANT-25 lifted off from Shchyolkovo Field near Moscow heading due north. Three aviation pioneers flew across the North Pole and then south (where else?) toward San Francisco. Low on fuel, they turned back over Eugene, Oregon, intending to land at Portland's Swan Island Airport. When pilot Valery Chkalov spotted the crowd waiting below, he recalled how French well-wishers had torn at Charles Lindbergh's plane and even his clothing, so he opted for Vancouver's Pearson Field instead.

That was the first transpolar flight ever. In an era replete with aviation records and firsts, three Heroes of the Soviet Union—Chkalov, co-pilot Georgy Baidukov, and navigator Alexander Belyakov—were feted across the United States and hailed around the world. By coincidence, Brigadier General George C. Marshall—later Army Chief of Staff throughout World War II, then Secretary of State, then Secretary of Defense, and famous still for the Marshall Plan—was commander of Vancouver Barracks at the time. He met the Russian aviators and invited them to stay in his home. Later, a reception in San Francisco. A visit with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House. In New York, a hero's parade with Vilhjamur Stefansson, celebrity explorer, riding along with them. The greatest and most enduring honor of all, however, was a grand ceremony at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in which all three men signed the AGS Fliers' & Explorers' Globe.

In Russia today, Chkalov is revered as the greatest pilot of all time, much like Lindbergh in the West. His name and photo appear all over the place, and he is memorialized by the Chkalov Foundation and its museum.



Vilhjamur Stefansson looks on while Valery Chkalov, Georgy Baidukov, and Alexander Belyakov sign the AGS Fliers' and Explorers' Globe in a grand ceremony at the Waldorf Astoria in 1937.

In America, however, Chkalov is forgotten, with the notable exception of Vancouver, Washington, where the Chkalov Cultural Exchange Committee (CCEC) still honors his name and, more important, his dream of improved relations between the United States and Russia.

With this historic background, you can imagine my surprise when CCEC President Buck Heidrick called me out of the blue last November, less than a year ago. "We just discovered that you (AGS) are the ones who own the globe," he said. That conversation set off a cascade of events that have consumed Heidrick, the famous pilot's grandson (also named Valery Chkalov), and me ever since. More about that in a moment, but first I'll recount the years of tragedy and mystery that intervened.

After the celebrations in America, Chkalov triumphantly returned to Russia, suddenly elevated to superstar status. He traveled widely throughout the country in specially provided planes and trains, making "whistle-stop" speeches in which he praised Russia and presented himself effectively as a man of the people. He was inundated with letters inviting him to

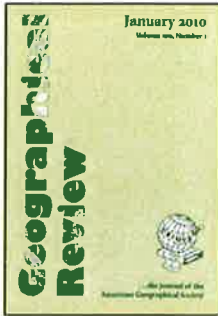
AGS in Search for
Editor of *The Geographical Review*
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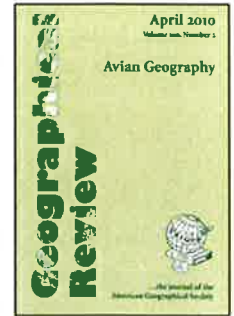


AGS NEWS

Editor of *The Geographical Review* Sought



The American Geographical Society (AGS) invites applications and nominations for the position of Editor of *The Geographical Review*, the longest-running geography journal in America. The new editor will begin work in June 2012 with responsibility for producing three volumes.



The AGS provides an honorarium for the Editor per issue. It provides the services of a copy editor/production assistant. Modest funds are also available to defray expenses in conjunction with the performance of editorial tasks (telephone, postage, travel, etc.). To deal with authors promptly and keep the journal on schedule, it is essential that an applicant

be able to secure office space at his or her home institution as well as at least one-quarter released time from normal duties. The help of a university-supported editorial assistant can be advantageous as well. The contributions of an applicant's home institution in support of the editorship will add weight to the candidate's application.

The Editor determines the content and overall format of the journal; encourages the submission of high-quality, well-written manuscripts on geographical issues and problems; decides which books should be reviewed in the journal and who should write those book reviews. If the Editor wishes to do so, responsibility for the book review section may be delegated to someone of the Editor's choosing. The AGS is willing to consider co-editorships or small editorial teams. The Editor is assisted by an Editorial Advisory Board, which is composed of individuals selected by the Editor.

The American Geographical Society is seeking an editor who (1) has a broad perspective on the discipline of geography and a well-developed understanding of both the discipline's history and current research priorities; (2) has an excellent command of written American English; (3) is familiar and comfortable with the types of word-processing and graphics programs commonly used in digital publishing; (4) possesses strong organizational skills and the ability to work quickly and juggle multiple tasks; (5) has the ability and willingness to work with authors to ensure that articles in *The Geographical Review* deal with important geographical issues in a clear, accessible style; (6) has an understanding of the nature and mission of *The Geographical Review* and the American Geographical Society; (7) has the desire and ability to explain the AGS vision for *The Geographical Review* to others and to encourage the submission of manuscripts in keeping with that vision; and (8) has a record of scholarly accomplishment and publishing.

To ensure an orderly transition, review of applications will begin on January 15, 2012. Names of nominees and letters of application should be sent electronically to the Chair of *The Geographical Review* Search Committee, Alexander B. Murphy, at abmurphy@uoregon.edu. Letters of application should include a statement of the applicant's understanding of the goals and mission of *The Geographical Review*, an explanation of the applicant's approach to the performance of editorial duties, and a description of any relevant background or experience. The application should be accompanied by (1) a current curriculum vitae, (2) the names of three individuals who can be contacted for references, and (3) an indication of the office space, released time, and any other support offered by the applicant's home institution.



For more information about this position, please contact Alexander Murphy or any of the other members of the Search Committee: Jerome Dobson at dobson@ku.edu, David Keeling at david.keeling@wku.edu, Deborah Popper at deborah.popper@csi.cuny.edu, Douglas Sherman at douglas.j.sherman@ua.edu, or Joseph Wood at jswood@ubalt.edu.





(continued from page 1)

A Voice From the Past Promotes U. S./Russian Friendship

for office in more than twenty districts and cities. By the end of that year, he was elected Deputy of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet, then to the Gorky City Council and the Regional Party Committee. The city of Orenburg was named Chkalov from 1936 until Nikita Krushchev reversed it in 1956. Vasilyeva, the town of Chkalov's birth, was named Chkalovsk in 1937 and remains so to this day.

Anyone familiar with the Soviet Union of that era may wonder how such a rising star escaped the notice of Joseph Stalin, never one to appreciate popularity or greatness in anyone but himself. Actually, Chkalov had met Stalin more than once, and Stalin personally authorized the polar attempt. All was well and good as long as Chkalov stuck to flying, but suddenly he was wildly popular, winning elections, and speaking out for ordinary Russians. Then came the acid test: Stalin offered him a post, People's Commissar of the Interior, and Chkalov turned him down. All this at the height of Stalin's Great Purge.

In 1938, Chkalov was called back from vacation for an urgent test flight of a new fighter with 48 documented defects on December 12, a Sunday afternoon when workers would not be present. Stalin's henchman, Lavrentiy Beria, assembled the technical team, sent his agent to the pre-flight meeting, and wrote a top secret (now declassified) memorandum before the flight dryly informing Stalin that "the plane's defects threaten it with disaster in the air." The plane was supposed to have two fuel pumps, but the back-up had been removed and not replaced in spite of the designer's warning. A fuel line broke while taxiing and the plane didn't even take off. The test flight was rescheduled for Wednesday, and that is when he died. Chkalov's death is still called a mystery in some quarters, but the evidence seems convincing enough for indictment anywhere but Aruba and conviction anywhere but Orlando.

Back to Buck Heidrick's call. It turns out Chkalov was smitten with our globe. He raved about it to his family. Due to his quick demise, however, they never learned who owned it or where it was, and the wondrous globe became family lore. About thirty-five years ago, still hampered by the Iron Curtain, Chkalov's daughter and other family members started searching in earnest. Ultimately, it was Heidrick who found us on the Internet, informed the family, and

called me. Even now, it is so special to the family that surviving family members say, "What a pity Valery's son didn't live to see it!" It was touching for me to watch his grandson's solemn stare when he saw it in person for the first time.

Initially, Heidrick asked if we would be willing to bring the globe to Vancouver and Russia for the 75th Anniversary celebrations in 2012. I gladly accepted and added, "We want to take it to Russia anyway so Valentina Tereshkova can sign as first woman in space."

"No problem," he said, "a wealthy Russian donor wants to fund the whole thing." Subsequently, we invited Tereshkova and

cosmonaut Alexey Leonov (first spacewalk) to sign, and we are working with the Russian Geographical Society to arrange a time and place.

Eventually, I came to know the pilot's grandson and great grandson, Igor. So far, the donor has visited AGS in New York, and Valery has visited with me twice in Lawrence, KS, and once with the AGS Council in New York. Several initiatives are being discussed. It's too early to write about some, but one exciting effort is well underway.

Nearly ten years ago, the AGS Council discussed producing a very limited run of exact replicas of the Fliers' & Explorers' Globe. As soon as I got to know the pilot's grandson and the donor, they told me they wanted to do exactly that. Mary Lynne Bird had gone so far as to identify all companies in the world capable of making high-quality globe replicas. So, it was an easy matter to contact her choice, Eureka Cartography of Berkeley, California. Eureka began production of twelve replicas in April 2011, and a wood carver is making thirteen globe stands modeled after the one that held the globe in 1937. When all stands and replicas are finished in early 2012, ceremonies will be held in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and New York.

Recently, when I told this story to a friend, he said, "Somebody ought to make a movie of that." And well they should. ■

Bibliography: Chkalova, V. V. 2007. *Valery Chkalov: Vancouver USA's Russian Hero*, translated by J. V. Frost. Vancouver, WA: Chkalov Cultural Exchange Committee.



Valery Chkalov's 1937 route from Moscow, Russia, to Vancouver, Washington—the first transpolar flight ever—is marked in red. His signature is circled in yellow.



OPINION PIECE

NOTE: Since January 2004, when the American Geographical Society began distributing op-eds, more than twenty geographers, ranging from graduate students to full professors and a few think-tank researchers, have contributed more than 68 pieces as of June 30, 2011.

Roughly 100 different outlets—newspapers and blogs—including international outlets in Russia, Mexico, Haiti, and Canada have carried the op-eds.

The newspapers have included, among others, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Washington Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Hawaii Reporter*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, *Pravda*, *Toledo Blade*, *Austin Statesman*, *Tampa Tribune*, and *Anchorage Press*, as well as numerous small-market and university newspapers such as *Yale Daily News* and *The Brownsville Herald*.

Lessons from the Berlin Wall By Reece Jones

Fifty years ago on August 13, under the cover of darkness, East Germany broke ground on the Berlin Wall, which became one of the most iconic symbols of violence and exclusion the world has ever known. When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, the images broadcast around the world of Germans climbing the wall and dancing together, before they began tearing it down piece by piece, marked the rapid decline of Soviet-style Communism. It also raised hopes that a new borderless world of democracy and globalization was dawning.

In the twenty-two years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, twenty-eight new border walls have been constructed around the world, making the hope of a borderless world seem quaint. For comparison, in the forty-four-year period from the end of World War II until the fall of the Berlin Wall only eleven border barriers were built. Furthermore, while the Berlin Wall was built by a totalitarian regime to keep people in who wanted to cross a border in search of freedom and economic opportunities, these new border walls were built by leading democracies including the United States, the European Union, and India in order to keep out people who are seeking freedom and economic opportunities.

The hardening of borders in recent years is often linked to the threat of terrorism, but the impact has largely been on poor migrants seeking a better life. Although terrorism is used to justify some of the new walls, the strongest indicator of whether a country will build a barrier is whether it shares a border with a substantially poorer neighbor. The average per capita GDP (in 2010 US\$) of the countries that built walls after the fall of the Berlin Wall is \$14,067 while the average of the countries on the other side is only \$2,801.

Although the predicted borderless world did not come into being, the purpose of political borders has changed in the era of globalization. Historically, most political borders were defensive lines where the army of one country prevented the movement of the army of another. After the creation of the United Nations, which requires in its charter that all member states respect

the sovereignty and territorial integrity (read “borders”) of all other members, borders were transformed into the lines that separated different systems of legal, economic, and political practices. Expensive border fences and walls are not necessary for either of these purposes: they do not stop the missiles or fighter jets of an invading army, nor are they

any better than a map at representing the edges of different legal or political systems. However, border walls are relatively effective at preventing the movement of actual people.

People in poor or repressive societies, who are increasingly aware that other people elsewhere live much more privileged lives than their own, are encouraged to take advantage of the new economic and social opportunities of globalization as long as they remain within the borders in which they were born. People in Bangladesh are encouraged to live the dream of globalization by working in a new factory, but not by moving to another country where they would be paid more for doing the same work. People in Zimbabwe who dream of freedom are encouraged to do everything they can in pursuit of democracy, except moving their family to place where democracy already exists.

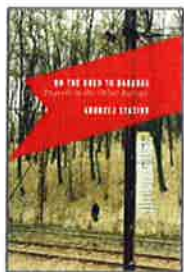
The enduring legacy of the Berlin Wall is not the inspiring notion that freedom and the will of the people





EARTHWORKS

By Peter Lewis



On the Road to Babadag: Travels in the Other Europe
By ANDRZEJ STASIUK

A man hands a customs official a none-too-old passport. It is spattered with 167 stamps. Almost all the stamps are for eastern European crossings, but even for that flabbergastingly detonated political geography, that's a lot of stamps. The agent looks at all the ink for some time, agog. The agent asks, "Sir, what's the point of all this?" The man is thinking, I can't help it, I love this Balkan shambles.

Andrzej Stasiuk, born in Ukraine and now living in Poland, is a writer of many forms—short stories, plays, poetry, essays, and novels—and stylistically promiscuous: on-the-road reportage, pungent atmospheric, moody with a haunted weighty fatalism, crisp place portraits, gobbets of history thrown in, rangy and mildly hallucinatory but less stream-of-consciousness than magic realism. *On the Road to Babadag* is a travel narrative through a handful of those eastern European places in all of these styles, sometimes on the same page. Which is not to say that Stasiuk fares without a compass; the writing is consistently sharp, dense, and as artfully woven as damascene, capturing his experience of a place's genius loci—"things I pluck from their landscape, making my own map of them, my own fantastic geography."

The "point of all this" is some of the best road writing to have come down the pike. He travels through the other Europe not only because he loves it but because he can, which for a long time one couldn't, and because he is drawn to the unvarnished and elemental, "drawn increasingly to places that tell of a beginning or else where sadness has the power of fate," to the hoary forgotten corners that have fallen off the edge, the detritus under modernity's table: sinister Sinistra, alarming Clit ("In Clit, people spoke an odd tongue"), confounding Shqiperia.

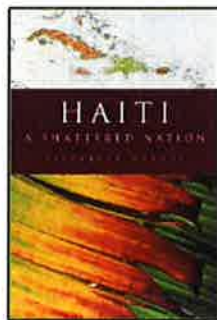
For sure, there is plenty of fine, grim material to be found in eastern Europe (Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova, and Romania are his hunting grounds), and Stasiuk sniffs them out like a hunting dog. He moves without

dispatch, stopping to smell the pens, stables, and sties, the hickory smoke, fried onions, gasoline fumes, herbs trampled underfoot by cows, oxen, and goats. There is Transnistria, over beyond the Dniester River, a nonexistent country of "dissolution and melancholy with an undercurrent of menace," and vile garbage-strewn Baia Mare, and Albania. "Albania is the dark well into which those who believe that everything has been settled once and for all should peer," where, just imagine, the first printing press in the Balkans was established 280 years ago. And forget government: "Power, violence, and madness live in concubinage, or complete legal union."

There is also much quiet, dry humor and great beauty. "In Concruszka the sidewalks were violet from the plums." In Rasinari, Transylvania, "the air carries a dazzle we are unaccustomed to here. The African, Mediterranean light flows over the Carpathian range and descends on the village." That's some heady transport for our ride to the center of town, and we hitch along, gladly, for this is surely a guide who will give us new eyes.

Stasiuk has been well regarded in Europe for years and is now beginning to get his due in the United States. Although it's only July, it is tempting to say that if you are going to read one travel book this year, make it this one.

* * *



Haiti: A Modern History
By ELIZABETH ABBOTT

An appalling chronicle of Haiti's ruinous progress, with Duvaliers major and minor serving as exemplars of venality.

Much of this book first appeared in 1988, when Abbott published *Haiti: The Duvaliers and Their Legacy*. In this revised edition, the author brings us up to the present. "Just as the story of the Duvaliers and the infamous regime they created continues years after the last Duvalier left Haiti," she writes, "it surely began long before 1957, the year Papa Doc became President."



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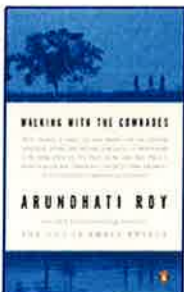
EARTHWORKS

Abbott begins with the abominable French colonial period, when it was cheaper to work slaves to death—just buy more—in the cane fields than provide the basic means of survival. The earth-shaking slave revolt that bounced French, Spanish, and British interests from the island soon slid into degeneracy, thanks in large part to the embargo placed on the country's products by the United States, whose slave-holders feared the bad example and crushed the trade that would have ushered Haiti into the modern world. Bitter class divisions, unchecked violence, and mulatto-black enmity also marred the country's early years, as well as an atrocious period of American occupation, all of which Abbott spells out in passionate, excruciating detail.

Then came Papa Doc Duvalier—again, such initial promise; he spoke of integrity and humility—whose reign of terror, pillage, and debauchery was all about the micromanagement of greed and power through such vehicles as the voodoo and the paramilitary group the Tontons Macoutes. Abbott draws a forceful portrait of a tyrant who gradually destroyed the country's agricultural base while massacring all dissent—the amount of grotesque violence in these pages is breathtaking—to create a poster child for international aid. So it goes, with one corrupt autocratic government following another, to the sorry spectacle of an earthquake a year-and-a-half ago still crippling the country today.

More than two decades later, Abbott's theory of Duvalierism's enduring legacy holds water.

* * *



Walking With The Comrades
By ARUNDHATI ROY

In a well-documented indictment, investigative journalist Roy presents the case against the Indian government's murderous policies toward the country's tribal population.

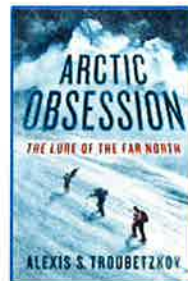
These three linked articles/essays, rendered with a disarming blend of passion and precision, tell the story of India's tribal people and the violence and neglect they have suffered at the

hands of the Indian state. Their land is rich in natural resources and has become the target of takeover by the corporate elite, aided and abetted by a corrupt government and, thus, by the military. This takeover is being conducted in conjunction with Operation Green Hunt, a program aimed at eradicating the Maoist insurgency that has been taking place for decades in the tribal lands, and that has the earmarks of the Sri Lanka solution—kill them all and let heaven do the sorting—and George W. Bush's binary system: for us or against us.

Not only does Roy go out and get involved, she examines every shade of gray while spending weeks with the young insurgents to get under their skin. She writes with a ringing clarity that should bring down a measure of opprobrium to shame the Indian political establishment. The concluding piece, bathed in a sense of cynicism that readers will feel Roy is entitled to, details how the Indian constitution has been traduced by everyone from the parliament to the press to the police.

A bell-clear exposé of corporate greed and governmental malfeasance that should—if there is any justice in the world—provoke a furious backlash in the name of human dignity.

* * *



Arctic Obsession
By ALEXIS TROUBETZKOY

A boisterous survey of those answering the Siren call of the North Pole.

Troubetzkoy proceeds roughly chronologically as he follows dozens of explorers making their way to the Arctic in search of fame, fortune, discovery, adventure, or territory. He starts with the Greek Pytheas, who claimed to have gazed upon Ultima Thule in 325 BCE, though the only account burned with the Library of Alexandria.

The author tenders much cultural, historical, political and geographical detail, but not at the expense of drama, romance, and manliness. Of the Vikings: "Drink, women, and song were embraced with the



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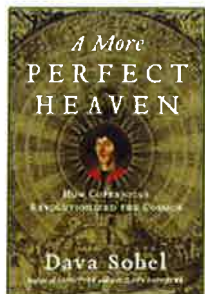
EARTHWORKS

same fervor as war, pillage, and slaughter.” Of Dutch navigator William Barents: “One wonders at the mould from which these early Arctic intrepids were formed—exceptional people they were.” Then there was Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen sleeping off the Arctic night: “We carried this art to a high pitch of perfection...sometimes as much as 20 hours’ sleep in 24.” Troubetzkoy makes excellent use of diaries and notebooks to convey period flavor and a sense of immediacy, as well as to showcase some dazzling writing, of which George Kennan’s description of the aurora borealis is a real gem.

But the author wisely lets the extraordinary adventures speak for themselves, ushering along Sebastian Cabot seeking a northeast trade route to Cathay and Martin Frobisher looking to the northwest. There are the great tragedies of Henry Hudson, John Franklin, Jens Munk, and a worshipful company of others, as well as the endless, ruinous attempts to discover a Northwest Passage. Troubetzkoy also intelligently discusses the effects of global warming on the fauna and flora, as well as modernization on the indigenous peoples. Bickering over mineral and oil rights is now standard fare at international conferences.

Colorful enthusiasm draped over a thorough treatment of Arctic exploration.

* * *



A More Perfect Heaven
By DAVA SOBEL

Sobel offers another meaty-while-mellifluous story of science.

The author elegantly fashions the life of Copernicus as a two-act play bracketed by historically documented narratives that cover the periods before and after the arrival of Georg Joachim Rheticus at Copernicus’s Polish doorstep in 1539. Some 30 years earlier, Copernicus had roughed out a heliocentric theory of the universe and quietly distributed it to a number of mathematicians. Word of it reached the ears of Rheticus, a 25-year-old professor of mathematics at the university in Wittenberg. He arrived at Copernicus’s house as an “unexpected guest” and an al-

together problematical one: a Lutheran during a time of anti-heretical fervor. Sobel draws Copernicus as a devout Catholic, but not unsympathetic to the Lutherans; he reluctantly agreed to Rheticus staying on when the youth awakened in him the desire to finish his great work and get it published.

Sobel presents an illuminating piece of work, bringing to life the old man and the young man’s days spent together and in particular Rheticus’ coming to terms, the bending of his mind, around Copernicus’s theory, which was more radical than he understood. Readers are fit squarely in Rheticus’ shoes via Sobel’s neat act of transport, there to share his bafflement and resistance.

The book closes with the tale of the fate of *On the Revolutions*; just as Copernicus had worried, it dismayed the hidebound and the “babblers, who claim to be judges of astronomy, although completely ignorant of the subject...such men are not above twisting some passage of Scripture to their purpose, to censure me.”

A liquid entertainment of choice passages on the thoughts and deeds of Copernicus.

* * *

Andy Warhol’s New York City
By THOMAS KIEDROWSKI,
Illustrated by VITO GIALLO



Like the scabrous Easter candy known as Peeps, Andy Warhol tends to provoke strong reactions in people. There are those folks who are somehow touched deeply, even if shallowly, in their presence, and there are those who feel an urge to do violence—witness Valerie Solanas, who pumped Warhol full of bullets, or the untold number who have done the same to a chorus line of Peeps. Still, I’d wager, considering Warhol’s prodigious/profligate output, there is at least one piece of his oeuvre that you think is pretty cool: maybe Mao, or a movie (he made about 150 of them), or, for the fetishists out there, a drawing of a shoe from when he was a commercial artist. This guide will very likely take you to where he made it—for Warhol was a homebody and Manhattan was his home—though the where might not be there



(continued from page 7)

EARTHWORKS

anymore.

Andy Warhol's New York City features four walking tours and eighty, sometimes phantom, locales that figured in his life. The routes could easily have been plotted by a drunken sailor, which Warhol (and any flâneur worth his or her salt) would have approved of, and they are all the better for being so.

Not exactly random though certainly rangy, and offbeat, a bit like Kiedrowski's occasional humor, as when he notes that the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer is "well-known for...the fact that Jackie Kennedy once prayed here." Kiedrowski, who leads tours to Warhol sites in the city, aims to give you a taste of Warhol Land, the little things that seasoned and sustained his world: where he lived and worked and where he shopped, where he ate (and fed his burgeoning entourage) and where he found late-night entertainment.

Short descriptive bursts accompany each stop along the walks, background material to conjure atmospherics. Perhaps it is where Warhol bought his wigs ("Hairpieces by Paul"—the building, darn it, has been razed) or the Warhol residence at 242 Lexington Avenue: "there were two bare mattresses next to each other on the floor where Warhol and his mother each slept": Warhol was thirty-two years old at the time and not a pauper. If that isn't atmospheric enough, there is 5 Cornelia Street, where the dancer Freddy Herko danced out a fourth-floor window to his suicide. Lightening the journeys, there are the happenings, the Velvet Underground, automats, personalities galore: from Nico to Truman Capote to Edie Sedgwick to Tiger Morse, "factories" of explosive creative energy, galleries, and an extraordinary number of churches where Warhol did whatever it was he did in churches.

With the book's pink accents, these walks are like valentines from Warhol to New York City, a gift of unconditional, often unhinged, love. ■

THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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Maria V. Rosa, Managing Editor

McCOLL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Thirteenth 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." Selection is by a committee chosen by the AGS Council. The fellowship for this year was awarded David Cochran of the University of South Mississippi, for research into the human dimensions of tropical cyclones in Caribbean Central America.

Applications for the McColl Family Fellowship for the year 2012 must be received in the AGS offices by October 17, 2011. **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 fieldwork there; and a statement of the sum requested. Samples of writing similar to the style of FOCUS on Geography may be included. Only submissions by hard copy will be accepted.**

Applications should be sent to:

McColl Family Fellowship Committee
The American Geographical Society
32 Court Street, Suite 201
Brooklyn, NY 11201

For further information contact Deborah Popper at (718) 624-2212 voice, (718) 624-2239 fax, ags@amergeog.org (for information only) or see the AGS website at <http://www.amergeog.org>



AGS Welcomes new Councilor members



Eugene J. Palka is a professor of geography and a colonel in the United States Army. He is in the thirty-fourth year of his military career and currently serves as Professor and Head of the Department of Geography & Environmental Engineering at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has been assigned to West Point since 1998 and has produced more than seventy-five publications, including books, monographs, instructor's manuals, book chapters, journal articles, and technical reports. He has also delivered more than forty-five lectures to audiences all over the world. He has a variety of research interests that delve into cultural, historical, military, and environmental geography.



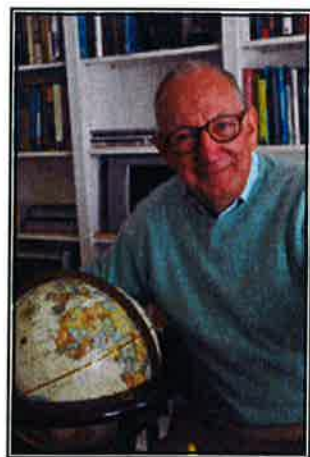
Lawrie Jordan is Director of Imagery for ESRI, as well as Special Assistant to Jack Dangermond, President of ESRI. In this capacity, he serves as an advocate for successful applications of all forms of imagery within the GIS enterprise, including environmental, civil, and defense solutions.

Mr. Jordan has over thirty years of experience as a leader in the field of image processing and remote sensing, including a long standing strategic partnership with ESRI. He has been an advisor to numerous government organizations on current and future trends involving imagery and satellite programs. His background education is in landscape architecture, with degrees from the University of Georgia and Harvard University.

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Lessons from the Berlin Wall



Harm de Blij's Ph.D. in geography is from Northwestern University. He has held named chairs at several universities and is currently John A. Hannah Professor of Geography at Michigan State University. He was Geography Editor on ABC-TV's *Good Morning America* for seven years before moving to NBC News as Geographic Analyst, appearing regularly on MSNBC. His awards include five honorary degrees and an Emmy for his work on GMA; he has published more than thirty books and over 100 articles. He is an honorary life member of the National Geographic Society and an Honorary Fellow of the American Geographical Society.

who can knock down a wall. Instead, the lesson learned is that border walls—particularly those supported by large deployments of border guards—are relatively effective at preventing the movement of poor people. Consequently, rather than the completely borderless world imagined in 1989, we live in a world that is connected economically and socially, but also increasingly divided territorially by more walls that are taller, longer, and stronger than the Berlin Wall ever was.

-Reece Jones is an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Hawaii and member of the American Geographical Society's Writers Circle. His book on border walls will be published next year by Zed Books. He can be reached at reecej@hawaii.edu.

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See an additional opinion piece
—*The Wee Sounds of Business in Cuba*—
on page 10



IN MEMORIAM

MARIE MORRISON 1928-2010



Marie at Glacier Bay, AK, 1958

Marie Morrison, born and raised in Washington Heights near the Society's headquarters during the Depression, was an AGS employee from 1948 to 1962 in the Department of Exploration and Field Research where she was an assistant to William O. Field, died at the age of 82 at home in Saratoga Springs, NY, on August 5, 2010. She was the wife, for 52 years, of Charles C. Morrison, who was employed by the Society from 1956 through 1961, also in the Department of Exploration and Field Research.

In 1948 Marie was Bill Field's first employee after being appointed Director of the Department of Exploration and Field Research. At first Marie performed as liaison with the field parties on the Society's Juneau Icefield Research Project (JIRP) which she greatly enjoyed working with Bill, Maynard M. Miller, and Calvin J. Heusser. Later, she served as manager for the Geophysical Year World Data Center-A for Glaciology. She was also the editor of the Center's *Glaciological Notes*.

She went on to compile reports about JIRP and assist with research. For the Society's landmark ten-volume report titled "Geographic Study of Mountain Glaciation in the Northern Hemisphere," Marie wrote the chapters on the Canadian Arctic islands and helped to edit the atlas of 48 regional alpine glacier maps for this project.

In 1964, Marie went to Washington, D.C. where she was the assistant editor of a book about the geography of New England. Above all else, she was a writer and editor and undertook numerous projects of that kind during her career, never forgetting what she had learned from the *Geographical Review's* Wilma Fairchild and Marian Eckert about good, careful writing.■

- Charles C. Morrison, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.



Mal Miller,
Marie and Bill
Field at AGS
in 1949

The Wee Sounds of Business in Cuba

By Joseph L. Scarpaci

With atypical revolutionary candor, Cuban President Raúl Castro told the National Assembly earlier this month: "More than once I've said that our worst enemy is not imperialism...but our own errors."

Some of those mistakes were the unchecked expansion of public workers. In October 2010, however, Castro said he would send pink slips to 1.5 million state workers. The private sector will have to absorb them. It sounds like Wisconsin but without labor's push back.

The usual sounds of women calling out from their balconies and kids getting in a quick game of stickball before streets heat up are being replaced by the hum of petty commerce.

Now, shouts from the bakers, broom vendors, other hawkers compete with the crowing from illegal roosters kept on rooftops along San Juan de Dios street in Old Havana.

Relaxed employment laws make it easier for Cubans to start small businesses. These kiosks and street vendors are entrepreneurial lights in a depressed economy.

Will these small businesses (known as *timbiriches*) allow Cubans to regain the standards of living attained 22 years ago when the USSR subsidized the economy? Maybe.

On my fiftieth trip to the island on July 26, I queried fellow travelers and found that seven of the eight Cuban families in the departure lounge at Miami International Airport were carrying cash down to help their loved ones start businesses. Four of them had done so before.

On the return flight of August 3, I learned that ten of the twelve families in José Martí's airport had done the same.

These business-to-business family transfers drive the island's new sound of commerce.



American Geographical Society Travel Program

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The American Geographical Society Travel Program offers luxury journeys on land and aboard small ships and private jets. Explore intriguing places around the world with esteemed experts while helping to support the AGS

at no additional cost to you. Travel with local guides and professional trip managers who handle the details and "smooth the way." Programs aboard carefully chosen small ships (with no more than 64 cabins) provide deluxe staterooms, exclusive shipboard experiences, and opportunities to dock and anchor at historic ports and towns that larger ships simply cannot visit. Our private jet journeys offer unsurpassed safety, long-range capabilities, access to smaller airports, customized interiors, and direct travel on ideal schedules.

Cuba (land tour)

November 5-12, 2011 (8 days)
with AGS lecturer Joseph Scarpaci

Experiences of a Lifetime by Private Jet (Africa and Asia)

February 21-March 14, 2012 (23 days)
with AGS lecturer David Keeling

Cuba (land tour)

March 9-20, 2012 (12 days)
with AGS lecturer Joseph Scarpaci

Tracing the West Coast of Africa

April 7-24, 2012 (18 days)
with AGS lecturer Douglas Sherman

Norwegian Fjords & Scottish Isles

June 23-July 6, 2012 (14 days)
with AGS lecturer Susan Hardwick

Sicily with Montenegro, Croatia, Albania & Greece

August 29-September 11, 2012 (14 days)
with AGS lecturer Christine Drake

Turquoise Coast: Turkey and Greece

September 22-October 2, 2012 (11 days)
with AGS lecturer Dorothy Drummond



The Wee Sounds of Business in Cuba

Estela González is one beneficiary of these new laws. She expanded her mango freezing operations in Habana Vieja. When the bumper mango crop came through last May, she purchased, bagged, and froze as much of the sweet delicacy as she could, and now sells them in the off-season.



Her son in Los Angeles wired her the money to purchase the over-priced (but only available) freezer in the Carlos III shopping mall in Centro Habana.

President Obama, with little media fanfare, allowed Cuban Americas to wire up to \$10,000 daily to relatives in Cuba in late 2010. This dwarfs President George W. Bush's policy of capping remittances at \$300 quarterly, or a paltry \$3.33 daily.

Emilio Morales and I document that since 1993, about \$18 billion in cash and \$19.5 billion in merchandise have arrived, mostly from the U.S.

U.S. remittances could unleash a Cuban-style *perestroika*. Cuba's 151 Western Union offices are humming with wire transfers, and that means an average of \$109 reached every man, woman, and child last year; equal to five months of wages.

Whether these reforms stick or the 'kioskization' of businesses is enough to rescue the Cuban economy will be known in a year or so. And it would be a travesty if Cubans became overly reliant on these subsidies.

Cuban households sense the changes. Rationed items available through the state distribution booklet (*libreta*) are becoming less plentiful, and consumer prices are rising. The official state newspaper *Granma* even hinted that market mechanisms might replace rationing.

My sense is that Cubans' thirst for change and their creativeness (try getting Soviet Lada carburetors to work in thousands of '52 Chevy's) will pull them out of this economic malaise. In the meantime, let the arm-chair political scientists worry about whether a Cuban-style *glasnost* is around the bend. ■

-Joseph Scarpaci teaches marketing at West Liberty University in West Virginia and is the Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Cuban Culture & Economy. He is a member of the American Geographical Society's Writers Circle. With Emilio Morales, he is the author of the forthcoming book, *Marketing without Advertising: Brand Preference and Consumer Choice in Cuba*, to be published in December by Routledge Press. His e-mail is joes-carpaci@gmail.com.

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2011 WORLD HUMAN GEOGRAPHY CONFERENCE:

September 15 and 16, 2011, Lawrence, Kansas

“Meeting of the Minds” to Improve U. S. Understanding of Foreign People and Places

Difficulties in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade have brought to light severe shortcomings impacting U. S. foreign policy, foreign intelligence, and military strategy. Analysts admit to a crisis caused by poor understanding of foreign cultures, recognized increasingly as “geographic ignorance” among government insiders and academic experts. Since World War I, the U. S. Department of State has recognized the need to understand human geography worldwide. Interest in the Department of Defense and intelligence community peaked during World Wars I and II and now has risen again during the current conflicts.

On September 15 and 16, 2011, the American Geographical Society (AGS), University of Kansas, and Haskell Indians University will host the World Human Geography Conference (WHGC) to focus on specific themes of importance to government, society, and the discipline of geography. All disciplines and communities concerned with peoples and places are invited. The conference to be held on the Haskell Indian Nations University campus in Lawrence, will emphasize communities and ethics as well as geographic knowledge about places.

The inaugural event aims for a small gathering of recognized experts, where attendees are encouraged to participate. Speakers from a variety of communities—public, private, tribal/indigenous, academic, and government institutions from local to global—will discuss community-based research methodologies; the ethics of funding sources; and the nature and accessibility of open-source research in the digital age, with a focus on how these themes impact indigenous peoples. It is the first conference ever to bring such a large group of government, academic, and foreign community leaders together for face-to-face discussion and, it is hoped, a meeting of the minds. Drawing on Native American traditions and customs that inform indigenous discourse and learning at Haskell Indian Nations University, the conference will encourage an honest, open, and respectful discussion.

Gathering cultural intelligence presents new challenges to agencies more accustomed to imaging and analyzing physical terrain. On one hand, peaceful relations depend on mutual understanding which can only be earned through years of in-country fieldwork by dedicated researchers. On the other, the mere presence of such researchers can offend local sensibilities and place researchers at risk. Success depends on mutual consent by U. S. researchers and host communities with prospects for mutual benefit.

Human geography is “why people do what they do where they do it,” according to the late professor J. Roland Illick of Middlebury College in Vermont. Understanding how different places and peoples interact around the globe is essential for preserving peace, ending wars, resolving conflicts, managing ecosystems, and providing humanitarian assistance. In America, however, unlike Europe and most of the world, geography has been purged from the curricula of most elementary schools, high schools, and colleges. Polls routinely show that most Americans cannot locate Iraq and Afghanistan on a map, let alone say anything intelligent about the places and peoples found there, despite the fact that U. S. soldiers and dollars have been there so long.

Troubled by American society’s geographical ignorance and by related U. S. intelligence failures and conflicts around the globe, University of Kansas professor Jerry Dobson, who is president of the American Geographical Society—the nation’s oldest geographical organization—says “what’s missing is geography, the kind of understanding that geographers spend their careers learning and teaching routinely, even in introductory classes.”

Speakers include, Jose Barreiro (Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian), Mirna Cunningham Kain (Member, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues), Brian McClendon (Vice President, Geo at Google), Lee Schwartz (Geographer of the United States, US Department of State), and Albert White Hat (Sicangu Lakota educator and chief).

HOSTS:

