Greetings from the Chair

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As of February 2001

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New York City annual meeting of the AAG, here we come! For me, it’s an AAG meeting to which I can travel by train; how nice.

Paul Frederic handed over the Specialty Group’s chair position and records (about one inch of files) at the end of summer. Thank you for entrusting me to ‘do what needs to be done’ during a two-year term as chair (2000-02). As I reviewed the records passed on to me, I became aware of the enormous debt we all owe Paul Frederic and a small handful of others for their willingness to do all that needed to be done to get the Specialty Group started. I will distribute a short outline of the Specialty Group’s ‘initial steps’ at the Business Meeting, to which I hope you will provide comments so that a reasonable record of the Specialty Group at its outset may continue to exist. Beginnings such as these require quite a few specific and necessary tasks, both small and large—be certain to thank Paul when you see him in New York.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Specialty Group’s business meeting (Wednesday 7-8 p.m.). Several topics will be considered – asking if the Specialty Group sponsor a journal or some other forum for disseminating research on the history of geography, the GEOGRAPHY IN AMERICA TIMELINE project, other AAG Centennial projects, subjects on your mind. I have become aware of several exciting projects on the history of geography in America that individuals are pursuing during the past year—are there useful ways to support each others research? Help set the agenda for Specialty Group activities—how can the Specialty Group further the exploration of the history of geography among members of the AAG? --can it support your interests? --the bicentennial celebration of the most important (?) geographical expedition of discovery every undertaken by the United States, Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery (1804-06), will begin come January 2003 at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s home in Virginia—how will/can geographers contribute to this landmark event in the history of America’s geography?

My one pass through the annual meeting program revealed that these meetings reflect the spectacular diversity, overabundance (and paucity) that we face each year—like New York City itself there is no way to capture everything that will be offered in four days. Herewith, a sampling of sessions (ignoring individual presentations entirely) I’d like to attend relating to the history of geography—two sponsored wholly or in part by the History of Geography Specialty Group, GEOGRAPHY IN AMERICA TIMELINE (Saturday 4-5:40, and in spite of what the preliminary program says, I’m expecting HOG members collectively to serve as the panel) and ISAIAH BOWMAN’S LEGACY (Wednesday 8-9:40), a series of sessions celebrating the sesquicentennial of the American Geographical Society, SOCIETY WOMEN (Wednesday 8-9:40 and 10-11:40), DOING FIELDWORK (Friday 8-9:40 and 10-11:40 and 1-2:40, Saturday 2-3:40) and AGS--CONTINUITY AND CHANGE (Friday 5-6:40); GEOGRAPHERS ON FILM, ARCHIVAL THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS ON THE FOUND-
Geographers on Film: Visual Record and Archival Resource

August 1970 marked the origin of Geographers on Film, a video record of the development of 20th Century geography. The series creates the history of geography in a deep freeze, preserving the words and personalities of those who lived it. The project resulted from teaching methodology courses wherein students would pore over writings of cognoscenti to acquire appreciation for the evolution of geography as a field of learning. Considering the advantages of Aristotle on film prompted the decision to secure in a permanent medium the more productive minds of modern geography. In the beginning concentration was on elder statespersons, thus coverage spans much of 20th Century geography.

The 514 productions include 286 film and videotape GOF interviews (147 hours) of the thoughts and reflections of 259 geographers, plus 226 GOF Additional Holdings (121 hours), which feature distinctive themes (varying from three to 196 minutes) and embody 110 supplemental geographers expanding the number to 362 geographers incorporated within GOF. Fifty-five of the GOF films/videos are multiple interviews of twenty-seven selected individuals (e.g. Richard Hartshorne, 1972, 1978, 1979, 1986A, 1986B). Supplementary productions include two 1/4” audio tapes (George B. Cressey and Joseph E. Spencer) and a silent film transformed to VHS.

The complete visual portions of GOF (266 hours) have been converted to the readily accessible VHS format and are available for rental. The series is in the process of being deposited at the National Gallery of the Spoken Word, Michigan State University. Through digitization of the audio portion (plus selected still images) of the Collection the Gallery will provide web access affording Internet availability to facilitate worldwide utilization of this unique resource.

AAG Session: February 28, 2001


As a spin-off from Geographers on Film (GOF) selected thematic video presentations have evolved. The process entails electronically splicing segments of individual GOF interviews and/or other holdings into productions sharing common threads, two of which will be shown. James assesses the founding (1904) and evolution of the AAG, while Northwestern Roots includes reflections from six of the geographers who, among others, appear in Fred E. Dohrs’ 16mm film: “Field Training in Geography,” which will be the third and final video shown. Discussion follows.


2. Roots and Practice of Northwestern Geography (GOF Interview Years 1971-1972): Edward B. Espenshade, Jr. (b. 1910), William L. Garrison (b. 1924), John Fraser Hart (b. 1924), G. Donald Hudson (1897-1984), Clarence F. Jones (1893-1991), and Clyde F. Kohn (1911-1989). Shared Themes: Three held Chicago PhDs and were Northwestern chairs; two were influenced by Wellington Jones, had Proudfoot as advisor, share tips on chairing geography, were paired at Washington for 1950s Quantitative Revolution; single offerings are Hudson’s view of applied geography. (Continued on page 3)
Geographers on Film, cont’d

(Continued from page 2)


Keywords: AAG origins/evolution, field courses, roots of Northwestern geography

NOTE: For more than thirty years the filming and/or taping of Geographers on Film has been accomplished in five different mediums. Such conditions explain the variations in audio and video quality of the resultant interviews. HINT: Back off on color when viewing monochrome segments.

Roots and Practice of Northwestern Geography
(GOF Interview Years 1971-1972)

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<th>Interviewer</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>1971</td>
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<td>3. Edward B. Espenshade</td>
<td>Preston E. James</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Kansas City</td>
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<td>4. Clyde F. Kohn</td>
<td>John Fraser Hart</td>
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G. DONALD HUDSON (1897-1984) April 1971 — introduction (1924) to geography at Chicago; Barrows as advisor — midwife to the quantitative revolution at Washington; relationship with Garrison — WWI, TVA, and applied geography — status of applied geography within academia prior to the 1960s — suggestions for department chairpersons - interviewer: John Fraser Hart. 8m 15s

CLARENCE F. JONES (1893-1991) April 1972 — pre/post WWI Chicago background — graduate field courses at Clark and Northwestern — influence of Wellington Jones and the fractional code method on land use studies — Rural Land Classification Program in Puerto Rico (1949-55) — relationships with graduate students - interviewer: Preston E. James. 6m 15s

EDWARD B. ESPENSHADE, JR. (b. 1910) April 1972 — Chicago background, influence of Wellington Jones in switching from geology to geography — position at Northwestern after WWII; evolves as Chair following Hudson and Jones — introduced department’s philosophy of sharp focus on research with systematic emphases and elimination of most regional courses - interviewer: Preston E. James. 6m 15s

CLYDE F. KOHN (1911-1989) April 1971 — career in geographic education – faculty member at Northwestern (1948-58) - selection of Schaefer’s article (1953) for publication and editorial re-actions to it - interviewer: John Fraser Hart. 2m 10s

WILLIAM L. GARRISON (b. 1924) April 1972 — influence of J. Russell Whitaker at Peabody — graduate days (urban studies) at Northwestern (1947-50); Proudfoot as advisor - Hudson, Ullman and Garrison at Washington - interviewer: M. W. Dow. 2m 15s

(Continued on page 4)
Chair’s Comments, cont’d
(Continued from page 1)

ING AND EVOLUTION OF THE AAG AND THE FOUNDING OF GEOGRAPHY AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY (Wednesday 1-2:40); HISTORY OF CAR- TOGRAPHY IN THE 20TH CENTURY (Wednesday 3-4:40 and 5-6:40); LOOKING BACK: GEOGRAPHY AFTER WORLD WAR II, THE GRADUATE STUDENTS’ PERSPECTIVE (Thursday 1-2:40); URBAN GEOGRAPHY IN THE 1960s (Friday 5-6:40) coupled with A NEW URBAN GEOGRAPHY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (Saturday 10-11:40); several sessions honoring careers—GUNNAR OLS- SON (Wednesday 1-2:40 and Thursday 3-4:40 and 5-6:40), JAMES BLAUT (Thursday 5-6:40), and LAURENCE J.C. MA (Friday 10-11:40); and if you wish to track history in the making— PERSPECTIVES ON ADVANCED PLACEMENT [HIGH SCHOOL] GEOGRAPHY (Friday 10-11:40 and 1-2:40 and 3-4:40) and THE PEOPLE’S GEOGRAPHY PROJECT (Saturday 8-9:40).

These are among the many sessions that strike my fancy. Many others include individual presentations by History of Geography Specialty Group members that I am looking forward to as well. Have fun! I look forward to visiting in New York. Perhaps I’ll get to sleep on the train ride home.

Forward to New York,
D on D ahmann

Election of Officers

The term-of-office of one of three directors of the Specialty Group expires as of the business meeting in New York -- that of Martin Kenzer. Martin has done a wonderful job of supporting and furthering the work of the group.

The specialty group’s bylaws state that the “chair shall appoint the nominating committee at the business meeting [and that] the committee will solicit nominations for elected officers and elections will be conducted by mail.”

So, come the business meeting on Wednesday evening (7:00-8:00 p.m.) in New York, one item of business will be creation of a nominating committee so that an election “conducted by mail” can occur as shortly thereafter as possible. One idea to consider beforehand -- as the number of members in the group is small, should we seek more service from those who are willing than is provided by a single 3-year term of office? Will we run through the group’s members in too few years? Or, should such opportunities be shared as widely as possible? Next year, terms will expire for three current officers, one of whom (chair) cannot succeed himself. Share your response with members of the nominating committee.

Geographers on Film, cont’d
(Continued from page 3)

JOHN FRASER HART
(b. 1924) April 1972 — WWII affects path into geography - influence of Merle Prunty at Georgia and Malcolm Proudfoot (plus fellow graduate students) at Northwestern in late 1940s - interviewer: M. W. Dow. 3m 50s and Jones as field trip leader during the 1940s. (29.22 minutes).

For more information on Geographers on Film, contact
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In Memoriam

James M. Blaut
(1927-2000)

Jim Blaut, Professor of Geography and Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a member of this specialty group, passed away in November 2000 after a battle with cancer. Kent Mathewson notes that Simon Batt- terbury (with the help of others) has done an nice tribute to Blaut, which is posted on the Cultural Ecology Specialty Group’s website at http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/destin/simon/cen/cen36.htm#Announcements

There will be a special tribute ses- sion at the AAG meeting on Thursday, March 1 from 5:00 to 6:40 p.m.
Creating the Historical Record

This list of events in the history of the History of Geography Specialty Group is offered for your comments and corrections. It is better that we give it some attention now, while all those who have played roles are available to freely comment. This is a draft for comment, my first approximation from sifting through files. Please provide comments directly to me and perhaps we can circulate a much-improved account of the Specialty Group’s initial years at the upcoming New York City business meeting.

Don Dahmann.

1994-95
Paul B. Frederic and Martin S. Kenzer attend a meeting of the AAG’s Archives and Association History Committee at the Chicago annual meeting of AAG and suggest that a History of Geography Specialty Group be established.

1995-96
A petition to establish a History of Geography Specialty Group is first circulated at the Charlotte annual meeting of the AAG. Paul Frederic agrees to serve as founding/acting chair. After collecting more than the 50 required signatures, the AAG grants approval to begin the process of establishing a new Specialty Group. The History of Geography Specialty Group appears on the 1997 AAG membership renewal form as a ‘check-off’ activity for the first time.

1996-97
Paul Frederic prepares the new Specialty Group’s first newsletter (December 1996).

An organizational meeting of the Specialty Group is held at the Fort Worth annual meeting of the AAG. The session—“Neglected Voices/Issues in the History of North American Geography”—is sponsored by the Specialty Group at the Forth Worth annual meeting. Paul Frederic prepares a second newsletter (May 1997).

1997-98
The Specialty Group’s establishing documents, including a draft constitution, are submitted and approved by AAG. The initial business meeting of the Specialty Group is held at the Boston annual meeting of the AAG. The Specialty Group is approached about providing a chapter in Geography in America at the Dawn of the 21st Century, to be edited by Gary Gaile and Cort Willmott. A committee consisting of Geoffrey J. Martin, Allen Bushong, Miriam Hill, Christopher Haig, and William Koelsch is appointed to consider the task.

Election results:
Chair--Paul B. Frederic (1998-2000)
Secretary/Treasurer--Miriam Hill (1998-2000)

1999-2000
A business meeting is held at the Pittsburgh annual meeting of the AAG. Paper sessions at the AAG’s annual meeting are cosponsored by the Specialty Group with GIS and Cartography Specialty Groups. The Newsletter goes electronic. $665 is in the treasury as of 20 July 2000.

Election results--
Chair--Donald C. Dahmann (2000-2002)
Secretary/Treasurer--Miriam Hill (2000-2002)
History of Medical Geographic Thought

Michael L. Dorn’s recent work concerns Dr. Daniel Drake, an Ohio Valley physician and educator who is widely recognized as first great American medical geographer. Daniel Drake’s 1400 page magnum opus, entitled A Systematic Treatise, Historical, Etiological, and Practical, on the Principal Diseases of the Interior Valley of North America, as They Appear in the Caucasian, African, Indian, and Esquimaux Varieties of its Population (appearing in two volumes, 1850 and 1854), was a summation of American medical and geographic thought from the first half of the nineteenth century.

Mike’s dissertation, nearing completion, discusses Drake’s life work as an effort to draw upon and inform Enlightenment scientific and social scientific debates. Drake’s geographical writings weigh the relative effects of the physical and moral environment on health. The keyword here is “temperance,” taken to refer to both a temperate climate and tempered personal behavior. Mike traces Drake’s growing pessimism over Western health and democracy during the second quarter of the nineteenth century to the changing character of urban life in the Ohio Valley cities Drake called home: Cincinnati, Ohio and Louisville, Kentucky.

One portion of this argument has recently been published, concentrating on anti-alcohol component of Drake’s physiological temperance crusade. This article will be of interest to historians of geographic thought as well as urban social geographers and historians of medicine and public health:


Mike would also like to draw specialty group members’ attention to Professor Frank Barrett’s impressive 570 page synthesis of the history of medical geographic thought, covering the period from ancient Greece to the mid-twentieth century. Barrett’s methods are similar to Clarence Glacken’s in Traces on the Rhodian Shore, sticking closely to the original sources and drawing a vast web of connections. He has turned to materials from around the world on this topic, working in eight languages: Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Latin, and Italian. Thus a worldwide literature is digested for the benefit of English language readers.


Those interested in purchasing Professor Barrett’s book may contact the publisher: Becker Associates Box 507, Station Q Toronto, Ontario, M4T 2M5 Phone: (416) 483-7282 Fax: (416) 489-1713 email: journals@interlog.com

Historical Record, cont’d

(Continued from page 5)

Plan to attend the HoG SG business meeting in New York 7:00-8:00 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 28, 2001
(Continued from page 6)

quently included wall maps in other paintings of his as well.

Do you know of comparable depictions of geography in works of art? any American ones?

2. Nineteenth-Century Geography Texts

While working to understand Americans’ perceptions of geography in the nineteenth century, I’ve begun examining geography texts prepared for schools, colleges, libraries, and the home. My list currently includes over 200 texts and atlases produced prior to the flowering of textbook preparation that accompanied the establishment of departments in colleges and universities around 1900. Many of these were reviewed in the period’s leading journals. A hundred texts were published prior to the Civil War, some with two-dozen editions and 100,000 copies sold during the first three decades of the nineteenth century alone.

Has anyone systematically examined these works? I am aware of only several pieces on individual authors and a few cursory overviews. If so, I’d appreciate any leads.

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AAG Sessions of Interest

Wednesday, February 28
8:00 am - 9:40 am

3.1.24 Isaiah Bowman's Legacy: AGS Sesquicentennial Special Session (Sponsored by American Geographical Society Sesquicentennial Committee, AAG History and Archives Committee, and History of Geography Specialty Group) Organizer: Joseph S. Wood, Univ. of Southern Maine; Chair: Alexander B. Murphy, Univ. of Oregon
8:00 Neil Smith, CUNY, Isaiah Bowman and the Search for Geographical Order, 1915-1935
1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

3.3.24 Geographers On Film Archival Thematic Presentations: Founding and Evolution of the AAG, and Roots and Traditions of Northwestern Geography (Sponsored by AAG Committee on Archives and Association History) Organizer and Chair: Maynard Weston Dow, Plymouth State College
3:00 pm - 4:40 pm

3.4.01 History of Cartography in the Twentieth Century: Instances and Issues I (Sponsored by Cartography Specialty Group) Organizer and Chair: Mark Monmonier, Syracuse Univ.
3:10 James R. Akerman, The Newberry Library; 3:30 Daniel R. Montello, Univ. of California-Santa Barbara; 3:50 Peter Collier, Univ. of Portsmouth; 4:10 Mark Monmonier, Syracuse Univ.
5:00 pm - 6:40 pm

3.5.01 History of Cartography in the Twentieth Century: Instances and Issues II (Sponsored by Cartography Specialty Group) Organizer and Chair: Mark Monmonier, Syracuse Univ.
5:00 Patrick H. McHaffie, DePaul Univ. 5:20 Robert B. McMaster, Univ. of Minnesota, Susanna McMaster, Macalester College; 5:40 John Cloud, Peace Studies, Cornell Univ.; Discussant: David Woodward, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

3.6.28 History of Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting

Thursday, March 1
8:00 am - 9:40 am

4.1.24 Society Women I (Sponsored by: AGS Sesquicentennial Committee and Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group) Organizer, Chair, and Discussant: Joseph S. Wood, Univ. of Southern Maine
8:00 Mary Lynne Bird, American Geographical Society; 8:20 Janice Monk, Univ. of Arizona; 8:40 Michael P. Conzen, The Univ. of Chicago; 9:00 Dorothy Drummond, Indiana State Univ.
10:00 am - 11:40 am

4.2.24 Society Women II (Sponsored by: AGS Sesquicentennial Committee and Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group) Organizer and Chair: Joseph S. Wood
10:00 JoAnn C. Vender, Penn State Univ.; 10:20 Pat Gilmartin, Univ. of South Carolina; 10:40 Karen J. De Bres, Kansas State Univ; Discussants: Susan Hardwick, Univ. of Oregon, Karen Morin, Bucknell Univ., Janice Monk, Univ. of Arizona
1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

4.3.07 Looking Back: Geography After World War II: A Grad Student's Perspective (Sponsored by: Retired Geographers Organization); Organizer: Robert A. Harper, Retired Geographers Organization; Chair: Lawrence Sommers, Northwestern Univ.

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History of Geography

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Friday, March 2

1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

5.3.01 1:00 Judith A. Tyner, California State Univ. Long Beach, Millie the Mapper II: Experiences of Women Geographers and Cartographers in WWII

5:00 pm - 6:40 pm

5.5.24 AGS-Continuity and Change (Sponsored by AAG and Association History Committee) Organizer and Chair: Christopher Baruth, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee


5.5.28 Urban Geography in the 1960s (Sponsored by Urban Geography Specialty Group and Archives and Association History Committee) Organizer and Chair: James D. Wheeler, Univ. of Georgia

5:00 John S. Adams, Univ. of Minnesota; 5:20 William A. V. Clark, Univ. of California-Los Angeles; 5:40 Maurice Yeates, Ryerson Univ.; 6:00 James O. Wheeler, Univ. of Georgia; Discussant: Brian J. L. Berry, Univ. of Texas-Dallas

Saturday, March 3

4:00 pm - 5:40 pm

6.4.11 Geography in America Timeline - Creating An Electronic Window on American Geography: A Panel and Audience Discussion (Sponsored by History of Geography Specialty Group)

Organizer and Chair: Donald C. Dahmann, History of Geography Specialty Group;

Discussants: Audience