Comments from the Chair

The History of Geography (HOG) Specialty Group has had a successful year as a young organization. HOG has more than 100 members representing nine countries (including the U.S. and Canada). Our solid performance on the Boston AAG program was a rewarding experience. Work by Mike Dorn, University of Kentucky, in setting up a listserv; Jodi Vender, Penn State, as newsletter and webpage editor; and Miriam Hill, Auburn, as Secretary/Treasurer has made the basic operation of HOG move from take-off to road-speed. The web page, listserv and newsletter are HOG’s primary tools for communication. Please use them!

AAG Sessions of Interest

Wednesday, March 24
Session 121: Geography in America: Geography at Work (Sponsored by Geography in America at the Dawn of the 21st Century)
3:20 Allen D. Bushong, University of South Carolina, Geoffrey J. Martin, Southern Connecticut State Univ, History of Geography

Friday, March 26
Session 426: Geographical Work in the Pacific (Sponsored by History of Geography Specialty Group and AAG Archives and Association History Committee)
Organizers: Julie A. Tuason, Southwest Texas State University, Paul B. Frederic, University of Maine-Farmington
Chair: Paul B. Frederic, University of Maine-Farmington
12:45 Anne Macpherson, El Cerrito, California, Alexander von Humboldt’s Journey in Spanish America
1:05 Martin S. Kenzer, Florida Atlantic University, Carl Sauer’s Direct and Indirect Significance in the Rise and Unfolding of Geography On and Around the Pacific
1:25 Herbert M. Eder, California State University-Hayward, The Contributions of William L. Thomas to Pacific-Area Research
1:45 David Hooson, University of California-Berkeley, The Pacific in the History of Geography
2:05 Fujio Mizuoka, Hitotsubashi University, The Development and Demise of Alternative Geography in Japan

Our by-laws need a little review. The AAG Central Office has contacted me regarding article II.3 which relates to corresponding membership. We need to be clear about who may become a corresponding member. Orland Maxfield, AAG Parliamentarian, has indicated that he thinks it is quite clear as it stands. However, the matter should be discussed at Honolulu. A second by-law issue involves a minor correction to article VI, Dues. The AAG has suggested that the word “charged” in the last sentence needs to be replaced by the word “changed.”

Geoffrey Martin has written the “History of Geography” chapter for Gaile and Willmott’s Geography in America at The Dawn of the 21st Century. He invites additional information that may be noted.

The meeting in Hawaii has a session co-sponsored by the AAG Archives and Association History Committee and HOG, and a spot for “History of

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GEOGRAPHERS ON FILM: Visual Record and Archival Resource

INTRODUCTION

August 1970 marked the origin of Geographers on Film (GOF). Participants speak for the record (varying from ten to eighty minutes) that samples of the geographical experience may be retained. The project resulted from teaching thought and methodology courses; students therein would pore over the writings of cognoscenti to acquire an appreciation for the genesis and development of geography as a field of learning. After considering the advantage of having Aristotle on film it was decided to secure in a permanent medium something of the more fertile minds of modern geography. In the beginning concentration was on elder statespersons, thus coverage spans much of 20th Century geography.

MORPHOLOGY

The series 491 productions includes 278 film and videotape GOF interviews (137 hours) of the thought and reflection of 252 geographers, plus 213 GOF Additional Holdings (107.5 hours), which feature distinctive themes (varying from three to 196 minutes) and embody 102 supplemental geographers expanding the number to 350 separate geographers incorporated within GOF. Fifty-four of the GOF films/videos are multiple interviews of twenty-six selected individuals (e.g. Richard Hartshorne, 1972, 1978, 1979, 1986A, 1986B). The complete 244.5 hours of GOF have been converted to the readily accessible VHS format and are available for rental.

THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS


For more information, contact Maynard Weston Dow, Plymouth State College; home address: 44 Towne Road, Bristol, NH 03222; phone: (603) 744-8846; email: mwd@mail.plymouth.edu website: http://oz.plymouth.edu/~mwd/

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Geography" in a session on Geography in America sponsored by Geography in America at the Dawn of the 21st Century. In addition, there are a number of sessions and individual papers that focus on history of geography. At the risk of overlooking some HOG members and other friends, I suggest the two sessions: Revisiting The History of Space, and Centennial: Contemporary Reflections on the Contributions of the Berkeley School of Geography. Unfortunately, they both take place at 9:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. on Saturday, the 27th. So much of my effort to advise. The moral of the story seems to be, a lot is going on and time conflicts are the norm.

Hope to see you in the former Sandwich Islands.

Regards,

Paul B. Frederic
Chair, HOG

HoG Directors, cont’d from p. 1

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The HoG newsletter is continually seeking contributions for future issues. Please send newsletter items to Jodi at the address above, and let her know if you’d like to receive this newsletter in a different format (email or snail-mail).

HoG listserv:
HISTORY-OF-GEOG@LSV.UKY.EDU

Michael Dorn
(University of Kentucky)
has put together a listserv for the Specialty Group. If you have not been receiving messages and would like to be added to the list, contact Mike at mldorn00@pop.uky.edu

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For a biography of Henry Gannett and an account of aspects of nineteenth-century U.S. geography, I would appreciate hearing from anyone with information concerning letters, manuscripts, photographs or other materials relating to Gannett's life and geography in Gilded-Age Washington, D.C. I am particularly interested in locating correspondence or institutional paperwork associated with Gannett's activities.

Born in 1846 and referred to as the father of American map making at his death in 1914, Gannett might today well be considered the forefather of geographic information systems in the United States. He contributed much to American geography and federal map making during a distinguished and extraordinarily active career outside of academe. Within the federal government, he established both the topographic mapping program and the program to map and inventory national forests as Chief Geographer at the Geological Survey; he established the geography program and served as Geographer for three U.S. and four overseas censuses at the Census Bureau; he headed and established procedures for naming geographic features at the Board on Geographic Names, and as director of research for the President Roosevelt's National Conservation Commission, he produced the nation's first inventory of natural resources.

Among his many contributions outside federal government programs, Gannett directed the first International Geographic Congress held in this country in 1904, prepared mapping standards for the 1:1,000,000 scale International Map of the World in 1908, and served as a founder of the National Geographic Society (and President), of the Association of American Geographers (Vice President), of the Washington Geological Society, and of the Cosmos Club (President). He was responsible for the production of numerous important maps and atlases (including three U.S. national [statistical] atlases), the editing of several journals and other publications, and over 200 publications dealing with human and physical geography, society/environment relations, and geographic and mapping methods. Gannett Peak, Wyoming's tallest mountain (Wind River Range), was named to honor him in 1906.

Gannett's career was enmeshed in Washington-centered geography, a topic rarely addressed by academic geographers, except in terms of wartime service by university professors and in a few other places, such as John K. Rose's "Geography in Practice in Federal Government, Washington" in Geography in the Twentieth Century edited by Griffith Taylor (3d ed., 1957).

I'd appreciate hearing from you about Gannett, post-Civil War geography in Washington, and especially early federal topographic mapping activities (the USGS has produced multi-volume histories of its geology and water resources activities; who has accounted for the history of federal mapping?).

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Heidelberg Publishes First Hettner Lecture

The following book is the first in a new publication series documenting the annual "Hettner-Lecture" at the University of Heidelberg, Germany.


The book includes two articles by Derek Gregory—"Power, knowledge and geography" and "The geographical discourse of modernity"—and a transcript of debates that took place on the occasion.

For further information see: http://www.geog.uni-heidelberg.de/wisogeo/hettner/index_e.html

Tim Freytag
Dept. of Geography
Univ. of Heidelberg

Plan to attend the HoG SG business meeting in Honolulu Wednesday, April 24, 1999 7:00-8:15 p.m.