

cartographic perspectives

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in this issue

CARTOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE NEWS	1
FEATURED ARTICLE	3
Ethical Problems in Cartography — a roundtable commentary <i>Patrick McHaffie, Michael Dobson, Sona Karentz Andrews and two anonymous employees of a federal mapping agency</i>	
CARTOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUES	14
CART LAB BULLETIN BOARD	15
Introduction to Macintosh Graphics File Formats <i>David DiBiase</i>	
FUGITIVE CARTOGRAPHIC LITERATURE	19
Buchanan, Rex and Don Steeples (1990) On-demand map publication. <i>Terry A. Slocum</i>	19
CARTOGRAPHIC ARTIFACTS	19
Kerr, Donald and Deryck W. Holdsworth, Editors; Geoffrey J. Matthews, Cartographer/Designer. <i>Historical Atlas of Canada, Volume III: Addressing the Twentieth Century, 1891-1961.</i> <i>William G. Loy</i>	19
Rimbert, Sylvie (1990) <i>Carto-graphies</i> . <i>Peter Gould</i>	20
NEW MAPS	22
NEW ATLASES	23
CARTOGRAPHIC EVENTS	24
NACIS NEWS	
NACIS OFFICERS	26
NACIS X PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS	26


cartographic perspectives on the news

THE INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON WOMEN IN CARTOGRAPHY

The Secretariat of The International Task Force on Women in Cartography, established in Ottawa, Canada early in 1989, is now embarking on its survey, report and recommendations on the status of women in cartography. The survey will examine societal trends in equality of the sexes, measure the status of women in cartography, provide an overview of the involvement of women in the ICA, determine what kinds of barriers have contributed to the disproportionately low participation of women in the ICA and in cartographic activities internationally, propose strategies for change, and make a variety of recommendations.

Created by ICA President D.R.G. Taylor, the Task Force is co-chaired by Dr. Eva Siekierska of the Canada Centre for Mapping, Energy, Mines and Resources, Canada, and by Ms. Edel Lundemo, Head of the Norwegian Exhibition, Norwegian Mapping Authority.

The Task Force itself is international, with members from ten



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countries: Australia, Canada, Finland, Hungary, Mexico, Norway, the People's Republic of China, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. A series of formal and informal meetings held at the Budapest conference in August drew participation from many female cartographers as well as interest from a number of male delegates. Six of the ten Task Force members were present in Budapest, and with written or oral submissions from those not present, approaches to the survey and final report were thoroughly discussed. The Task Force is hopeful that a second meeting can be held before the survey recommendations are published.

Although the work of the Task Force on Women in Cartography focuses on cartographers,

members have received much interest in the project from colleagues and scholars in the related fields of remote sensing, geodesy and surveying. The identification of professional, educational, personal and societal barriers to women's participation in the ICA and in the profession generally has implications far beyond the boundaries of cartography. Task Force members believe their final report will be of interest to all involved in the study of women in non-traditional occupations.

The Ottawa Secretariat, currently composed of three members, is designing the survey. It will be distributed to about 2,000 women in more than 60 countries and the results and recommendations made available before the next ICA international conference in September/October 1991. The Task Force Secretariat has to date received support and partial funding from the Geographical Services Division of the Canada Centre for Mapping, and additional support is being sought from Canadian industry and academia.

All women cartographers interested in participating in the survey should contact: Dr. Eva Siekierska, Chair, International Task Force on Women in Cartography, Surveys, Mapping and Remote Sensing, Canada Centre for Mapping, 615 Booth St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E9, (613) 992-4470.

*Eva Siekierska, Co-Chair, ICA
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INVITATION FOR COMMENTS ON DATA ACCESS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Many users of Federal statistics are aware of the balance that must be struck between protecting the confidentiality of information provided by persons and businesses for statistical purposes and the need to make publicly-

collected data widely available for legitimate research and statistical uses.

In search of new ways to deal with this issue, the Committee on National Statistics and the Social Science Research Council, with support from several Federal agencies, have convened a Panel on Confidentiality and Data Access. As part of its two-year study, the Panel, which had its first meeting in December of last year, will be compiling relevant information from both producers and users of Federal statistics.

The scope of this panel study includes publicly-supported statistical data collection activities on individuals and establishments, such as censuses, surveys, administrative record data (when used for statistical purposes), and epidemiological studies. Data from clinical trials, while very important, will not be considered in this study. There are some special issues associated with clinical trial data that would require a separate study focusing on the bioethical aspects of confidentiality and data access.

Readers are invited to submit short statements on any or all of the following subjects:

Access Problems. Specific examples of instances where Federal agency confidentiality laws or policies have made it impossible for you or your colleagues to obtain data needed in your work or caused excessive delays in arranging for access to the data. Please indicate the sources and specific kinds of data desired and the purposes for which the data were needed.

Suggestions for improving access. Have you had any experience in obtaining access to data not disclosed for general public use? How was this arranged? Do you have suggestions for improving data access with appropriate safeguards to maintain confidentiality?
(continued on page 34)