

database. Increasingly we focus on knowing how to use software as opposed to knowing how to work through map projection equations or classification algorithms — they are encoded in the computer. More “thematic” specialists, cartographers with some application area who use cartographic software, are evident; the “technique is not an end in itself.”

In sum, I found myself feeling a bit confused by *Geographic Information Systems: The Microcomputer and Modern Cartography*. On one hand, the book provides a series of informative chapters which provide reasonably complete reviews of important developments in cartography. Cartographic practitioners and students interested in cartography will be interested in the reviews and their bibliographies. On the other hand, I was intrigued by the seeming contradictions in the book as a whole. The outward GIS camouflage of a book about cartography (I assume it won't sell if it just says cartography) is curious. More interesting is the fact that the editor defined a three part focus for the future of cartography in the introductory chapter: cognition, communication, and visualization. Communication was part of the focus of chapters nine, ten, and eleven; cognition was generally ignored, and visualization mentioned only briefly. Taylor also detailed the problems with neopositivism and neo-formalism, problems which have also been attacked in the larger arena of the philosophy of science. Yet much of the book is about as positivistic and formalistic as you can get: in chapter two we hear of “improvements in the visibility, resolution, and accuracy of space sensors and transmitters”, in chapter five we hear about “the more perfectly the model represents reality”; in chapter seven we hear that the development of a “full expert

system” which can replace the human cartographer “may be a problem which can be effectively addressed only by a multi-investigator team over a period of several to many years”; in chapter eight we hear that an all-inclusive set of spatial data standards is just around the corner; and in the final chapter we are told of the fact that geographical research can be done at home and “it is no longer necessary to go into the field” — this asserts that modern technologies have essentially made the map into the landscape. Borges and Baudrillard would blush. I am intrigued by these contradictions, and how they reflect upon cartography as a discipline. Do we accept Taylor's and Harley's critical approaches to formalism, positivism, and scientism or do we accept these to be the most practical and popular means of many cartographer's endeavors? Can both exist at the same time within cartography? Can either ‘side’ learn something from the other? Can there even be a dialogue? Does anyone even care? Interesting questions raised by an interesting book.

cartographic events

COLUMBIAN ENCOUNTER

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is to be the home of a major exhibition of rare maps for the 1992 Columbus Quincentennial. Including research, exhibitions, and public programs, this regional project will be directed by Professor J. Brian Harley of the Department of Geography and the Office for Map History in the American Geographical Society Collection of the Golda Meir Library.

The Exhibition will highlight many rare maps of the age of Columbus. The themes which will

structure the exhibition and guide the presentation of the maps include 1) the geographic realities and misconceptions in the maps of the Encounter period, 2) the science and technology of map-making in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, 3) the Encounter as a religious crusade, 4) the wealth of the New World as a force behind the Encounter, 5) the geopolitics of maps in the Encounter, and 6) the way maps reflect the Old World's and the New World's growing awareness of each other.

Seeking to answer not only the question “What does the map show?” the Exhibition also asks, “What did the maps mean to the men and women of the Encounter period?” and “What do they mean to modern Americans?” Through its extensive interpretation the Exhibition will present maps as documents of human interaction. For further information, please contact: Mark Warhus, Program Manager, The Office for Map History, American Geographical Society Collection, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 399, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201. (414) 229-4101.

GENIP News, November 1990

ORDNANCE SURVEY BICENTENARY

The Ordnance Survey will celebrate its bicentenary in 1991, in hopes of raising public awareness of the Survey and its activities. The key event will be an evening function in the Tower of London on June 21. The Tower, where the Ordnance Survey was located for its first 50 years, will also provide the site of a major exhibition of Ordnance Survey past, present and future, between May and September 1991. The Royal Mail is to issue a set of commemorative stamps in honor of the Survey.

Moving forward into the 21st century the Survey will be aiming to: maintain the National Data

archive up-to-date; give high priority to creating digital topographic and cartographic databases; increase revenue by meeting user needs and expanding the market; and achieve progressive improvements in the quality and efficiency of the services provided. *IMDA Newsletter, January 1991*

MAPPING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED IN VIRGINIA

The Virginia Association for Mapping and Land Information Systems was recently incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The non-profit membership association is dedicated to encouraging a high standard of professionalism throughout Virginia in the areas of cartography, surveying, engineering, land information systems, geographic information systems, photogrammetry, geography, geodesy, and land records management.

The association is also dedicated to:

- § promoting the free exchange of knowledge and information in the areas of mapping and land/geographic information systems

- § promoting educational, instructional, communications, and legislative programs

- § providing advice and assistance to federal, state, and local agencies and private companies

- § working with allied associations at the national, state, and local levels

The association was a co-sponsor of Virginia LIS/GIS '90 held in Fredericksburg in October, and the organization has developed a comprehensive resource directory for those individuals, public agencies, and private companies that have a need for mapping and LIS/GIS information.

Membership in the association is open to any individual or organization that supports the objectives of the association. For additional

information, contact: Virginia Association for Mapping and Land Information Systems, 8752 Landmark Road, Richmond, VA 23228.

EVENTS CALENDAR

1991

August 11-15: **URISA '91**. San Francisco, CA. Information and technology: gateway to solutions. Contact: Urban & Regional Information Systems Association, 900 Second Street, N.E., Suite 304, Washington, DC 20002; (202) 289-1685.

September 2-6: **Eurographics '91, Annual Conference of the European Association for Computer Graphics**, Vienna, Austria. Contact: Eurographics '91 Conference Secretariat % Interconvention, Austria Center Vienna, A-1450 Vienna, Austria; +43(1) 2369-2640, fax: +43(1) 2369-648.

September 23-October 1: **Mapping the Nations — 15th Conference of the International Cartographic Association**, Bournemouth International Centre, Bournemouth, England. Contact: Conference Services Limited, Congress House, 55 New Cavendish St., London W1M 7RE, England, 01-4860531, fax: 01-935-7559, telex: 934346CONFAS G.

October 19-23: North American Cartographic Information Society Eleventh Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI. Contact: Sona Andrews, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin — Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201; (414) 229-4872. Sona@csd4.csd.uwm.edu

call for papers

nacis xi

Annual Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 19-23, 1991

Send abstract, limit 150 words:

Jack L. Dodd (NACIS)
TVA Maps and Surveys
HB1A
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

October 27-30: **GIS/LIS 1991 Annual Conference and Exposition and ACSM/ASPRS Fall Convention**, Atlanta, GA. Contact: ACSM, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 493-0200; fax: (301)493-8245.

November 14-15: **Geomatics III — A Present Bursting with Activities**, Montreal, Canada. Contact: Francois Dutil; (514) 342-9581.

1992

March 22-28: **ACSM/ASPRS Annual Convention**, Albuquerque, NM. Contact: ACSM, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 493-0200.

Summer: **Fifth International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling**, USA. Contact: Prof. Duane F. Marble, Department of Geography, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, (614) 292-2250, telex: (650) 218-4975 MCI.

August 9-16: **27th International Geographical Congress**, Washington, DC. Contact: Anthony de Sousa, 27th IGC, 17th and M Sts. N.W., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 828-6688.

October: **North American Cartographic Information Society**, Twelfth Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

November 6-12: **GIS/LIS 1992 Annual Conference and Exposition and ACSM/ASPRS Fall Convention**, San Jose, CA. Contact: ACSM, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 493-0200.

1993

February 15-18: **ACSM/ASPRS Annual Convention**, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: ACSM, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 493-0200.

NACIS news

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CARTOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES

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CARTOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES: UN NOUVEAU BULLETIN D'INFORMATION CARTOGRAPHIQUE.

The following notice about Cartographic Perspectives will appear in the "Nouvelles Brèves" section of a forthcoming issue of the quarterly journal Mappemonde. The notice was submitted by Sylvie Rimbart, author of Carto-graphies (see review in CP7, Fall, 1990).

Le N°1 de ce bulletin trimestriel est paru le 1er mars 1989. Il est une émanation du NACIS (North American Cartographic Information Society). Il est publié par le Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA. Il est caractérisé par un souci d'information professionnelle: une bonne place est faite aux présentations de nombreux laboratoires de cartographie, à celles de techniques, de logiciels, de colloques et congrès à venir, de publications d'atlas, de cartes, de produits satellitaires ainsi que