



cartographic perspectives

Number 49, Fall 2004

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Members of NACIS,

Welcome to CP49, the third and final issue of *Cartographic Perspectives* for 2004. In this issue the discussion of "Cartography is Dead" continues. James Carter from Illinois State University offers us the edict here that Cartography is Alive. Jim's piece provides us many examples of how cartography is still very relevant...it is a view that will resonate with many of CP's readership...but let's not lose site of some of the important points that Denis (and subsequently Tom Koch) made in their columns. Cartography is changing...rapidly...to think that I was doing production cartography in 1990, and now 15 years later, I concern myself (and students) with map animation, multimedia maps and virtual spatial representations. I would venture that cartography is not really dead...it is simply evolving. Getting a handle on this evolution is really what the opin-

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(letter from editor continued)

ions from Wood, Koch and Carter are all about—at least, that is how I see it. To see the term Geo-visualization now in job postings for academic positions, in addition to, or in place of the term “cartography” is really a sign of this evolution. Add to this the use of the term “GIScience” in these job postings, we begin to get a sense of how cartography, or cartography like things are being talked about and categorized in the discipline. What do you think? Send your thoughts and opinions on to me.

In addition to being the third and final issue for 2004, this issue of *CP* ushers in a new section designed to showcase maps being made by cartographers today. The idea behind this section is to publish, in a one-page, informal style, maps that present to the reader, from an aesthetic standpoint, a really “awesome” looking map. These maps are accompanied by a short paragraph that describes the uniqueness of the map. The name for this new section is *Visual Fields*. Bob Lloyd, University of

South Carolina and member of *CP*'s Editorial Board, proposed this name several months ago, citing that it is a phrase that is “used in the cognition literature to indicate the area from which one can obtain visual information”. I think this title for this column is a perfect fit for what we are trying to accomplish with this new section. For this issue, two maps have been included: one from Mike Herman, and one from Alex Tait. I welcome your comments on this new addition to *CP*. I also welcome submissions of your visual fields.

The three papers included in this issue present to us a good example of the wide range of research that is taking place in cartography. The paper by Joshua Comenetz explores the use of visuals, or graphics to present metadata about maps, rather than text notes that are commonly used today. The paper by Leitner and Curtis presents a series of empirical studies that evaluate various methods for presenting confidential spatial data on maps. These methods attempt to maintain confidentiality, while at the same

time preserve the dominant characteristics of the spatial distribution. The third paper by Pearson provides a historical account of how topographic mapping in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia was used during the Civil War in 1861-1862. It also provides a wonderful snapshot into the lives of four topographical engineers.

Lastly, I want to welcome Mike Herman to our editorial board. Mike resides at the University of Maine, Orono working in the Canadian-American Center where he is producing the Historical Atlas of Maine. Mike also runs a small map publishing company called Purple Lizard Publishing. Mike's knowledge and experience make him a perfect fit for the current cadre of editors I have on the board. I am delighted to have his expertise available to *CP*!

That about wraps up 2004. As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions, manuscripts, and opinions. Have a colorful Fall.

Warmest Wishes,

Scott Freundschuh, Editor

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