



cartographic perspectives

Number 50, Winter 2005

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Members of NACIS,

Welcome to CP50, the first issue of *Cartographic Perspectives* for 2005. It's December 20, 2004...a foot of snow on the ground here in Duluth...Dvorak's New World Symphony is blasting out of my JBLs here in my office...my secretary has rolled her eyes at me at least 5 times already this morning (and has shut my door twice)...and I am wearing my favorite geo-t-shirt that says "as a matter of fact, the world does revolve around me". Life is good. If I were done grading my mountain of final exams, life would be grand. I'll settle for good.

This year is a reflective year for NACIS, and subsequently a reflective time for CP. As a collective academic body, we mourn the loss this past year of Professors David Woodward and Arthur Robinson, who passed away on August 28th and October 10th respectively. A *Special Issue* of *Cartographic Perspectives*

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(letter from editor continued)

tives, that celebrates and honors the accomplishments of these two men, is currently in production. I anticipate that this issue will be published as CP51 in May of 2005.

Two-thousand Five also marks the 25th anniversary of the North American Cartographic Information Society. Those 25 years went by awfully fast, did they not? In observance of this anniversary, CP52 will review the last 16 years of its publication, from the perspective of each of the past three editors (can you name them?), as well as from the perspective of the current editor (can you name me?). Here are some small tidbits of temporal information leading to the birth of CP. *Cartographic Perspectives* was first published in March of 1989 with co-editors David DiBiase and Karl Proehl. Prior to this time, NACIS first published 23 issues of *Map Gap* (edited by Karl Proehl), and then 8 issues of *Cartographic Information* (edited by Ruth Anderson Rowles). Then *Cartographic Perspectives* was pushed into the world, so to speak. The NACIS Publications Committee, in 1988 (or there 'bouts), said that the purpose of CP "should be to publish papers and information that support the stated objectives

of the Society and to serve as a record of the Society's activities" (DiBiase, 1989, Message from the Editors, CP1). I can confidently say that *Cartographic Perspectives* has, and continues to fulfill this purpose.

It has been fun (and educational even) for me to pour through the past 49 issues of *Cartographic Perspectives*. The journal has certainly grown and matured over the past 16 years. It has shed much of its newsletter-kinds-of-information role from its early years, assuming a more formal position among other cartographic research journals. At the same time, CP has retained some of the informal aspects that have made it a successful record of the Society's activities. It has remained an inclusive publication, representing the broad diversity of the NACIS membership. CP continues to publish technical "how to" pieces. CP includes current news and issues central to the archival, storage and accessibility of all forms of spatial information and data. CP publishes reviews of books and atlases that are of interest

to the broad membership. CP now includes an outlet for map publishers to share their more innovative/creative maps, and it publishes the opinions of its members, even the unpopular opinions. CP has grown and matured along with NACIS. It remains "a forum every member feels comfortable contributing to...that each issue contain[s] a variety of contributions from several members...[including] reviews, reports, abstracts of 'fugitive cartographic literature', notices, open letters, comments or complaints" (DiBiase, 1989, Message from the Editors, CP1)

Oh, and one last piece of important information. Beginning in 2005, with this very issue, CP will be indexed by Elsevier in GEOBASE. This is very important for the journal, as it increases the exposure of all the content in CP, and therefore increases the desirability of authors to publish their work in CP. The editorial board of CP is working toward having our journal indexed in other source lists as well (e.g., Web of Science) and is considering full-text indexing.

Two-thousand Five will be a good year for *Cartographic Perspectives*. We'll have to verify this assertion in 2006.

As always, I welcome your ideas, comments and suggestions.

Warmest Regards,

Scott Freundschuh, Editor

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