



Cartographic Perspectives

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From the Editor

Dear NACIS members,

You are holding CP 56 in your hands, reflecting the efforts of past editor Scott Freundsuh (who marshaled the pair of featured articles through the peer-review process) and myself, your new editor. I thank members of the editorial board and the section editors for their efforts in shaping the content of CP. Jim Anderson, our assistant editor, has pulled together a morass of text, graphics files, and other bits into a coherent and engaging issue.

Academic journals reflect the personalities and interests of their editors, but it is certainly not only about the editor. Indeed, it is vital that CP reflects the diversity of the NACIS membership, one of my goals as editor of the journal. An open panel session at the last NACIS meeting and informal discussions with NACIS members generated a significant list of ideas, from small tweaks in journal design to ideas for major new sections for the journal. Some of those ideas are here for your perusal in CP 56, and more are to come, including a revival of the Fugitive Literature column, interviews, exploratory essays, and peer-reviewed maps and software. The color cover of the journal will be used in different ways, and I am investigating the inclusion of a poster-sized map insert, publishing interesting maps with intellectual and cartographic merit that may not otherwise be printed.

Promoting the journal as a place to publish a diversity of materials

(continued on page 3)

In this Issue

COVER

timeline_33seconds (2006)

Lilla LoCurto and William Outcault

OPINION

A Map Is an Image Proclaiming Its Objective Neutrality: A Response to Mark Denil 4

Denis Wood

FEATURED ARTICLES

Visualizing Method-Produced Uncertainty in Isometric Mapping 17

Mathew A. Dooley and Stephen J. Lavin

Visual Representations of the Spatial Relationship Between Bermuda High Strengths and Hurricane Tracks 37

Jason T. Knowles and Michael Leitner

REVIEWS

Field Methods in Remote Sensing 52

Reviewed by Jenny Hewson

Remote Sensing for GIS Managers 54

Reviewed by Daniel G. Cole

Literature, Mapping, and the Politics of Space in Early Modern Britain 56

Reviewed by Brooks C. Pearson

Maps as Mediated Seeing: Fundamentals of Cartography 58

Reviewed by Mary L. Johnson

Seeing Through Maps: Many Ways to See the World 60

Reviewed by Mary L. Johnson

MAPPING: METHODS & TIPS

Achieving Historical Map Effects with Modern GIS 63

Aileen Buckley, David Barnes, and Jaynya Richards

COLOR FIGURES 73

VISUAL FIELDS

Some Things Lilla LoCurto and William Outcault 81

Have to Say About Maps

Denis Wood

(letter from editor continued)

related to cartography is important, as more submissions mean a better journal. To this end I have created a CP promotional sheet (see the PDF at the CP page at nacis.org) and CP business cards. You can print the promotional sheet and distribute it at meetings or email it to interested colleagues. The business cards can be used in the same way and have been distributed to CP Editorial Board members. Any way that you can help get people to contribute material for any and all sections of CP is appreciated, and, indeed, vital to the success of the journal. If you are talking to someone and they are engaged in some interesting cartographic work, encourage them to document it in CP.

Another of my goals is to increase the visibility of *Cartographic Perspectives*. CP should soon be included, full text, in Ebsco's Academic Search Complete (available by mid 2007). This database of academic journals is typically available to universities and some public libraries. Full text availability is vital, as scholars want their work to be accessible to other scholars. In the past, CP has been available to members and on the shelves of some academic libraries, limiting access to the broader scholarly and cartographic community. Full-text availability will open CP to a much broader readership, and should increase submissions and the visibility of the journal. Other indexing and accessibility issues are currently being investigated.

The content of this issue is diverse. The subject of the cover as well as the Visual Fields images and essay by Denis Wood is personally important to me, as it documents the work of two artists who were my first contact with the emerging interest in maps and mapping among artists. This interest, I would argue, is not merely esoteric, but cuts

to the core of important intellectual issues in cartography. Wood also provides a response to Mark Denil's comments (in CP 55) on Wood's opening article in the special Art & Mapping issue (CP 53). "A Map Is an Image Proclaiming its Objective Neutrality" is more about the nature of maps than about map art in particular. I don't think the debate stops here! The two featured articles in this issue, on uncertainty in isometric mapping and visualization issues with climate data reflect the continuing state of the art in empirical research in cartography, driven by changes in technology but situated within several decades of evolving cartographic theory, coping with uncertainty and a complex, ever changing world we are attempting to understand. Reviews of books on remote sensing, literature and mapping, and map theory follow. "Achieving Historical Map Effects with Modern GIS," in the renamed *Mapping: Methods & Tips* section of the journal, clearly reflects the spirit of making maps that pervades *Cartographic Perspectives*, addressing in a methodical manner the production of new maps with new technologies reflecting evocative characteristics of maps of the past.

Cartography is all of the things in this issue. NACIS reflects this diversity, and that is one of the reasons it is such a great organization. If you don't see yourself or your interests in CP, *do something, make something, write something, map something* and send it along.

John Krygier
Editor