



Cartographic Perspectives

Journal of the
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Information Society**
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From the Editor

Greetings NACIS Members:

This issue marks my entry into the cartographic foray as *CP* Editor. The opportunity to serve as Editor came as a surprise to me when a phone call suggested that I consider running for the position. After additional conversations and much deliberation, I agreed to place my name in the candidate pool. Now, I am now writing to you as *CP* Editor. I want to thank the NACIS Board of Directors for their vote of confidence in me as *CP* Editor. Many of you know very little about me and my background. However, I hope that over the next three years that I will be able to become more familiar to all of you through the upcoming issues of *CP*, through the NACIS community, through the annual conferences and good conversation. The transition period with the interim Editor Scott Freundsuh has gone very smoothly, been extremely valuable in learning the ropes of editorship, and pointed me in the correct azimuth. Appreciation is also directed toward Jim Anderson, the Assistant Editor, who helped me with timelines and the details of the publication process.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the members of *CP*'s Editorial Board.

In the proverbial 'changing of the guard' that took place when I stepped into this position, I have selected a very talented and diverse membership for *CP*'s Edito-

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(letter from the editor continued)

rial Board. New members of the board include: *Sarah Battersby* from the University of South Carolina; *Hugh Howard* from Los Rios: American River College; *Patrick Kennelly* from Long Island University CW Post Campus; *Amy Lobben* from the University of Oregon; *Keith Rice* from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point; and *Julia Seimer* from the University of Regina. *CP* welcomes a few returning board members. These include: *Matthew Edney* University of Southern Maine and University of Wisconsin-Madison, *Amy Griffin* from the University of New South Wales-ADFA; *Mark Harrower* from the University of Wisconsin, *Mike Leitner* from the Louisiana State University, *Margaret Pearce* from Ohio University. I am grateful to these talented individuals for agreeing to help maintain *CP*'s outstanding content that its readers expect. I look forward to working with them over the next few years.

There have also been a few changes to the various section editor positions. The Cartographic Collections section is headed by

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(letter from the editor continued)

Robert Kibbee and Angie Cope, both are retuning editors of this section. Robert comes from Cornell University and Angie is from the AGS Library. Look for their continuing contributions to the discussion of interesting map collections. The Mapping: Methods & Tips' introduces Bill Buckingham from the University of Wisconsin as new section editor. This section will continue to provide interesting information on the technical side of map making. Visual Fields will be overseen by Michael Hermann. While not new to CP or the NACIS community, Michael serves in a dual role as NACIS President and will provide CP readership with notable examples of cartographic excellence. The Book Review section will continue to be handled by Mark Denil from Conservation International. Mark will bring us timely reviews on books having a cartographic theme. Look for each section's content as the issues unfold. I know you won't be disappointed.

One of the biggest changes that will impact the journal's readability and style is the use of a professional copyeditor. Mary Spalding was brought on to serve as copy-

editor beginning with this issue. Mary graduated from Frostburg State University with a BA in English. She earned an MA in English from West Virginia University and a Masters in Library Information Science from the University of South Carolina. Mary writes that one of her favorite classes of her entire formal education was a course in Physical Geography. Too bad she didn't have a course in cartography?... Mary is currently Assistant Professor of English, Potomac State College of West Virginia University. We welcome Mary on board CP and look forward to her attention to detail.

This issue happens to be a special issue on map projections. The peer-reviewed articles cross a number of different map projection topics. First up is a paper written by Bernhard Jenny, Tom Patterson, and Lorenz Hurni entitled *Flex Projector-Interactive Software for Designing World Map Projections*. Many of you recall seeing the Flex Projector presented at last year's NACIS conference in St. Louis. If you missed the presentation on this software, you owe it to yourself to read this article, download the software, and give it a try. The next paper is by Waldo Tobler entitled *Unusual Map Projections*.

Tobler presents his usual imaginative look into the variety of map projections, several of which are uncommon but certainly intriguing. After reading Tobler's paper, you will never look at map projections in the same way.

As with previous issues CP presents interesting material to the NACIS community. CP's content is the most important element to the survivability of the journal. Without it, the journal will falter. I want all NACISites to consider CP to be their publication outlet for research, novel mapping techniques, views and opinions, new and unusual maps, and all map collections. I know there is much that is happening in the mapping world out there. CP and its readership would like to hear about it.

In closing, I have been associated with NACIS for ten years. My fondness for the NACIS community centers on the many fine individuals that constitute this society. I offer this issue to you for your contemplation and reading pleasure. I welcome your questions, comments, and discrepancies.

Fritz Kessler

The Cover

Title: Pretty Lies, 1995
24" x 30.5", oil and acrylic on wood panel

Susanne Slavick
 Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Art
 Carnegie Mellon University

Pretty Lies is from a series of paintings inspired by antiquated cartography, especially those maps using projections that inevitably distort the world. The information offered by such maps (in this case, one by Bernard Sylvanus from 1511) is erased and replaced by amorphous atmospheres and sinuous elements that alternate between forked tongues and less vitriolic ribbons. They poke and probe at cartography's presumed objectivity.