



Cartographic Perspectives

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From the Editor

The calendar tells me that the month is June. A light morning frost, however, is a continual threat throughout most of the month for Western Maryland. By now, a lush thick green carpet of vegetation unfolds throughout this area. Memorial Day has come and passed, unofficially ushering in summer. I hope your summer is off to a good start.

To begin, I need to report on a few changes to personnel on *CP*'s Editorial Board. Hugh Howard has stepped down from the board after one year of service. As a replacement, I want to formally introduce and welcome two new board members: Barbara Battenfield and Dennis Fitzsimons. Barbara currently teaches at the University of Colorado at Boulder while Dennis teaches at Humboldt State University. Both individuals have considerable expertise and a long history in the cartography field and will serve *CP* well into the coming issues. I would also like to announce that Robert Kibbee, co-section editor of the Cartographic Collections section has formally retired from his position at the University of Columbia's Map Collection and GIS. I thank Robert for all of his hard work with this section and wish him the best in his retirement. Angie Cope will assume full responsibility of overseeing the Cartographic Collections section.

Once again, this issue of *CP* contains a mixture of cartographic writings which I hope you will

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find interesting. The featured content includes a technical piece along with an article on historical cartography. The first article, titled *Data Layer Integration for the National Map of the United States*, is written by Lynn Usery, Michael Finn, and Michael Starbuck. Their article focuses on the problem of integrating various data formats from a variety of sources into *The National Map*. The second article, titled *The Official Automobile Blue Book, 1901 – 1929: Precursor to the American Road Map*, is authored by John Bauer. His article examines the evolution of what we commonly refer to as the road map from its humble beginnings as the *Automobile Blue Book*.

The individual sections follow. Inside the Cartographic Collections section, Angie Cope offers an article titled *The American Geographical Society Library at UW-Milwaukee*. In her article, she presents an overview of the American Geographical Society Library. The interesting aspect of her article is the wonderful map she has found for us and discusses, titled *Man of Commerce*. The Mapping Methods and Tips section includes an interesting piece from Nat Case titled *Creating Graphically Complex Indexes with InDesign*. With InDesign, Nat shows us how to use the software to simplify the annotation process when dealing with complex text. The Visual Fields piece is a map by two NACIS members, Michael Hermann (University of Maine) and Margaret Pearce (Ohio

University). They present an overview of their recently created map titled *They Would Not Take Me There; People, Places and Stories from Champlain's Travels in Canada, 1603-1616*.

A few items of note will close out this letter. First, I am very happy to report that the scanning and digitization process of old issues of *CP* has been completed and ready for use. The back issues are available at the NACIS Web site under the *Cartographic Perspectives* main page (<http://www.nacis.org/index.cfm?x=28>). Special thanks go out to Mark Harrower and Richard Donahue of the University of Wisconsin at Madison for their oversight and seeing this project to completion. There will be a formal unveiling of this online depository of back *CP* issues at the upcoming annual NACIS meeting in Sacramento, CA. Second, as many of you may recall, *CP* carried out its first readership survey in January of this year. There were 230 members of the NACIS community that took time to respond to the survey. Contained within these responses, many interesting and useful comments were offered and will be instrumental in providing insight into ways to shape *CP's* future. The results have been tallied, and a full report will be presented in the next issue of *CP* as well as the upcoming NACIS conference. Third, article submissions to *CP* this year are pretty slim. In fact, of this writing only one article has been submitted for future

publication consideration. While material for the next two or so issues is pretty well laid out, content for later issues is thin, to say the least. The health of *CP* is solely based on continued submissions from the cartographic community and beyond. I encourage each of you to consider *CP* as the publication outlet for your peer-reviewed papers, opinion pieces, information on map libraries, mapping methods and techniques, and visual fields. I know there is much that is happening in the mapping world out there. *CP* and its readership would like to hear about it.

I offer this issue to you for your contemplation and reading pleasure. I welcome your questions, comments, and discrepancies.

The Cover

The Irreverence of Water

2008, 22" x 15", two-colour stone lithograph with two-colour handset letterpress in an edition of 14 on Somerset Velvet Newsprint.

Steven R Holloway

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