



Cartographic Perspectives

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From the Editor

Dear NACIS Members:

Our unusually dry and warm summer is beginning to wind down here on the side of Big Savage Mountain. Already signs of fall appear across the green mountainside as the leaves of the black locust have already turned brown. It won't be too long until the landscape is dotted with hues of crimson, umber, and gold as other leaves befall their ritualistic demise. I hope your autumn is off to a good start.

This issue of *CP* contains a mixture of cartographic offerings which I hope you will find intriguing. The featured articles highlight experimentation, one a novel approach that integrates technology and the other dealing with cognitive cartography. The first article titled *Investigating Geospatial Holograms for Special Weapons and Tactics Teams* is written by Sven Fuhrmann. His article discusses the possibilities of using holograms as a visualization tool for spatial environments. The second article, titled *Learning of Locations on Maps: Prior Knowledge, Asymmetrical Learning and Sex Differences*, authored by David Patton and Robert Lloyd, presents results of an experiment that examined the differences between males and females when learning spatial information. This article will surely prompt discussion among those interested in cognitive cartography.

(continued on page 3)

In this Issue

FEATURED ARTICLES

Investigating Geospatial Holograms for Special Weapons and Tactics Teams 5
Sven Fuhrmann, Nevada J. Smith, Mark Holzbach, and Terry Nichols

Asymmetrical Learning of Locations on Maps: Implicit Learning, Prior Knowledge and Sex Differences 20
David K. Patton and Robert Earl Lloyd

Results of the 2009 *Cartographic Perspectives* Readership Survey 51
Fritz Kessler and Amy Griffin

REVIEWS

Cartographic Cinema 64
Reviewed by Daniel G. Cole

Placing History: How Maps, Spatial Data, and GIS Are Changing Historical Scholarship 66
Reviewed by Daniel G. Cole

Terra Incognita: Mapping the Antipodes before 1600 69
Reviewed by Jonathan F. Lewis

Understanding Place: GIS and Mapping across the Curriculum 71
Reviewed by Dr. Nicolas Karanikolas

CARTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS

The University of Georgia Libraries Map Library 74
Hallie Pritchett

The Maps Collection of the National Library of Australia 75
Dr. Martin P. Woods

MAPPING: METHODS & TIPS

A Technique for Encoding Elevation Changes Along a Route 83
Daniel Huffman

VISUAL FIELDS

Mollymaps 86
Molly Holmgren

COLOR FIGURES

89

(letter from the editor continued)

As an added bonus to this issue, you will also find a report summarizing the results of the first *CP* readership survey. In January 2009 an email was sent out to the NACIS membership asking for their participation in a survey on *CP*. The survey's purpose was to determine people's opinions about *CP* and what its future may hold. While the opinions expressed varied considerably, the main thrust of the survey results suggests that *CP* needs to change. Among the types of "change" suggested was a strong opinion that *CP* needs to have an online presence. As you may be aware, the print industry is reeling under the pressure from the Web and other devices that offer access and delivery of information. In some cases, journals have offered a mixture of print and online offerings to its readership. In other cases, journals have done away with the print side completely and deliver its content exclusively online. In some respects, this issue of Web delivery and accessibility has been addressed. A digital archive of older *CP* issues is now

freely available to anyone simply by visiting the NACIS Web site. However, there is a two-year embargo on posting current issues. Obviously, more work on merging the print version of *CP* with the digital services that the Web offers has yet to occur. Another strong sentiment expressed by the survey respondents was to change the contents of *CP*. Some wanted more topics that focused on the technical aspects or "hands-on" of using software to make maps. Others wanted to simply see more maps in the journal. Time and more discussion will be needed to decide how best to implement these and other changes voiced in the survey results.

Aside from these issues, one overriding problem remains: submissions. As of this writing, *CP* has received two (2) articles since the start of 2009. At this current pace, *CP*'s publication schedule is going to lag, and the vitality of the journal will surely falter. The readership survey did address the issue of submissions to *CP* and the responses did prove to be a mixed bag of

sorts. On the one hand, the survey reported that a high percentage of respondents would consider submitting something to *CP* for potential publication. However, only one-third of the respondents have, in fact, submitted something to *CP* for publication consideration. It is clear that the bulk of submissions to the journal do not necessarily come from the readership. The question remains: What is needed to increase submissions? Will changing *CP*'s content to reflect the interests of the journal's readership result in a renewed submission vigor? If *CP* can better integrate with the Web, will this ensure the journal's vitality? It is likely that none of these singular approaches will be the cure-all. Rather, it is more probable that some combination of these solutions and other possibilities will restore the long-term health of the journal.

If you are interested in the health and longevity of *CP*, I encourage you to attend a special panel session at this year's NACIS conference. The issues brought out by the readership survey and what to do about them will serve as a backdrop to this discussion to be held during the upcoming conference in Sacramento, California. I hope you will consider sitting in on the discussion session and offer your thoughts and ideas on ways in which *CP* will be kept healthy while meeting the needs of the journal's readership.

The individual sections follow. You will find two offerings inside the Cartographic Collections section. The first is by Martin

(continued on page 4)

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The Cover

Measure in Mutiny

1994, 60" x 80", oil and acrylic/canvas

Susanne Slavick

Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Art
Carnegie Mellon University

Measure in Mutiny is from a series of paintings inspired by antiquated maps. Acknowledging the inescapable distortions of mapping, both technological and ideological, I jettisoned the information offered by my source map and filled its remaining shape with a geography of my own invention. Directional winds are often represented in early maps by fat-cheeked cherubs blowing every which way. Here they are replaced with black lungs or balloons with protruding ribboned tongues. Perhaps they mirror the miasma of a polluted world or mock the very idea of measuring such a complex entity.

<http://artscool.cfa.cmu.edu/~slavick/>

(letter from the editor continued)

Woods who offers an article titled *The Maps Collection of the National Library of Australia*. In his article, he discusses the history of the Maps Collection and the wide range of technological services it provides its users today. The second article titled *The University of Georgia Libraries Map Library* is by Hallie Pritchett. She presents an overview of the range of print and digital map services provided by the library and staff. The Mapping Methods and Tips section includes an interesting piece from Daniel Huffman titled *A Technique for Encoding Elevation Changes Along a Route*. The article discusses a novel approach for symbolizing changes in elevation along a road. He argues that most road maps bicyclists use do not show changes in grade, and this information is especially important when choosing a route to follow. The Visual Fields piece presents a series of maps created by Molly Holmberg. She is a freelance cartographer residing in Bangor, Maine, whose craft is exclusively hand-drawn maps. *A sampling of her cartographic creations fills this issue's offering of Visual Fields.*

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.