



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In the early months of 2018, for the first time in fifteen years I found myself preparing to teach cartography to a group of undergraduate students. As is typical when preparing for a semester, especially after such a long time away from teaching a particular course, I was reviewing my materials and refreshing them based on the advances in cartographic knowledge that had been made in the intervening years.

As part of this process, I found myself returning repeatedly to the rich materials I have encountered in my various interactions with NACIS members, including articles published in *CP*, presentations I attended at the Annual Meeting (the most recent of which are conveniently [archived on YouTube](#)), and of course, the beautiful maps designed by many of our members, including those found in volumes I–III of the *Atlas of Design*.

I have tried to imagine how I could possibly deliver a high-quality learning experience for those undergraduate students without this virtual support from so many NACIS members, and I simply cannot. I have learned so much from all of you over the course of my career, and in turn I can now use that knowledge to inspire and help students develop into tomorrow's cartographers. So I express my gratitude to each of you who has participated in the life of NACIS in some way, large or small. I hope you have all been able to also take away something of value from your interactions with other NACIS members.

As 2017 is now a wrap, I would like to thank those individuals who served as peer reviewers for submissions to *CP* that received final decisions in 2017. In a world of increasing demands upon our time, the gift of your attention to helping our authors to do the best job possible in presenting their work is truly appreciated.

Jan Brus	Matthew Edney	Beata Medynska-Gulij
Bill Buckingham	Emily Eros	Piotr Jankowski
Marina Buzzi	David Forrest	Artemis Skarlatidou
Nat Case	Lars Harrie	Richard Smith
Sidonie Christophe	Dan Jacobson	Craig Williams
Martin Dodge	Pellervo Kokkonen	Martin von Wyss
Julie Ducasse	Alan MacEachren	Xingguo Zeng

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent support I receive from *CP*'s Assistant Editor, Daniel Huffman, my section editors (Mathew Dooley, Alex Tait, Terri Robar, Fritz Kessler, and Mark Denil), and *CP*'s Editorial Board (Sarah Battersby, Raechel Bianchetti, Cynthia Brewer, Matthew Edney, Sara Fabrikant, Bernhard Jenny, Patrick Kennelly, Mark Monmonier, Ian Muehlenhaus, Michael Peterson, Anthony Robinson, and Robert Roth).

Without each of their contributions, *CP* would not be the high-quality publication that you see today.

In *CP* 89, you will find two *PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES*. The first, by Nadia Panchaud and Lorenz Hurni, presents a usability evaluation of a geoportal that was designed to help novice map prosumers make better-designed maps. They identified some guidelines that could be helpful to those designing other geoportals, or considering ways to help users learn some cartographic design principles while using a mapping platform. In the second article, Carl Sack surveys the current state of teaching web mapping in North American universities, providing an overview of what is being taught, how web mapping theory and skills are taught, and what challenges and barriers to teaching web mapping exist in different institutional contexts. He provides a set of ten learning objectives that could be used to support teaching web mapping.

In the *PRACTICAL CARTOGRAPHER'S CORNER*, Lauren Tierney of National Geographic extends her NACIS 2017 conference presentation and updates a previously published description of how she and her team developed “The Melting of Antarctica.” In her contribution, she reviews briefly some historical National Geographic efforts to map the continent, and walks us through the process for creating both the print and digital versions of this compelling map. We see the team’s design thinking and iterative process, as well as the rethinking that was needed to produce an animated version of the map. Enhanced by video of her NACIS presentation and the video version of the map, this is one *PRACTICAL CARTOGRAPHER'S CORNER* contribution that you will not want to miss!

While Antarctica may certainly seem otherworldly to many of us, Zachary Bodenner’s contribution to *VISUAL FIELDS* presents several of his maps of true otherworlds. His piece explores his maps of fantasy worlds, which harness illustration techniques that help evoke the sense of these places, thereby drawing the reader further into the stories they both drive and support.

Four book *REVIEWS* round out *CP* 89. Robert Hickey reviews *Atlas Obscura*, a title that presents a selection of the world’s travel treasures, and in which maps primarily play a supporting reference role. Marcy Bidney’s review of *Treasures from the Map Room* evaluates a book that presents treasures of a different sort: historic maps from the Bodleian Library at Oxford University. Tom Koch and Amanda Tickner each review a book presenting materials to support a cartographer learning to use ArcGIS Pro, Esri’s latest desktop GIS application. While *Making Spatial Decisions Using ArcGIS Pro: A Workbook* was generally positively reviewed, with Amanda Tickner noting that the book supports learning how to make decisions in addition to learning software tools, Tom Koch found a decided lack of a decision-making perspective in the volume he reviewed, *GIS Tutorial 1 for ArcGIS Pro*, deeming this lack a fatal flaw of the book.

On that note, I invite you to dig into and explore the rich content presented in this volume of *CP*.

Amy L. Griffin
Cartographic Perspectives Editor