



NOTES from THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Fort Leavenworth Hosts AGS Council

Jerome E. Dobson, President, AGS, Professor of Geography, University of Kansas

Each year the AGS Council visits an institution where geography is practiced as an integral part of one or more major missions directly affecting science and society.

Always, our purpose is to learn from people engaged in vital work, but also to tell them about AGS and promote geography. This year we chose Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, home of the Command and General Staff College, Foreign Military Studies Office, and other important institutions. Our visit took place on October 20, 2006.

Fort Leavenworth

Fort Leavenworth is the oldest continuously operating



Photo by James W. Thomas

military installation west of the Mississippi River. Indeed, with the impending deactivation of Fort Monroe in Virginia, it will become the second oldest active military post in the United States, surpassed only by the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

This historic post, noted for its campus setting, open green spaces and hometown character, is the home of the US Army's Combined Arms Center (CAC), a major subordinate headquarters of the US Army Training and Doctrine Command. It has often been called the "Intellectual Center of the Army" and is, in many regards, "home base" for the majority of field grade officers throughout the Army.

(continued on page 2)

"AGS Councilors and 'friends' gathered in front of the statue of the Buffalo Soldier at Fort Leavenworth. From left to right, AGS Councilors Rickie Sanders, Clifton Pannell, John Frazier, and Jerry Dobson; FMSO Director Karl Prinslow; U. of Kansas professor Peter Herlihy (PI for AGS Indigena research project in Mexico); AGS Councilors Frederick Nelson and John E. Gould; and FMSO Senior Research Director Geoffrey Demarest. In front, AGS Executive Director Mary Lynne Bird. Note: AGS Councilors David Keeling and Alexander Murphy joined the group later in the visit."

Restoring Geography in America

Jerome E. Dobson

President, AGS, Professor of Geography, University of Kansas

What will it take to restore geography to its rightful place in American government, business, and academe? Recently I had an opportunity to ask this crucial question to someone who spent two decades at the center of U. S. science policymaking.



In the Clinton Administration, Jack Gibbons was Science Advisor to the President, the highest science post in government. From 1979 through 1992, he directed the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment. Before that, he was Director of the U.S. Office of Energy Conservation between stints at Oak Ridge

National Laboratory (ORNL) and the University of Tennessee. I've known him since my earliest days at ORNL starting in 1975.

In November 2006, Jack visited our campus at the invitation

(continued on page 2)

IN MEMORIAM

Douglas R. McManis

1932-2006

by Alexander B. Murphy

Vice President, American Geographical Society

When Doug McManis died on September 30, 2006, the American Geographical Society lost an inveterate friend who shaped the direction and course of its principal scholarly publication, the *Geographical Review*, for seventeen critical years.

Born and raised in Ohio, Doug earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from Kent State University. After a stint teaching high school in Wellington, Ohio, Doug enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of Chicago. While a graduate student, he taught in the history department at Butler University. Doug earned his Ph.D. in 1964. The University of Chicago's Geography Research Series published his dissertation on the "Initial Evaluation and Utilization of the Illinois Prairies."

(continued on page 8)



Fort Leavenworth Hosts AGS Council *(continued from page 1)*



Photo by Tim Curran
"General David Petraeus greeting AGS Executive Director Mary Lynne Bird. At the left, AGS President Jerome E. Dobson. At the right, AGS Chair John E. Gould."

Fort Leavenworth houses the headquarters of the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate, the Center for Army Leadership, the Battle Command Training Program, the Center for Army Lessons Learned, the Combat Studies Institute, the *Military Review* journal, the Foreign Military Studies Office, National Simulation Center, and many other organizations. Outside of the Army, Ft. Leavenworth is best known for its Disciplinary Barracks, but that's a small part of the whole.

Lieutenant General David H. Petraeus

We were privileged to meet with General Petraeus for nearly two hours. He spoke to us about his experience in Iraq, lessons learned there, and plans for restructuring Army training and doctrine. You may recall that General Petraeus caught the attention of the *New York Times* early in the Iraq War because of the charge he gave to his troops. He emphasized the need for respect and awareness of cultural differences in dealing with Iraqis, matters dear to the heart of every geographer. It was an approach that seemed to work well during his time in Iraq, first as commander of the 101st Airborne Division and then as the first commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command (2004–2005) and the NATO Training Mission (2005). Among his responsibilities was the restoration of Mosul University.

Since October 20, 2005, General Petraeus has been Commanding General of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth; Commandant, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; Deputy Commanding General for Combined Arms, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command; and Director, Joint Center for International Security Forces Assistance. What all those titles mean is that his job is to design

(continued on page 3)

Restoring Geography...

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of geographer Bob Honea, Director of KU's Transportation Research Institute. His knowledge of transportation issues ranging from geography to technology was remarkable, and he fully engaged geographers, engineers, and social scientists alike. The ultimate confirmation of his timeless wisdom was the awe expressed by one of our brightest geography graduate students who attended Jack's campuswide lecture.

I was privileged to spend enough time with Jack to catch up on old connections and probe important issues facing geography, the nation, and the world. It is always pleasant to talk with anyone who is contemplative, experienced, and wise, and it's truly enthralling when that person has been at the center of numberless events that drove international affairs and impacted our lives in powerful ways.

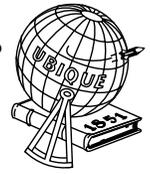
At my encouragement, Jack described what it was like dealing with Al Gore, Hazel O'Leary, Colin Powell, and other notable figures of the Clinton White House and Congress on matters as vital as global warming and nuclear testing. All of it was fascinating, but I'll repeat only certain parts that deal with geography.

I asked him what policy battle was most memorable, and he replied with one of the most important geographic decisions of the 20th Century. He was President Clinton's point man on the decision to release the Global Positioning System (GPS) to the public. Specifically, that meant removing the feature, called Selective Availability, which made the public signal less accurate than the decoded signal used by military forces. Military and intelligence agencies opposed the release, of course, but civilian interests finally won out. He complimented the military for taking the decision so well, continuing to manage the satellite system, and willingly providing the signals to the public. Now everyone has the unfettered version, and society has embraced GPS with open arms. We discussed the good and bad of it. Like me, he recognizes there's no stopping technology, and safeguards may be essential. He urges scholars to lay the information foundation for policy and legislation.

Jack is no stranger to geography. He was among the earliest instigators of GIS, organizing and supporting a second wave of pioneers who entered the fray shortly after Roger Tomlinson and Duane Marble. Bob Honea and I started at ORNL in the mid-1970s when GIS was young, but Jack and GIS pioneer Richard Durfee were there in the 1960s when ORNL was one of only four centers in the world engaged in geographic information systems (GIS) development. At dinner, I asked him, "Did you suspect then and have you realized since, just how important that innovation would turn out to be?" He answered that he knew for certain that it was important, but his motivation at the time was mainly to upgrade the Laboratory's capability to deal with energy and environmental issues facing the nation.

Late in our discussions, I finally asked, "What's it going to take to get geography back into the highest realms of science in government, business, and academe?" His first thought was to personalize our appeal by pointing to the heroes of our

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Restoring Geography...

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discipline. The first name off his tongue was the late Gilbert White, recipient of the National Medal of Science from President Clinton. The gist of Jack's advice was to tout what Gil White did and make everyone understand that geographers are necessary to continue such vital contributions. It's comforting to know that someone in Jack's high positions was taking note of our field. Indeed, I found him to be familiar with the work of many other geographers, some of whom he was surprised to learn were geographers. They too should be touted.

His second piece of advice was to define geography so that everyone can understand what it really is. Recently, when the same question arose at an AGS Council Meeting, I bravely offered my own definition. Several Councilors said it was in accordance with theirs, and nobody tossed any furniture. My presentation, however, took about 20 minutes with the aid of PowerPoint. Jack believes the public definition will have to be no more than a sentence or two, and that's a tall order.

In the past, I've shied away from arguments over definition, but one particular year was an exception for me. In 1993, I published a definition of my own, and nobody complained. I said, "Geography is the exercise of spatial logic—a form of reasoning in which morphology, landscape, spatial coincidence, spatial distribution, spatial association, and spatial relationships are considered to be primary evidence of both physical and cultural processes." (Dobson 1993 A)

That same year, I published a pragmatic list covering what geographers do, and it was meant to be comprehensive. I said, "In practice, most geographers pursue studies of one or more of the following:

1. The distribution of an individual phenomenon through space.
2. The interrelationships among two or more phenomena that cause their distributions to vary through space and time.
3. The interrelationships that occur among phenomena because of their coincident location at a specific place or places.
4. The physical and cultural character of a specific region or landscape that exists because of the area's unique combination of spatial phenomena.
5. The theory, methods, models, and techniques required to conduct geographic research and analysis as described in items 1 through 4 above. (Dobson 1993 B).

Again nobody complained, but still that was a lot more verbiage than Jack's rule allows. So, here's my latest humble attempt: Geography is a dimensional science and humanity, based on spatial logic in which location, flows, and spatial associations are primary evidence of earth processes, physical and cultural.

Allow me one just more sentence, and I will add: Geography is distinguished from other sciences by its overriding emphases on spatial analysis, scientific integration, and place-based research.

Or, conversely, limit me to one sentence, and I will say: Geography is to space what history is to time.

References:

Dobson, J. E. 1993 A. "A Conceptual Framework for Integrating Remote Sensing, GIS, and Geography," *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing* 59(10):1491-1496.

Dobson, J. E. 1993 B. "A Rationale for The National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis," *The Professional Geographer* 45(2):207-215.

Fort Leavenworth...

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and train the Army of the future, based on bitter lessons learned in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans. Long before we arrived, he recognized the need for better understanding of cultural landscapes. At the conclusion of our visit, he said he had a new appreciation for geography as a source of such understanding.

Foreign Military Studies Office

As you know from recent *Ubique* columns, the Foreign Military Studies Office is funding the AGS Bowman Expedition to Mexico, now in its second year, and a new one heading soon for the Antilles. We took this opportunity to meet with them face to face so other Councilors could get to know them as Mary Lynne Bird and I already do. The feedback from Councilors at our business meeting the next day was thoroughly enthusiastic. Unanimously, those present were positive about working with FMSO, both now and on projects that arise in the future.

We were hosted by Dr. Geoff Demarest, who oversees our Bowman Expedition projects, and Karl Prinslow, Director of FMSO. Gary Phillips, Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, Training and Doctrine Command spent most of the day with us. We were encouraged by their positive attitude about our performance on current projects, and we believe it bodes well for the future.

History Tour

Fort Leavenworth is steeped in history, and it is awesome to hear, "This house was General Custer's. . . John Jacob Audubon slept in this room. . . Abraham Lincoln stayed here." Highlights included the Buffalo Soldiers Monument and the Post Chapel, whose walls are crowded with plaques and shields signifying the personal sacrifices of individual soldiers and whole units of soldiers.

Our tour of Fort Leavenworth was led by Kelvin D. Crow, Deputy Command Historian, and it was absolutely first rate. He has a real gift for informing, teaching, and entertaining all at once. In particular, he is adept at singling out a detail that illustrates and explains a much bigger picture. The picture that emerged was a frontier fort that once served its region but later came to serve the whole Army.



The opinion expressed is that of the author and not of the American Geographical Society. By distributing op-ed essays, the AGS hopes to encourage public discussion of geographical issues. This article was sent to 900+ newspapers on the AGS distribution list.

The U.S. Must Rethink Its Afghanistan Policy

By
David Keeling

U.S. policy in Afghanistan has been a miserable failure. Although the initial geopolitical rationale for invading the country was sound - removing the Taliban from power and damaging the Al Q'aeda network - subsequent policy decisions have lacked a fundamental understanding of the region's geography and culture. In recent months, Taliban power has grown again in areas with few coalition troops, Kabul has become the only safe oasis in a turbulent sea of provincial discord, and current poppy production is likely to produce some 600 tons of illicit heroin for the global marketplace. Bin Laden remains at large, likely protected by tribal leaders in the remote and mountainous northwest frontier region of Pakistan. In fact, finding Nemo has proved much easier than finding Osama! U.S. policymakers need to change direction in Afghanistan immediately and take a more locally based approach to policy development.

An overwhelming body of evidence has emerged over the past year to support the argument that the 2003 invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq have distracted the U.S. from achieving its mission in Afghanistan. Widespread democracy in Afghanistan seems as unattainable today as it did during the long darkness of Soviet occupation in the 1980s. Although some infrastructure has been rebuilt, GNP has improved slightly, and more women are getting an education, conditions in Afghanistan still are dire for most citizens. Roads are poor, agriculture is under-funded, security is a significant problem beyond Kabul, and regional warlords continue to shape policy at the local level.

The failure of U.S. policy in Afghanistan results from a profound level of geographic and cultural ignorance about how the country is structured. Little attention has been paid to the geopolitical context of the region, especially its relationship with Pakistan, Iran, and the Central Asian republics. Policymakers tend to view Afghanistan as a homogenous political and cultural space, assuming that "Afghanis" can be the foundation of a future democratic state.

In reality, the country is made up of an uneasy alliance of myriad tribes - Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks, and Nuristanis, to name but a few. For example, the Pashtu and Dari languages are part of the Iranian language branch, while the Uzbek and Turkmen clans speak a Turkic dialect. Practically, Afghanistan's identity is more locally based than national in nature, based on the tribe, clan, ethnic or linguistic group, or area of residence. Local geographies and culture are more important in the geopolitics of Afghanistan than any national conception of statehood, yet U.S. policy has failed to understand this and has failed to build national policies around local structures.

Further complicating regional geopolitics is the fact that the western half of modern Pakistan historically came under the control of the Pashtuns. Pashtun nationalists today often include western Pakistan as part of a Greater Pashtunistan, which creates additional challenges for outside powers as they attempt to develop regional political and economic policies. The fact that Osama bin Laden likely is hiding under the protection of tribesmen in the politically contentious northwestern border region of Pakistan should send a clear message to policymakers that all politics in this part of the world are local and tribal.

A more locally based approach to policy development would achieve the goals of the international coalition in Afghanistan more rapidly and more securely. Afghanistan cannot be reconstructed from the top down, nor can a "democratic" country be created out of the existing tribal structure. Afghanistan can only survive in the 21st century as a legitimate political state if it is reconstructed using the Swiss model. A recognition of regional strengths and weaknesses should be the cornerstone of a national policy, with weak federal or national power supporting a network of regional governorships that rest on a strong infrastructural base. Bottom up development of regional infrastructure, including roads, railroads, schools, hospitals, and trade networks, should be the primary mission of U.S. and other international groups in Afghanistan. Anything less will condemn Afghanistan to another decade of misery and conflict, and likely will embolden the Taliban and Al Q'aeda to exert renewed control over more remote regions of the country. Should this happen, the U.S. and its partners in Afghanistan could well find themselves defending Kabul as the last oasis of security in the region.

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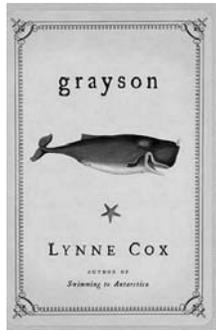
EARTHWORKS

By Peter Lewis



In the ocean off Southern California, in the pure, pre-dawn blackness, Lynne Cox was doing paces when she felt the water below her shudder. There came a sound, like the trailing of a scream; the sea burned with phosphorescence. Oh oh. "All at once," she writes, "I felt very small and very alone in the deep dark sea."

Rather than a great white bugbear, however, what emerged from below was a baby gray whale. The whale, a mere sprite at eighteen feet, had decided to tag along with Cox after he had been separated from his mother. If Cox put to shore, so too would the whale, and die. Fortunately, Cox, then seventeen years old, was already a heralded long-distance swimmer.



Grayson. By Lynne Cox. Knopf. \$18.95. 160 pages.

GRAYSON is the story of her morning's odyssey with the whale, searching for the mother, for as surely as being beached, the baby would die if he didn't get his daily fifty-gallon ration of mother's milk. Cox unfurls a shining hydrography of the waterscape they move through, of grunions and oil rigs, a seafloor carpeted with stingrays, 5,000-pound sunfish warming themselves while lying on the surface like supercolossal lily pads, and deep water so dizzyingly clear it was "as if a trapdoor had opened below and the bottom was dropping."

Maybe it's the vertigo that makes Cox occasionally mewl comments like, "it is love that surpasses all borders and barriers," for otherwise she is a canny observer of her watery surroundings, a plainspoken natural historian of its citizens, and a rhapsodist of its fearful magic.

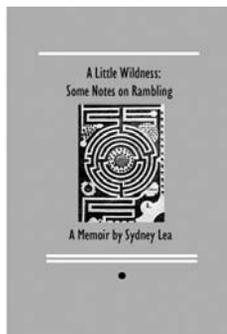
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Natural history is good and roomy, given to Whitmanesque inclusiveness. It is a subject that can comfortably embrace a near fable, like **GRAYSON**, then turn and warmly shake the hand of an obstinate coot like Sydney Lea: Vermonter, poet, part-time fogey, and rambler's rambler. In **A LITTLE WILDNESS**, he mulls over the beauty of an unadorned, unscripted ramble.

As with Gilbert White in Selborne, Lea ranges about close to home, always trying to see the old place with new eyes. "I'll suddenly find myself looking down or up or out on territory familiar as my thumb, but looking from so unfamiliar a perspective that I'm temporarily convinced of something strange and certainly wrong: Life starts all over from now."

Here is a portfolio of happy accidents that came when he strayed off path: the vernal pools he stumbled on, trillium and indigo bunting, ivory plum and scarlet tanager, beggar tick and berrycane, dogs and people, meanderings afield that Lea then whittles to concise descriptions. He brims with negative capability and would no sooner carry a GPS device on a ramble than he would a bathtub. "How far is a mile uphill? I choose to ask my calves and lungs, not some unearthly satellite."

This is elemental, aimless walking and gratifyingly prelap-

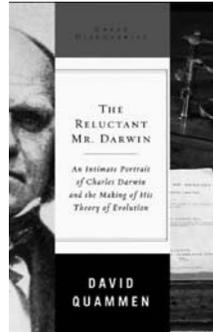


A Little Wildness: Some Notes on Rambling. By Sydney Lea. Story Line Press. \$15.00. 122 pages.



sarian, looking to close an important circuit and "make things whole, if only for a spell," an exaltation (though Lea would blanch at the word) not requiring divine intervention, but a pair of boots, at least one good eye, and serendipity.

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The Reluctant Mr. Darwin: An Intimate Portrait of Charles Darwin and the Making of His Theory of Evolution. By David Quammen. W.W. Norton. \$22.95. 192 pages.

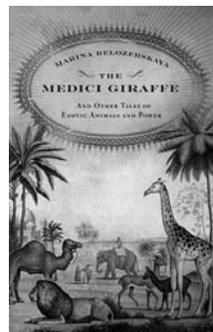
While Lea withers where he happens to wander, David Quammen---as lapidary and entertaining as he ever was---gets right to the nub in **THE RELUCTANT MR. DARWIN**: natural selection.

Natural selection, certainly one of the most seminal ideas to hit the scene in the last 500 years, up there with the Copernican revolution in lopping Man's self-assigned demigod status off at the knees; the random, efficacious, impersonal process whereby we got to be, along with slugs, slime mold, etc., what we are. Quammen tells how Darwin incubated the idea for twenty years, his "wild ideas and heretical doubts" trapped in a handful of seditious notebooks where he brainstormed on transmutation.

Darwin's dilatoriness and perfectionism nearly got him scooped, too, by Alfred Russel Wallace. No one will ever rob *The Origin of Species* of its greatness, nor can they deny that only some fast, ungentlemanly footwork, mixing skullduggery with class-entitlement, resulted in Darwin's name leading the parade when the theory went public.

Which brings us to an important sub-nub of the book: Quammen teasing out Darwin's deeply complex character: a keen observer and restless theorizer, reclusive ("he settled in village life as though it were a witness protection program") yet prideful, hugely self-absorbed but a loving father, grandfather, and husband, a near invalid and a workaholic, the creator, Wallace or no Wallace, of the theory that best explains the primary mechanism of evolutionary change. And if it remains an unproven theory, all alternative explanations, 150 years later, are either less probable or scientifically meaningless.

* * *



The Medici Giraffe: And Other Tales of Exotic Animals and Power. By Marina Belozerskaya. Little, Brown. \$24.99. 432 pages.

Indispensable to the world of science---well, the world, period---animals have also been thick on the ground in the low-rent realms of political intrigue and braggadocio. In Marina Belozerskaya's irresistible **THE MEDICI GIRAFFE**, she discovers "exotic beasts peeking from the margins of history" everywhere she looks, as diplomatic gifts and symbols of potency and worldliness.

Belozerskaya links together a chain of stories, from ancient Egypt to Nixon's White House, in the easy conversational style of the best teachers---smart, but intelligent, too---demonstrating how the great menageries served the practical needs of empire building. Ptolemy Philadelphos of Alexandria sought elephants to cure a military imbalance with

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EARTHWORKS

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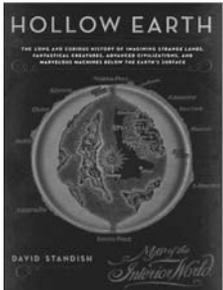
Syria; in Pompey's Rome, exotic animal combats entertained the populace and bestowed a symbolic share of the state's glory. Lorenzo de' Medici used his giraffe's neck for social climbing; Josephine cultivated the natural sciences at Malmaison for her own authority, stature, and stability, and as a hedge against Napoleon abandoning her for someone more fertile.

Understanding history requires context and Belozerskaya provides a richly layered appreciation of the political landscape through which she walks as well as a graceful hand at place painting, with Rudolf II's 1580s Prague "both enchanting and rough around the edges," with its skyline of church spires and fringe of gently sloping hills.

Animals remain charismatic agents of statecraft. Chairman Mao gave First Lady Pat Nixon two giant pandas, Shining Star and Darling Little Girl, in a gesture of renewed friendship between their countries. The Nixons reciprocated, not with flamingos or roadrunners, but with two musk oxen, Matilda and Milton. Milton the Musk Ox, for goodness sake. No wonder the cold war stayed cold.

From natural history to the middle of the Earth--

Danny Kaye got it, maybe. There is a hole at the bottom of the sea; indeed, there are two: one at the North Pole and one at the South Pole, where great swirling gyres lead to subterranean realms. All you need is to believe, as others did and do, in a hollow earth. Danny's beliefs in this regard are unrecorded. He might have been singing through his hat, for the paycheck. Like not a few others.



Hollow Earth: The Long and Curious History of Imagining Strange Lands, Fantastical Creatures, Advanced Civilizations, and Marvelous Machines below the Earth's Surface. By David Standish. Da Capo Press. 304 pages. \$24.95.

And who would deny it's not something to learn where Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, and Jules Verne found inspiration for their great works---in one case, inspiration enough to get intellectual-property-rights lawyers salivating?

Standish proves a shimmering, informed guide through the literature of hollow earth; sometimes a bit flippant---a Virgil wearing sunglasses, a Hawaiian shirt, and an occasional smirk---but displaying a genuine care and admiration for those whose creations were scientifically, socially, or literarily worthy, or at least deeply, appealingly eccentric.

Halley is the one unquestionable scientist under Standish's

scrutiny. Sir Edmund fashioned his hollow earth theory to explain variations in the magnetic poles via three concentric, subterranean spheres rotating below earth's surface. (He wasn't far from current thinking, with its crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core design, and their role in creating magnetic fields.) Halley notes that when he suggested the spheres were clean, habitable, well-lit places, "twas done decidedly for the sake of those who will be apt to ask cui bono, and with whom Arguments drawn from Final Causes prevail much." So be it: as Standish writes, "science fiction writers have been thanking him ever since."

Another true believer was John Cleves Symmes, who took the nation's 19th-century polar fixation "one toke over the line" with his holes-at-the-poles theory. He tried to convince congress to foot a voyage to the far north (they declined) and he tried to convince his fellow citizens of a hollow earth to die for with his book *Symzonia*, the first homegrown utopian fiction (they didn't buy it).

Poe liked Symmes' holes enough to appropriate them for *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym* (though Standish is inclined to see it as a send up of the mania for polar exploration and its sunny possibilities). Melville enjoyed the work of Jeremiah Reynolds, Symmes' treacherous mate on the lecture circuit. Traveling in Chile, Reynolds heard a story of a renegade whale and wrote it up, in 1839, as "Mocha Dick, or the White Whale of the Pacific." Guess who read it? And Verne was so taken with popular science writer Louis Figuier's prose, he lifted pieces wholesale for *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*. Anyway, royalties mattered here, not cracked visions.

Hollow Earth brims with plot recapitulations, conveying the color and wonder of what's inside: strong women, milque-toast men, evil creatures, awesome gizmos, magical forces, an unseemly amount of celibacy, all set against a backdrop Albert Bierstadt would have loved to paint. Sallying within was a varied crew: adventurers, professors, ne'er-do-wells. Edgar Rice Burroughs's sent Tarzan to the Earth's core in 1930, where he had a "beautiful existential moment." Superman visited, Dorothy when not in Oz, even Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, who wouldn't know an existential moment if it bit their knee.

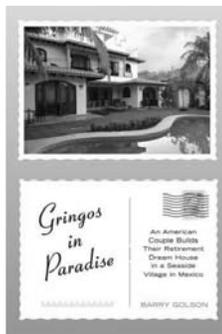
Standish lights his hair on fire in the final chapters, furiously tendering crack, vest-pocket critiques of later hollow earth books and movies, from pure drivel to one gem (Rudy Rucker's *Hollow Earth*), as they turn evermore dystopian, reflecting the alienation of urbanization and industrialization, and ultimately the dolor that attended splitting the atom.

Standish's survey is smart and closely read, with an eye skinned for playfulness. Still, remember that the deepest bore-hole (what one wag called "the world's deepest boring hole") has drilled only about ten miles deep. For believers of empirical bent, there are miles to go before hollow earth sleeps.

Lastly, an escape...

It's about as welcome as hearing the phone ring in the wee hours of the night. You're in your late fifties and you suddenly find yourself without a job. No headhunter wants your scalp, but the bill collectors soon will.

Such was Barry Golson's predicament, which he tells in *GRINGOS IN PARADISE*. He had toiled for thirty-five years in the upper echelons of publishing, then he got his walking papers. Neither he nor his wife, Thia, had pensions and their savings had experienced structural damage from paying retail for their sons' college tuitions and from the comfortable life they had become



Gringos in Paradise.
By Barry Golson.
Scribner. 336 pages.
\$26.00.

accustomed to. They were by no means destitute, but they didn't have the financial wherewithal to kick back and take early retirement either. Or did they?

Well, no. Their decision to up and move to the Pacific coast of Mexico would not free them from the need to generate some income. Anyway, they wanted to live in Mexico, not off it. They wanted to be humble participants in their chosen community, the one-time sleepy fishing village of Sayulita.

GRINGOS is a chronicle of the Golsons firmly planting their feet on Sayulita soil. It is not a fruity narrative recounting the many (and by now tedious) comedies of error that attend

moving to a foreign land; it is more leathery by half, though not without charm and descriptive power.

The Golsons moved to Mexico with the best of intentions. They would behave as good guests in their new land. They would not haggle, like the worst kind of presumptuous gringo, over the price of every purchase. That even in their diminished state, their relatively privileged circumstances demanded modesty. They would live within the law, not in defiance or exploitation of it.

Still, most of their socializing that first year would be with other members of the expatriated community. And since they wished to set up house as quickly as possible, before the well runs dry, they would have to do some fancy dancing to get

around the law that forbids non-Mexicans from buying land within fifty kilometers of a coastline. And to get all the necessary permits, okay that may require the strategic placement of a few 1000-peso notes. The best of intentions gang aft alee. On the other hand, they are generous, curious, gracious, and seemingly without a cynical bone between them.

It would have been interesting if Golson dug deeper into the indigenous displacement by this expat invasion of Sayulita. "Gentrification is in full, artificial-flower bloom," he writes, and "perched upon steep hills ringing the town, is a profusion of homes." How many of the local Mexican community live in those perches, and how do they feel about it. The Golsons sense little resentment in the air, but their own perch, the building and appointing of which is the book's pivot, cost them plenty---indeed, it takes their every dime---and they don't have an ocean view.

Getting the house built is an education, and excruciating fun, leastwise as the reader's remove. The Golsons gradually delaminate as one thing after another slows its progress, but that gives them time to provide a detailed tour of artisan workshops where they purchase furnishings. It also provides Golson, being out and about so much, a chance to display his artful hand at describing the landscape.

Once they can move in comes the bitter laugh of irony, now that the money's gone: "It is looking as if we will have to migrate back to the States for a time and somehow earn enough dollars to be able to afford to return to Mexico. How very Mexican of us." Hand it to Golson. He's not reaching for the gas pipe. He's hitting the road again, with the baby-boomer's lament, "work 'til you die," on his lips.

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IN MEMORIAM

(continued from page 1)



Photo by James W Thomas

Douglas R. McManis speaking after he received the Morse Medal from the AGS in 2001.

Doug McManis's first post-doctoral teaching position was in the Department of Geography at Eastern Michigan University. While there, he began to expand his research on the historical geography of the United States. After two years he moved to New York City, where he joined the Department of Social Studies in the Teacher's College at Columbia University. He concurrently served on the graduate faculty of Columbia University's Department of Geography. Doug was an active, engaged member of the Teacher's College faculty during his twelve years there, serving on a variety of program committees, co-directing workshop and curriculum development initiatives focused on contemporary Africa, and chairing the Department of Social Studies from 1973-1977.

Doug's Columbia years were ones of substantial scholarly productivity. He became increasingly interested in the ways in which perceptions and ideas about places influence how they develop and change. Focusing particular attention on European understandings of North America, he produced a series of studies that showed how a concern with perception could enrich our understanding of the historical geography of the continent. His most important study from this period, *European Impressions of the New England Coast, 1497-1620* (Chicago, 1972), attracted significant attention and acclaim.

Doug's formal relationship with the American Geographical Society began in 1974, when he took on the position of book review editor for the *Geographical Review*. That same year he published his first piece in the journal—a geographical record note on the Vinland Map Controversy. Thus began an involvement with the *Geographical Review* that, within four years, was to lead to his appointment as editor-in-chief. In 1978 Doug stepped down from his position at Columbia Teacher's College to join the staff of the AGS and work full time on the *Geographical Review*. He shepherded the journal for an extraordinary 17 years.

Doug saw the *Geographical Review* as one of the

crowning achievements of American geography, and he approached his job as editor with a clear sense of responsibility and care. He thought the journal should publish serious academic scholarship, but written in a fashion that was broadly accessible. Thus, writing was very important to him, and he worked hard with authors to achieve clarity and conciseness. He also recognized the importance of a journal such as the *Geographical Review* to the careers of young geographers. He was known for seeking out newer members of the profession and encouraging them to look to the *Geographical Review* as an outlet for their work. Once he was convinced that an individual had something of merit to offer, he would work determinedly to ensure that individual's work found its way into print. (The writer of this piece was a grateful beneficiary of Doug's encouragement and guidance early in his career.)

In recognition of Doug's remarkable contributions to the *Geographical Review*, the AGS Council took the exceptional step of appointing him Editor Emeritus after he stepped down in 1995. A few years later the Society awarded him the Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal for "the encouragement of geographical research." The citation that accompanied the award well captures his editorial approach. "Through an extraordinary run of 17 volumes, our honoree brought to the editorship a marvelous combination of high standards, an innate sense of the interesting, and a real sensitivity to the kind of prose that makes for effective communication. The result is a body of published work of enduring value and significance."

To the outside world, Doug McManis is primarily known for his work on the *Geographical Review*. But his importance to the AGS was broader than that. He served as Secretary of the organization from 1976-1983, and as Acting Director in 1981-1982. He was also the Acting Editor of *Focus* from 1982-1984. He sought to keep the history of the AGS alive both by overseeing the organization's archives and by publishing pieces on the editorial legacy of Gladys M. Wrigley and the role of the AGS in the mapping of Central European Nationalities. He signaled his commitment to the AGS and the *Geographical Review* by creating and funding an award in honor of Ms. Wrigley and another former GR editor (Wilma B. Fairchild). The award is given every three years to the best article in the *Geographical Review*. True to his desire to help younger scholars, the terms of the award call for preference to be given to individuals in the early stages of their careers.

After Doug retired, he stayed in New York City—taking advantage of some of the city's cultural amenities, listening to music, enjoying his books on architecture and landscape, and taking the occasional trip to Florida, England, or Ireland. He maintained close contact with select friends he made through his career, a few of whom were regular beneficiaries of his hospitality when visiting New York. Those who did not know him well could be fooled by his somewhat crusty facade. Beneath that



IN MEMORIAM

(continued from page 8)

vener, however, lay a big heart and a keen intelligence—precisely the qualities that allowed him to leave such an indelible mark on American geography’s late-twentieth-century publishing landscape. He will be greatly missed.

Council Resolution

At its meeting on October 21st, the Council of the American Geographical Society passed the following resolution:

The American Geographical Society notes with sadness the passing of Douglas R. McManis and remembers with great appreciation his contributions to the Society as long-term supporter, Secretary (1976-1983), Acting Director (1981-1982), Acting Editor of *Focus* (1982-1984), and most especially Editor of the *Geographical Review* from 1978-1995. Through his dedication, intelligence, and editorial flair, Doug McManis earned a place among the most distinguished late-twentieth-century editors of scholarly publications in geography. His notable efforts to reach out to young geographers—both as editor and as benefactor of the Wrigley-Fairchild Prize—helped to launch the careers of many geographers. The AGS owes an enduring debt of gratitude to Doug McManis for his exceptional leadership of its principal scholarly publication during a long and important period in the *Geographical Review*’s history.

GILBERT F. WHITE



Gilbert F. White in 1960

Gilbert F. White, winner of the Society’s Charles P. Daly Medal for distinguished work in geography, died at his home in Boulder, Colorado, on October 5, 2006. White believed that humans ought to adjust their lives to nature, rather than wrong-headedly, and futilely, trying to bully it into submission, a radical philosophy when he first aired it in the early 1940s. He went on to do groundbreaking work in hazards at

the University of Chicago and the University of Colorado. White was recognized by the Society as an eminent educator, innovative scholar, and concerned citizen, when he was awarded the Daly medal in 1971. The Society paid respect to “his insistence that research be justified by its pragmatic usefulness. He has set in train a major collaborative enterprise to assess the impact of natural hazards throughout the world. He continually exhorts colleagues to heed the imperative concerns of a largely hungry, homeless, or frightened world.”

Geographical Review Editor’s Statement

By
Craig E. Colten

As a graduate student, I consistently found the *Geographical Review* the most appealing journal on the library shelves. The authors exhibited an obvious enthusiasm for the places and processes that they wrote about. This outward zeal, I learned over the years, derived from close personal contact with the people, places, and environments they wrote about. By contrast, many other journals emphasized theory and diminished the rich detail that comes with extended fieldwork and close observation. The *Geographical Review* found a way to reverse the relationship without sacrificing quality scholarship. While there is a place for both approaches, I found articles in the *Geographical Review* to be far more satisfying. We will seek to showcase empirically rich and place-based work, and by doing so, we will maintain one of the distinctive and successful traits of the *Geographical Review*.

Another element of the *Geographical Review* that I always respected and attempted to capture in my work was the journal’s reach to a broad community of readers. The editorial tradition of accessible scholarship sets the journal apart and greatly expands the authors’ impact. By writing to non-specialists, including those in business and government, the *Geographical Review*’s authors have the potential to influence policy and practice through their geographical expertise. From the early twentieth century discussions about resources and cultures in foreign locations to more recent presentations on environmental policy and the dynamics of the global climate, the *Geographical Review* displays geography that is important beyond the academy. The American Geographical Society has long sought to enlist and communicate to a broadly based membership and also the academy. I am convinced that by being readable, the journal stands a better chance of exerting a far-reaching influence. And that is a worthy goal. I will also dedicate my editorship to continuing that mission.

A third element that has been a consistent strength is the journal’s truly international coverage. Geography should include a global perspective, and the *Geographical Review* has established a place for itself by maintaining distant horizons. We



EDITOR'S STATEMENT

(continued from page 9)

will be as expansive in our territorial coverage as our submissions allow. In addition, we will seek authors to write about the important, but sometimes neglected corners of the planet. A truly global perspective is particularly important in this age, and we would be remiss to back away from this excellent tradition.

A fourth trait of the *Geographical Review* that gave me confidence in the yearly years of my career was encouragement from the editors. While each issue that I read as a student was filled with work by luminaries of the field, Doug McManis took interest in my work and guided me toward the goal of an acceptable article. I hope that we can see promise in draft manuscripts, even those that might not be fully polished, and help steer emergent scholars toward successful publication.

It is truly an honor to be selected to edit the *Geographical Review*, along with my colleagues, and we will strive to uphold the quality standards established by our predecessors.



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Peter Lewis, Editor



Interning at the AGS



Kevin Peters

Photo by James W Thomas

I have interned at AGS this summer in order to understand the functions of the society better, and to expand my thinking as to what encompasses geography. While at AGS I have updated email lists, built a website for Focus, and have increased the circulation of the editorials produced by the AGS writers circle.

Born in Manhattan and raised in Brooklyn, I have lived most of my life a rather plain existence in a relatively quiet neighborhood. After graduating high school I partially moved to New Jersey in order to continue my studies at Rutgers University on the banks of the Raritan River in New Brunswick, where I am currently beginning my Senior Year. In my journey into knowledge, I frequently take walks, not knowing where I am going. Getting lost, even amongst familiar surroundings, has always proved to be a good way towards finding oneself. Through my wanderings I come up with the ideas that fuel my life's work, examining the very basis of existence, and parts of knowledge itself.

I will divide my interests and pursuits in three ways:
Geography: My research interests in geography lie in the post-modern conception of how the contemporary landscape is perceived. I am interested not only how culture affects how the landscape is viewed from a theoretical point of view, but also how present day artists apply such cultural influences. As the artistic genre of landscape has fallen into some degree of abandon, in my research, I attempt to reinvent the genre, broadening the conception of what geographers should consider as landscape. **Art:** I have been making art (mostly painting, but some sculpture) from a young age. My current artistic explorations involve experimenting with natural forms and altering their integral elements; often integrating the peripherals of one object into the peripherals of another. I often create what I like to term "natural systems," meaning environments of natural objects, surreally composed, challenging the notions of what nature is. Images of my work can be found at my website: <http://eden.rutgers.edu/~kipeters> **Education:** My ideas relating towards both art and geography cannot be isolated, therefore I feel that exchange of knowledge relating to all my interests are of utmost importance to their own development. As one of the AGS goals is the education of the public, so too, I will make it my goal to share my ideas and work.-- Kevin Peters



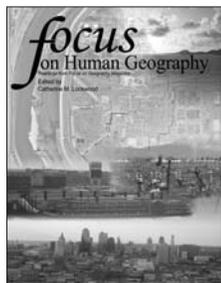
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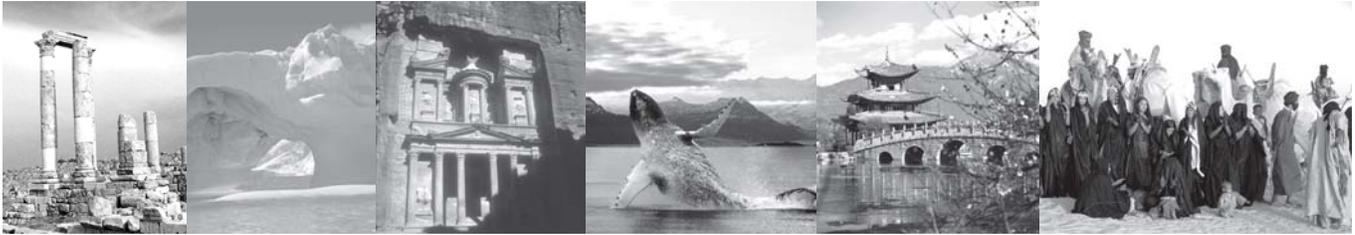
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