President's Column

Jeanne Kay Guelke
University of Waterloo

How many of you historical geographers out there have been stung by the odd comment from your colleagues that historical geography isn't “relevant”? Even if they've never said as much to you directly, the “JIG sheet” (“Jobs in Geography” section of the Association of American Geographers newsletter) pretty much implies the same thing: geomatics specialists only need apply. Our job market is not bristling with ads for historical geographers, notwithstanding the critical acclaim that many historical geography publications receive both within and beyond our disciplinary boundaries.

I personally respond to collegial slights with some reasoning that I heard years ago from another historical geographer. I was not introduced to him and so unfortunately I cannot cite him; but essentially he said, “If the past isn't relevant, then don't do history. Let's close the history departments.” This rationale generally causes dismissive “contemporary” geographers to rethink their position, because history, even if not so popular on university campuses as computer science or psychology, is generally accepted as having an important function. The discipline of history may not create a skilled workforce, but it is seen as essential to the task of educating citizens.

The public, moreover, often has a real affection for the past. But as historians R. Rosenzweig and D. Thelen note in The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998) even professional academic historians normally overlook the public's personal interests in history. In the U.S., family history (genealogy), Civil War or “buck-skinning” re-enactments, collecting antiques, visiting historical museums, preserving historically significant architecture, and viewing old photographs are tremendously popular activities. Among African-American tourists overseas, visiting Africa is especially meaningful, thanks in part to Alex Haley's influential book and television series, Roots. Rosenzweig and Thelen found that the past was particularly evocative for the many subjects they interviewed when it had a personal component to it: something as individual as great-grandma's quilt, or something as complex as understanding one's ancestor's involvement in American slavery. The number of occasional or committed amateur history...
buffs is huge, probably more so than numbers of citizens familiar with geography's achievements in the natural science or technical branches of our discipline.

Can we tap into this popular love of the past? I believe so, for many aficionados of the past are students attending the very geography courses we teach, even when our courses are not specifically labeled “historical geography”. I teach a regional course on the United States to Canadian students, for example, and constantly draw upon historical explanations of contemporary issues. Crucial political, environmental, and economic events occur “on location”, and they do so for reasons that historical geographers are particularly qualified to address in the range of courses we offer. Some historical geographers are active in public history activities, such as historic preservation. (Any readers out there into re-enacting the War of 1812 or the fur trade?)

How do you respond to the challenge of enhancing the visibility and status of historical geography? Please let me, the editors, and readers of Past Place hear from you.

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Notes from the Editors

Blake Harrison
Yale University

A Few Thoughts on Baseball and Race in New Haven, Ct.

The leaves have finally lost the last of their fall colors outside my window as I write, and New Englanders are still celebrating the Boston Red Sox’s historic playoff victory over their arch-rivals, the New York Yankees, followed by a quick victory in the World Series. Actually, I suppose I should say that most New Englanders are celebrating. New Haven, where I live, is a deeply divided town between those who wear Yankees caps and those who wear Red Sox caps. Although New Haven is technically located in “New England,” its close proximity to New York City has given it a sort of conflicted identity relative to baseball: not 100% Red Sox country and not 100% Yankees country, people in New Haven have to agree to disagree, especially in a tense (and joyous) baseball season like this one.

Baseball is one thing, of course, and the divisions it produces between neighbors don’t typically extend beyond boisterous shouting matches out on the streets below. But New Haven is a town divided by more than sports alone. It is a town deeply divided along racial lines as well—a town where walking a few blocks in any direction can leave you feeling either terribly out of place or comfortably at home. New Haven is a town where interstate highways have isolated and nearly sealed off entire neighborhoods, making them blank spots on most residents’ mental maps. Chances are most people in my neighborhood don’t know how to get to the section of town called Fair Haven, even though it is only a few blocks away. There’s simply no good way in or out, and for many residents, there’s simply no reason to go there.

How did this happen? What historical processes contributed to the powerful racial divisions that divide a place like this? What are the consequences that flow from such divisions? What can geographers with an interest in race contribute to how we understand both historical and contemporary relationships between race and space?

Questions such as these lie at the heart of the responses, suggestions, and criticisms we received from our respondents to this issue’s Historical Geography Forum. We would like to thank Joe Darden, David Delaney, and Zoltán Grossman for taking the time to comment on race as a topic of discussion (or, in some cases, as an all-too absent topic of discussion) in historical-geographic study. We hope that readers find their comments useful.

Now that the baseball season is over, divisions between Yankees and Red Sox fans are simmering down. But the deeper racial and ethnic divides that mark a town like New Haven are likely to persist, inscribed as they are in the historical-geographic fabric of the landscape itself. Perhaps by understanding the evolution of those landscapes we can find ways to address the deeper problems that plague a town like this.

As always, we welcome your thoughts on anything you read in Past Place.

Artimus Keiffer
Wittenberg University

Recently, I had an opportunity to visit Scotland for a post-conference workshop at the IGU on “Employability in Geography.” I had not been to Europe for a few years, and never to Scotland, so I
went a few days early figuring I’d rent a car and drive around the coastal fringe and follow the “malt whiskey trail.” I looked at a map and determined it was doable, given the small dot that Scotland occupies on the isle known as the United Kingdom. I knew I was in for a treat, some good historical geography, and some good discussion on what we call jobs in Geography.

I found out that I must be naïve, or just plain stupid, or a typical American (or maybe all three). I consider myself well-traveled and versed in culture and history. First off, you cannot drive around Scotland in a couple of days. It is a big area, the roads are curvy and narrow, and there is just too much to see. Second, Historical Geography is pretty much gone from the geography curriculum in higher education. You don’t have to teach about it, you live in on a daily basis; whether you recognize or care about it, you have no choice. Lastly, geographers in Europe have the same problems getting jobs that relate to their discipline as those in North America.

I enjoyed my trip to Glasgow, I enjoyed the ambiance of history, and I enjoyed the friendliness of the people who live there. It is on my list of places I must get back to, which is now longer than the places I have to go. I feel the phrase “Americans teach much about history because we have so little, and very little about geography because we have so much space” is very true. Ask anyone that has visited or lived in Europe. It is a treat to walk down the street and enjoy the term we use: sequent occupancy.

Historical Geography is alive in Scotland because it is there: you can see it, taste it, feel it, see it. It is floundering here because we are trying to teach technological tools to get jobs. The focus is no longer on the message but the messenger, not to gain knowledge but to use data bases, and very little emphasis on the “art” of Geography because today we can mass-produce what we need.

I hope we can change this trend. I hope we can get back to humanness of our discipline. As much as we know it is hard to get a job as a Historical Geographer today, it will not get any easier; recent studies and surveys prove this point. Perhaps one day we will be like Europe: 3000 years old and embellished with layers of history that must be identified and cataloged. But that is about 2600 years away!!

The “Historical Geography Forum” is a regular feature of Past Place in which the Editors ask scholars to respond to a shared question. We reprint the responses as they come in to us.

For this issue, we asked respondents to comment on the following question:

“A number of recent works by historical geographers position race at the center of their analyses. In a recent discussion of the Jim Crow South, for instance, Steven Hoelscher has asserted broadly that ‘the process of racialization [is] an essential aspect of how everyday geographies are made, understood, and challenged.’ Such claims offer welcome invitations for the further examination of race within historical-geographic study. In your opinion, what are one or two unique contributions that geographers can make to the larger historical study of race? How successful, if you wish, have historical geographers been in their discussions of race, and what can they do to keep the historical-geographic study of race moving ahead?”

Note


Responses

Joe T. Darden
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“Geographers and the Historical Study of Race”

In this brief essay, I argue that in the discourse on race, historical geographers, as a group, have failed miserably. They have left an intellectual vacuum that has been filled by other social scientists. If any change is to occur in the near future, major action must be taken to racially diversify the discipline.

Since one of the core areas of geography is spatial analysis or the spatial perspective, the major contribution geographers might some day make to the larger historical study of race is to provide a more in-depth understanding of how and why the practices and policies of creating inequality of places based on race have been used continuously throughout history as a tool to separate the white majority population
from racial minorities. This separation has prevented racial minorities from having equal access to quality neighborhoods, quality schools, quality jobs, quality health care and other amenities. Historical geographers have missed many opportunities to take the lead in revealing the truth about the creation and maintenance of unequal places based on race, and its social and economic consequences. Using the spatial perspective and spatial analysis, historical geographers should have contributed more to the discourse involving the use of white-imposed spatial tools such as racial zoning and restrictive covenants to segregate racial minorities in decaying neighborhoods. More studies should have been conducted on the racial consequences of continuous discrimination in housing and racial steering of minorities to unequal neighborhoods. These are a few examples. There are many more racial issues that are spatial in nature where the voice of the geographer has been largely silent.

It is my view that geographers might “some day” make such a contribution to the study of race. However, given the discipline’s lack of racial diversity and the fact that its researchers are, overwhelmingly, white and male, I do not believe that many unique contributions can be made to an understanding of the larger historical study of race by geographers at the present time. Although not impossible, it will be extremely difficult for such contributions to emerge in such a homogeneous, intellectual climate. For example, a unique contribution would require an understanding of how and why the ideology of white supremacy is maintained from one generation to the next through an historical socialization process that links historical experiences of racial composition of places, neighborhoods, values, social and spatial patterns and, above all, inequality between whites and racial minorities with whites residing in higher quality places. This white supremacy ideology results in a spatially-, racially-, and socially-stratified society based on the false premise of the moral and cultural superiority of white people. An understanding of this phenomenon and a willingness to discuss it is more likely to occur in a more racially diverse discipline.

In conclusion, historical geographers have failed miserably as researchers in the area of racial discourse. They have not taken the lead in providing intellectual insights into how and why spatial tools have been used to create and maintain racial inequality. Most have failed to examine the historical and contemporary spatial relationship between the ideology of white supremacy, racial discrimination, residential segregation, ghetto formation, concentrated poverty, the resultant spatial variations in social and economic consequences and the policy implications of metropolitan development based on racial apartheid. Given the present lack of racial diversity in the discipline, there is little reason to expect any changes in the direction of research in the near future. If geographers want to add to the historical geographic study of race and keep it moving ahead, an increase in the number of racial minorities in the discipline is an absolute necessity.

David Delaney
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I am uncertain whether geographers as such make a unique contribution to the historical understanding of race, racism and the processes of racialization. If ‘geography’ continues to signify a cluster of themes such as ‘space,’ ‘place,’ and ‘landscape,’ and if the practice entails a more acute sensitivity to these than is often the case, then many historians, sociologists and others seem to be up to the task. In Race, Place and the Law I relied heavily on the geographic sensibilities of historians such as Leon Litwack (Been in the Storm So Long), William Cohen (At Freedom’s Edge), and many others. That said, given what ‘race’ means and how racialization works, it is indisputable that a heightened geographical sensibility is indispensable to an adequate historical examination of the topic.

The cluster of themes that traditionally define geographical inquiry are no less central to understanding race than is history itself. In his wonderful paper, “Making Place, Making Race,” Steve Hoelscher asserts that “the process of racialization [is] an essential aspect of how everyday geographies are made, understood, and challenged.” It is precisely in their everydayness that race and racism are palpably present in the world. To the extent that scholarly treatments of the historical dynamics of race are informed by relatively rich and nuanced conceptions of place, emplacement, and displacement as more than static markers of location and dislocation, then their success in enriching understanding is enhanced.
Bobby Wilson’s *Race and Place in Birmingham* is exemplary in this regard. This book also demonstrates how a keen awareness of the spatial unevenness of political-economic forces can enrich historical analysis.

Another important contribution follows from the increased awareness of geographical consciousness or the geographical imagination, and its role in identity formation. Steve Hoelscher’s paper, Kay Anderson’s work on Vancouver’s Chinatown, and Alan Pred’s examination of racism in Sweden each demonstrates the viability of this theme. In the United States the workings of racially inflected geographical imaginaries are perhaps clearest in connection with regions or ‘sections’ but they also have significant local permutations. Forms and expressions of geographic consciousness are also important in connection with the making and unmaking of generic racialized places such as ‘the rez’, ‘the inner city,’ ‘the border’ and of their specific instantiations.

Perhaps one line of inquiry that could be followed more forcefully is the historical-geographic study of *comparative* racializations. Geography, like most social disciplines, has a pronounced domestic bias. This is true not only in the United States but also in Australia, Britain, Canada, South Africa and other countries. Historical geographers would do well to produce studies on the model of Cell’s *The Highest Stage of White Supremacy* in order to trace commonalities and contingencies of the situated practices of racialization and resistance. It would also be interesting for historical geographers to examine more fully the process of racialization in situations not centered on white/other dynamics. Clair Jean Kim’s *Bitter Fruit: The Politics of Black-Korean Conflict in New York City* could serve as a model here.

In the past generation, geographers have done a remarkable job demonstrating how power relations of different kinds work their ways in the world through space and spatialization. Critical historical geographies of race have been an important strand of this development as have feminist, Marxist, queer, youth geographies, and other critical tendencies. Given the success of interdisciplinarity (and, perhaps, *intersub*disciplinarity), one could imagine work being done on ‘the history of race’ that was more responsive to the spatial complexities of intersectionality. The racialization-spatialization dynamic is neither gender neutral nor unaffected by considerations of class and age. Attending to these complications can yield richer understandings of the ways in which power is implicated in the historical-geographic processes of world-making.

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“Fitting the ‘Rez’ into ‘Race’”

The process of racialization constructs distinctions between “races,” but also attempts to simplify and homogenize identity within each “racial” category. The case of Native Americans demonstrates the pitfalls of racial categorization, or fitting distinct place-based ethnicities into a single racial group. Racialization reduces the cultural and territorial identities of hundreds of Native nations to a singular and placeless identity of American Indians. Historical geographers have an opportunity to bring a unique perspective to this process of racialization and the place and identity constructs that follow.

Because of their immense tribal diversity, Native peoples tend not to analyze or categorize themselves in the neat terms of “race.” They recognize white domination as not merely “racism,” but as a historic project to sever their tie to a place, to their tribal homeland. (A popular t-shirt at powwows last summer depicted a group of warriors over the caption “Homeland Security: Fighting Terrorism Since 1492.”)

Many U.S. scholars view American Indians as merely the smallest and least significant “minority” group, who live on isolated reservations and do not affect national politics or the labor market to nearly the same degree as other “minorities.” The treatment of American Indians as merely a demographic afterthought ignores the role that Native nations have played in U.S. history, and the continued existence of their cultures and territorial rights within the boundaries of the United States. Historical geographic perspectives could shed important light on this relationship between territory and the unique identities of Native peoples.

The racialized concept of “American Indians” was largely constructed by federal policies toward Native nations. The Urban Relocation policy of the 1950-1960s, in particular, strengthened a “pan-Indian” identity among members of different tribes who...
moved to the cities and overcame tribal localism. A collective supratribal image of Native Americans was created in the U.S.—partly by white racial domination, and partly by a self-defensive reaction to that domination (such as the growth of intertribal powwows). Yet most tribal members tend to prefer their distinct “national” identities, which have themselves been constructed by colonial relations, tribal self-definition, and the “selective revitalization” of tribal traditions and structures.¹

Historical geographers can aid the understanding of Native history in the context of the study of nations and nationalism, rather than solely isolating Native history within the study of race and racism. A key role of geographers is to highlight the territorial dimensions of Native political sovereignty and cultural ties to the homeland. Furthermore, historical geography can play a key role in unraveling the transitions and connections between “Manifest Destiny” (resulting in the internal colonization of Native peoples) and overseas imperialism in overseas colonies such as the Philippines (where U.S. troops called the Filipinos “indios”).²

Debates over nations and nationalism have until recently focused on the development of European nations.³ Yet European notions of nationhood are notoriously difficult to apply to indigenous peoples—particularly those that employ instrumentalist explanations for the emergence of nations. Without a peasantry, bourgeoisie, intelligentsia, industrialization or strong class stratification, Native peoples developed different paths to nationhood than European peoples. Any historical-geographic analysis of native peoples cannot center on what made “peasants into Frenchmen,” but rather can examine what made “Oglalas into Lakotas”—the processes that coalesced diverse peoples or bands into tribal “nations.”⁴ The activation of Native American nationalism cannot be explained by labor market roles or a goal of equal political representation, but rather by the protection of cultural and territorial boundaries.

Native American historical geography should not only examine the status of a unitary racial group, but the conquest and colonization of diverse ethnonational groups. The histories of Native peoples not only deal with decisions of the U.S. government, but with the origins of the United States itself. Historical geography has a chance not only to uncover government policies toward the Native “minority,” but the clouded acquisition of the land base on which those policies take place.

Native peoples not only look at the role of U.S. political and economic systems in their everyday lives, but at the cultural underpinnings of these systems within European civilization. The implications of Native historical geography go beyond the indigenous peoples of North America, because they can open a Pandora’s Box about the society that colonized those peoples.

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**Student Research Award Reports**

Each year, the HGSG asks the recipients of its annual research awards to submit a report to *Past Place* detailing how they spent their research allowances and describing a few of the insights or findings that the allowances helped make possible.

This year, we are pleased to publish reports from Rebecca Dobbs and Patrick Vitale, winners of our 2003 awards at the Ph.D. and Master’s levels, respectively. Patrick and Rebecca would be happy to hear any comments or advice that readers might wish to offer.

Patrick Vitale
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In the decades immediately following World War II, McKeesport served not only as the center of a massive—albeit declining—industrial district, but also as a key node for working-class suburbanization in the
Pittsburgh metropolitan region. In the 1950s and 1960s, as both working and middle-class residents moved outward to suburban subdivisions on the outskirts of the city, the population of central city McKeesport declined drastically. These suburbanites created new ways of life in suburbia, which were often a melding of old and new, and of working and middle-class life. Using archival data and oral histories, my research aims to understand how working-class suburbanites carved out new identities in the post-war era, the degree to which they changed their own ways of life, and what it means to be suburban and working class.

Over the summer I used the generous support of the HGSG to fund (in part) my transportation to and lodging in Pittsburgh, where I conducted research in a variety of archives. Key among these were the Archives of Industrial Society at the University of Pittsburgh, the Archives of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the McKeesport Heritage Center. Although I have not evaluated my research materials fully, one of the more compelling sources appears to be the complete 1956 employment records of U.S.S. National Tube Works, the primary steel mill in the McKeesport area. This employment data included workers’ place of birth, job-classification code, present and past addresses, and much more. I systematically sampled more than five hundred of these records and hope to gain an understanding of the prevalence and characteristics of working-class suburbanization around McKeesport. Other exciting archival sources included the newsletters of a women’s association in a suburban subdivision, council minutes for the suburb of Port Vue, and the complete run of the McKeesport Daily News.

In addition to archival research, I also collected oral histories from fifteen people in the McKeesport area. These interviews were unstructured and designed to give a sense of what motivated working-class people to suburbanize and how their lives changed when they moved to suburban areas. What became clear is that working-class suburbanites’ dreams of homeownership were fostered by the overcrowded condition of post-war housing and the increased affordability of home ownership. The working-class suburbanites that I spoke with produced ambiguous portraits of suburbia. On one hand, home ownership in suburbia provided new opportunities for working-class suburbanites, but on the other, it placed new constraints on how they lived their lives. What emerged from each of these interviews is a sense of the complexity of suburbanization’s impact on working-class life in McKeesport. I look forward to delving more thoroughly into the insights provided by these interviews and in presenting the results of my research to historical geographers and to McKeesporters.

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“North Carolina’s Piedmont Urban Crescent and the Indian Trading Path”

My research addresses the Piedmont Urban Crescent, a polycentric urban region in North Carolina. In particular, I am trying to get at the roots of this settlement system. The lay public attributes the pattern to a pre-contact transportation route, the Indian Trading Path. By contrast, scholars have tended either to oversimplify or to deny this relationship, without offering evidence to support either view. The small body of literature that has dealt with the development of settlements and settlement systems in the colonial Southern backcountry has either failed to consider pre-European routes as a contributing factor, or has made untested assumptions about the contributions of such routes. The process by which settlements actually formed near such routes has remained unexamined, as has the question of whether the routes actually made a difference to resultant settlement patterns. My primary research question is precisely that: whether and how the Indian Trading Path influenced the pattern of settlement in the Piedmont.

To answer this question I am using a variety of archival sources, but focusing on the documents produced for settlers’ land claims during the second half of the 18th century. At the time that I applied for this award, I had been making paper printouts of the surveys from microfilm at the North Carolina State Archives. As I began mapping some of these tracts, however, it became apparent that I was going to need clues from related documents, not just the surveys, and that this would quickly mean an impractical quantity of paper copies. Thanks to the generous support of the HGSG, I was able instead to purchase copies of the relevant films and to buy a small, used microfilm reader for use at home. This has enabled me to enter data directly into my computer from the
microfilm. I was also able to acquire a 300 dpi scan of
the 1770 Collet map of North Carolina from the
Library of Congress, which I am using for reference
and which I will eventually incorporate into my
historical GIS work on this project.

This is very much still a work in progress, but thanks
to the HGSG it is a work progressing more efficiently
than it otherwise would have.

Notes
(1) Hendricks, Christopher Edwin. 1991. Town
Development in the Colonial Backcountry – Virginia and
and Mary.

“How do Settlement Systems Evolve? The Virginia
Backcountry during the Eighteenth Century.” Journal
of Historical Geography 21:2, 123-147.

New Books of Interest
We are pleased to draw attention to the following
recent publications. The short write-ups following each
title are publisher’s announcements, not reviews by the
Editors.

Gregory, I.N. A Place in History: A Guide to Using
GIS in Historical Research. Oxford: Oxbow

Maps, censuses and other sources of geographic
and demographic information are common reference tools for historians, but integrated computer
hardware and software systems designed for the
preparation, presentation, and interpretation of such
geographic and spatially-referenced data are rarely
intended for use outside the Earth Sciences. This
Guide to Good Practice is written for historians who
want to use computerized Geographical Information
Systems (GIS) as part of their research. It defines GIS
and outlines how it can be used in historical research,
describes how to create and get data into a GIS
database, explains how GIS can be used for simple
mapping and more advanced forms of visualization,
and discusses the various ways to analyze data within
GIS. It includes case studies from a variety of historical
projects that have used GIS and an extensive reading
list of GIS texts relevant to historians. No prior
knowledge of GIS has been assumed.

Higham, Carol, Robert Thacker, eds. One West, Two
Myths. Calgary: University of Calgary Press,
2004.

What comes to mind when we think of the Old
West? Often, our conceptions are accompanied
by as much mythology and mystique as fact or truth.
What are the differences in how the Canadian and
American Wests are perceived? Did they develop
differently or are they just perceived differently? How
do our conceptions influence our perceptions? This
reader explores the problems, importance and results
of comparing the Canadian and American Wests,
critically examining how we conceptualize the history
and development of the West and how that influences
our perceptions. This volume will provide an excellent
introduction to this burgeoning area of study as it
endeavors to engage the imaginations of those who are
new to the subject.

Leff, David, K. The Last Undiscovered Place.
Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press,
2004.

Want an alternative to life on “Paradise Drive?”
Read David Leff’s The Last Undiscovered Place,
and find a new and inspiring way of seeing your
environment. Set in Collinsville, Connecticut, Leff’s
book argues that human beings are deeply affected by
their experience of landscape, and that local interaction
matters.

Lounsbury, Carl. The Courthouses of Early Virginia:
An Architectural History. Charlottesville,

Court day in early Virginia transformed crossroads
towns into forums for citizens of all social classes
to transact a variety of businesses, from legal cases
heard before the county magistrates to horse races,
ballgames, and the sale and barter of produce,
clothing, food, and drink. As marketplace, playing
field, social center, and administrative and judicial
county seat, the courthouse grounds gave rise to an
array of public and private buildings. The Courthouses
of Early Virginia is the first comprehensive history of
the public buildings that formed the nucleus of this
space and the important private buildings that grew
up around them.

Geoscience Publications, the publishing arm of the LSU Department of Geography & Anthropology, is pleased to announce the publication of Volume 37 of *Geoscience and Man*. This volume, edited by Kent Mathewson and Martin Kenzer, is a long awaited collection of papers on Carl Sauer. *Culture, Land, and Legacy: Perspectives on Carl O. Sauer and Berkeley School Geography* was originally planned in the wake of Sauer’s birth centennial in 1989. The collection moved slowly toward publication over the intervening period. It is now finally available!

The contributors are: George F. Carter; William M. Denevan; D. Bruce Dickson; Carl L. Johannessen; Martin S. Kenzer; Fred B. Kniffen; Arthur J. Krim; W. George Lovell; Fred Lukermann; Geoffrey Martin; Kent Mathewson; Joseph A. May; James J. Parsons; Richard Peet; Mischa Penn; Edward T. Price; William W. Speth; Thomas T. Veblen; Michael Williams.

Most previous *Geoscience and Man* volumes of interest to historical geographers are still available. Please visit the Geoscience Publications webpage (http://www.ga.lsu.edu.geoman.html) for prices and more information.

The titles include:

New *Qing Imperial History* uses the Manchu summer capital of Chengde and associated architecture, art, and ritual activity as the focus for an exploration of the importance of Inner Asia and Tibet to the Qing empire (1636-1911). The contributors argue that the Qing was not simply another Chinese dynasty, but was deeply engaged in Inner Asia not only militarily, but culturally, politically and ideologically. Emphasizing the diverse range of peoples in the Qing empire, this book analyzes the importance to Chinese history of Manchu relations with Tibetan prelates, Mongolian chieftains, and the Turkic elites of Xinjiang. In offering a new appreciation of a culturally and politically complex period, the authors discuss the nature and representation of emperorship, especially under Qianlong (r. 1736-1795), and examine the role of ritual in relations with Inner Asia, including the vaunted (but overrated) tribute system.


An obscure undertaking in its own time, the Lewis and Clark expedition has grown in the American imagination, acquiring an almost mythic stature. Arriving as the country commemorates the expedition’s bicentennial, *Across the Continent* is not an exercise in demythologizing; rather, it is an examination of the explorers' world and the complicated ways in which it relates to our own. The essays collected here look at the global geopolitics that provided the context for the expedition and at the interest in science, shared by Jefferson, that not only grew from the expedition but, to an extent, justified its undertaking.


What do place, art, and self have in common? To what extent do place and art define who we are?” In *Place, Art, and Self*, the renowned humanistic geographer Yi-Fu Tuan tackles this large question in a small, accessible, beautifully illustrated book. Through memoir and the insights gained from a peripatetic life as an international scholar, Tuan explores the idea of attachment through place and art and the role of attachment in shaping, defining, and expanding the self.


American Country Life chronicles both rural living in the 20th century and an organization that championed the interests of rural people for many of those years. It offers lessons about changing values, appraisals and uses of rural space, and organizational development and survival. The American Country Life Association was the direct descendant of Theodore Roosevelt's historic Country Life Commission....The ACLA held that rural meant more than agriculture. Its leaders and adherents were more concerned with farmers than farms, rural people than rural industries. This “people” orientation fostered ACLA's community view of rural development and predated much current thinking about well being in the countryside.

Journal Articles of Interest

Because historical geographers tend to publish in a wide range of journals, readers have asked if we might reprint citations for articles published by HGSG members in journals outside of those that most of us track on a regular basis. Readers sent the following citations for inclusion in this issue.


A special edition of the journal *History and Computing* volume 13:1 (2001, published in 2003) has been devoted to the use of Geographical Information Systems in historical research. It includes the following articles:


De Moor M. and Wiedemann T. "Reconstructing territorial units and hierarchies: a Belgian example," 71-98.

**A Note on HGSG-Sponsored Sessions, AAG 2005**

The HGSG will be sponsoring a number of sessions at the upcoming AAG meeting in Denver. In the interest of conserving space in the newsletter, we have posted the list of sponsored sessions as of November 2004 on the HGSG website. Please visit the site for more info: http://www.geog.okstate.edu/hgsg/hgsg.htm

**Announcements**

**HGSG Student Research Awards, 2005**

**Call for Proposals**

Student members of the Historical Geography Specialty Group are invited to submit proposals for the HGSG Student Research Awards. The specialty group will grant two awards in 2005. The award amounts will be $400 for research at the Ph.D. level, and $200 for research at the Master’s level.

Students seeking funds to underwrite thesis or dissertation research may submit a two-page summary of their proposed research on a topic in historical geography. The statement should spell out the research question and how the field/archival work will benefit the completion of the project and specify the collection or field research site. The award may be used to cover travel and related research expenses. In addition to the two-page summary applicants must include a short budget of estimated expenses. In addition, the student’s major advisor must submit a supporting letter to the committee’s Chair to verify that the student is making progress toward conducting the research.

A two-page report on the project, to be published in Past Place, will be required upon completion of the funded portion of the project. Please submit your two-page proposal with budget via e-mail to each member of the HGSG Student Research Awards committee by February 1, 2005.

Jeffrey Smith (Chair)
jjsmith7@ksu.edu
Douglas Hurt
dhurt@csufresno.edu
David Robertson
robertsd@geneseo.edu

**HGSG Student Paper Awards, 2005**

**Call for Submissions**

As in past years, three awards will be available for students presenting papers at professional meetings: the Ralph Brown Award for a paper written by a Master’s-level student; the Andrew Hill Clark Award for a paper written by a Doctoral-level student; the Applied Historical Geography Award for a paper of an applied nature.

Eligibility for the first two awards is open to any graduate student who has presented, or will present, a paper at any professional meeting beginning the day after the 2004 AAG Annual Meeting, and ending on the last day of the 2005 Annual AAG meeting. Students wishing to participate in these two awards should send electronic copies of a paper of no more than 11 double-spaced pages, plus notes, figures, etc., to each of the three members of the Committee identified below.

Students wishing to enter the Applied competition should also send copies of a project description of no more than 11 double-spaced pages plus supporting materials (photos, site plans, etc.) to the same three committee members. Again electronic copies are required.

Each award carries with it a $250 first prize. Second prizes of lesser amounts may be awarded at the
discretion of the judges. Please note: if the paper you wish to enter for the Ralph Brown award is based on research conducted while you were a master’s student, you are eligible to enter this competition, even if you are now a Ph.D. student. In evaluating the papers, preference will be given to those based on primary sources of information, rather than literature reviews. Please indicate in a cover letter which award you are applying for, and make sure you include your full mailing address, as well as your e-mail address.

Deadline for submissions is March 1, 2005. Prizes will be announced at the 2005 HGSG business meeting at the Denver AAG meeting.

Taylor E. Mack (Chair)  
tmack@ra.msstate.edu

Please note: Prizes are limited to Historical Geography Specialty Group members. Students can become members by paying their dues to the specialty group ($1/year) when they join the AAG. The papers must be on a topic in historical geography.

Historical Geography Seeks Research Articles for its 2006 Issue

Historical Geography is a fully peer-reviewed annual journal that contains articles on topics within the broadly defined arena of historical geography. Each issue contains a set of research articles. It is research article manuscripts that we currently are soliciting. In addition to the independently submitted research articles, each issue contains a set of related articles secured by a guest editor. The journal also includes an extensive book review section.


For information for authors, past tables of contents, and subscription forms, please visit our web site under Geoscience Publications at www.ga.lsu.edu.

You may submit manuscripts to either of the co-editors, Dydia DeLyser or Craig Colten, at Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Inquiries are welcome by email: dydia@lsu.edu or ccolten@lsu.edu.

Eastern Historical Geography Conference  
Battle Harbour, Labrador, June 2005

The Canadian-American Center at the University of Maine will be hosting an EHGA meeting in the Strait of Belle Isle area of Newfoundland and Labrador in June 2005. The conference will begin and end in St. Anthony, Newfoundland. The first two days of the conference will consist of field trips. On the first day, we will visit the Grenfell Mission museum and house in St. Anthony, the Norse settlement at L’Anse-aux-Meadows (UN World Heritage Site), and Old Ferrolle (Plum Point). The second day will consist of crossing the Strait of Belle Isle to Labrador and visiting the old French fishing settlement at Blanc Sablon, the Basque whaling settlement at Red Bay, and taking a boat from Mary’s Harbour to the offshore island of Battle Harbour. The paper sessions will be held over two days at Battle Harbour, the best-preserved fishing station in Newfoundland and Labrador. The return trip will take a full day via Blanc Sablon to St. Anthony.

The conference theme will be the Historical Geography of the Atlantic World, with a particular focus on Canada and the Atlantic World. Several sessions on these themes are planned. Papers on other topics will also be considered. Papers will be given in the atmospheric second floor room of the Battle Harbour general store. Given the limited accommodation at Battle Harbour, the number of participants will be restricted to 40 and the number of paper presentations to approximately 15. Details of registration, accommodation, and travel will be posted in the coming months at the Canadian-American Center’s website http://www.umaine.edu/canam/

The Strait of Belle Isle region is of extraordinary historical interest. It includes the only authenticated Norse site in North America; sixteenth-century fishing and whaling settlements at Blanc Sablon, Forteau, and Red Bay; the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century fishing station at Battle Harbour; and the early twentieth-century Grenfell Mission. All these sites are set in a forbidding glaciated landscape, Jacques Cartier’s "land that God gave to Cain." Icebergs and whales are present in the Strait in late June. The daylight is long and the bugs have yet to come out. All in all, an EHGA meeting along the shores of the Strait of Belle Isle promises to be a memorable experience.
For further information and submission of paper proposals, please contact Stephen Hornsby (Hornsby@maine.edu). Information on Battle Harbour is available at http://www.battleharbour.com/

New Editorial Post for David Robinson and a Call for Papers

David Robinson of Syracuse University and the HGSG’s former Chair has been appointed editor of the Journal of Latin American Geography. David would like to remind readers that historical geographic articles will be especially welcomed at the journal.

Request for Information on “Sundown Towns”

James Loewen, author of Lies My Teacher Told Me, is finishing a book on “Sundown Towns”, all-white towns that were all-white in purpose. These towns are found across the country, although rarely in the “traditional South.” Loewen has identified 440 in Illinois alone. If you know of a town that had the reputation of keeping out African Americans (or sometimes Jews, Chinese Americans, or other groups), please email details to Jim at the email below.

Thank you.

James W. Loewen
jloewen@zoo.uvm.edu

Call for Contributions from the American Association for History and Computing

Dear Colleagues,

We are presently at work on the next issue of the History Highway: A Guide to Internet Resources, tentatively titled The 21st Century History Highway, which will be released in January 2006 at the AHA annual meeting in Philadelphia. The first edition of the History Highway, which was a History Book of the Month Club Selection, was compiled by a team of four scholars. Subsequent editions, which also have been History Book of the Month Club Selections, were edited by Dennis Trinkle and Scott Merriman. The goal of the work is to provide a selective guide to those sites on the Internet that are most suitable for teaching, scholarship, and student use. The work is also aimed at directing interested general readers to quality historical information on the Internet. For this edition, we have again decided to solicit contributions from area experts.

The deadline for contributions will be February 15, 2005. If you are interested in contributing to this volume, please contact us for additional information.

Dennis A. Trinkle and Scott A. Merriman
Editors, The 21st Century History Highway
samerr0@uky.edu

Job Posting for Architectural Historian

ASC Group, Inc., has an opening in our Columbus, Cleveland, or northern Kentucky office for a Supervising Architectural Historian. Responsibilities include supervising one or more assistants in completing architectural historical field surveys and researching, documenting, analyzing, and interpreting buildings, structures, and historical sites with respect to the National Register of Historic Places’ Criteria for Evaluation, assessing the effects of projects on historic properties, and preparing technical reports documenting determinations and findings.

The ideal candidate will have a Master's degree in Architectural History or closely related field, plus at least one year of full time professional experience in architectural history or cultural resource management and at least six months of architectural history field experience in an assistant supervisory role; or a Bachelor's degree and three years of experience in cultural resource management. Excellent field, analytical, communication, and writing skills are mandatory, as is experience in working with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. We offer competitive salary with benefits including health insurance, dental insurance and 401 (k).

For consideration, forward resume with cover letter to:
JoEllen Petty, ASC Group, Inc.
4620 Indianola Ave.
Columbus, OH 43214
Or: e-mail questions to, jpetty@ascgroup.net

The Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) Biennial Awards Competition: First Call

SACRPH, an interdisciplinary society of historians, other scholars, and planning practitioners, announces
its biennial awards competition. The awards will be announced at SACRPH’s National Conference on Planning History, to be held in Miami, October 20-23, 2005. For more information on the conference and the organization, visit our website: http://www.urban.uiuc.edu/sacrph/index.html

1. Publication Prizes (for work published between August 2003 and July 2005; submissions due to prize committee members between now and July 15, 2005):

**The Lewis Mumford Prize ($500)**
For the best book on American city and regional planning history. Send copies to: Margaret Crawford (chair), Graduate School of Design, 323a Gund Hall, 48 Quincy Street, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138; John Bauman, Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine, 49 Exeter St., PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104; Andrew Hurley, Department of History, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121

**The Catherine Bauer Wurster Prize ($500)**
For the best scholarly article in the field. Send copies to: Ann Forsyth (chair), Director, Design Center for American Urban Landscape, 1 Rapson Hall, 89 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0109; Edward Muller, Department of History, 3S36 Posvar Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260; William H. Hudnut, Urban Land Institute, 1025 Thomas Jefferson St., NW, Ste. 500 West, Washington, DC 20007

**The John Reps Prize ($500)**
For the best master’s thesis and best doctoral dissertation in American city and regional planning history. Send three copies to: Zachary Schrag (chair), Department of History and Art History, George Mason University, MSN 3G1, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030-4444; Gail Dubrow, Box 355740, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-5740; James Buckley, Director, Citizens Housing Corporation, 26 O’Farrell St., Ste. 600, San Francisco, CA 94108

2. Paper Prizes (for papers accepted for presentation at the 11 National Conference on Planning History, Miami, October 20-23, 2005)

**The Francois Auguste de Montequin Prize ($1000)**
For the best conference paper on the topic of North American colonial planning history. Abstract and one-page c.v. must be postmarked by February 15, 2005. Mail to: Professor Greg Hise, SACRPH Program Chair; School of Policy, Planning, and Development; Lewis Hall 312; University of Southern California; Los Angeles, CA 90089. Eligible papers, once accepted, will be solicited directly by the Montequin Prize committee.

**The Student Research Prize ($100)**
For the best conference paper submitted by a full-time student. Abstract and one-page c.v., as well as evidence of student status, must be postmarked by February 15, 2005. Mail to: Professor Greg Hise, SACRPH Program Chair; School of Policy, Planning, and Development; Lewis Hall 312; University of Southern California; Los Angeles, CA 90089. Eligible papers, once accepted, will be solicited directly by the Student Prize committee.

3. Service Awards

**The Laurence Gerckens Prize**
Awarded to a scholar-teacher who has demonstrated sustained excellence in the teaching of planning history. Send nominations with name, institutional affiliation of the person nominated and a brief statement concerning their contributions to the field of planning history as a teacher. Eric Sandweiss, Department of History, 742 Ballantine Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405. Nominations must be received prior to July 15, 2005.

Eric Sandweiss
SACRPH President
Carmony Associate Professor of History
Editor, *Indiana Magazine of History*
742 Ballantine Hall
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405
(812) 855-0210
sesandw@indiana.edu

4. Recent Conference Notes of Interest

Philip Brown of Department of History at Ohio State University would like to draw attention to two recent conferences:

I. 2004 Pacific Neighborhood Consortium, Taipei, Taiwan

This year’s Pacific Neighborhood Consortium/ECAI conference was held from October 17-22, 2004 in Taipei, Taiwan at the Academia Sinica. The conference was co-sponsored by PNC and by the Pacific Rim
Digital Libraries Association. The theme was “Digital Libraries and Digital Collections in the Global Community.” Members of the PNC are leaders and pioneers in the realms of digital technologies, and the ground-breaking application of these technologies to traditional fields such as atlas, library, museum and cultural research. More information about the conference may be found at: http://pnclink.org/PNC2004/index.htm.


The theme of the 2003 PNC Annual Conference (Bangkok, November 7-9) was “Cultural Heritage and Collaboration in the Digital Age.” A variety of the conferences panels and presentations were of interest to historical geographers, and together they serve as a barometer of activity in the field as it focuses on Asian history and culture. The full program can be viewed on line at http://www.hpcc.nectec.or.th/PNC/. Abstracts (when available) can be accessed through the “Program Day by Day” link.

Other Notes

As always, please feel free to submit comments or questions to the editors of Past Place.