



NOTES from THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

UNDERMINING AMERICA: THE OPIATE OF MILITARY DOMINANCE

By Brad Allenby

AGS Councilor, member of AGS Writers Circle



It seems self-evident to most people that national power is predominantly a matter of military capability. Certainly, military power was critical in a world characterized by colonialism, where direct control of resources was so important to national power. Today, however, advanced economies increasingly rely on global financial and information networks and highly flexible economic and political institutions. Accordingly, the key to obtaining and keeping superpower status increasingly is not just military, but balance among five core constituents: economic, science and technology capability, military, institutional, and cultural.

Until recently the United States has been the one power that has appeared to be globally competent in all five categories. It has the largest single economy, a currently unmatched science and technology capability, the most technologically advanced military, a transparent institutional structure based on the rule of law, and a

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AGS CONDUCTS FIELDWORK IN MEXICO

By Jerome E. Dobson

President, The American Geographical Society
Professor of Geography, University of Kansas



What's AGS done lately? Last issue I wrote about the landmine project. This time I'll write about foreign fieldwork. First, some background.

In a recent column (*Ubique*, Volume XXV, Number 1, March 2005), I deplored the cost of geographic ignorance, measured in conflict. That was not a political statement because the malady itself is universal, infecting all parties, nations, and levels of society from voters to politicians.

In America, geography has been out of public favor so long that we cannot produce enough graduates to fill even the most essential posts where geographers are sorely needed in government. The bitter experience of war in Afghanistan and Iraq, however, has produced a glimmer of hope. There is a new realization among the "powers that be" that they themselves and the analysts who serve them do not know enough about foreign lands. At the strategic level, for instance, policy makers realize they did not take

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GLOBE SIGNING



Deborah Popper, Skip Darlington, Jennie Darlington, Charles Beyer, and Cynthia Beyer on December 14, 2005.

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GEOjobs

The American Geographical Society announces GEOjobs, the most comprehensive career and recruiting site serving professional geographers for positions outside academe.

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Position Announcement

Editor of *The Geographical Review*

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UNDERMINING AMERICA

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cultural ascendancy that was reflected by the admiration many had for the United States and, in another way, by the success of American global brands such as Coca-cola, McDonald's, or Disney. This balanced competency made America truly formidable, and, conversely, was a difficult mix of capabilities for other nations to match. Economic power, for example, made Japan an Asian power despite relative military weakness, but institutional weaknesses in its political structure have contributed significantly to its recent drift. The European Union retains its international position despite a relatively unimpressive economy, in part because its institutions reflect a resilient and open social-democratic political framework.

But the core to America as superpower was not military. Rather it was its remarkable cultural supremacy. The United States attracted brains, capital, and admiration from around the world because of its uniquely open, optimistic, entrepreneurial and mobile society. This was reflected in the numbers of students attracted to American universities, the number of non-native born entrepreneurs who created Silicon Valley and its Texas, Massachusetts and Oregon mimics, the success of American consumer goods and cultural exports, and the continued attraction of the American experience for those prosecuted or discriminated against in other cultures. The real key to long-term U. S. dominance was America as myth: not myth as imaginary, but as a larger than life projection of American values and culture across the world.

Unfortunately, post 9/11 American policy with its emphasis on militarism seriously distorted its unique balance of competences, especially by undermining American cultural authority. To begin with, the Administration chose a domestic response that focused on threat and the cultivation of fear rather than defiant openness, thus striking at the heart of the openness and optimism which have been among the most admired characteristics of American culture. This destructive defensiveness was augmented by the Administration's unilateralism and ill-disguised contempt for those who disagree with it. True cultural power is attractive, rather than imposed. America gained its cultural power not by militarily imposing its values; rather, it simply displayed them and their attractiveness drew admiration, and immigration, from around the world. Now, however, America is widely perceived as arrogant, biased, and hypocritical, rather than powerful and appealing.

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AGS CONDUCTS FIELDWORK . .

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culture—Shia Arab, Sunni Arab, and Sunni Kurd—adequately into account in post-war planning for Iraq. At the tactical level, military commanders know some soldiers die purely for breaking social taboos about which they are totally unaware.

Unfortunately, the “powers that be” have not quite made the connection that geography is what's missing. The proliferation of “area studies” programs on university campuses has obscured the association inherent in the title of my March column, “Foreign Intelligence Is Geography.” Furthermore, the descriptive names of certain other disciplines, cultural anthropology for instance, have attracted funding and recognition, while damaging misconceptions of geography (states and capitals, maps and imagery, and so forth) and some diversions of our own (overemphasis on critical theory, for instance) have hurt us.

Still, the new realization has created a window of opportunity for geography, if only we can make our case, attract modest funding, and show what we can do. That's what AGS has been pursuing over the past year, and the results have been spectacular.

The project came about because I, like so many others, am troubled over intelligence failures and bipartisan blunders that lead to conflict. Most of the missing knowledge is not secret, insider information that should be classified. What's missing is open source geography of the type we teach routinely in regional geography courses, and it's based on the type of fieldwork and data analyses that geographers do routinely in every region on earth. I firmly believe the only remedy is to bring geography back to its rightful place in higher education, science policy, and public policy circles.

I wrote a proposal suggesting that the AGS send a geography professor and two or three graduate students to every country in the world for a full semester each year, with teams rotating on a five-year cycle so that each country is understood by five separate teams. I calculated a budget and was shocked myself to realize that the entire program would cost only \$125,000,000 per year, a pittance compared to what the intelligence community typically pays for far less effective information. I circulated the proposal and found allies at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. They marketed the concept and funded a prototype for the larger concept that, ideally, would reach every country in the world.

Peter Herlihy, Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Kansas (KU), then led an AGS “expedition”

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AGS CONDUCTS FIELDWORK

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to Mexico from May through August 2005 with a return visit in early 2006. This project was cast as a demonstration of what geographers can do anywhere in the world to learn about foreign lands, establish relationships with people and institutions, collect unclassified information, and build an open source geographic information system (GIS) that can be employed by any other investigator, regardless of discipline.

Peter's team currently consists of Derek Smith of Carleton University, John Kelly of the University of Kansas, and Vickie Tinnon-Brock of Kansas State University (KSU). He works in collaboration with Professor Miguel Aguilar Robledo and four geography students at the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí. The project also has Mexican government support through the natural resource agency, SEMARNAT.

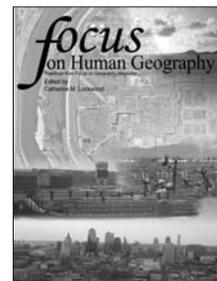
After only seven months of work, Peter and his team have constructed an enormous GIS database for all of Mexico with multi-scale enhancements in the Huasteca region and selected ejidos (communal villages) and individual farm plots. They developed a unified structure for data derived from many different sources; processed databases, most of which were not in standard GIS formats; and acquired or created metadata. They conducted extensive fieldwork in conjunction with Mexican geographers and led participatory GIS with indigenous villagers to elucidate the national and regional data.

An important part of the concept's design is to allow each investigator to choose a research topic for in-depth analysis. This research team chose land tenure and uncovered a revolutionary land reform comparable in magnitude to the land reform under the Constitution of 1917 that created ejidos in the first place. PROCEDE is a new government program to privatize ejido lands. Lands that have been held communally for almost a century are being converted to private property on a massive scale. In a two stage process, each present occupant can apply for a certificate that does not imply actual ownership. After one transfer, say when the farmer dies and the land passes to an offspring, the new holder can apply for an actual title. Henceforth, the parcel can be sold or used as collateral on a loan. The implications are staggering for about 90 percent of the more than 30,000 agrarian communities in the country where PROCEDE has already finished its work, now covering around 100,000,000 hectares or about half of Mexico's land area and including millions of indigenous farmers.

All of the AGS team's results will be published in

open literature, and GIS data will be available over the Internet. Our goal is to inform not just the government but the public as well.

Together, we are promoting the full concept of worldwide coverage. At least two additional countries are likely to be funded soon, and others are in the works. The goal is a new type of automated regional geography, leading the way toward a new methodology for conducting regional geography in the age of GIS. The project is training four Mexican students (1 Ph.D., 1 M.A., 2 B. A.) and three U. S. students (2 Ph.D., 1 M. A.) and contributing to at least one doctoral dissertation.



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UNDERMINING AMERICA

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The war in Iraq also illustrates the Administration's mistaken belief that military action is the only meaningful component of American power ("Mission Accomplished"). The Iraq quagmire is a direct consequence of the failure of the political operatives who started the conflict to understand that the sorts of wars America fights these days are cultural, not military. Victory under such circumstances requires sophistication in cultural matters.

For the time being, the United States is still the world's only superpower. But America's leaders have failed to realize that the wellspring of its strength is cultural. The U.S. was attacked on 9/11 precisely because it was culturally dominant, not because of its military prowess. Iraq is a failure because the Administration sought a military solution to complex Islamic cultural dysfunctions. This serious miscalculation, and the larger context of 9/11 responses that surround it, have become defining contributions to the decline of America. For, ironically, the initial illusory "successes" have proven catastrophic for the American mythos, the real American boots on the ground. In choosing to militarize American society, the Administration in actuality fatally undermines America's penultimate and most potent claim: that it remains the best hope of humanity. America, the optimistic City on the Hill, is being turned into just another gated community.

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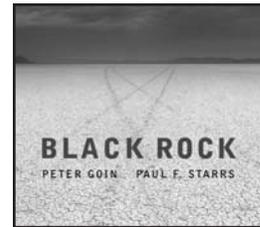
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 Peter Lewis, Editor



EARTHWORKS

By Peter Lewis



Paul Starrs and Peter Goin have joined their fascination of the Black Rock country in, yes, *BLACK ROCK* (Univ. of Nevada Pr.), a provocative alchemy of visual and literary commentary.

Goin records his awareness of the place with a camera. The photographs are testaments to perspective; they don't just speak for themselves, they beg to be read as closely as the text. Since the format of the book is large, you can get right into many of them and rummage around. The Black Rock outcropping is a visual locus, but in its orbit is a vast physical and emotional space, and Goin taps into it with familiarity, both easy and uneasy, and a sly though unmistakable humor.

Starrs is inventively all over the map of Black Rock (and maps are not the least of his concerns). Though he is a careful and comfortable observer of the area's natural setting, he is most taken with its psychogeography, how it came into being as a perceived place. How do you make honest sense of a cultural landscape? "There is an element of Buddha's mind in this: If you look for something, by definition you can't find it. An openness to new landscapes has to happen to you, although creating those conditions is both possible and a really good idea. Let the evidence be varied, the perspectives several, the diversity good."

Starrs lets a hundred thoughts bloom here---mostly self-generated, though a supporting cast that reaches back to Aristophanes will toss him ruminative fodder---and they move about, in dazzling caroming play, with the speed of a particle accelerator. *Black Rock* enjoys a game of artful hide-and-seek with Starrs, often in different guises when it shows itself.

Both visceral and cerebral, *Black Rock* is an affecting tour through an elemental landscape via an energized mindscape



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A DELAYED PLEASURE

By Deborah E. Popper, AGS Councilor



Mary Lynne Bird, AGS Executive Director, and Jennie Darlington.

During the winter of 1947-48, Jennie Darlington and Edith (Jackie) Ronne were the first women to winter over in Antarctica. In tribute to their accomplishment, both were to be reunited in 2004 to sign the AGS' Fliers' & Explorers' Globe at the gala signing held in Atlanta that year. Jackie Ronne was able to attend, but Jennie Darlington was ill that day and unable to attend or sign.

Finne approached *The New York Times*, offering them coverage of the expedition and, to increase the human interest angle, he added the tantalizing fillip of a woman coming along---the first woman to winter over in Antarctica---as part of the story. The woman was to be his wife, Jackie. *The Times* bit and sent the money that allowed the group to take off. An unexpected obstacle, however, was the crew's resistance to having one woman in the party. They preferred two, assuming they would keep each other occupied. Jennie was enlisted.

Jennie's memories of the experience are of the exhilaration of being someplace so special, of the long nights, of bundling up, of the provisional nature of the camp, and lack of privacy, with the married couples getting a walled-off alcove at one end of the bunks. She recalled the conflicts and disagreements over routes of exploration. She remembered the dangers and the bravery and generosity. She spoke of one

Fortunately, on December 14, 2005, Jennie Darlington came to the AGS offices and became the latest of the more than seventy distinguished trailblazers to place their signatures on the globe. With a flourish she wrote her name on Antarctica, near those of Ronne and Richard E. Byrd. Jennie's disappointment in 2004 became my good fortune, since, representing the AGS Council, I got to join the AGS staff and the Darlington family, son Harry (Skipper), daughter Cynthia, and son-in-law, Charles Beyer for the signing and then lunch at St. Maggie's Cafe.



expedition member falling through a crevasse and a member from a neighboring expedition risking his own life in undertaking a successful rescue. And she recalled the fear that they might not get out as scheduled when the bay unexpectedly froze them in. An icebreaker was a welcome rescuer.

Jennie Darlington clearly has always been an articulate, witty woman of spirit, adventure, and humor. She never intended to go to Antarctica, but found herself there for her honeymoon. Her new husband, Harry Darlington, was to be the senior pilot on the Finne Ronne Expedition to explore and map the Weddell Sea. While working at Save the Children in New York City, she had met Harry, then a navy pilot.



Cynthia Beyer

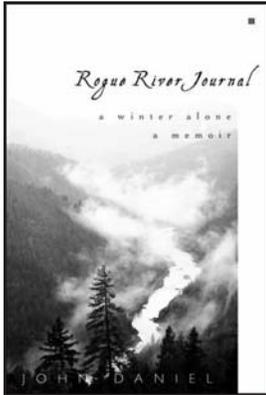
Antarctica was Harry's interest, not hers. At age sixteen, in 1936, Harry had tended to the canines during Byrd's expedition. He looked forward to a return trip. As the time for the expedition to depart approached, Jennie and Jackie accompanied their husbands to Valparaiso, Chile. As Jennie recounted, it seemed the expedition might not come off since they were short of money for fuel.

Jenny's husband Harry gave his name to a spit along the Weddell Bay. One of the pleasures of the globe-signing event was that of watching the family pore over the AGS Antarctica map to locate the exact spot named for Harry Darlington. As Jennie's daughter peered at the map, she knew she had been there too---in utero, in her case. Jennie's was the first Antarctic pregnancy. She has never returned to Antarctica, but the family's interest in exploring and protecting the earth goes on. With the same spirit that took the Darlingtons to Antarctica, the next generation has pushed forward exploration with lighter-than-air technology, particularly applications for environmental monitoring. And many women have since followed in Jackie's footsteps to Antarctica.



EARTHWORKS

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Poet and essayist John Daniel offers a candid, polished sojourn into solitude and memory in *ROUGE RIVER JOURNAL* (Shoemaker & Hoard).

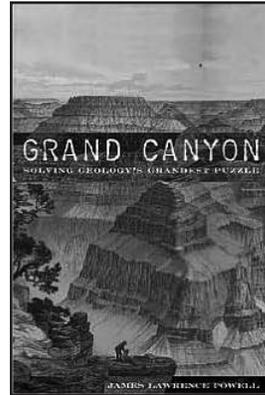
Late in the year 2000, Daniel took himself deep into the backcountry of Oregon for a few months of solitude, to a cabin without electricity, without neighbors, tucked in a canyon with forested slopes, the Rogue

River sliding by within earshot and a meadow to watch the comings and goings of wildlife.

He was there to see how he might grow, what he might learn, from the quietude, but he got distracted. The memory of his father was a prime diversion and puzzle. Franz Daniel, his father, was an intellectual with rural roots, a union organizer of uncommon zeal and charisma, drawn to the ministry but more to applied religion, to social justice and the desire for decency and also the bourbon bottle.

As Daniel goes about his distracted way---dueling with the turkey that is eating his garden goods, tendering a theory of grouse (they know when a human in their midst has a gun), reveling in the visit of a bobcat, coming to "love the lit particularities of things, their jags and curves and rough or silky textures, the exactly this that they present"---he quarries his father's life, finding in it an enormous, nurturing good, even while the house he grew up in was one of drunkenness and anger.

Then, too, his own life beckons for attention; quit the fretting, "do what you're doing, do that," live the moment. Still, he will look long and hard at the path that has brought him to this juncture, his own strong and short suits---the question of courage in all its ambiguity will not go begging in these pages---that tendered whatever resources of attention and creative association he now possesses. His time alone is potent, a dilation upon the amusements and scorings of the simple life and a distillation of the strange, human progress that was his family.



How come the Grand Canyon, asks geologist James Lawrence Powell? In *GRAND CANYON*, he strives to give the latest accounting, but is torn between treating the book as a popular work and wanting to spin out all the geological theories.

When geologists first laid eyes on the Grand Canyon, it was love: here the Earth would reveal the deep secrets of its structure.

But the canyon would prove far from a cheap date; throw me a theory, buster, it would say, and I'll throw you back a curveball.

Powell starts, and continues for over half of the book, with biographical sketches of the early geologists at work in the canyon---John Newberry, John Wesley Powell, Grove Karl Gilbert, Clarence Dutton---spelling out in simple terms the nature of their theories (and they were by no means simple, including abrasion and transport, stream morphology, early glimmerings of the fluid interior of the planet).

By the time geologists Charles Hunt and Edwin McKee enter the picture, the theories get more tortured, the academic bickering starts, and Powell's story begins losing the less devout rock hounds as it enters the dark matter of advanced geology. Those who do wade through the material will experience the feeling of watching a fascinating chess game only to have it end in a draw: none of the theories, painted in such detail, has ever been proven.

Ultimately, Powell suggests that the best modern theory combines "large-scale drainage reversal, headwater erosion, and stream piracy, possibly aided by lake integration"---and it's a tribute to Powell that lay readers will understand all those terms---but what many readers will walk away with is the awesome power of water running over the surface of the earth.

Powell warns at the outset that the canyon may be on naked display, but don't take that to mean it isn't deeply complicated; as many theories litter its bank as rapids break its water.



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The American Geographical Society (AGS) announces GEOjobs—the most comprehensive career and recruiting site serving professional geographers for positions outside academe. The career center will offer extensive resume and position databases, powerful and user-friendly searching capabilities, which allow you to find the job or candidate you're looking for!

The AGS cares about your career development. Lifelong learning is a pre-requisite to any successful career – and the AGS is committed to providing resources to help our members grow. Visit <http://geojobs.amergeog.org> and start using the GEOjobs to make YOUR career connections!

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The McColl Family Fellowship, given by Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. McColl, consists of round trip air fare to any place in the world of the candidate's choosing. The candidate must secure funding for other expenses from other sources.

The only obligation of the Fellow is to write an article based on the visit abroad that is suitable for publication in *FOCUS on Geography* magazine and that is submitted to the editor within six months upon return from the trip.

As is true of all *FOCUS on Geography* authors, candidates must be geographers or others “who think like geographers and write like journalists.” Currently, one fellowship is being offered for each year. Selection is by a committee chosen by the AGS Council.

The winner of the first McColl Fellowship was Dr. Joseph Hobbs for travel to Madagascar in 2000 for first hand study of the human use of caves there. His article appeared in the summer 2001 issue of *FOCUS on Geography*. The second McColl Fellowship was awarded to Dr. Kendra McSweeney for work on indigenous response to hurricane damage in the rain forest of eastern Honduras; her article appeared in the Spring 2002 issue of *FOCUS on Geography*. The third award went to Dr. Roger Balm for work in 2002 on early exploration sites in Peru; his article appeared in the Spring 2004 issue of the magazine. The fourth fellowship was awarded to Josh Lepawsky for research in 2003 on intelligence technology in Malaysia. The fifth award went to Dr. Susan Mains for

research in 2004 on the experiences of Jamaican migrants living in Toronto. The sixth award went to Dr. William G. Moseley for research on the knowledge and attitudes of farm workers about land reform in South Africa. Last year, Dr. Sarah J. Halvorson won the award with a proposal to assess the response and recovery efforts in Pakistani-administered Kashmir after the cataclysmic earthquake of 2005.

The eighth McColl Fellowship is to be awarded for the year 2007. Applications for it must be received in the AGS offices by October 16, 2006. They are to consist of the candidate's curriculum vitae; a covering letter of no more than three pages that describes a) the proposed trip, b) the reasons for selecting that itinerary, and c) the candidate's particular competence for doing fieldwork there; and a statement of the sum requested.

Applications should be sent to:

McColl Family Fellowship Committee
The American Geographical Society
120 Wall Street, Suite 100
New York, New York 10005-3904

For further information contact Mary Lynne Bird at (212)422-5456 voice, (212)422-5480 fax, MLBird@amergeog.org or see the AGS web-site at <http://www.amergeog.org>



COMING CHANGE AT *THE GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW*

Douglas L. Johnson and Viola Haarmann have announced that they will step down as co-editors of *The Geographical Review* at the end of 2006, by which time they expect to have completed four volumes of the journal.

The Johnson & Haarmann era at the oldest-running geography journal in America has been marked by increased internationalization of the editorial advisory board and of the body of reviewers, the maintenance of high standards of production and content, and the publication of special issues that have attracted considerable attention. The latter included two related issues: one on "People, Places & Invasive Species" and the other on "People, Places, & Gardens." Additional special issues are in the pipeline for publication this year.

Plagued by developments that delayed production in their early days at the helm of the journal, the editorial team was able

to pick up the pace in 2005 to produce five issues in one year. Production continues to accelerate, resulting in the editors' projection that the journal will be up-to-date by the end of 2006.

When Drs. Johnson and Haarmann lay down their editorial pens at the end of the year, they will take with them admiration for their dedication and perseverance along with the warmest thanks of the AGS Council and staff and of all those who appreciate the unique role that *The Geographical Review* plays in connecting geographical scholarship to the wider world.

~ Mary Lynne Bird

The search for a new editor is underway with the expectation that that person (or persons) will begin work this June on the first issue to be published in 2007. Manuscripts received after May 2006 will go to the new editor for processing.

AGS News

Position Announcement

Editor of *The Geographical Review*

The American Geographical Society invites applications and nominations for the position of Editor of *The Geographical Review*, the longest-running geography journal in America. The new editor will begin work in June 2006 with responsibility for producing three volumes.

The AGS provides an honorarium for the Editor per issue. It provides the services of a copy editor/production assistant. Modest funds are also available to defray expenses in conjunction with the performance of editorial tasks (telephone, postage, travel, etc.) However, the contributions of each applicant's home institution toward such expenses will add weight to the candidate's application. To deal with authors promptly and keep the journal on schedule, it is essential that an applicant be able to secure office space at his or her home institution as well as at least one-quarter released time from normal duties and the help of a university-supported editorial assistant, preferably half-time, year-round.

The Editor determines the content and overall format of the journal; encourages the submission of high-quality, well written manuscripts on geographical issues and problems; decides which books should be reviewed in the journal and who should write those book reviews. If the Editor wishes to do so, responsibility for the book review section may be delegated to someone of the Editor's choosing. The Editor is assisted by an Editorial Advisory Board that is composed of individuals selected by the Editor.

The American Geographical Society is seeking an editor who (1) has a broad perspective on the discipline of geography and a well-developed understanding of both the discipline's history and current research priorities; (2) has an excellent command of written American English; (3) is familiar and comfortable with the types of word-processing and graphics programs commonly used in digital publishing; (4) possesses strong organizational skills and the ability to work quickly and juggle multiple tasks; (5) has the ability and willingness to work with authors to ensure that articles in *The Geographical Review* deal with

important geographical issues in a clear, accessible style; (6) has an understanding of the nature and mission of *The Geographical Review* and the American Geographical Society; (7) has the desire and ability to explain the AGS vision for *The Geographical Review* to others and to encourage the submission of manuscripts in keeping with that vision; and (8) has a record of scholarly accomplishment and publishing.

To ensure an orderly transition, the selection of an editor will be made by May 31, 2006. Names of nominees and letter of application should be sent to the Chair of *The Geographical Review* Search Committee, Deborah E. Popper, c/o The American Geographical Society, 120 Wall Street, Suite 100, New York, New York 10005-3904. Letters of application should include a statement of the applicant's understanding of the goals and mission of *The Geographical Review*, an explanation of the applicant's approach to the performance of editorial duties, and a description of any relevant background or experience. The application should be accompanied by 1) a current curriculum vitae, 2) the names of three individuals who can be contacted for references, and 3) an indication of the office space, released time, editorial assistant, and any other support offered by the applicant's home institution. A written confirmation from the university of the support to be provided will be required before the American Geographical Society makes a commitment to the applicant selected.

For more information about this position, please contact Dr. Popper at popper@mail.csi.cuny.edu; the other members of the Search Committee: Daniel D. Arreola at daniel.arreola@asu.edu, Larry R. Ford at larryf@mail.sdsu.edu, David J. Keeling at david.keeling@wku.edu, Alexander B. Murphy at abmurphy@uoregon.edu, Douglas J. Sherman at sherman@geog.tamu.edu, Paul F. Starrs at starrs@unr.edu, Barney L. Warf at bwarf@garnet.acns.fsu.edu; AGS President Jerome E. Dobson at dobson@ku.edu; or the AGS Executive Director, Mary Lynne Bird at mlbird@amergeog.org.



THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

TRAVEL PROGRAM

AGS scholars are excellent lecturers and traveling companions for educational travel, having spent a **life-time exploring and lecturing on the physical, biological, and cultural character of particular regions**. AGS scholars provide you with an expansive and comprehensive understanding of a region: What are we looking at; why is it here; and why is it important? They are especially **eloquent and dynamic speakers** who also love exchanging ideas and impressions with fellow travelers, and are fun and congenial traveling companions.

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*The ancient Roman theater of Sabratha,
one of the three cities of Roman "Tripolitania."*

COMMENTS FROM RECENT TRAVELERS

"The excursions were unique, extensive and well planned. You could not improve on this trip, and I have been on many cruises. This was the best!"

"Outstanding lecturer and on-site tour guides."

"The excellent lectures provided excellent background for our excursions."

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"As a frequent traveler I certainly understand the importance of geography in today's world and am happy to support your work. I hope to be able to travel again with an AGS group!... again, thank you for the excellent trip."

"I learned so much in such a short time."



CURRENT TRIP SCHEDULE

HISTORICAL LANDMARKS & NATURAL TREASURES OF BRAZIL

February 28 – March 13 (14 days)

Lecturer: Brian Godfrey, Professor of Geography at Vassar College.

THE ANCIENT LOST CITIES OF LIBYA AND TUNISIA

April 10 – 21 (12 days)

Lecturer: Christine Drake, University Professor of Geography at Old Dominion University.

SEVEN SEAS ODYSSEY

April 19 – May 10 (22 days)

Lecturer: David Keeling, Professor and Head of the Department of Geography and Geology at Western Kentucky University.

WATERWAYS OF HOLLAND AND BELGIUM

April 19 – May 1 (13 days)

Lecturer: Onboard guest lecturers.

INCREDIBLE IBERIA: PORTUGAL & SPAIN IN SPRING

April 20 – May 1 (12 days)

Lecturer: Onboard guest lecturers.

HISTORIC CITIES OF THE SEA

May 3 – 14 (12 days)

Lecturer: Onboard guest lecturers.

WATERWAYS OF RUSSIA

July 26 – August 6 (12 days)

Lecturer: Ralph Clem, Professor of International Relations at Florida International University.

IN HARRIMAN'S WAKE

Part I: Voyage to the Bering Sea

August 4-17 (14 days)

Lecturer: Frederick Nelson, Professor of Geography, University of Delaware.

Part II: Alaska Coastal Odyssey

August 17 – 28 (12 days)

Lecturer: Susan W. Hardwick, Professor of Geography at University of Oregon.

THE BLACK SEA: CROSSROADS OF CULTURE FROM THE ANCIENT PAST TO THE PRESENT

August 28 – September 8 (12 days)

Lecturer: David Hooson, Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley.

DANUBE RIVER JOURNEY

August 30 – September 12 (14 days)

Lecturer: Larry Ford, Professor of Geography at San Diego State University.

IN SEARCH OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

September 25 – October 10 (16 days)

Lecturer: James Wiley, Associate Professor of Geography at Hofstra University.

LOST CITIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

October 15 - 38 (14 days)

Lecturer: Dorothy Drummond, author and geographer.

CURRENTS OF CULTURE: GREAT RIVERS OF AFRICA, ASIA, AND EUROPE

October 26 – November 17 (23 days)

Lecturer: Alec Murphy, Professor of Geography and Rippey Chair in Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Oregon, Eugene.

LOST CITIES OF LIBYA, TUNISIA & ALGERIA

November 9 – 21 (13 days)

Lecturer: Jared Diamond, geographer and best selling author.

ATLANTIC VOYAGE: FROM THE STRAITS OF GILBRALTAR TO PATAGONIA

November 20 – December 22 (33 days)

Lecturer: Christine Drake, University Professor of Geography at Old Dominion University.

BEYOND TIMBUKTU: NORTH AFRICA BY AIR

November 24 – December 15 (22 days)

Lecturer: David Keeling, Professor and Head of the Department of Geography and Geology at Western Kentucky University.

For more information, please contact

The American Geographical Society

Travel Program

888-805-0884 or 603-756-2553

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Reception at 5:00 p.m.
American Geographical Society Library,
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Free and open to the public

Mapping the American Landscape

a presentation by
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