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#### POSTGRADUATE MEMBERS

Judith Gerber, a postgraduate student at the School of Geography, University of Oxford, is compiling a list of names and addresses of all HPGRG postgraduate members. If you, either, are a postgraduate member, or would like to become one or even if you want to know more about postgraduate involvement, contact Judith at the School of Geography, University of Oxford, Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3TB.



**ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**  
(with The Institute of British Geographers)



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#### HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

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### NEWSLETTER MAY 1996

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#### CONFERENCE REPORTS

##### **The Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG, Strathclyde, January 1996**

The Group organised three sessions at this conference: Geographies of Knowledge; New Horizons in the History and Philosophy of Geography; Scottish Discussions; Environmental Philosophies.

##### **Session 1: Geographies of Knowledge**

The recent surge of interest in the significance of spatiality for understanding intellectual history in general, and the history of science in particular, was fully reflected in a session on 'geographies of knowledge'. In the first module, **Steven Shapin** (University of California, San Diego), a Study Group and RGS-IBG Vice-Presidential Guest, spoke on 'Placing the view from nowhere: historical and sociological problems in the location of science'. Shapin began with a review of the localist turn in the history and sociology of scientific knowledge, arguing that, indeed, there is now sufficient theoretical and empirical work to substantiate the view that in the making of science local factors turn out to be of considerable importance. The issue confronting practitioners of science studies now, he urged, was to address two questions: how science - whatever its local mainsprings - travels with such remarkable efficiency, and the ways in which local circumstances are implicated in the production of *meaning*. Answering the first question, he argued, required detailed examination of the issue of epistemic trust since it was essentially concerned with bringing the distant near. As for the issue of meaning, Shapin used the very local circumstances of Robert Boyle's residence and neighbours to make sense of his moral tracts. In the second paper, **Nigel Thrift** (University of Bristol) presented his analysis of 'Knowledge economies: the rise of soft capitalism'. Here Thrift turned attention to the world of business and management and urged that in this arena there is a widespread awareness of multiple rationalities, of the significance of tacit knowledge, and the importance of knowledge spaces - in other words, that the very issues currently exercising students of the sociology of scientific knowledge are already making their way through modern business. In Thrift's view, the awakening of management literature to - and the espousal of - these new discourses of knowledge are leading to what he calls a 'soft capitalism'.

The second module was devoted to three more specific studies. Developing Shapin's argument about the role of space in the constitution of scientific knowledge, **David Livingstone** (Queen's University, Belfast) considered the contrasting reception of Darwinism in Edinburgh and Belfast, two important sites of theological and scientific debate during the nineteenth century. He contrasted the relative lack of anxiety over Darwin amongst Edinburgh's calvinist theologians with the stormy controversy which followed John Tyndall's address to the British Association meeting in Belfast in 1874. Drawing attention to the differing circumstances of scientific practice in these two cities, he

emphasised the value of a geographical perspective on the making of scientific cultures. Livingstone's focus on scientific culture was extended into the domain of the popular by **Peter Hansen** (Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA), whose paper concerned the cultural history of mountaineering and exploration. Drawing on research for a forthcoming book, Hansen presented a case-study of controversies surrounding a performance by a group of Tibetan Lamas bought to London in order to promote a film on an attempted ascent of Mount Everest in 1924. In this context, the familiar formula of popular imperialism, by which mountaineering was represented as a manly quest for mastery and Tibet envisioned as an exotic and mystical place, was decidedly unstable. The Tibetan authorities themselves contested the authenticity of these images, while many mountaineers continued to describe their ascents in quasi-mystical terms. Hansen's focus on spectacle was taken by **Kay Anderson** (University of New South Wales, Australia) in her paper on the role of the zoo in the popularisation of natural science. She argued that the zoo could be understood as a 'mapping project', encoding a variety of different boundaries between different species, genders and 'races'. Using the example of Adelaide zoo, she explored the changing form of such a strategy in different eras, culminating in the ecological and conservationist paradigms of the present. Significantly, the organisation of the space of the zoo was seen as integral to the strategies of representation being deployed.

Together, the papers in this session stimulated a number of questions about the current emphasis on space and place in the history and philosophy of science. Firstly, there are the ample dividends: a greater sensitivity to context, and a movement away from simplistic or totalising formulas about knowledge or power. Secondly, however, there are some pressing questions about the movement of knowledge between places, and about the cultural conditions and consequences of this process. Thirdly, there are some profoundly important issues about how to conceive the relationship between different forms of knowledge, especially those conventionally described as 'scientific' and 'popular'. Kay Anderson's choice of the zoo as a site where different sorts of knowledge combine or collide is particularly productive in this context. Geography mattered, but not always in the ways we have traditionally understood. Then again, as Peter Hansen's account of the Everest expeditions reminded us, British geographers have much to consider closer to home, even - perhaps especially - in the history of that most exotic of institutions, the Royal Geographical Society (with or without the Institute of British Geographers).

Felix Driver (Royal Holloway) & David Livingstone (Queen's University, Belfast).

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## Session 2: New Horizons in the History and Philosophy of Geography: Scottish Dimensions

One of the overall conference themes, new horizons, was reflected in the group's session of six papers (jointly organised with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society) on aspects of the history of geographical knowledge in and of Scotland. In a paper on 'Marion Newbigin: a feminist re-appraisal', **Avril Maddrell** (Westminster College, Oxford) discussed Newbigin's emphasis on geography as a means to applied citizenship, detailing how past understanding of Newbigin as an apologist for Empire should be tempered now by recognition of her belief in geographic science as an emancipatory practice. Newbigin was a leading figure in the advancement of the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, being its editor for 32 years, and it is clear, too, that she owed much of her own advance in the subject to the patronage of Edinburgh's scientific community. **Hayden Lorimer** (Loughborough) considered the cultural politics of outdoor movements in inter-war Scotland, focusing specifically upon the Scottish Youth Hostel Association and the moral imperatives behind that organisation's promotion of hostelling, particularly in the Highlands. The paper made clear the importance of class interests within the management of that institution,

interests which ran counter to the expressed belief in access for all. If this was a mass cultural movement, it was one evident in particular geographies, in the early years at least: hostels were established in several of the places associated with elite cultural tourism in later eighteenth-century Scotland. **Charles Withers** (Edinburgh) considered ideas of union and empire with reference to the Union of Crowns in 1603, and three different practices of representation used in the geographical 'making' of Great Britain: court masques, triumphal processions, and triumphal arches. The paper also considered the Jacobean and Caroline court as a site for the promotion of imperial images central to the success of the idea of a 'united kingdom'.

Scotland and empire was the theme of papers by **Peter Speak** (Cambridge), by **Richard Finlay** (Strathclyde), and **David Forsyth** (Strathclyde). Speak's paper, on William Speirs Bruce and the 1902-1904 Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, considered the politics of polar survey as a matter of contested national glory, a contest waged in strident correspondence between Clements Markham and Bruce and in the claims of Edinburgh's scientific establishment to be a rival to London-based agents of empire. National characteristics and how they were articulated in popular forms in Scotland during the age of 'high empire' (1850-1914) was Richard Finlay's concern. His paper was nicely balanced by David Forsyth's consideration of 'Imperial ideology and the Scottish political elite, 1850-1914'. Scotland's contribution to the empire -- as doctors, soldiers, missionaries -- was shown to alter Scotland's understanding of itself as well as have differing geographies across the empire.

In their focus on the localised nature of scientific practice, and on the social constitution of geographical knowledge, several of the papers reflected themes addressed by **Steven Shapin** and by **David Livingstone** in Session 1. The session of Scottish papers was the first time a range of different ideas in the history and philosophy of geography had been reviewed in national context: the experiment in the cold analytic laboratory space that was Strathclyde would be worth repeating to judge from this occasion. [The papers from this session are to be published in a special issue of the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* March 1997].

Charles Withers (University of Edinburgh)

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## CHANGE OF NAME

As the title to this issue of the Newsletter shows, the AGM decided to support the change of the Group from Study Group to Research Group in keeping with the role of the groups within the Research and Higher Education Division of the RGS-IBG.

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## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

### Geography and Enlightenment, HPGRG, RSGS, HGRG, RGS-IBG, Edinburgh 3-6 July 1996

Preliminary notice of this went out in the November 1995 Newsletter and all members of the Group should have received the detailed publicity flyer. Papers are confirmed from Dorinda Outram, Paul Carter, Matthew Edney, Chris Philo, Anne Godlewska, David Livingstone, Denis Cosgrove, Mary Louise Pratt, Michael Heffernan, Michael Bravo, Stephen Daniels, Charles Withers, Peter Gould. Further details from Mr Peter S. B. Niven, Geography and Enlightenment, Unived Technologies, University of Edinburgh, P O Box 13967, Edinburgh.

**'Crossing Boundaries', 3rd British-North American History of Science Meeting (Joint meeting of the British Society for the History of Science/History of Science Society [USA]/Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Edinburgh, 24-27 July 1996.**

The provisional programme for this meeting is now available. A total of about 100 short papers will be given in 12 sessions each with parallel themes of papers. The themes to be explored are:

- Between the local and the general
- Biography at the crossroads
- Individuals crossing boundaries
- Science on the margins of empire
- The Republic of Letters 1650-1800
- Measuring feelings
- Early Cambridge women in science and mathematics
- Techniques of travel
- Science and religion in medieval Islam and the Latin West
- Between practitioners and scientists
- Film and the authority of medical science
- Atomism and particle explosion
- The Royal Society in the 18thC
- Linguistic and comparative boundaries
- Patronage, geography, science
- Science and the Pacific
- Computing history of science
- From domestic expertise to scientific discipline
- Exporting source
- The history of mathematics
- National boundaries and scientific internationalisation
- Bodies as Boundaries
- Co-production as a unifying theme in science and technology studies
- Bridging theory and practice
- Social structure and scientific culture in the German states, c. 1790-1890
- Managing risk across boundaries
- Boundary creatures
- Reconfiguring the natural and the social
- Astrophysics and ionosphere physics in the 1920s and 1930s
- Sensibility, taste and the life of the mind in 18th and 19thCC Europe
- Instruments as mediators
- Nordic science
- Engineering and economics in France
- The 'Science of Man' and the Science of Brain
- Gender, the body and physical science in Victorian Britain
- Authorship, credit and communication
- The Victorian scientist as polymath
- Scientific publishing and the readership of science in the 19thC
- Modelling across the sciences
- Instruments and the shifting boundaries of chemistry

Registration forms are available from Wg Cdr G. Bennett, 31 High Street, Stanford-in-the Vale, Farringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 8LH, England.

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#### **50th Anniversary Conference - History of Science as Public Culture.**

University of Leeds, 8-10 September 1997

This conference will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the British Society for the History of Science. Papers will examine some of the ways in which history of science has functioned in public culture and in academic culture, with particular emphasis on the British context of the last fifty years. The first day will be jointly organised with the British Association History of Science Section. Further details from Dr Jon Topham, Darwin College, Cambridge, CB3 9EU.

#### **British Association, History of Science Section**

Annual meeting, University of Birmingham, 9-13 September 1996

Sessions will include: The Visual Rhetoric of Science; Science and Religion; Science and Technology in the Midlands. Further details from Frank A J L James, RICHST, Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London, W1X 4BS. Details of registration from British Association, 23 Saville Road, London, W1X 2NB.

#### **British Society for the History of Mathematics**

History of Recreational Mathematics, South Bank University, 1 June 1996

Further details from Professor David Singmaster, Department of Computing and Mathematics, South Bank University, London, SE1 0AA. E-mail: zingmast@vax.sbu.ac.uk.

#### **CHEIRON: The International Society for the History of the Behavioural and Social Sciences**

28th Annual Meeting, Earlham College, Indiana, 27-30 June 1996

Aspects of the history of the behavioural and social sciences or related historiographical or methodological issues. Further details from Dr Donald A Dewsbury, Department of Psychology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-2250, USA, E-Mail: dewsbury@webb.psych.ufl.edu.

#### **History of Science Society**

Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 7-10 November 1996

Further details from History of Science Society Executive Office, Box 351330, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-1330, USA. E-mail hssexec@u.washington.edu.

#### **International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science**

XXth International Congress of the History of Science, University of Liege, 25-30 July 1997

The first circular for this has been distributed and can be obtained from Centre d'Histoire des Sciences et des Techniques, Universite de Liege, Avenue des Tilleuls 15, B-4000 Liege, Belgium.

#### **Medicine and the Colonies**

University of Oxford, 19-21 July 1996

Topics and speakers will include: Philip Curtin on military medicine and colonial conquest; Anne Marie Rafferty on colonial nursing; Susan Lederer and John Warner on imperial medicine; Illana Lowy on Philanthropy and Colonial Medicine; Randall Packard on tropical and temperate medicine; Linda Bryder on colonial maternal and child welfare; John Farley on the colonial medical profession, Elizabeth van Heynigen on colonial medicine and asylums, Waltraud Ernst on psychiatry in the colonies; Stephen Felerman on indigenous medicine, and many others. Further details from Harriet Deacon, Queen's College Oxford, Oxford OX1 4AW. E-mail harriet.deacon@queens.ox.ac.uk.

#### **Society for the Social studies of Science**

Signatures of Knowledge Societies, Bielefeld, 10-13 October 1996

This meeting will be held jointly with the European Association for the Social Study of Science and Technology. Further details from Wolf Krohn, University of Bielefeld, Faculty of Sociology, C 33501 Bielefeld, PF 100131, Germany.

#### **Royal Society of Edinburgh**

International Geological Conference, London and Edinburgh, 30 July - 9 August 1997

This conference, which is jointly organised with the Geological Society, will mark the bicentenaries of the death of James Hutton and of the birth of Charles Lyell. The first part of the conference, in London, will concentrate on Lyell, while the second part, in Edinburgh, will deal with Hutton.

Further details from The Conference Office, The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1V 0JU. E-mail: Cons@Geolsoc.Cityscape.Co.UK.

#### **Society for the History of Technology**

Annual Meeting, Forum Hotel, London, 1-4 August 1996

This will be only the second time that SHOT has held its annual meeting outside North America. Non-members as well as members are invited to attend. There will be a programme of papers on the history of technology and associated events. To indicate interest at this stage, please contact Dr Robert Bud, local organiser. The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD. E-mail: RBUD@ic.ac.uk.

#### **London Group of Historical Geographers**

Seminar Programme, Summer Term 1996

14 May 1996 David Patton (Cambridge) Bicycles, geography and centres of calculation

28 May 1996 Raphael Samuel (Oxford) The British diaspora

These seminars will be held at 5pm at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London University. For further details, contact Felix Driver, Royal Holloway (01784 443572) or Miles Ogborn QMW (0171 975 5407).

#### **Imperial Cities: Space, Landscape & Performance**

##### **Call for Papers Conference May 1997**

This is a call for papers for a major inter-disciplinary conference on the theme of Imperial Cities, to be held in Royal Holloway, University of London, on 2-3 May 1997. The conference will consider the role of imperialism in the design, use and representation of urban space in the European metropolis. It will embrace a variety of themes, including the ways in which urban landscapes articulated competing visions of the imperial project; the place of urban spectacle within metropolitan imperial culture; and the imaginative geographies of the imperial capital.

Papers on the following themes are especially welcome:

The Idea of the Imperial City	Urban Ceremony & Spectacle
Architecture & Urban Design	Exhibitions of Empire
Consumption & the Imperial Suburb	The Post-Imperial City

The conference is organised by the Imperial Cities Research Project at Royal Holloway, funded by the Leverhulme Trust. It is envisaged that a book will be published in connection with the conference theme. The conference convenors are Denis Cosgrove, Felix Driver, David Gilbert, Anna Notaro and Deborah Ryan.

Those wishing to offer papers, or requiring further details, should write to the following address by 30 September 1996: Imperial Cities Conference: Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX.

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#### **HPGRG COMMITTEE**

Following elections at the HPGRG Annual General Meeting, the Committee has several new members. The Committee is as follows:

**Chair:** Professor David Livingstone, Department of Geosciences, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN (Tel: 01232 335145, Fax: 01232 321280) (1998)

**Secretary:** Dr Felix Driver, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX (01784 443572; Fax: 01784 472836) (1997)

**Treasurer:** Dr Michael Heffernan, Department of Geography, Loughborough University, Loughborough, LE11 3TU (Tel: 01509 222747; Fax: 01509 262192; e-mail: MJHeffernan@Int.ac.uk) (1998)

**Newsletter Editor:** Professor Charles Withers, Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh, Drummond Street, Edinburgh EH8 9XP (Tel: 0131 650 2559; Fax: 0131 650 2524; e-mail: office@geo.ed.ac.uk) (1998)

**Postgraduate Liaison:** Dr Marcus Doel, Department of Geography, Loughborough University, Loughborough, LE11 3TU (1997)

**Other Committee Members:** Dr Mark Bassin, Department of Geography, University College London, 26 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AP (Tel: 0171 387 7050 x 5546; Fax: 0171 380 7565; e-mail: mbassin@geog.ucl.ac.uk) (1999); Alison Blunt, Department of Geography, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO9 5NH (Tel: 01703 592215; e-mail: amb@soton.ac.uk) (1999); Dr Elspeth Graham, Department of Geography, University of St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9ST (Tel: 01334 463908; Fax: 01334 463949; e-mail: efg@st.and.ac.uk) (1998); Dr Avril Maddrell, Department of Geography, Westminster College, Oxford OX2 9AT (Tel: 01865 247644; Fax: 01865 251847; e-mail: a.maddrell@ox.west.ac.uk) (1998).

N.B. Dates show year in which term of office expires (in January).

Thanks are due to the out-going members, Martin Phillips and Hugh Mason, for their work for the Group.

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#### **THE J B HARLEY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN THE HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY**

A charitable Trust has been established to support Research Fellowships in the History of Cartography, named after the late Professor J B Harley, as a permanent memorial of his outstanding contribution to the subject. The Fellowships will be open to all those pursuing advanced research in the history of cartography, whatever their nationality, discipline or profession. The terms of the Fellowships reflect Brian Harley's own interdisciplinary and creative research in the history of maps and mapping throughout the world. Applications will be judged on scholarly criteria only.

Recipients will be expected to take advantage primarily of the great wealth of cartographic material available in London (notably at the British Library, the National Maritime Museum, the Public Record Office, and the Royal Geographical Society), to be working towards publication, and to participate in activities in the history of cartography in the London region. Preference will be given to interpretative studies on map history. The sum awarded is intended as a significant contribution to living expenses in London. Each Fellowship will be normally of one month's duration. It is hoped that eventually up to three each year will be available. The Trustees reserve the right to withhold awards in the absence of suitable candidates.

For further information, contact Tony Campbell, (Hon Secretary), or Dr Catherine Delano Smith (Hon. Treasurer), Harley Research Fellowship Trust, c/o The Map Library, The British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG.

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## REPORT ON REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Responses to the second circular have been reasonable but some members still have to return information to the Newsletter editor. It is intended to produce the Register to accompany the November 1996 Newsletter.

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## SOCIETY FOR PHILOSOPHY AND GEOGRAPHY

The HPGRG has received a copy of the Society for Philosophy and Geography *Newsletter*. This contains information about the Society, particularly to do with their refereed annual journal, Philosophy and Geography. Volume 1 of this publication is a theme issue on Environmental Ethics and is due to be available from October 1996. Volume 2 will focus on Public Space. The deadline for papers to Volume 2 is September 15, 1996: papers are invited on any normative aspect of public space that may be of interest to philosophers or geographers. For further information about the journal and the Society, contact one of:

Jonathan M Smith  
Department of Geography  
Texas A & M University  
College Station, TX 77843-3147  
JØ75Ø7@tamvm1.tamu.edu

Andrew Light  
Department of Philosophy  
4-108 Humanities Centre  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Canada T6G 2G5

The Society is organising two sessions - Philosophical Dimensions of Place; Open Session on Philosophy and Geography - at the 1996 Eastern Division, American Philosophical Association Meeting, December 27-30, Atlanta, Georgia. The deadline for submission (of abstract or final paper) is May 10, 1996. Contact Andrew Light (address as above).

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## SOME NOTES FROM 'DOWN UNDER'\*

[\*Patrick Armstrong has kindly agreed to act as a sort of 'unofficial Antipodean correspondent' for the Group].

'I give here some brief notes that may be of some interest to members of the RGS/IBG History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group of a few recent Australian publications':

The journal of the IBG's sister organisation, *Australian Geographical Studies*, is one of the main avenues for publication, and a forum for debate. As in the case of comparable journals elsewhere, discussion on 'environmental' themes has occupied many pages. Thus Ian Moffatt in 1992 (vol 30, no 1 pp 27-42) discusses 'The evolution of the sustainable development concept in Australia'. He traces the influence of the concept from the 1972 Stockholm Conference and the 1980 World Conservation Strategy, through the National Conservation Strategy for Australia, and individual state and territory responses. While generally optimistic and positive, this author concludes 'there is still a need to transform the concept into a useful tool for national and regional planning in Australia'.

In another issue (vol 31, no 2, pp 246-251), J. M. Powell, one of Australia's distinguished thinkers on the history of geographical and environmental ideas, offers an Australian critique on three topical

'geographical thought' publications: R. J. Johnston's *A question of place: exploring the practice of human geography* (1992) and *The challenge for geography A changing world: a changing discipline* (1993), and D. Livingstone's *The geographical tradition: episodes in the history of a contested enterprise* (1992). The title of the 'review article' is 'putting geography in its place', and "the place" is very definitely academia: the reviewer liked all three works, but makes a plea, a plea we have heard from him before, for greater consideration of geography's 'non-academic and even its vernacular roots'.

J. M. Powell practises what he preaches. In vol 15 (pp 51-60) of *Geographers: biobibliographical studies* (1994), he documents the life and work of Alfred William Howitt (1830-1908), the Victorian (state and period) administrator and environmental scientist. Howitt had an 'an intensely personal and peculiarly practical attachment to Australia'. He was one who had an affinity for the Australian bush, conversed freely with farmers and graziers, and yet was in the mainstream of 'the history of environmental appraisal in Australia'. By coincidence, the same volume of *Geographers* (pp 37-50) is my own account of another Australian, a close contemporary of Howitt's, Edward John Eyre (1815-1901), a man of the dust and gum-leaves if ever there was one. Despite his later chequered career as a colonial administrator in other parts of the world he was, in his early manhood when he achieved the first crossing of the nullarbor Plain by a European, 'the most obstinately brave and .... the loneliest of Australian explorers.'

From the nineteenth-century explorers and environmental appraisers with their folksy affinities, back to modernity with 'The status of academic geography in Australia', by J. Gentilli (AGS, vol 32, no 1, pp 131-136), [1994]). This is a careful study of the content and nature of degree courses in geography 'and cognate subjects' such as the various environmental sciences, at Australian universities. A mass of quantitative data is offered, with comparisons between the situation in 1992 and that of 1988, with a backward glance to the 1940s.

A study of the history of geographical thought often involves the careful study of the archives; both those of individual scholars and more generally, so that, for example, the interaction between government policy and the environment can be traced. An important aid to the use of Australian archives has recently been revised: the third edition of the handy guide *Principal manuscript collections in the National Library of Australia* appeared in 1992. Besides giving details of holdings of hundreds of individuals significant in Australian history and thought (geographers Griffith Taylor and Oscar Spate among them), the papers of a large number of 'stations, societies, organisations, companies and conferences' are indexed.

Patrick Armstrong, (Geography Department, University of Western Australia)

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## STUDENT GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINES AND GEOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE

Attention has been paid to the nature and making of geographical traditions (Driver *et. al.*, 1995), and to the different sites and spaces in which geographical knowledge is made, now and in the past (Livingstone, 1995). Arguably, the focus has been on geography's academic places, and on the production of knowledges and tradition(s) within academic sites and spaces, using the latter term to embrace texts, journals, expeditions and laboratories, field trips, surveys, photographs, and so on. Relatively little attention has been paid to what we might call the consumption of geographical knowledge, understood variously as the changing popular view of geography, the 'political economy' of geography's publications (how many books produced and sold, how many editions and

why), and importantly, student engagement with the subject, either within academic sites or more widely within the public sphere.

The short piece that follows - taken from a longer article by Chris Philo in *Drumlin*, the magazine of Glasgow University Department of Geography and incorporated here at my invitation - identifies a number of ways in which Glasgow's students (and several staff) engaged with the shifting nature of geography since 1955. I am grateful to Chris for so readily agreeing to my suggestion that a version appear in the HPGRG *Newsletter*. I thought it might be of interest to members of this Group and, perhaps, might stimulate wider debate on the utility of student-led departmental geographical magazines as a source for understanding how at least one audience came to terms with the subject. Student geography magazines may, of course, reflect particular institutional intellectual imperatives, as here in Glasgow's former insistence on the regional essay. But such localist variations in the practice of the subject and quite how ideas travel, and how and why they are differently engaged with represent precisely the sort of local geographies of knowledge now so central to the interests of many historians of geography and of science (see the report on 'Geographies of Knowledge', p. 1 of this *Newsletter*). How many such magazines are there? How have shifts in the discipline been treated in them? Considering student departmental magazines alone (as with any single source) might be of limited value. I do not wish to suggest a sharp distinction between students as conveners of knowledge, with others ('the academy') as producers, since students are clearly active collaborators in the wider geographical project. As this short piece demonstrates, student magazines can shed light on the local situated making of geographical knowledges and traditions and might merit more sustained investigation for that reason.

Charles Withers

Driver, F. *et. al.*, (1995) 'Geographical traditions: rethinking the history of geography', *Trans. Inst. Brit. Geographers*, 20 (4), 403-422.

Livingstone, D. (1995) 'The spaces of knowledge: contributions towards a historical geography of science', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 13, 5-34.

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### ***Drumlin*: The Early Years of a Geographical Magazine by Chris Philo**

#### **Introducing *Drumlin***

Wandering through the Geography section of the University Library the other day, I came upon the bound volumes of past *Drumlin*, the official Departmental student geography magazine. I decided to read through the first two volumes, my hope being to gain an insight into the history of geography at Glasgow from the pages of these tomes.

The magazine first appeared in February 1955, and was called *The Drumlin*, the 'the' only being dropped in 1964. It was subtitled 'The Magazine of the Glasgow University Geographical Society', and the first editorial (Dunn, 1955a) indicated that the magazine would be sponsored by GUGS, that it should include articles by staff and students, and that it would cost one shilling and endeavour to have 'high standards of production'. The magazine immediately became once-yearly: Vol.1 contained ten issues (spanning 1955 to 1964) and Vol.2 contained eight issues (spanning 1965 to 1972), and all of these issues were chiefly made up of 2- to 5-page articles, fieldtrip reports and departmental news. Even in the earliest editorials (eg. McQueen, 1958; Dyer, 1960; Thomson, 1961) there was talk about the 'tradition' of the magazine, its distinctive facets and composition, and various editors were evidently worried about whether to respect 'the sanctity of tradition' or to

sweep away the 'stagnation of conservatism'. By reading these early editorials, it is possible to see what might be termed 'the invention of a tradition', along with the disputing of tradition's authority, occurring before our very eyes.

One of the key issues around which the 'continuity and change' debate circled was the appropriate balance to be struck between seriousness and humour, and it appears that here was a recurrent issue striking at the heart of what different sets of students regarded as the prime objective of *Drumlin*. One editor noted how the magazine was 'stamped' with "essentially Glaswegian characteristics of humour and realism" (Dyer, 1960, p.2), while another remarked on how the cartoons were designed to give the magazine "a more Goon-like quality this year" (Mitchell, 1962, p.3). Revealingly, one editor noted that "the aim throughout this edition has been to increase the serious matter and to reduce the humour" (Forsyth, 1963, p.3), whereas some years later it was announced that "we have tried to cater for all tastes by introducing a lighter note, while at the same time retaining *Drumlin's* sound academic tradition" (Bolton and Macdonald, 1970, p.3). The character of the magazine throughout the period under review remained basically quite serious, almost in imitation of established 'professional' geographical journals (despite occasional editorial protestations to the contrary). Indeed, the majority of articles from both staff and students entailed serious treatments of geographical subjects, often referenced and accompanied by well-drawn maps and diagrams, and from 1960 a 'symposium' section was introduced which saw staff and occasionally students addressing specific themes of academic significance (such as 'the geographer and society' in 1960, or 'population trends, problems and solutions' in 1972). Moreover, the language of most contributions was formal, staid even, as can be seen from one editorial declaration to the effect that: "[i]n the pages which follow you will find a variety of moods ranging from the strictly academic, through the serious but popular, to the purely farcical" (McQueen, 1958, p.3).

#### ***Drumlin* as a window on changing geographical approaches**

It is not difficult to detect in early *Drumlin* the shift from the era when regional geography held sway through to that of spatial science (complete with quantification, the scientific method and a closet positivism). Vol.1, No.1 was launched by the editor asking the question 'What is geography?' (Dunn, 1955b), and then by a response entitled 'This is geography' from the Head of Department wherein geographers were presented as experts in "the altogetherness of everything" striving to integrate all of their knowledge with respect to "a particular piece of ground" (Miller, 1955, p.7). Regional geography as the study of particular named places was thus regarded as the moment "that geographical studies reach their fullest development" (*ibid.*), and Miller supposed that the region was composed of both natural phenomena and a human element (although he feared that too much of a focus on the latter might deflect studies into being mere social science). These views were in keeping with the prevailing orthodoxy, although it is notable that in speaking of 'altogetherness' Miller actually gave a definition not so different from a modern account of geography as providing "[c]ontextual explanations ... [that] depend upon identifying relations of co-existence, connection or 'togetherness'" (Gregory, 1994, p.90, drawing heavily on Hagerstrand). In Vol.1, No.2 the editor asked the obvious next question of 'What is a geographical region?' (Innes, 1956), and he in turn was answered by a senior staff member in a response entitled 'There are geographical regions' (Halstead, 1957). Halstead here compared regions to 'human individuals, families and societies', all of which vary greatly and have hazy 'boundaries of a kind', and he concluded: "it is easily seen that geographical regions, involving both the variety of nature and of the abilities and traditions of human beings, should be less amenable to definition but nonetheless worthy of study" (*ibid.*, p.7).

Perhaps unsurprisingly, this sort of thinking surfaced in many student contributions, and as a result there were countless contributions examining in detail the natural and human constituents of named regions or places, often with an historical perspective. Very common were articles tackling particular localities in Scotland, although sometimes pulling out specific themes relevant to these

places such as settlement planning, industrial growth or decline, population profiles and the like. Clearly significant in this respect was the fact that between their third and fourth years students had to produce what was called the 'regional essay', which involved the student in conducting his or her own survey of a particular region, reconstructing in painful detail the many factors productive of that region's distinctiveness. In practice most students chose a particular locality in Scotland, one of them confessing that "[i]t is in the geographer's blood to carry out these little surveys" (McLay, 1957, p.23). Issues of *Drumlin* between 1958 and 1962 carried lists and maps of where in Scotland student regional essays had already concentrated, and some students evidently wrote up parts of these essays as articles for inclusion in *Drumlin*. This effect of reconstructing the regional geography of Scotland was enhanced by the presence in several issues of articles reporting on the important survey of crofting districts which was then co-ordinated by the Glasgow department (notably Moisle, 1961: see also MacSween, 1957; Campbell, 1958).

The impact of spatial science can also be traced in *Drumlin*, and to some extent the tensions between regional geography and this new arrival were played out here as they were in the 'proper' journals. This was most striking by the 1970s, when the effects of spatial science were beginning to filter through to undergraduate teaching even in more 'regional' departments such as Glasgow's, and one editor expressed his concern that geography as a simple 'curiosity about places' was increasingly being swamped by "the 'new' geography with its associated paraphernalia of regression analyses, models and scientific pretensions" (Stevenson, 1971, p.3). He went on to wonder if the latter might not "err on the side of quasi-intellectual complexity" (*ibid.*), and to ask if the loss of 'capes and bays geography' might ultimately not be such a good thing. Two more editors speculated that the lack of student articles on urban geography might be "due to the dazzling of our urbanists by the celestial brilliance of the quantified universe" (Grassie and Ballantyne, 1972, p.3). At about the same time one student noted sagely that he might "confidently remark 'regional geography doesn't exist' without running the risk of being hit over the head with the tombstone of Vidal de la Blache", but that he might also "con I.B.M. into granting him several hours of computer time in order to prove absolutely nothing, except that print-outs go through a hell of a lot of paper" (Lamont, 1971, p.16). Although some of the academic staff were doubtless equally cautious about the challenge to regional geography, others readily embraced what spatial science had to offer. An assistant in the department championed an urban geography concentrating on 'regional arrangements of urban centres', 'regional flows of people and goods' and patterns of 'functional centres within towns', and in so doing suggested that "[t]here is no need for us to be timid in examining the new research methods being pioneered" nor in ensuring that "[t]he path between the geography department and the computer lab is quite well-worn" (Forbes, 1964, p.61). Several years later one lecturer provided an assertively model-driven account of urban population change, deploying equations on the form of the 'distance-decay' relationship between population density and (increasing) distance from the city centre, and declaring that the "apparent complexity of demand and supply [with respect to city accommodation] is readily described by quite simple mathematical models" (Kearsley, 1964, esp. p.40). Various other lecturers and postgraduates also made statements about, or gave examples of, research in both urban and population geography which certainly chimed with the emerging spatial-scientific hegemony (eg. Robertson, 1966; Drakakis-Smith, 1968; Caird, 1972).

The article referred to above by Lamont (1971) explored a topic dear to spatial science, the delineation of spatial margins of various kinds (the 'urban-rural fringe', that between a CBD and the 'zone in transition'), and it was just one of many student articles that explored the underlying 'geometry' of human activity in terms of spatial movements, patterns and structures. Examples in this respect included the appearance of articles tracing the geographies of transport and associated intra-settlement and even 'journey-to-work' movements; ones identifying and mapping different species of rural housing and settlements; ones asking about both external locational attributes and internal differentiations of towns and cities; ones conducting 'ecological' analyses in which statistical indicators were used to delimit urban neighbourhoods; and ones investigating the

geographies of shopping centres in relation to urban areas and transport linkages. Moreover, in the 1958 issue there was an article inspired by Hagerstrand's lecture to the department on 'innovation diffusion', and here a student was led to consider qualitative dimensions to the diffusion of past agricultural innovations through the agricultural region of Strathspey (Glen, 1958). Some years later another student picked up on this theme, considering the workings of Hagerstrand's 'neighbourhood effect' at the local scale, and doing so through a quantitative analysis of innovation diffusion - the spread of bulk milk tanks and mechanical byre muckers - in the dairy-farming population of southern Kintyre (MacLennan, 1972). An additional sign of deep-seated change in the discipline was the presence of self-consciously theoretical writing, as in a paper considering the role of a case study-based economic geography in relation to a law-seeking 'location theory' *a la* Von Thunen (Green, 1968), or as in a second paper formulating a 'challenge-and-response' model for historical geography built upon the arguments of Toynbee (to parallel the 'general theories of systems and information' then creeping into urban geography: see Stevenson, 1972).

### ***Drumlin* and anticipating the shape of (geographical) things to come**

Approaches other than those of regional geography or spatial science were quite muted in the pages of *Drumlin* between 1955 and 1972, which is hardly surprising given that the possibilities opened up by 'radical geography' (and specifically 'Marxist geography') or by 'humanistic geography' were themselves only appearing in the late-1960s / early-1970s. This being said, an exchange student from Leningrad did mention communism in a 1962 contribution, claiming that the 'creative atmosphere' of Glasgow University wherein people "don't work to live but live to work" reflected the same underlying 'spirit' as was "an essential part of the communist attitude to life" (Kvitko, 1962, p.18). Another student reviewed 'Soviet geography', explaining how this had been heavily influenced by Marx's statement in *Das Capital* that "the economic formation of society is viewed as a process of natural history" (quoted in Evans, 1969, p.7), and offering an account of how Soviet geographers differed in their interpretations of 'environmental determinism' depending upon their fidelity to the founding texts of Marx and Lenin. With regard to a more humanistic orientation, one student reflected upon what he or she termed 'theological geography' (Phidon, 1957), suggesting that the Christian doctrine of human 'free will' was more compatible with the theories of 'possibilism' than with those of a stark 'environmental determinism'. In effect this student was insisting upon an enlarged sense of human agency in geographical thought, and was doing so in a manner later to be elaborated upon by humanistic geographers with Christian beliefs (esp. Ley, 1980). A second student, meanwhile, made a related point when noting that "[i]n all its empire of writings geography never ventures into the realm of metaphysics, or the spiritual or the superstitious - or, in a word, the religious" (Lunan, 1969, p.79). Taking seriously such 'ethereal' aspects of the human psyche, acknowledging the influence that all manner of faiths, beliefs and imaginings have on human interactions with place, has of course been a demand at the heart of humanistic geography. In addition, one student argued for taking an 'ungeographical viewpoint' on a place such as India, suggesting that this should involve going beyond statistical listings to "seeing the country through the eyes of its people", and accepting that "'atmosphere', the feel of an area, is an important element of regional character" (McKenna, 1970, p.55). This student then described the sounds, smells and colours of different Indian landscapes - "the patter of dusty bare feet", "the odour of sandalwood", "vegetables, materials and wares of every hue imaginable" - and concluded that "[t]hese colours, smells and sounds of India are as much a part of the country as the Deccan and the Ganges valley" (*ibid.*, p.56). Here she was writing as a 'true' humanistic geographer, and in her sensitivity to 'embodied knowledges' of places acquired through the senses she also anticipated important new ideas about 'bodily geographies' only now being given attention (eg. Rodaway, 1994).

A number of undergraduate and postgraduate contributions were also quite innovative, not so much in anticipating later approaches to geographical thought as in considering specific topics

which have only recently started to receive sustained geographical attention. Several articles explored geographical aspects of the relationship between humans and animals, for instance, with one looking at reindeers in Scotland (Glen, 1957), a second looking at the (ab)use of wild animals (McCredie, 1962), and a third looking at red deer in the Highland economy (Lunan, 1968). While in the mainstream literature human geographers have occasionally dealt with subjects such as animal domestication, it is only very recently (notably with a theme issue of *Society and Space*: Wolch and Emel, 1995) that human geographers have begun to treat animals seriously. Several articles explored geographical aspects of sport, and particularly notable was a piece on the geography of football deploying 'central place' thinking in examining the relationship between population levels and club success, and also discussing such regional differences in Scottish football as the fact that "fans in the west throw cans while those in the east throw bottles" (O'Hare, 1971). Work on the geography of sport has not been accorded all that much respect in the wider geographical literature until the last few years, but now several texts have begun to overcome this neglect, particularly when discussing 'sports landscapes' associated with football and other stadium-based sports (Bale, 1993, 1994). The current interest of social-cultural geographers in minority and marginal human groups is not well-represented in the pages of *Drumlin*, except to a limited extent in one piece on crofters and their 'way of life' (MacLeod, 1957) and also in a second piece on 'Scotland's nomads' or 'showmen', the people who run funfairs (operating dodgems, waltzers and the like) and who "travel the length and breadth of the country, bringing their particular brand of entertainment to places as far apart as Coldstream and Invergordon, or Eyemouth and Rothesay" (Stenson, 1966, p.23). This latter study of a group whose members lead a gypsy-like existence - some of them even have Romany 'blood' and many of them include Romany words in their 'esoteric language' - predated Sibley's (1981) wonderful geographical study of gypsies and other 'outsiders' by fifteen years. Other innovative articles included one on the geography of the Gaelic language, charting its 'retreat' between 1881 and 1951 (MacSween, 1959), and another addressing the geography of wine (McCormick, 1958).

### Summary thoughts

I should indicate in summary that my reading of early *Drumlin* has not been exhaustive, and that rather more could have been said, for instance, about articles dealing with physical geography, biogeography, development geography, historical geography, archaeology and topographic science. Specific arguments and transitions in these sub-disciplinary fields could doubtless have been traced here as well, but time, energy and competence are against me. Perhaps in final conclusion, though, I should simply suggest that these early *Drumlin* do offer an intriguing 'bottom-up' counterpoint to more 'top-down' accounts of geography's history. They thereby hint at how theoretical, methodological and even 'political' shifts in the discipline (as pursued in print by small numbers of 'visible' professional geographers) can translate into the thinking, fieldworking, writing and murmurings of the many 'invisible' student geographers whose responses are almost never subjected to sympathetic scrutiny. And yet, maybe we could learn much about what all of the apparent excitements and excesses of such shifts really amounted to by listening to these neglected student 'voices' from the discipline's past, and maybe there is indeed an intellectual warrant here for taking seriously the pages of a student geographical magazine such as *Drumlin*.

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