

cartographic perspectives

Number 11, Fall 1991

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message from the editor

At the 1991 annual conference in Milwaukee, NACIS's Board of Directors approved a motion to publish *Cartographic Perspectives* three times per year instead of four. The change is effective immediately; this issue (Number 11, Fall 1991) will be followed by Number 12, Spring 1992. There will no longer be a Winter issue. Publishing one less issue will help us maintain *CP*'s diverse content and distinguished format while avoiding a dues increase.

In the first issue of *CP* (March 1989) I expressed my hope that the publication would become one that "NACIS members will find useful, be proud of, and most important, be part of." Your interest and participation is no less important now. If you find *CP* valuable and wish it to continue, you can help in two ways. First, renew your membership and encourage others, particularly institutions, to subscribe. NACIS treasurer Edward Hall has added codes to your address label to inform you of the status of your membership. "OK" confirms that you are a member in good standing; "REN" means that your annual membership has expired, and that you need to pay your



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dues to continue receiving *CP*; "COMP" indicates that you have received a complimentary copy of *CP* that is intended to entice you to become a NACIS member. Both renewals and new memberships can be accomplished by sending a copy of the form on the last page of *CP*, along with a check, to Ed.

Second, contribute materials for publication. If the featured article format doesn't suit you, contact me with an idea for a book review, map review, mapping software review, or "fugitive literature" review. If you don't like to write, just send relevant news clippings or graphics. *CP* is special because it encourages commentators to express themselves in their own voices. Your involvement is essential.

David DiBiase

letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

Brian Harley's commentary, "Can there be a cartographic ethics?" [published in *Cartographic Perspectives* Number 10, Summer 1991], raises serious issues for his colleagues. Such dialogues play an important role in the evolving standards of a profession. Ironically, this article appears to breach another profession's standards. In publishing, careful editing requires meticulous checking of attributions of any kind, including personal communications.

To be more specific, Dr. Harley states correctly that he was invited to publish a version of his paper in the *ACSM Bulletin*. He then states that he was informed by the editor that his remarks about the Peters projection were at variance with an official ACSM pronouncement on the subject and that for this reason his essay would not be published! [his punctuation]. This is incorrect on two major points.

First, in 1987 the ACSM Board of Directors, prompted by a mistaken attribution that had appeared in the literature, confirmed unanimously that ACSM does **not** have an official position on the Peters projection. Second, after Dr. Harley submitted his article in response to my request, it was read by several cartographers on my review committee, one of whom is the editor of *Cartography and Geographic Information Systems (CAGIS)*, the ACSM scholarly journal addressing cartographic issues. I discussed the reviewers' comments in detail with Dr. Harley and suggested that due to the length and depth of his discussion, *CAGIS* would be a more appropriate forum for publication. With Dr. Harley's full knowledge, the article was sent to *CAGIS*. It is my understanding that because additional peer review and further delay would

have been required to publish in the journal, Dr. Harley eventually decided to send his paper to *Cartographic Perspectives*. The paper was not rejected by ACSM.

Dr. Harley's strong implication of censorship by the *ACSM Bulletin* is totally unfounded. In his attempt to illustrate a well-taken point about the important role ethics must play in cartography, he has been allowed to make statements that responsible editing would have removed. The unfortunate result is that the credibility of an important discussion has been weakened.

Gail Papa, Editor
ACSM Bulletin

a passing

On Sunday, October 27, just a few days after the NACIS annual conference in Milwaukee, founding member John Schroeder died.

John will be remembered for his genuine interest in people and what they had to say. He always made a point of getting to know new members at the annual meetings. He will also be missed at future NACIS social gatherings, for John was as smooth on the dance floor as he was in the conference hall. It is a sad irony that John passed away while out dancing with friends. He added much to the quality of the organization and his profession, and we mourn his passing.

The following is reprinted from *The Gazette* of the Library of Congress, November 1, 1991:

Monday, October 28, was to be the day that Geography and Map Division catalogers celebrated receipt of a group award for the

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