

(1818-1883), James Parsons (1915-1997) and William Warrtz (1922-1988).

Volume 20 gives accounts of: John Adair (1660-1718), James Cook, RN (1728-1779), Owen Lattimore (1900-1989), Tsunesaburo Makiguchi (1871-1944), Thomas Malthus (1766-1834), Akira Nakanome (1874-1959), John Ogiby (1600-1676), Charles-Eugène Perron (1837-1909), Pedro C. Sánchez Granados (1871-1956) and Zhang He (1371-1433).

Volume 21 should appear in mid-2001, and will include biobibliographies of a similar range of figures including the explorer of Arabia, Charles Montagu Doughty, the early feminist writer Harriet Martineau, pioneer ecologist Charles Elton and Giraldus Cambrensis or Gerald of Wales, the mediaeval Welsh writer on Wales and Ireland, as well as Yi Chung-hwan from Korea, and John Septimus Roe from Australia

The editors are always happy to receive suggestions of individuals who might be included from potential authors. There is a special need, to maintain the balance of the publication, for essays from South America and Africa.

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### Geography in Mexico

The most ancient traditions and cultures of Central America had an extensive and varied knowledge of the territory now known as Mexico; this background was developed by the "geographical relationships" of the sixteenth century and the geographical atlases of Antonio García Cubas in the nineteenth. The twentieth century has witnessed new approaches to Mexican geography, its development at the University of Mexico and the application of new technologies to the analysis of geographical space.

Today Mexican geography is in a state of transformation, particularly within the universities, and under the leadership of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Advanced studies in geography have changed in order to adapt their subject matter to the current preoccupation with the relationship between humanity

and nature, both at the local and the global scale. Research is developing under the impetus of a small but active community of geographers at the Institute of Geography of UNAM (<http://www.igeoraf.unam.mx>) and through the influence of the journal *Investigaciones geográficas* (Geographical Investigations).

Thanks to the collective efforts of this group, and as the result of their work, several publications now exist, which in an integrative and pedagogic way, have opened up new methods of discussion and distribution of geographical information. One might particularly note the National Atlas of Mexico (1990-1992), comprising three volumes, 160 sheets and over 600 thematic maps, classified into sections (history, society, natural environment, International relations). The new series "Temas Selectos de la Geografía de México" (Selected Themes in the Geography of Mexico), a complete series of 113 titles (four of which have been published), provides information on fundamental aspects on the country, its history, natural environment, society, towns and economy.

Mexican geography as a whole seeks to address the challenges of the future, through theoretical reflection regarding its social and university roles as a specialised discipline, through the updating of study programmes, through the growth of its influence in university life, for example in its establishment in towns such as Xalapa (Veracruz), San Luis Potosi (SLP) and Mérida, (Yucatán), as well as through collaboration – ever more necessary – with economic sectors and public administration.

Héctor Mendoza Vargas, UNAM

**Symposium of MEXICO  
from July 9th to 11th 2001**

**See enclosed inset**

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# INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION INTERNATIONAL UNION OF THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT

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A. Buttimer, D. Hooson, P. Pinchemel, K. Takeuchi (past chairs of the Commission), J.A. van Ginkel (Rector of the UNU, Tokyo), Sitanshu Mookerjee (Socio-Economic Research Institute, Calcutta)

*Several Regional Correspondents.*

**A**t the time of the review of activities for the period 1996 to 2000, and of its new programme (shown opposite), at the meeting of the General Assembly of the IGU held during the Congress in Seoul in August 2000, the Commission on the History of Geographical Thought was renewed for another four years. It was the Commission, which, with one other, received the most votes of support. The shows an appreciation of our previous work, and this sign of confidence will be a source of encouragement to our developing ambitions!

**T**hese will be brought about though several means: the extension of our involvement with the great problems of the day; the development of our links with other international organisations; the continuation of our policy of producing publications of high scientific quality; the strengthening of our policy of encouraging young geographers; support for the creation and development of national groups working on the history of geographical thought; continuation of the policy of bilingualism, together with the inclusion of other languages; diversification of methods of work, such as the greater use of workshops.

**T**he next symposium is to be held within the framework of the International Congress on the History of Science, in Mexico, in July 2001. Other international meetings will follow, including the IGU Regional Congress in Durban (South Africa) in 2002 and then the next International Geographical Congress in Glasgow in 2004.  
Best wishes. See you I hope, in Mexico!

Vincent Berdoulay

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## Project of the Commission 2000-2004 :

*Overall theme: The history of geographic thought, between fragmentation and the universal*

The Commission on the History of Geographical Thought has already sought to demonstrate how geography has been enriched by the diversity which comes from different points of view and how it has attempted to reconcile them in specific contexts. The Commission has also clarified the sort of barriers and misunderstandings which can occur in an intercultural or global context.

We believe that it is important to continue to pursue this particular research orientation. On the one hand, it should be more fully disseminated among scientific institutions and in those countries which have not had much exposure to it. On the other hand, it should be deepened through the extension of research avenues which are being opened and which are interested in using the history of geographical thought as a tool for reflection on the future. Situated in the continuity of the intercultural approach, these extensions of research avenues constitute the principal objectives of the programme for 2000-2004, which will take advantage from strengthened ties with the IUHPS (International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science).

### *Interrelated Objectives*

- 1) To develop the study of problems posed by geography's global history. How can a truly global history of geographic thought be constructed, one which takes account of the diversity among different countries and historical periods as well as scientific norms which are largely shared? Is it necessary to proceed thematically or in terms of regions of the world? Up to which point should scientific criteria be relativized? This all involves interrogating all available means and methods.
- 2) To study the interactions between geography and other modes of thought or knowledge. How has geography been enriched by, and how has geography itself enriched other modes of knowledge, for example in planning, politics, art or other skills and cognitive activities? What sorts of cross-sectional approaches and themes can be identified? What sorts might be encouraged? This is the issue of defining types of interaction which are most effective for the development of geography.
- 3) To identify and examine the future prospects for the history of geographical thought in the light of its history. How have geographers

thought about the future? How have they integrated this preoccupation in their work? How can future scientific methodologies and needs be identified? The point is to determine what the history of geographical thought can tell us about the transition from the retrospective to the prospective. The tenth anniversary of the Rio Conference will be used to structure contributions to this objective.

### **Report on Commission Symposium, Chongju, South Korea, 10 -13 August 2000**

A Commission symposium was held at Korea National University of Education, Chongju, South Korea, 10-13 August 2000. The 3 days conference immediately preceded the main congress of the IGU (29th IGC) in Seoul. The theme of the Commission symposium was GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT OF THE EAST AND THE WEST and its aim was to bring together a wide range of "geographic thought" in academic as well as folk traditions of both the Western and non-Western world. With the participation of scholars from diverse cultural backgrounds, this conference was a small meeting place in "the silk road of geographic thoughts" connecting the East to the West. Although few papers were directly focusing on the cross-cultural studies in the history of geographic thought, all 16 papers were on geographic thoughts representing various cultural regions. In total there were 25 registered participants from China, France, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Poland, Russia and United States of America.

The symposium was organised into three sessions: one on Geographers, their thoughts and their lives; two on Concepts in Geographic Thought. It began on the evening of Thursday 10 August with opening session where Dr Jong-ok Woo, President of Korea National University of Education gave an Opening Address welcoming the participants, Vincent Berdoulay, the Commission chair presented the commission profile. During the session the keynote speaker, Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov gave a keynote address on "Berkeleyan Cultural- Historical Geography in the United States".

In the following morning of Friday 11 August at Session One: Geographers, their thoughts and their lives, papers were read by Bella B. Bychkova Jordan (Leo Gumilev (1914-1992) Russian Cultural-Ethnic Geographer), Chan Lee (Korea's Cartographical Heritage), Martin S. Kenzer (Carl o. Sauer's Pivotal Move Toward the Cultural Landscape), Keiichi Takeuchi (Indige-

nous Geographical Thought Reappraised by Modern Japanese Academic Geographers, with Special Reference to Motoharu Fujita), and Inshil Choe Yoon (Geographic Thought in Yi Chung-hwan's T'aengniji, Korean Classic for Choosing Settlement).

During the afternoon, Session Two: Concepts in Geographic Thought (I), papers were presented by Jianxiong Ge (Concept of Cultural Distance and Its Effects on Geography in Ancient China), Hong-key Yoon (On the Academic Tasks of the Historians of Geographic Thought). After the second paper session, the commission business meeting was held with most symposium participants attending, followed by a dinner which was hosted by the president of Korea National University of Education.

On Saturday 12 August, all participants joined a whole day field trip to Old Castle and its vicinities at Chongju, which was an introduction to Korean rural cultural landscape, and that night's dinner was hosted by the government of Chungbuk Province.

On the morning of Sunday 13 August, at Session Three: Concepts in Geographic Thought (II), papers were presented by Grigoriy Kostinskiy (Cross, Square and Mandala: Visual Figures in Geographical Conceptualisation); on-Jeong Kwon (An Overview on Feng shui as a Discourse in Korea); Je-Hun Ryu (The Relationship between Religion and Geographic Thought in Korea); Witold Wilczynski (Regional diversity of Poland: theoretical concept and its experimental testing).

After the final paper session and lunch the participants took a group photo before leaving by bus for Seoul where the main congress of 29th IGC was held.

The Chongju meeting was a success in re-examining an important intellectual responsibility of the commission: monitoring, documenting and explaining the trends of geographic thought through time, space and place. Hong-key Yoon (University of Auckland) was the organiser of the commission meeting and symposium, and the local organiser was Je hun Ryu (Korea National University of education, Chongju, South Korea).

Hong-key Yoon

### **Joint Session with the Study Group on the Cultural Approach in Geography, entitled "Adapting geography to evolving cultures", Seoul, 15-16 August 2000.**

Jointly organised by Vincent Berdoulay and Paul Claval as part of the International Geographical Congress in Seoul, this session attracted substantial interest. Nine papers, presented by geographers from seven different countries, showed how the evolution of geographical thought is linked to culture, and the extent that the study of one influences the that of the other. Concepts, theories and methods must constantly be adapted to these changes, which have permitted of some of the most exciting developments in geography.

Presentations were given by Hong-key Yoon (Tracing geomentality in a cross-cultural context), Shirai Ypshiki and Iwao Kaneyasu (Mobile lifescape), Paul Claval (L'approche culturelle et la géographie du XXe siècle: le rôle de la communication [The cultural approach and geography in the twentieth century: the role of communication]), Fabrizio Eva (The conception of space in differentiating Western ideologies), Je-hun Ryu (Integrating new and traditional geographies in Korea), Gregory Knapp (Adapting geography to evolving cultures in the Mountain West of the Americas), Izaak Schnell (Israeli geography in search of a national identity), Vincent Berdoulay (Le récit géographique : passé et avenir [The geographical story: past and future]), and Keiichi Takeuchi (The articulation of modern Japanese geography with indigenous geographical thought: its significance for the prospects of geography).

### **Geographers: Bibliographic Studies**

Because of publishing difficulties in 1999, both volumes 19 and 20 appeared in the year 2000. As in previous volumes there are included figures from many parts of the world and from a wide range of historical periods. Both major luminaries and lesser-known lives are illustrated: the test is: Did the individual concerned have an influence on the development of geographical enquiry or ideas? The Mansell imprint, under which the publication has appeared for many years, is now a part of the Continuum Publishing Group.

Volume 19 includes essays on the following: Francis Beaufort, RN, (1774-1857), Francisco Díaz Covarrubias (1833-1889), William Dunbar (1749-1810), José Gavira Martín (1903-1951), Mary Kingsley (1862-1900), Salvador Llorbe i Reverter (1908-1991), Karl Marx