

# base line

a newsletter of the Map and Geography Round Table

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**Volume 26, Number 3**  
**June 2005**



**base line** is an official publication of the American Library Association's Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT). The purpose of **base line** is to provide current information on cartographic materials, other publications of interest to map and geography librarians, meetings, related governmental activities, and map librarianship. It is a medium of communication for members of MAGERT and information of interest is welcome. The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the American Library Association and MAGERT. Contributions should be sent to the appropriate editor listed below.

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**Advertising Rates:** For one issue: Full page \$100; Half page \$50; Quarter page \$25. Inside back cover, opposite "Great Moments in Map Librarianship": Full page \$150; Half page \$80; Quarter Page \$40.

Send graphic or word processing file as an email attachment to the Editor or mail hard copy to Editor. Submissions will be re-formatted to the extent necessary to fit the size and proportion requested. Consider that the final size and proportion of a full page is 5.5 x 8.5 inches. Advertisers will be invoiced. Mail checks to the MAGERT Treasurer, payable in US Dollars to ALA-MAGERT.

**base line** is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October, and December. Single issues of **base line** are available at a cost of \$5.00 per issue, U.S. and Canadian orders; \$7.00 per issue for all other foreign orders. Checks, payable to the American Library Association, should be mailed to Jim Coombs, **base line** Production Manager, Maps Library, Southwest Missouri State University, 901 S. National, #175, Springfield, MO 65804-0095. Claims for the current volume year should also be made to the base line Production Manager.

Members of MAGERT receive **base line** as a benefit of their memberships. Non-member subscription rates are \$25.00, U.S. and Canada; \$30.00 for all other foreign subscriptions. Checks, payable to the American Library Association, should be mailed to Peter Linberger, Subscription Manager, **base line**, Bierce Library, University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-1709. Tel: 330/972-8230. Fax: 330/972-7225. E-mail: [pl@uakron.edu](mailto:pl@uakron.edu)

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<http://magert.who.edu>

## FROM THE CHAIR

Susan Moore, University of Northern Iowa

This year as Chair has gone by very quickly. I thank you all for your support and hope that I've done the Round Table some good during my time as Chair.

The Annual Conference in Chicago is shaping up nicely. The full schedule is elsewhere in this issue so please peruse it and I hope to see you in Chicago! The traditional Friday night reception will be at the Chicago Historical Society. We have two good programs planned as well as our usual slate of committee meetings. Despite my best effort, the General Membership meeting is at the usual time on Tuesday morning.



There are some items we as a cartographic community need to keep track of in the coming months. This includes the final decision of NGA on the public sale and distribution of aeronautic charts and other products.

The Executive Board drafted a letter that was based on a letter written by Linda Zellmer and sent it on to the ALA Washington Office and ALA Offices. Another item of concern are the retirements of several librarians from the USGS Libraries. What this means for the future role of libraries in USGS remains to be seen.

Thank you again for your interests in the Map and Geography Round Table and cartographic materials.



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## 2005 ALA ANNUAL MAGERT SCHEDULE Chicago, IL

The ALA Annual Conference will take place in Chicago, Illinois from June 23 through 29, 2004. The MAGERT schedule appears opposite. For additional information on all ALA programs, see the ALA Conference Web site <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2005a/home.htm>.

Please note that all MAGERT meetings are open to all ALA members. Feel free to attend any meeting that interests you.

**Friday, June 24, 2004**

7:00 – 9:00 PM      MAGERT Welcome Reception  
 Sponsored by MapLink  
 Chicago Historical Society      Café

**Saturday, June 25, 2004**

8:00 – 9:00 AM      Executive Board I      SHER Parlor E  
 9:00 – 11:00 AM      Federal Spatial Information      SHER Erie  
    Discussion Group  
 1:30 – 3:30 PM      **Program I:**      MCP N229  
    **Need Maps?: Acquiring Maps**  
    **for Your Collection**  
 4:00 – 5:00 PM      Small Map Collections Discussion Group      SHER Superior B  
 4:00 – 5:00 PM      Research Libraries Map Collection      SHER Mississippi  
    Management Discussion Group

**Sunday, June 26, 2004**

8:00 – 9:00 AM      ALCTS-CCS/MAGERT Map      SHER Erie  
    Cataloging Discussion Group  
 9:30 – 11:30 AM      Cataloging and Classification Committee      SHER Erie  
 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM      Education Committee      SHER Missouri  
 1:30 – 3:30 PM      Publications Committee      SHER Lincoln Exec.  
    Board Rm.  
 4:00 – 5:00 PM      Membership Committee      SHER Parlor E

**Monday, June 27, 2004**

9:00 – 11:00 AM      GIS Discussion Group      INTER Wright  
    and GeoTech Committee  
 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM      Program Planning Committee      INTER Michigan  
 1:30 – 3:30 PM      **Program II:**      INTER Camelot  
    **Options of Making Maps and**  
    **Geospatial Data Accessible Online**

**Tuesday, June 28, 2004**

8:00 – 9:00 AM      Executive Board II      SHER Mississippi  
 9:30 – 11:00 AM      General Membership Meeting      SHER Mississippi

**INTER** Intercontinental Chicago  
**MCP** McCormick Place  
**SHER** Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers

# NEW MAPS AND BOOKS

Fred Musto, Yale University

## New Maps

### Of East View and Tsunamis

After my mention of mapping of tsunami-affected regions in the February *base line*, the good folks at East View Cartographic e-mailed me a listing of some additional available maps of the areas, and chided me a bit for emphasizing the rather high costs of materials from EVC. I should mention again that they do offer considerable discounts off their stated prices. While they could do a better job of reminding libraries of their special rates for educational institutions, admittedly it's a bit tricky to do so on their web site without having their big-spender commercial customers question their prices.

Some examples that they cited included the 1:250K maps of Sumatra, which are listed on their website at \$57 a sheet but are available to academic libraries for only \$7 per sheet. More significantly, East View has also managed to obtain the 1:50K topos of Sri Lanka, once restricted and unavailable, and are offering the 92-map set for only \$8 per sheet.

The point is, if you collect large-scale map series from around the world, it's worth your while to get on EVC's mailing list. In recent years they've broadened their stock well beyond the familiar Russian military topos, and their impressive new website lists maps from all areas and sources and includes

thematic maps, atlases, and other material. They certainly seem anxious to deal with libraries, and willing to offer substantial discounts to this market. Kim Esser is their library sales rep, and if you're not on her e-mail list, drop her a note [kim.esser@cartographic.com](mailto:kim.esser@cartographic.com) and let her know your interests.

The same holds true for some of the other major vendors. Omni does a better job than most of keeping its library customers aware of new items, special sales, etc., both on their website and via e-mail. MapLink might be a little less user-friendly, but a simple request to both asking to be put on their library list will keep you up-to-date without being overwhelmed with unwanted messages. Contact them at: [inquiries@omnimap.com](mailto:inquiries@omnimap.com) and [custserv@maplink.com](mailto:custserv@maplink.com).

### Sudan

Another country much in the news lately because of internal turmoil is Sudan. And like many third-world countries, it also suffers from a lack of good mapping. GeoProjects, a highly-regarded British publisher noted for two somewhat disparate series of maps of the inland waterways of Britain and of the Arab world, has just issued a new 2005 edition of their *Sudan* map. The double-sided 26 x 26" sheet includes a 1:4M map of the country showing relief, administrative boundaries, communications, etc.,

with an index of place names. On the reverse are city maps of Khartoum at 1:15K and Omdurman at 1:50K, along with descriptive text on the geography, history, and economy of Sudan, as well as tourist information. Available for \$18.95 from MapLink, it would be a worthwhile purchase for any collection. The only other recent (and decent) map of Sudan is a 2001 ITMB edition at 1:2.7M. The 38 x 27" sheet, which includes an inset map of Khartoum, retails for \$10.95.

Large-scale topographic mapping is restricted by the Sudanese government, although East View lists both the 1:250K and 1:100K series by the Sudan Survey Department. The 250K series is quite dated, and only about 100 of a complete set of 171 are theoretically available. The 100K series is more recent, but spotty. Only about 200 sheets of a possible 920 have been published since the 1960s, mainly in the central and northeastern areas of the country. Of course we can thank the Soviet military for mapping Sudan completely at 200K and 500K, although even they decided that only about a third of the country was worthy of 100K coverage. The Soviets also mapped several Sudanese cities at 1:10K. Both the Russian and the Sudanese topos are expensive, but perhaps worth negotiating a deal with East View. The only other options are the more reasonably priced NGA charts. Fifteen sheets of the 500K TPCs over full coverage of Sudan, while the 30 available (again theoretically) 250K JOGs offer partial coverage.

<http://www.cartographic.com>

## Italy

The Italian military mapping agency, Istituto Geografico Militare, which produces very high quality topographic mapping, has two new large-scale series underway. While these 1:50K and 1:25K maps are ostensibly readily available, they are notoriously difficult to acquire. From discussions with vendors, the procedure, which sounds so typically Italian, goes something like this. A purchaser has to appear in person at the IGM headquarters in Florence, make a specific request, come back the next day to get a price, pay for the maps at the local post office, return to the IGM office with a receipt, and physically remove them from the premises. Apparently customer service doesn't extend to delivery or online ordering.

While you may be able to use this method to justify a trip to Florence, an easier solution would be to use the services of the Italian book dealer Casalini Libri. Larger libraries who have approval plans for Italian materials will be familiar with this vendor, whose headquarters just happen to be located outside Florence. They now offer the 1:50K and 1:25K series at reasonable prices — 14 (ca. \$17.50) per sheet for the 50K, and 13 (ca. \$16.25) for the 25K. (This compares to a \$29.95 per sheet price from Omni.) About 520 of the 50K series have been published (of approximately 640 needed for complete coverage), while nearly 1000 of the 2K series are available.

This is still pretty expensive, as a set of the 50K would set you back about \$9000. Casalini recently offered a special price of 6552 (ca. \$8200) several months ago, so they may be willing to be a bit flexible, although as with everything from Europe these days, much depends on the value of the dollar versus the euro. They also offer standing orders, and they can arrange for the purchase and delivery of newly published maps on an annual basis. <http://www.casalini.it>

While the IGM products are great maps, they're probably more than most libraries need or can afford. Omni and MapLink both carry a bilingual 1:250K series of JOGs jointly produced by the Italians and NIMA in the 1980s. Priced at \$20 each, the 39 sheets seem to be a mix of air and ground charts. An even better alternative are the maps published by the Touring Club Italiano, widely considered to be the best road maps of the country. TCI has recently issued new editions of their provincial/regional 1:200K maps. The 15 maps in the series, each measuring about 54 x 37", sell for \$12.95 and are available from most dealers.

## D-Day

Alan Godfrey, noted as a publisher of reprints of large-scale Ordnance Survey maps, has a new series of "Old D-Day Maps." They are part of the 1:25K 4347 series prepared by the Geographical Section General Staff (GSGS) for the 1944 invasion and constantly updated with intelligence

information until just before D-Day. The three available maps, all of which carry the notation "Stop Press Edition of 20 May 1944," cover St. Pierre du Mont (Omaha Beach), St. Aubin (Sword & Juno Beaches), and Ouistreham (Pegasus Bridge). The folded maps, which open to about 16 x 24", also contain some interesting text providing historical background. Reasonably priced at £3.25, they should appeal to military history buffs and would be a nice addition to an historical map collection. <http://www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk>

## New Books and Atlases

***Russian Military Mapping: A Guide to Using the Most Comprehensive Source of Global Geospatial Intelligence.*** Translation from the Russian. Minneapolis: East View Cartographic, 2005. 188 p. \$295 HC (ISBN: 0974297313)

This unusual little book is a translation of the basic manual used to train Russian military officers in mapping skills. East View has been the major supplier of Russian military topographic maps, and this manual is a valuable compliment to such collections, as well as an intriguing look at one Russian military activity. The first part of the book is a general summary of the purposes and types of topographic mapping, which would be a good introduction to the topic for anyone new to the field. For most collections, however, the real value of the book lies in the appendices, which take up about half the work.

Included are samples of the various scales and types of maps, as well as a complete listing and explanation of the symbols used on these maps, all clearly presented in color. While the Russian military maps are noted for their accuracy, detail, and quality, the one drawback for users, at least those not proficient in Russian, has been the difficulty of interpreting some of the symbols. This book should alleviate that problem, making it a worthwhile purchase despite the high price..

***The Palestine Question in Maps, 1878-2002.*** Jerusalem: PASSIA, Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs, 2002. 165 p. \$25 ISBN: 99503050200. This is an interesting work from a Jerusalem-based Palestinian research organization that has issued a number of publications on the "Palestinian Question." It consists of 53 mostly full-page (8 x 11") color maps, each accompanied by a page of relevant text. The book is divided into five sections, three by date (1878-1948; 1949-1991; 1993-2002), and two thematic ("Jerusalem," and "Special Issues"). The maps cover a wide variety of topics, many seldom mapped before ("Israeli Settlement Master Plans, 1976-1991;" "Jerusalem and the *Corpus Separatum* Proposed in 1947;" "Arab East Jerusalem within 'Greater' Jerusalem, 2000"), and are generally very well-done. The text, however, certainly emphasizes the Palestinian viewpoint, and many will find it less than balanced. But if you strive for equal treatment in your collection, you may want to add a copy. Ordering may prove a bit problematic, and it took

over a year for our library's copy to arrive even after prepayment. Ordering information can be found on the PASSIA website: <http://www.passia.org>

***Maps in the Atlases of the British Library: A Descriptive Catalogue c. AD 850-1800.*** Rodney Shirley. London: British Library, 2004. 2 vols. \$400. (ISBN: 0712347992). This long-awaited work, some 15 years in the making, is basically a listing of the atlases, and the individual maps within them, held by the British Library. The term "atlas" has been broadened to include books on many subjects that include at least nine maps. (A careful reading of the introduction is necessary for an understanding of what is and is not included.) And while all atlases in the BL have been listed, full collations are not provided for works described in such reference works as Koeman's *Atlantes Neerlandici* and Pastoureau's *Les Atlas Francais*, representing a considerable portion of the BL's holdings.

The two-volume work, totaling over 1900 pages, analyzes over 3000 atlases. Volume one covers the nearly 1800 terrestrial atlases, while volume two is devoted to maritime, celestial, and manuscript atlases and over 700 "general works." For the atlases that are collated, besides complete bibliographic information for the volume, the title, dimensions, and editorial comments are given, enough to easily identify the map if found as a separate sheet. The volumes include a "master list" of the atlas entries arranged by mapmaker, and a separate CD-ROM index allows searching by

mapmaker and geographical area, both leading to titles of individual maps. The only drawback is the lack of searching by individual map title, which makes identifying a separate loose map more difficult. And in the best of worlds, each map would also be illustrated, as in the new Koeman, but this would certainly have made an already pricey item prohibitively expensive. A most impressive work, suitable mainly for the largest of collections.

***Grote Atlas van Nederlands Oost-Indie / Comprehensive Atlas of the Netherlands East Indies.*** J. R. Van Diessen, et al. Zierikzee : Asia Maior ; Utrecht : Koninklijk Nederlands Aardrijkskundig Genootschap, 2004. 480 p. 265. (ISBN: 9074861229). Nobody made more beautiful maps than the Dutch during their “golden age of cartography” in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Apparently, if this book is any indication, they haven’t lost the knack of producing spectacular cartographic works. This huge work, which uses an 18 x 13" page-size and weighs some 17 pounds, includes over 500 maps and town plans of the Dutch East Indies, all magnificently reproduced in color on heavy paper.

The atlas covers a relatively brief period, from about 1890 to 1950, but shows the complete range of colonial mapping for those years, seemingly including just about every extant map. Most of the maps were originally published by the TDNI (Topographical Service in the Netherlands East Indies), but also included are all relevant maps

from the 1938 *Atlas van Tropisch Nederland*, and a number of English-language town plans produced by British, American, and other military services during World War II. Proof that beautiful books can still be made if money is no object, the *Grote Atlas* is naturally very expensive, but large collections and those with any interest in Indonesia will find it a worthwhile addition.

***Mapping and Imagination in the Great Basin: A Cartographic History.***

Richard V. Francaviglia. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2005. 231 p. (ISBN: 0874176093 HC; 0874176174 pbk.)

The Great Basin, that vast stretch of mainly desert which stretches from the Wasatch Mountains of central Utah to the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, is even today a rather forlorn and inhospitable region. But it has long stimulated the imagination of explorers and mapmakers, and evidently the author, an historian at the University of Texas at Arlington, who has obviously traveled widely through the region and has great affection for it. That makes the writing both personal and informal, filled with personal anecdotes and accounts, as he recounts the history and cartography of the area from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present in nine chronological chapters, touching on the major explorations and significant maps of the region. Over 50 maps are illustrated, unfortunately only in black and white, in the less than 200 page text. Notes and a nice bibliography and cartobibliography compliment the text. A good choice for

map collections in the western states, and a good contribution to the history of North American cartography.

### **MapForum.**

A few issues ago I plugged a new periodical that seemed a worthy successor to the late *Mercator's World* and the even later *Map Collector*. The latest issue (no. 5, Spring 2005) of *MapForum*, which began as an online journal and morphed into a print publication last year, is so good that I feel compelled to mention it again. Less "popular" than *Mercator's World*, which seemed to lose its focus towards its end, but still popularly written, *MF* is well-produced with many beautiful color images and accessible articles of interest to anyone who deals with (or

simply loves) antique maps. No GIS pieces here, but articles on mapmakers, collections, historic pieces, specific maps or atlases, news, exhibits, auction reports, reviews, etc. A nice feature is the "beginner's guide," in this issue an overview of "engraving." Although published in Britain, it's not too Eurocentric (this issue has a brief report on a map exhibit at the University of Iowa). In short, it's a magazine with great visual appeal that will prove both useful and entertaining for general readers, collectors, and librarians alike. A subscription, £30 a year for four issues, also gets you access to their "for subscribers only" website which has additional supplementary material. <http://www.mapforum.com> 

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## **OXFORD ATLASES**

**Mark Thomas, Duke University**

*Atlas of the world.* New York : Oxford University Press. Updated annually, 12<sup>th</sup> ed. ©2004.

One of several flagship world atlases (*The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World* and the *National Geographic Atlas of the World* are two alternatives), the Oxford product competes well in terms of its outstanding value, its currency, and its handsome maps. With a list price of US\$80 (\$50.40 at Amazon.com), it's much less expensive the *Times Atlas*, which will set the purchaser back \$250 (\$157.50 at Amazon), or even the *National Geographic Atlas*, listing at \$165 (\$103.95 at Amazon). If you always need to see the most recent name of a country or the latest change

in borders, Oxford emphasizes that this title is updated annually, making it the most up-to-date major world atlas (although global political boundary changes seem to have quieted down since the early 1990s).

The maps, by Philip's, have a simpler, less delicate, and less pastel presentation that do the Bartholomew maps in the competing *Times Atlas of the World*. They're generally a slightly smaller scale than in the *Times Atlas*, although the type used for place names is generally larger, resulting in noticeably fewer populated places, water courses, and transportation routes. Some users may not feel as much of a need for a

magnifying glass. The majority of maps are physical, using hypsometric tints to indicate elevation. Although I personally think that the addition of shading detracts from the overall legibility and is probably unnecessary considering the colored tinting, the maps are attractive and clear. A few political reference maps of continents are also included.

Atlas publishers usually tout all the bells and whistles provided by the non-map information in their works, and Oxford's certainly isn't lacking. Sections include "World Statistics," "Images of Earth" (satellite images of major cities and interesting geographic locations), "Gazetteer" by country (almanac of data on countries), "Introduction to World Geography" (topical information on earthquakes, oceans, etc.), "City Maps," "World Maps" (the core section), "Geographical Glossary," and "Index." All of this is great for a family atlas at home or for smaller libraries, but this reviewer (at a large academic library) would always go to the *World Fact Book* or *World Almanac* or to a geography or geology textbook for the sort of information that's in the front matter. I've always been annoyed when so much effort in atlas production is diverted from the core maps.

All in all, however, this is a handsome production and an extremely good value.

*New Concise World Atlas*. New York : Oxford University Press. ©2003.

Oxford's *Concise* edition of their world atlas is very close in content, and even in size, to the *Atlas of the World*. It

lacks some of the extra front matter (no satellite images, no "gazetteer," and no city maps), and there are slightly fewer maps (128 pages of maps instead of 176 pages). As stated above, however, I don't think the almanac information is essential in an atlas unless it's for the home library that lacks the *World Almanac*. Of the maps that are identical, each is a very slightly smaller scale (for instance, "Northern France" is 1:2.2 million instead of 1:2 million) but seems to have the same content as its bigger cousin, only reduced just a bit.

It's a little unclear how often it's updated. The copyright date is a year earlier than the current *Atlas of the World*, yet since the contents are largely the same it would seem possible that the publishers could update it on the same annual schedule. There's no indication this is actually done.

The list price is a mere \$35 (\$23.10 at Amazon), so it's an even more spectacular value than the *Atlas of the World*, especially considering that the core content is so much the same. It's even cheaper than the hardcover edition of *Goode's*. If you, like me, prefer the emphasis on quality general-purpose maps with fewer of the thematic maps found in *Goode's*, this atlas is worth considering for any branch library or any service point in your library that doesn't warrant one of the deluxe world atlases.

*Atlas of North America*. New York : Oxford University Press, 2005.

This atlas begins with a section on

“North American Geography,” featuring topical maps of the sort found in historical atlases or in the old *National Atlas of the United States of America*. I pointed out that I’m not usually fond of the extra material in atlases, and the topics covered here are necessarily selective (the coverage has a scattershot feel). Some of these maps, however, are pretty interesting (“Pleistocene Land Cover and Glaciation” or “Indigenous Peoples”), but perhaps best for browsing and serendipitous educational enlightenment rather than as a useful reference source.

The bulk of the atlas consists of country-by-country sections (North America being defined as three countries: the United States, Canada, and Mexico, but no Central American or island nations). For the United States there are a few national and regional maps followed by a map of each state, very reminiscent of the old Rand McNally *Cosmopolitan* “world” atlas except that the maps here are physical, comparable in style to the other Oxford atlases mentioned above. Next are overview maps of US cities and then a “gazetteer” section — a page

on each state with an essay and some basic statistics, like what you might get in an almanac. For Canada and Mexico, the main physical maps don’t necessarily correspond to a single province or state (e.g., “Northern Québec and Labrador” or “Sonora and Chihuahua”). Most of the maps in the atlas stick close to a scale of 1:2 million, except for the far north of Canada and a few U.S. states (e.g., Montana is 1:3m, New Jersey is 1:1m). The “gazetteer” section for Canada devotes a page to each province or territory; for Mexico, several adjacent states get lumped together on each page. Counties are indicated on maps of U.S. states, but second level administrative divisions aren’t shown for Canada or Mexico.

At a list price of \$125, this is probably marginal for libraries that feel they can get by with a large and detailed world atlas in addition to the stapled *Rand McNally Road Atlas*, but with a the typical deep discount such as the Amazon.com price of only \$50, it’s worth considering.



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## **CORRECTION: MAGERT Executive Board Minutes ALA Midwinter, Boston**

In the MAGERT Executive Board I minutes that were published in the April 2005 *base line*, Linda Zellmer’s name was misspelled. My apologies to Linda. [The editor also apologizes for not catching this.]

Also, in the MAGERT Executive Board II minutes, published in the same issue of *base line*, I neglected to mention that the MAGERT letter of response to the NGA Proposal to cease distributing many of its maps, was an adaptation of a letter that CUAC had drafted for this purpose.

Betsy Eggleston, MAGERT Secretary



# MAGERT PUBLICATIONS

## Publications

### *Guide to U.S. Map Resources*

*2nd edition, 1990, \$65.00 (ISBN 0-8389-0547-1)*

Available from: American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

### *The West Indies and Florida to 1900: An Annotated Carto-Bibliography*

*1995, \$25.00 (ISBN 0-8389-0547-1)*

Available from: Jim Coombs, Maps Library, Southwest Missouri State University, 901 S. National, #175, Springfield, MO

## Circulars

Available from: Jim Coombs, Maps Library, Southwest Missouri State University, 901 S. National, #175, Springfield, MO

### *No. 1 Cartographic Citations—A Style Guide*

*1992 \$10.00 ISBN 0-8389-7821-5*

### *No. 2 Index to the Library of Congress "G" Schedule—A Map and Atlas Classification Aid*

*1996 \$25.00*

## Occasional Paper Series

Available from: Jim Coombs, Maps Library, Southwest Missouri State University, 901 S. National, #175, Springfield, MO

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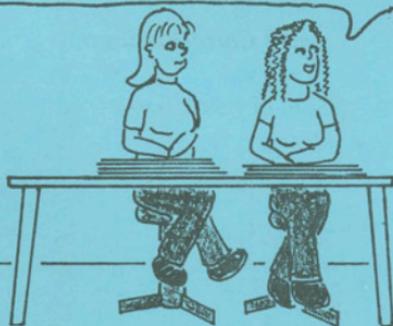
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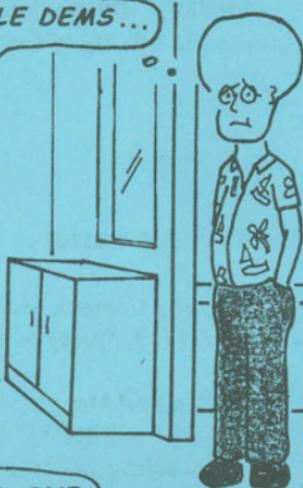
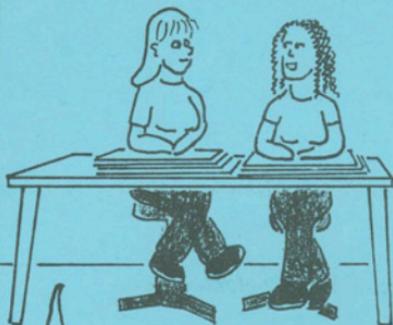
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YEAH, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A GOOD ONE.  
LOOK HOW HIS HEAD IS  
CRAMMED FULL OF INFORMATION!

6/05

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