

base line

a newsletter of the Map and Geography Round Table

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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.

Editor: Mark Thomas, Public Documents and Maps Dept., Perkins Library, Duke University Box 90177, Durham, NC 27708-0177 Tel: 919/660-5853 FAX: 919-684-2855 E-mail: markt@duke.edu

Production Manager: James A. Coombs, Maps Library, Southwest Missouri State University, 901 S. National, #175, Springfield, MO 65804-0095 Tel.: 417/836-4534 E-mail: JimCoombs@smsu.edu

Cataloging Editor: Rebecca L. Lubas, Special Formats Cataloging Librarian, 210B Hayden Memorial Library, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139 Tel: 617/253-7564 E-mail: rll@mit.edu

Electronic Mapping Editor: Tsering Wangyal Shawa, Geographic Information Systems Librarian, Digital Map and Geospatial Information Center, Geosciences and Map Library, Guyot Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544 Tel: 609/258-6804 FAX: 609/258-1274 E-mail: shawatw@princeton.edu

New Maps and Books Editor: Fred Musto, Map Collection, Yale University Library, P.O. Box 208240, New Haven, CT 06520-8240 Tel: 203/432-1867 FAX: 203/432-8527 E-mail: frederick.musto@yale.edu

Membership Committee Chairperson: Carolyn Kadri, Map Cataloger, Special Collections Division, UTA Libraries, Box 19497, 702 College Street, Arlington, TX 76019-0497 Tel: 817/272-3390 FAX: 817-272-3360 E-mail: kadri@uta.edu

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MAGERT OFFICERS:

Chairperson:

Susan Moore, Rod Library, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Tel: 319/273-3661 FAX: 319/273-2913 E-mail: susan.moore@uni.edu

Vice-Chairperson (Chair-Elect):

Tsering Wangyal Shawa, Geographic Information Systems Librarian, Digital Map and Geospatial Information Center, Geosciences and Map Library, Guyot Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544 Tel: 609/258-6804 FAX: 609/258-1274 E-mail: shawatw@princeton.edu

Secretary:

Elizabeth Eggleston, Harvard College Library Technical Services, 625 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139 Tel: 617/495-2409 FAX: 617/384-7170
E-mail: eegglest@fas.harvard.edu

Treasurer:

John Olson, 333B Bird Library, 222 Waverly Ave., Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-2010 Tel: 315/433-4818 FAX: 315/443-9510
E-mail: jaolson@syr.edu

Past Chairperson:

Mary McInroy, Government Publications Department and Map Collection, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City, IA 52242-1420 Tel: 319/335-6247 or 319/335-5926 FAX: 319/335-5900 E-mail: mary-mcinroy@uiowa.edu

MAGERT WEB SITE:

<http://magert.who.edu>

FROM THE CHAIR

Tsering Wangyal Shawa, Princeton University

Fellow MAGERT members:

It has been nearly eight years since I joined ALA/MAGERT; during those eight years MAGERT has given me the opportunity to chair the Education and Geo-Tech committees, and to become a representative to the Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC). The organization has also given me the opportunity to interact with many easy-going and map-loving librarians. I have benefited a lot by associating with MAGERT. Two years ago I was nominated to become chair of this wonderful organization, the world's largest map library organization, which provides a forum for people interested or involved in any aspect of map, geospatial, and geography librarianship. I accepted the nomination and when elected took the responsibility to lead, or to coordinate, the organization. I am now officially the chair of MAGERT as of the end of the ALA Annual Conference at Chicago, 2005, for one year.



Let me introduce myself to many who may not have met me. My full name is Tsering Wangyal Shawa but I am known by my middle name Wangyal. I am a Tibetan who came to this wonderful country in November 1992. I received degrees in geography, teaching, and cartography while studying in India, where I grew up. Before coming to the United States, I taught geography at high schools in Kenya and Nepal, and undergraduate student at University of Juba, Sudan. My map library work began in 1993 when I was hired to work at Cornell University's Map Collections because of my interest and background in geography and cartography. I worked there for roughly three years (1993-96) and then went to Library school at SUNY Albany. Right after receiving my library degree in the summer of 1997, I got my first professional librarian job at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, as Resident/Assistant Map Librarian. I worked there for roughly seven months. I started my present job at Princeton University in August 1998, to start a new digital map and GIS service at our library. My official job title is GIS Librarian and I spend most of my time working with geospatial data, GIS analysis, and digital maps. I also work with paper maps. I enjoy my work every minute of the day.

As the chair of MAGERT, I hope to encourage the integration of GIS tools and geospatial data in our map libraries by organizing programs, writings, and workshops. I also hope to encourage our old and new members to join our different committees to make our organization more vibrant and relevant. I was excited to see many new faces at our various MAGERT meetings in Chicago. Hopefully this is an indication that there will be more active members for our organization.

This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of our organization. The Map and Geography Round Table of the American Library Association was formed in 1980. I am sure many of the founders of MAGERT are still actively with us. I would like to congratulate them as well as thank all our MAGERT members for helping us to continue with the visions of our founders.

Our next Midwinter conference is in San Antonio, Texas, and the 2006 Annual conference will be in New Orleans. If any of our members are from these areas and would like to help me in organizing member receptions, please contact me. I hope to see more MAGERT members at future conferences.



CUAC CONFERENCE CALL WITH NGA

Posted to Maps_1 on June 27 by Linda Zellmer of Indiana University.

On Tuesday Morning, several members of CUAC had a conference call with Jim Mohan and Mark Schultz of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency concerning their proposal to remove Aeronautical products from public sale <http://www.nga.mil/NGASiteContent/StaticFiles/OCR/nga0411.pdf>. CUAC sent a letter to comment on the proposal. This letter was also shared with other map library organizations. Below you will find a summary of our conference call. This summary was proofed and approved by CUAC members who participated in the Conference Call as well as Jim Mohan of NGA.

—Linda Zellmer

CUAC Participants: Mark Jacquith, Bruce Obenhaus, John Olson, Joanne Perry, Dan Seldin, T. Wangyal Shawa, Linda Zellmer

NGA Participants: Mark Schultz, Director, Corporate Relations Office, NGA, Jim Mohan, NGA Corporate Relations Office

Members of the Cartographic Users Advisory Council met by conference call with Mark Schultz, Director of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency's Office of Corporate Relations, and Jim Mohan, a member of the NGA Corporate Relations

Office, to discuss library issues related to NGA's proposal to limit access to aeronautical charts and other NGA aeronautical products. We agreed that access to the chart information is our primary concern.

Several participants summarized how the aeronautical charts are used in their collections. For example, they are used by researchers who are preparing to do field work, by students who need basic information (such as elevation data) which is not readily available in gazetteers and for other cultural information, such as place names and general geography. Aeronautical charts are especially useful in libraries because they provide information in areas of the World where our collections may be weak, such as Africa and South America. Because of limited budgets, most map libraries cannot afford to purchase topographic or cultural maps for all areas of the World, so we depend on the aeronautical charts (which are provided free through the Federal Depository Library Program) to fill in these gaps. While this information may not be very current, it is still useful. It is also useful because it provides a historical context as well.

Copyright was also discussed, because NGA obtains their data from foreign countries through bilateral data sharing agreements (countries provide data to each other through exchange agreements). Many countries have a fair use clause, which allows researchers to use information for non-commercial educational and scientific research. However, these countries, some of which depend on sales of their products to fund their update, are concerned that NGA aeronautical products that contain information obtained through data sharing agreements are being used commercially. NGA could include a copyright warning on their maps. The library community understands that copyright should be respected.

Like many agencies, NGA is moving towards digital production of charts. At some point, they may entirely cease production of paper products. In the case of hydrographic products, most countries have agreed that small-scale data, with scales of 1:1,000,000 or smaller, is not that useful to commercial organizations and have made that data freely available for downloading. The aeronautical community has not yet reached that point, although it could come. They are making the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission data freely available to the public. This has a 30 meter resolution in the United States and 90 meter resolution for the rest of the World. While this is a rich data set, there are some holes, especially in mountainous areas.

The NGA will be meeting with other groups that have expressed concern about the proposal from July to September. They may put out a notice at the end of the month stating that the public comment period has closed. An announcement of their final decision will come later in the year. 

ON THE CATALOGING/CATALOGUING FRONT

Rebecca Lubas, MIT

Map Cataloging Discussion Group, June 26, 2005

The Group held another cataloging question and answer session in Chicago.

Answers were offered by anyone in the room who could offer insight into the situation. Included here are a selection of the questions and a compilation of the group's answers.

Question: For digitally scanned maps, one usually makes a 530 note and links to the original map. What should you do if you don't own the original map in your library — can you just catalog the reproduction?

Answer: The rules allow you to go either way. The “single record approach” — cataloging the original map and making the appropriate notes to indicate that there is a reproduction — is very popular with libraries and users. But if you don't have the original locally, it may make more sense for you to catalog your item as a digital reproduction only.

Another option would be to use an 843 holdings statement. This is the holdings field for reproductions.

There is a MAGERT Task Force on Holdings Statements for Maps forming. If interested, please contact Betsy Eggleston egglest@fas.harvard.edu, who is seeking volunteers.

Question: Is anyone creating digital index maps online?

Answer: Penn State has created online index maps. There are links from the bibliographic record to the index map showing what the library has at the sheet level and the user can click on the map to go back to the bibliographic record. The goal is to create index maps these for all geologic sets. The challenges come from software and support issues.

Question: Does the public really want sheet-level cataloging for geologic maps?

Answer: This is a case-by-case issue. Level of access will depend on demand and how users look for the maps.

At the Library of Congress, scanned sets are have “Mini-bibs” at the sheet level.

Question: What is happening with subject headings for National Forests?

National Forests can be a subject or a corporate body. CPSO is changing to the agency form, and then creating subjects headings. There is some amount of time lag. Email Seanna Tsung stsu@loc.gov if you have one that has not yet been converted.

Announcement: Iris Taylor of the Library of Congress will be the Chair of this Discussion Group next year.

Thank you, Iris! 

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF DISCOVERIES ANNUAL MEETING — PAPERS AND SPEAKERS

Posted to Maps-L on June 29 by Thomas Sander of the Society for the History of Discoveries.

The Society for the History of Discoveries (SHD) is holding its 46th Annual Meeting in Colonial Williamsburg and Newport News, Virginia, from October 6-8, 2005.

1. SHD MEETING PAPER SESSIONS - NAMES & TOPICS.

http://www.sochistdisc.org/annual_meetings/annual_2005/annual_meeting_2005.htm

Where you will find the entire program, including the names and titles of all the papers that will be delivered.

2. SHD MEETING REGISTRATION.

Register now for the SHD Meeting. The registration fee increases for all mailings postmarked September 1 or later. See the meeting website at

http://www.sochistdisc.org/annual_meetings/annual_2005/annual_meeting_2005.htm for a downloadable registration form.

3. SHD 2005 ESSAY CONTEST.

Carol Urness reports that the 2005 winner of the SHD writing contest is Alice Storey, for her paper "Layers of Discovery: Exploration and Innovation in Oceania." Alice is a student in Anthropology at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

4. The symposium "Mapping Colonial America" has been organized by Colonial Williamsburg from October 4-6, 2005, the several days immediately prior to the SHD Meeting. Information about that symposium, including registration details, is linked at the meeting website noted above.

Thomas F. Sander
SHD Web Content Manager
P.O. Box 10793
Burke, VA 22009-0793 USA

Tel: 703-426-2880 Fax: 703-426-2881

E-Mail: sanderva@erols.com Web: <http://www.sochistdisc.org>



ELECTRONIC MAPPING

Guest Editor: Kimberly Kowal, British Library

News from over here : GML for mapping

While at the Map Libraries in Transition conference this past spring, Wangyal and I got to discussing a project I was entrenched in to do with digital mapping here in the UK, and he asked that I share a bit with MAGERT baseline readers.

When I arrived as the incoming digital mapping curator at the British Library last year, systems and procedures for receiving, managing, and making available the enormous geospatial dataset deposits were well-established. Continuous national mapping in the UK is done at a scale of 1:2,500, in digital form only, and an annual snapshot of this data is deposited in the UK legal deposit libraries each year by the national mapping agency. As with all things digital, however, change is afoot! Ordnance Survey (OS) is in the process of moving to a new format and structure that demands the libraries develop new ways of handling, distributing, and storing the data. Researching the multitude of solutions fell to Chris Fleet of the National Library of Scotland and myself last November.

We investigated a number of different facets to this project, including the software and hosting aspects, archiving and preservation options, data formats, and a brief look into electronic deposit of mapping internationally. In this month's column, I'd like to share a bit about the data format, as an awareness of Geography Markup Language (GML) may be useful to map librarians.

Background: the UK's new mapping product

OS's new product for national topographic mapping is called *OS MasterMap*, and unlike its flat-filed predecessor, it is seamless and feature-based; the topographic layer is composed of over 420 million topographic features classified into nine themes (e.g. buildings, roads, water, etc.). In addition to this base topography are transportation (road centerlines), address (points), and colour orthoimagery layers.

The six legal deposit libraries will access the *OS MasterMap* data and application from a central hub via web browsers. This is a significant new development, due to the differing approach to data sharing in the UK from that in the US. Unlike USGS map data (and to my ongoing consternation), OS data is copyrighted and therefore not freely accessible for download, reproduction, or integration with other data. Individuals wishing to view large-scale mapping of their country produced by the national mapping agency would need to purchase the data via a publication or another paid-for service, or else visit one of the copyright libraries. Though this overall possessiveness will not change, the datasets will no longer be held separately on standalone terminals in each of the libraries, moving towards a more efficient solution for legal deposit.

Data format: GML

OS MasterMap is supplied in the Geography Markup Language (GML), an open, vendor-neutral format based on Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) geographic data standards. In using eXtensible Markup Language (XML), GML not only fosters interoperability and extensibility, making it more accessible, but also explicitly separates data content from its presentation; topographic features can be dynamically and individually rendered and presented, allowing for considerable flexibility over changing the appearance of map elements. GML lends itself to Internet GIS applications and to integrating spatial and non-spatial, XML encoded, information. Zipped GML data is thought at this time to be a stable format for archiving, and it has efficient storage properties, being text-based and easy to compress.

There are numerous models for handling GML data, and UK software vendors have scrambled to develop packages to use *OS MasterMap*. Though it's not yet been decided what system architecture the UK legal deposit libraries will use, most are based around web-mapping software interacting with *OS MasterMap* data stored in a database, often using translation software to convert GML/GZIP data into the database, and middleware for the web-mapping application software to interact with the data.

Some GML projects in the western hemisphere

In the course of our research, we looked into what other large organi-

zations besides OS were employing GML. The US Census Bureau is moving to GML for its online interactive mapping tool, *WebTIGER*. A pilot project, covering the Baltimore-Washington Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, a few extra counties to complete Maryland, and Delaware, is online at <http://aries.geo.census.gov>, and includes the viewer client with accompanying web GML downloads and data. In this model, data is stored in an Oracle database, from which GML is generated. TIGER/GML data is then converted to Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) using eXtensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) and XSL Transformations (XSLT), and a SVG viewer is used for visualization via a web browser. A national TIGER/GML dataset is currently being developed.

Statistics Canada has plans to allow downloading of their data in GML format during 2005 via *TigerCAN*, a project using a similar schema to the US Census Bureau's TIGER/GML project. Canadian geopolitical boundary files are already available for download in GML at <http://www.geobase.ca>.

This project with UK national mapping offered the opportunity to become acquainted with a slew of issues contributing to the development of digital mapping in libraries (though it has been a challenge to part from the US attitude towards government data!). Our research with this is continuing, so if anyone has any comments or insight into the use of GML or deposit of electronic mapping in libraries and its archiving, we would welcome hearing from you. Alternately, if you have further

interest in this project, Chris and I also wrote an article to be published this fall in *The Cartographic Journal* (British Cartographic Society).

Sample of the topography layer

Information online about *OS MasterMap*, including samples for download
<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/products/osmastermap/>



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INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS' SOCIETY 24th International Symposium

Posted to Maps-L on July 1.

Prairie, Peak & Plateau: Mapping America's Western Interior

DENVER, COLORADO USA
September 18 - 23, 2005

IMCoS membership is not required to attend this event.

Hosted by: The Rocky Mountain Map Society, The Denver Public Library, and the Philip Lee Phillips Society (of the Library of Congress).

Preceded by and Held in Conjunction with the Fifth Annual Rocky Mountain Antique Map Fair September 16–18.

Rocky Mountain Antique Map Fair (Sept 16–18) details at
http://lamar.colostate.edu/~mcole/map_fair_5.html

IMCoS Symposium details (Sept 18–23) at
http://lamar.colostate.edu/~mcole/IMCoS/IMCoS_master.html



PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND PLACES...

by Scott R. McEathron, University of Kansas

ACROSS

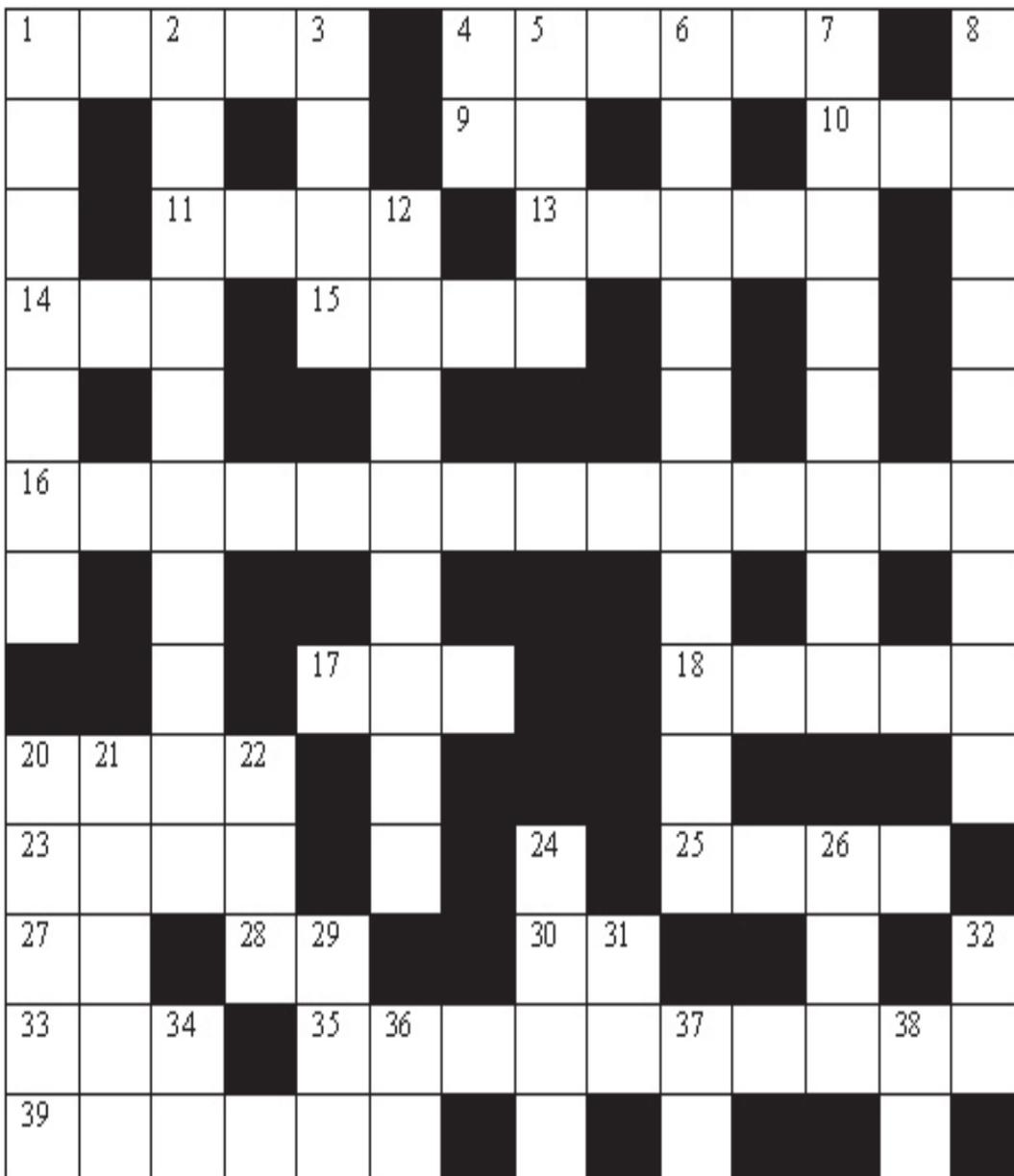
1. Third from Sun
4. About 71% of Earth's surface
9. Abbreviation for group of islands NE of Cuba
10. Initials of university in Kansas that offers a Doctorate in grain science
11. A large bay or inlet
13. Paired sediment layers deposited annually in water bodies from an inflowing stream
14. Initials of Middle-eastern country consisting of seven states
15. The liquid mud covering the deep-sea plain
16. Region of prevailing westerly winds
17. Of living things
18. Former province of Prussia: name of Village 17 miles south of Chicago
20. A planet's natural satellite
23. Commercial city on the Nile River south of Thebes
25. River in eastern England running through "The Broads"
27. Norwegian for ridge
28. Initials of Canada's most mountainous province
30. Small river in northern France; Danish for brook
33. A Scottish wooded hollow between hills
35. Half—created by a great circle
39. The earliest era; Precambrian

DOWN

1. Area of river mouth where saltwater of tide meets freshwater of river current
2. Process of ice re-freezing after it has been melted under pressure; thought to be a contributing factor in the movement of glaciers
3. Ring of defused light around the moon caused by the refraction of light by water-drops or ice crystals in the atmosphere
4. The major river flowing through the Western Siberian Lowland
5. Object of study for a speleologist
6. The study of the properties, dimensions, etc., of the atmosphere
7. Scottish for a series of small islets; group of islets in the south Irish Sea
8. Thick mass of loose supersaturated sand often occurring near coasts and river mouths
12. The warm, dry wind, which blows down the leeward slope of a mountain (i.e. northern Alps)
20. Mountain peak in the Preuss range in southeast Idaho; civil war general commanding Union forces at Gettysburg
21. Village eight miles north of Minneapolis, Minnesota
22. English headland
24. A small piece of ice formed by the fast ascent of moist air in which frozen droplets of water are carried ever higher by the force of up draughts
26. A small city in New York on Long Island Sound where John Jay is buried

29. River in eastern Thailand flowing north into the Mun River
31. A town in the Czech Republic very near German border
32. City in Myanmar on the coast of the Andaman Sea
34. Initials of country whose inhabitants are called "Kiwis"
36. Initials of political entity originally formed in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome, in 1992 the word 'Economic' was removed from its name by the Maastricht treaty.
37. Longest river in Italy
38. River in China that flooded causing Bangjiao Dam to fail in 1975

Answers in the next issue of base line.



NACIS CONFERENCE

The North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) invites you to join us in celebration of the NACIS 25th Anniversary Conference to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 12-15, 2005. NACIS welcomes all those interested in cartography and mapping from academic, government, and private organizations to participate. All cartography-related topics are welcome, including cartographic animation and web mapping, map librarianship, politics and mapping, practical and applied mapping, Geographic Information Science, map history, cartographic theory, and map art. The theme of NACIS XXV is Historical Cartography.

Our 2004 conference in Portland, Maine, included many papers of interest to map librarians, including:

Mapping Suburbia: Tax Assessment Data Provides an Important Sense of Place
Hawaiian Place Names: Mnemonic Symbols in a Hawaiian Cartography
Building a Digital Gazetteer for Connecticut
What is the Role of Maps in Web-Services? Geo-communication Under the Influence of an Infrastructural Environment
Cartographic Data on the Web: What's Out There and How to Find It
Librarian Roundtable
Using GIS to Make Maps of Landscapes that No Longer Exist
Remastering the 1748 Nolli Map of Rome
Treasures in the Osher Map Library
Mapmaking for the Census Atlas of the United States
Cartographic Design and Production Issues of the 108th Congressional District
Wall Map Series

More sessions and program information can be found at the NACIS website <http://www.nacis.org>. Additional questions about NACIS XXV may be directed to Dennis McClendon, Program Chair, at veep@nacis.org or 312-558-4700. See you in Salt Lake City!

TAKE THE CHALLENGE: NEW MAPS AND BOOKS EDITOR NEEDED

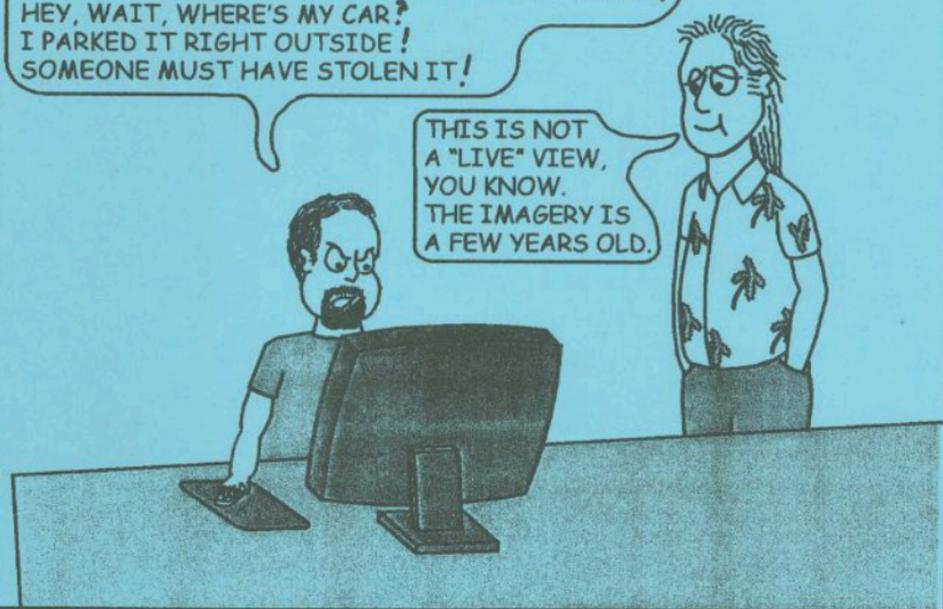
After many years of exemplary work, Fred Musto will not be able to continue his "New Maps and Books" column after the October issue of *base line*. Although his will be big shoes to fill, we're asking someone to accept the challenge to take on this important role beginning with the December 2005 issue. Hundreds of MAGERT members have relied on this column for both the content—helping them to make intelligent collection development decisions—and just for the pleasure of reading the insightful reviews. If you think you've got what it takes, please contact the editor at markt@duke.edu.



Great Moments In Map Librarianship by Jim Coombs

THIS ONLINE SATELLITE IMAGERY IS SO COOL!
I CAN ZOOM IN RIGHT DOWN TO THIS BUILDING!
HEY, WAIT, WHERE'S MY CAR?
I PARKED IT RIGHT OUTSIDE!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE STOLEN IT!

THIS IS NOT
A "LIVE" VIEW,
YOU KNOW.
THE IMAGERY IS
A FEW YEARS OLD.



OH, OK...
WELL, IT WOULD BE
COOL IF IT WAS "LIVE."
THEN I COULD CHECK TO SEE
IF THERE WAS A CLOSER
PARKING SPACE!

OR, YOU COULD
ZOOM IN AND
SEE YOURSELF
HUNCHED OVER THE
COMPUTER SCREEN!

© JIM
COOMBS
8/05

