

<http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/maps/amc.htm>

An occasional series of newsletters produced to keep members of the Australian Map Circle informed about matters of immediate interest and to supplement *The Globe*, journal of the AMC. Please send reviews, notices and other items of general interest for inclusion in future *Newsletters* and *The Globe* to:

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The Australian Map Circle, Inc.
26th Annual Conference

"Mapping Today - History Tomorrow"

Wollongong, NSW
8-11 February 1998

Call For Papers:

The city of Wollongong (population 255,000) is the gateway to the NSW South Coast and is only a little over an hour from Sydney by car or electric train. The city lies between the Pacific Ocean and the Illawarra escarpment which is covered in part by picturesque rainforest. A few kilometres to the south lies the industrial centre of Port Kembla.

Expressions of interest are sought from members wishing to present papers on any aspects of contemporary or historical maps or mapping. Papers with a maritime interest would be particularly welcome.

Please contact John McCarthy by 30 July 1997:

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Reports on the 25th Annual Conference of the AMC

From Maura O'Connor.

The 25th Annual Conference of the Australian Map Circle was held in the picturesque and austere surrounds of Ormond College, University of Melbourne, 2-5 February 1997. With its theme, 'Maps Old and New', the conference attracted a small but interested group of 36 delegates.

Eleven papers were presented over the three days, interspersed with technical visits to sites in and around the University and Melbourne and the traditional half-day excursion, held on the Tuesday afternoon. Four papers were of particular interest, the first concerned with retracing the Calvert expedition. Presented on behalf of the author, Bruce McDonald, the paper outlined the efforts to accurately relocate and correctly map the various Aboriginal waters and features discovered by the Calvert expedition in 1896.

A paper by Dr Stephen Davis, 'Mapping traditional Aboriginal culture', explained clearly the way in which song cycles, sand sculptures, body-painting and campsite arrangements display Aboriginal geographical knowledge. Passed on orally from generation to generation, this knowledge is often transmitted under formal instruction during ceremonies. With the cooperation of various Aboriginal clans, this symbolism is now being interpreted in standard ways on the maps, charts and databases that are used to support registration of Aboriginal sites of special significance, land and sea claims, and applications for the determination of Native Title.

The third paper of interest was presented by and explained the work of P. Griffioen, surveyor turned zoologist, who has developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) to utilise the Australian bird count data for locating and timing bird movements. Using the data associated with the migratory movements of the Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis*, bird-band vector maps, from which both spatial and temporal data could be extracted, were plotted for each month of the experiment described. Hopefully, the resulting data may be linked in future to land-clearing and other vegetation pattern changes which are possibly influencing the decline in particular Australian bird species. Paul Clifton's paper 'Map design for the World Wide Web' demonstrated how the travel guide publisher Lonely Planet Publications has come to terms with the limitations that the World Wide Web poses for cartographic design and overcome these limitations.

The field excursion to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and the tour of Melbourne itself provided a welcome break from papers and emphasised Melbourne's claim to be the 'Garden City of Australia'. The 1998 conference location has yet to be decided but Wollongong and Perth are both contenders.

Reproduced from: *National Library of Australia Gateways*, no. 26, March 1997, ISSN 1039-3498.

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From Pam Faragher.

Please extend to the organising committee my appreciation of your efforts for the Map Circle Conference, which was a wonderful success for those of us fortunate enough to attend. I appreciated its relative simplicity of four informative talks in the mornings and visits to institutions in the afternoons, which is about all I can absorb in one day! Ormond College was a good choice of venue -- I felt very honoured to be allowed in the hallowed halls.

The Organising Committee would like to thank those who attended the 1997 Annual Conference, we trust you enjoyed it. The next annual conference of the Australian Map Circle will be held in Wollongong in February 1998, as announced elsewhere in this newsletter.

Australian Map Circle Inc., President's Report for 1996

During the past year we have tried to fulfil the general responsibilities that fall to the Executive and the specific tasks we were given at the last Annual General Meeting. On the issue of general responsibilities we have duly collected subscriptions, maintained accurate accounts of income and expenditure, had those accounts audited, placed a significant proportion of the Circle's funds in a term deposit at rates well above inflation, dealt promptly with incoming correspondence, provided such funds as were necessary to the Editor of *The Globe*, and conducted elections for the next executive. The Business Manager's statement was presented at the AGM, as was the Returning Officer's announcement of the results of the election.

In respect to the specific instructions from the last Annual General Meeting the Executive has sold all the remaining Wyld facsimile maps, established the Circle as an incorporated body, issued newsletters from time to time including some personal gossip and organised a conference in Melbourne that included fewer lectures and more visits to map organisations and establishments. The incorporation of the Australian Map Circle has been reported previously, in *Newsletter #70*.

Having been told by Bill Stinson that he wishes to stand aside from the role of Editor of *The Globe* the Executive thanks Bill for his valuable contribution to the Circle during his period as Editor and announces the following arrangements to fill this vacancy. Perhaps for the first time the Executive has appointed a group to produce future editions of *The Globe*, with Greg Eccleston, John Cain and Victor Prescott forming the new editorial committee.

Victor Prescott, President, Australian Map Circle Inc.

3 February 1997

Report on Ralph Ehrenberg's visit to Australia

The State Library of New South Wales was the fortunate host of Ralph Ehrenberg, Chief, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, as the 1997 Mitchell Library Scholar in Residence. Ralph and his wife, Tess, arrived in Sydney on Sunday 2nd March, and departed for Washington on Saturday 22nd March. During his busy three week visit based in the Maps Section, Ralph presented a series of six public lectures at the State Library of New South Wales, and made a number of presentations to staff. His itinerary also involved visits to Universal Press and the State Land Information Centre, Bathurst, the State Library of Tasmania, the State Library of Victoria and the Melbourne branch of the Australian Map Circle, and the National Library of Australia. He was guest speaker at the Mapping Sciences Institute - NSW Branch Annual General Meeting and the Mapping Sciences Institute - Bathurst Group meeting.

The visit provided an important opportunity for our staff to learn about the management of cartographic collections at the Library of Congress and that library's successful initiatives to develop strategic links with specialised business interests to raise funds and build partnerships for digitisation projects. This knowledge will be useful as we assess our own progress and future directions for digitisation projects, and for considering preservation and other issues associated with geographic information systems.

Over 260 people attended the public lectures at the State Library of New South Wales, and feedback from the other program participants was equally positive. The visit was generously sponsored by Philips Electronics Australia, Universal Press and Concorde International Travel with Air New Zealand. It was a very successful fundraiser for the State Library. Our thanks go to Professor Robert Clancy and Jim Bain, former President of the Library Council of NSW, whose support, encouragement and continuing interest in our cartographic collections and services made the visit possible.

Cheryl Evans, Senior Librarian, Maps Section, State Library of New South Wales, 28 May 1997.

J.B. Harley Research Fellowships in the History of Cartography

The Trustees of the J.B. Harley Research Fellowships Trust Fund have announced the fourth series of awards, as follows:

- Professor James Alsop (Department of History, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada), “Map Culture and England’s Overseas Expansion, c.1550-1620”.
- Professor Sumathi Ramaswamy (Department of History, University of Pennsylvania), “Catastrophic Cartographies: Mapping the Lost Continent of Lemuria”.

Also taking up a Fellowship during 1997 will be one of those whose award was made last year, Molly Bourne (Harvard University) “Francesco II Gonzaga and Early Renaissance Map Collecting in Italy”. Nine scholars, from Belgium, Canada, India, New Zealand, U.K. and U.S.A., have now been honoured with J.B. Harley Research Fellowships, each worth 400 Pounds and designed to cover a two week stay working in the historical map collections of the London area.

The Trust Fund has now achieved more than half of its target of 40,000 Pounds. Further donations will enable the number of annual fellowships to be increased. Those wishing to apply for a Fellowship (closing date 1st November) should write to the Hon. Sec., c/o the British Library Map Library, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG, U.K., preferably saying where they saw this notice.

A new Web site devoted to the history of cartography

Map History / History of Cartography - THE gateway to the subject:

<http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/maps/>

Preceded by a brief summary, the page consists of fourteen main sections. Together, these provide carefully structured access to the various facets of the subject:

- conferences, meetings and events
- fellowships, grants and prizes
- globe history
- guide to the subject and the international directory of current research
- journals
- lecture series
- literature
- map collections
- map interest societies
- marketplace
- news
- related subjects

For relevant Internet resources, for example, scanned maps and online map catalogues, links are provided to the definitive listing, Odden’s bookmarks. The calendar of forthcoming events, and details about regional map societies around the world are examples of other, regularly updated home pages to which links are provided. For those who do not have access to the World Wide Web and may consider that much of its content is frivolous, a well organised and maintained homepage provides massive advantages in terms of comprehensiveness, convenience and currency.

Tony Campbell, Map Librarian, British Library, March 1997.

Minutes of the Australian Map Circle Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 5 February 1997
Ormond College, The University of Melbourne

1. Present at the meeting:

John Cain	Alan Jones	Roger Rees
Victor Prescott	John Boardman	Frank Urban
Chandra Jayasuriya	John McCarthy	Don Somerville
Pam Faragher	Marie Morden	Estelle Canning
Maura O'Connor	Kevin Cowan	Les Isdale
Judith Scurfield	Bernie Joyce	Marijana Mirich
Dorothy Prescott	Doug MacKenzie	Bill Stinson
Margaret Eva	Janice Johnson	Stuart Duncan
Greg Eccleston	David Whiteford	

Apologies were received from:

David Hancox, John Roberts, Steven Waite, Joe Lines, Terry Birtles.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM.

The minutes were circulated with the AMC newsletter and were available at the meeting. It was pointed out that Dorothy Prescott was in fact present at the previous AGM. The minutes as amended were accepted.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

- Point 9 (Greg Eccleston proposal): this is not off the ground yet, but the Australian Heritage Commission has been contacted and the proposal has certainly not been abandoned.
- Point 12 (fate of RASC mapping): AUSLIG are now the sales agents for all RASC mapping.

4. President's report.

The report was circulated with the agenda. Victor Prescott spoke to the report. He also stated his own concern regarding the future of the AMC. There are a limited number of active members and the new executive must consider the future of the AMC, more stalwart members are required. It was agreed that the new executive should encourage the re-establishment of state branches outside Victoria, and that the membership list be made available for this purpose. It was also suggested that the Australian Map Circle consider advertising in the Historical Society Journals. Another suggestion was an Internet mailing list. The President's Report was accepted by the meeting.

5. Business Manager's Report.

The report and financial statement were circulated with the agenda. There were 159 financial members (of a total of 199) during 1996. The balance of the AMC accounts as at 31 December 1996 was \$26422, with a surplus of \$9169 for 1996. The accounts were audited by Mr Ewan Smith, CPA. The report and accounts were accepted by the meeting.

6. Editor's report.

Bill Stinson announced his resignation as editor of *The Globe*, and apologised for the lateness of the current issue (#44), which will be published shortly. The meeting recorded its great appreciation for Bill's efforts of the past several years as editor of *The Globe*. The new editorial team will be Victor Prescott, Greg Eccleston and John Cain.

7. Branch reports.

Victoria: Judy Scurfield reported. There was a meeting in early 1996 at RMIT, a mid-year dinner with Andrew and Karen Cook, and an end of year meeting at the Baillieu Library. There are currently no other active state branches, though it is hoped the executive can encourage their re-establishment during 1997.

8. Returning Officer's report.

The returning officer, Chandra Jayasuriya, reported that one nomination had been received for each of the four executive positions. The following were therefore declared elected:

President:	Greg Eccleston
Vice-President:	Estelle Canning
Secretary:	John Cain
Business Manager:	Marie Morden

The meeting wished the new executive well.

9. Next AMC Conference.

The executive reported that as yet no firm offer had been received to host the 1998 AMC conference. John McCarthy then offered the possibility of Wollongong -- he will discuss it with colleagues and reply within a month. [This was subsequently confirmed]. David Whiteford offered Perth as a possible backup.

10. Other business.

- Incorporation: Greg Eccleston reported that, in line with the resolution of the last AGM, the Australian Map Circle was incorporated under the Victorian Associations Incorporation Act 1981, as of 25 October 1996, with Dorothy Prescott as the Public Officer. In applying for incorporation the executive found it necessary to invoke Section 4(1) of the Act, allowing the constitution to be amended without reference to members of the association. The revised constitution was circulated with the agenda. The meeting approved the amended constitution, and thanked Greg Eccleston and Dorothy Prescott for their efforts in this matter.
- AMC t-shirts: it was discussed that the President investigate production of a new run of AMC t-shirts, with an offer to go out in the *Newsletter*.

The meeting was then closed.

John Cain, 14.02.96. e:\maps\cain\amc\agm97.doc