



newsletter

Number 118, June, 1989

ISSN 0046-5801

CONTENTS

Features

- Information exchange forum 7
Book review—Foundations of environmental ethics, by E. C. Hargrove, reviewed by Dennis R. Trombatore 9

Departments

- President's Column 1
Vice-President's Column 3
Announcements 3
GIS participation in the earth science education project 3
Update on the Congress of Cartographic Information Specialist Associations 5
GIS 25th anniversary celebration 6
Publications 6
Workshops 8
Job announcement 8
New members 8

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Executive Committee conference call showed that business for this year is progressing well. Mary Ansari's plans are in place only to be disturbed in August by AGI as is usually the case. Michael Noga will be sending out 2nd renewal notices to 52 members; currently, over 200 members are paid-to-date. Marilyn Stark is carefully guarding our funds. Jean Eaglesfield reported on the Archives project and the AGI Earth Science education meetings (see articles in this issue). The Nominating Committee has deliberated but I am not telling yet--You will have to read your ballot. J. Lerud informed the Executive Committee that she had received communication from Julie Bichteler that the 4th International Conference was progressing. Richard Spohn sent in a mid-year report on the 6th edition of the Union List of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks: the first major data collection will begin this summer with eventual publication in late 1992. Amanda Masterson also sent in a mid-year report that the Best Paper Award Committee is on schedule.

Dan Merriam (suspenders and cowboy hat at the Denver meeting, and an arranger of the GIS Symposium) is the editor of *The Compass*, a student journal of Sigma Gamma Epsilon. He must have been favorably impressed with this group; he has asked if GIS would be interested in putting together a special issue on libraries. He suggests papers on:

- History of libraries
- The library as a reference tool
- How to use the library
- Sources of information in a library in the 21st century
- GeoRef and other geology information bibliographies
- What's in store for libraries of the future

These subjects are looking for authors. If there are any other subjects and/or volunteers, notify Joanne Lerud or she will find and volunteer YOU.

1989 GIS OFFICERS

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The GIS Newsletter is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December by the Geoscience Information Society. Subscription to the Newsletter is \$30 per year and is included in the Society's annual membership dues. All correspondence regarding dues, membership status, and address changes should be directed to the GIS Secretary.

GIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Research articles and technical reports should be submitted to the Editorial Board for review and possible publication. Information reports, officer and committee reports, publication notices, job announcements, and other news items should be submitted to the News Gathering Editor.

Material for the August, 1989 issue of the GIS Newsletter should be received by the editors no later than July 20, 1989. If possible please send materials on IBM-compatible disc (Wordstar or ASCII format).

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Things seem to be shaping up really well for the St. Louis meeting. Since the last Newsletter, I've been busy making GSA's deadlines for getting in space requests, and finalizing our workshop information for the August GSA News and Information.

Thus far, no one has contacted me for abstract forms for the technical session, so I'm hoping that our members are requesting the forms from GSA. Since the deadline isn't until July 19, there's still time to submit your idea. Abstract forms are available from the GSA Abstracts Coordinator, The Geological Society of America, P. O. Box 9140, Boulder CO 80301; 303/447-8850 or from me at the Director's Office, The University Library, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557-0044; 702/784-6533.

A tentative schedule for the St. Louis meeting:

Sunday, November 5

1 - 5 pm GIS Executive Board Meeting

Monday, November 6

8 am - noon GIS Symposium, "Frontiers in Geoscience Information:

1 - 5 pm GIS Business meeting

7 - 9:30 pm GIS Reception

Tuesday, November 7

8 am - ?? GIS Technical Session*

8 - 11 am GeoRef Beginners Workshop

8 - noon GIS Poster Session

noon - 1:15 GIS Luncheon

1:30 - 3:30 GIS Field Trip Workshop

3:30 - 5:30 Cost of Geoscience Literature

Wednesday, November 8

8 - 12:30 pm Field trip: Digital Cartography, Map Library, and Database Management System of Washington University's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

1:30-4:30 pm GeoRef Advanced Workshop

4:30-6:30 pm GeoRef Users Group

Thursday, November 9

9 - 11 am GIS Database Forum

1 - 5 pm GIS Executive Board Meeting

I don't want to hear any of you complaining that you won't have enough to do in St. Louis.

* Session length depends upon the number of abstracts submitted/selected

GIS PARTICIPATION IN THE EARTH SCIENCE EDUCATION PROJECT

This is a summary of the American Geological Institutes (AGI) Earth Science Education Project (ESEP) and our participation in it.

Attention to the precollege curriculum goes back to the 1960's when AGI established the ESEP and, in the mid '60's with National Science Foundation (NSF) funding, developed high school curriculum recommendations and programs. One of the ideas promoted is that the earth science curriculum involves the study of the Earth's materials, processes, history and environment as well as the Earth in space, and involves the mixing of several disciplines in the one endeavor. The best known result of these 1960's efforts was the Regents Earth Science Program of New York state which adopted these recommendations. National Science Foundation funding for this curriculum work ran out in the 1970's and the program went into dormancy.

By the mid 1980's it was clear that the pre-college curriculum needed attention by the entire earth science community and that the pre high school curriculum should be included. In 1985 AGI established the National Center for Earth Science Education and between 1985 and 1987, with NSF funding, held three national conferences in which leaders in the earth sciences, educators and teachers met and made recommendations. From these meetings came not only a proposed new national exam but a network of educators who would distribute curricula and support materials.

In the fall of 1988 a series of conferences held in several regions throughout the U.S. were convened. AGI invited its member societies to help arrange, fund and run these conferences and, as reported in the June, 1988, GIS Newsletter, p. 10, GIS responded by giving AGI names of members who would participate as observers at these conferences. Invited to participate at the conferences were high school teachers, earth scientists from academia and member societies. GIS representatives who attended regional conferences were; Miriam Sheaves who attended the Raleigh, NC meeting in November, Reggie Brown, who attended the Madison, WI conference in September and Mark Finnegan and Claren Kidd who attended the San Antonio meeting in September. Conference participants were involved in large and small group discussions which addressed two main questions: why teach earth sciences and how should earth science be taught. Of special interest was the discussion on implementation, i.e., how do we bring about change in earth science education? Some of the ideas offered at the sessions:

- 1) Ensure that the college curricula for teachers include balanced geoscience courses;
- 2) Promotion and publicity (Get people involved on local, state, and federal levels by high-

- lighting potential and existing environmental problem areas and ask for input);
- 3) Involve scientific and educational societies in the geoscience field;
 - 4) Increase field trip experiences;
 - 5) Teacher/industry/government Summer employment;
 - 6) Change the emphasis of textbooks to include a balance of basic and applied;
 - 7) Prepare for federal, state and local legislators a white paper that emphasizes the need for geoscience education and includes revised curricula;
 - 8) Evaluation and tracking of earth science education;
 - 9) Approach the Association of School Administrators;
 - 10) In-Service teacher training with an emphasis on elementary-NSF programs; and
 - 11) Establish incentives for school districts.

Each GIS participant was impressed at the great enthusiasm of the teachers. Although we were to be observers only, our members were enthusiastically welcomed and made to feel an integral part of the meetings. All returned saying it was worthwhile to have GIS participation.

This history of conferences and ideas is summarized in Andrew Verdon's article "Teaching Tomorrow's Earth Scientists" in the December, 1988 issue of *Geotimes*, p.7. Mr. Verdon is the Director of Education at AGI. The AGI Education Department has three phases in a long range strategic plan. Phase I, 1984-1986 was the Network Building stage; Phase II, 1986-1988 was called the Groundwork for Change phase in which there were conferences, the production of a new national earth science exam and teacher internship program and the establishing of the National Center for Earth Science Education; Phase III, 1988-1990 is the Revolution phase which will see the distribution of the K-12 curriculum nationally. In 1989, AGI will publish Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Earth Education Framework for the 21st Century.

At its Fall, 1988 Council meeting the Geological Society of America decided to establish a way associated societies could share ideas about pre college curriculum and suggested doing it through the Board on Earth Sciences. AGI responded by inviting all its member societies plus leaders in education and representatives of national agencies to a meeting in January, 1989, to discuss what each organization was doing in curriculum development. Trudy Sinnott represented GIS and her interesting report of that meeting follows:

Meeting of Organizations with Interest in Pre College Earth Science Education

The American Geological Institute's national meeting on pre college earth science education was held on January 9, 1989, at AGI's headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The twenty-four participants represented a wide spectrum of groups with a common interest in furthering the teaching of earth science. Some were from professional geo-

logical societies: AAPG, AGU, SEPM, AWG, MSA, GIS, AGI; some from national institutions: NSF, Smithsonian, USGS; some from national teacher groups: NAGT, NESTA, and others from a variety of related organizations.

The meeting began with each person in turn discussing the relevant aims and activities of his or her organization, sharing ideas and suggestions, and distributing many informative publications and hand-outs- enough to fill a large tote bag. Some of the societies had sponsored well-organized broad programs for many years, particularly in the middle and high schools, some had concentrated on specific projects, and others had only just begun to formulate plans. It was apparent that many earth science professionals recognized a real need, and felt strongly about becoming involved. Some had become concerned because of the lack of instruction available for their own children or community, others were motivated by future needs of the profession. There was assistance at this time because of marked reductions in the number of K-6 earth science teachers and classes nationwide. This was variously attributed to school budget cuts, lack of trained teachers, fear of the turmoil caused by the evolution/creationism controversy, or a lack of awareness of the importance of teaching quality earth science to young children.

It was reassuring to learn that there are many resources and sources of information in the country, outside the regular education channels; more, I think, than any of the participants had previously realized. A few random examples follow to illustrate this point.

The National Science Resource Center located in the Arts and Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution has been in existence only a few years but has made impressive achievements already. Operated jointly with the national Academy of Sciences, it has been developing, since 1985, a large information data base of elementary teaching materials and has assembled a library of over 3000 science books on the elementary level. These resources may be used by school systems across the country, or at the Center. The representative distributed copies of its brand new publication entitled "Science for Children—Resources for Teachers". It is available from the National Academy Press, 177 pages, 1988 (\$7.95), and is filled with helpful information and ideas.

The American Chemical Society has one of the longest records of assistance to schools. It has developed many chemistry programs for all levels, and publishes several magazines for students and teachers, including *ChemUnity*, *Chemical Matters*, and *Wonder Science* for grades 4-6. The head of their Education Department discussed several innovative ideas, a grants program and aids for developing local projects. She offered to share experiences and know-how with those present.

Perceiving a necessity for more teacher training in earth sciences a geology professor from the University of South Carolina has sought

for 20 years to improve the quality and quantity of earth science courses in his university's teacher-training program. He has worked to recruit promising students, and to develop programs that award grants to teachers for additional science education. He has been successful in establishing a combined earth science/teacher major and encourages geology students to go on for a graduate teaching degree.

AAPG is another society with a long history of cooperation with schools. Its representative spoke of some recent problems affecting their activities:

1. Noticeable downturn in school requests for AAPG speakers, which can be attributed in part to the ramifications of the Evolution/Creationism controversy.
2. New requirements for carrying liability insurance on students going into the field.
3. Reluctance on the part of school administrators to grant released time for outside programs once freely given. (AAPG regularly arranges for students to go on field trips and to participate in summer field projects).

In discussing GIS's interest in the possibilities for information and library participation I mentioned the fairly typical activities of the USGS library. We are open to students of all ages and give tours to local earth science classes. We provide reference service to students, teachers, and Survey employees who frequently give talks at local schools. The library subscribes to the principal teacher-oriented journals and has a scattering of geology books for the K-12 level in the collection. Our Photographic Library in Denver has recently assembled two slide sets, with annotations, for use by schools, and hopes to prepare more. But, atypically, the Library is also home to the Geologic Inquiries Group (GIG), the Geologic Division's primary interface with the public for many years.

GIG has developed a very successful service for teachers and students. Last year it filled over 3000 requests for its information and teaching-aid packets, which are tailored to grade level, geographic location, and geologic subjects. The packets include in-house-prepared reading lists and bibliographies, state orientated information, and brochures and publications of the USGS. In addition GIG responded to hundreds of specific geologic requests for information by phone, letters, or in person. One of their staff geologists participates in the Survey's Outreach Program which is working on developing other educational materials such as lesson plans, school curricula, and summer programs for students and teachers. A surprising number of the meeting's participants asked that sample packets be sent to them.

In the afternoon we divided into three smaller groups for more discussion of the subjects raised in the morning.

The pre college education meeting was very successful. The need for the geological community to become involved in the education process became clear and defined. The enthusiastic exchange of ideas and information on the resources available, and support systems in place, was stimulating and encouraging. The advantages of cooperation among geological, scientific, teacher, and other related societies were obvious, and hopefully similar cooperation can be developed on the local level throughout the country.

A suggestion was made from the group that a report on the meeting be sent to the newsletters of the participating organizations for possible publication. AGI agreed to do so.

At its 1988 November meeting GSA voted to establish a committee on pre college education. I'd like to see the possibility of such a GIS committee brought up at our next meeting- we could contribute a lot!

Trudy Sinnott
U.S.G.S. Library
March 9, 1989

In May, AGI issued a call for applicants to the AGI RedLodge Conference, to be held at the Yellowstone Bighorn Field Camp where from August 6 through 20, 25 educators, scientists, and other experts (including possibly GIS'ers!) will hammer out the K through 12 curriculum. Participants must be able to work in groups and must have excellent writing skills. Interested parties may obtain application forms from Andrew Verdon of the American Geological Institute. This important curricula conference will be underwritten by the NSF and all expenses will be paid. We encourage interested GIS readers to apply to participate in this conference.

Jean Eaglesfield
Reggie Brown

UPDATE ON THE CONGRESS OF CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SPECIALISTS ASSOCIATIONS

The Congress that met in November 1988 passed a resolution calling for an international meeting to be convened. This international meeting would address issues dear to the hearts of map information specialists. We have recently been informed that Stan Stevens of the University of California, Santa Cruz has agreed to act as a convener. The GIS Executive Board has not named a representative to the planning committee of this international meeting since GIS is already involved in planning international geological information meetings.

The GIS representative to the Congress's project on sharing calendar information is Connie Manson.

Jean Eaglesfield
GIS Representative to the Congress

GIS 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PLANNING

A word of warning from your Immediate Past President—Planning for the gala 25th Anniversary Celebration (to be held at the Dallas annual meeting in 1990) will get underway this summer. GIS members who would enjoy designing anniversary brochures, buttons, other memorabilia, and dinner parties are encouraged to contact me as soon as possible.

In connection with this project, in March I visited the GIS Archives, housed in the University of Illinois Archives, and copied several documents that explain the founding and early history of GIS. While there, I was hosted by our-man-in-

Urbana, Dedy Ward, who is one of the founding members of GIS. Dedy, who as of this writing is off to retirement land, gave me pearls of wisdom about early history and how to do a celebration.

You will hear more in future newsletters about our Archives, a seemingly boring but necessary subject.

Please contact me by August at (517) 355-8494 or BITNET 20676csa@msu if you are interested in joining the Gala 25th Anniversary Committee.

Jean Eaglesfield
5/10/89

PUBLICATIONS

UNION LIST OF GEOLOGIC FIELD TRIP GUIDEBOOKS

The fifth edition of the "Union List of Field Trip Guidebooks of North America" has just been published by the American Geological Institute. It lists more than 6500 field trip guidebooks entered under some 780 organizations holding the meetings or conferences where those guidebooks appeared. This list also reveals which libraries have copies of the guidebooks, and what their lending policies are. This 223-page volume includes a geographic index for each guidebook as well as a stratigraphic index.

The Union List was compiled and edited by the Guidebooks Committee of the Geoscience Information Society, Charlotte Derksen, Chair, and published by AGI. It costs \$60 and is available from Customer Service, American Geological Institute, 4220 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302. You may charge to your VISA, MasterCard or American Express card. Call AGI's Customer Service Department: 800-336-4764.

The seventh edition of GUIDE TO MEDICAL AND SCIENCE NEWS MEDIA has been published by Larriston Communications. This guide contains over 1500 listings of the medical and science correspondents for newspapers, television and radio stations, and magazines. It also includes listings of TV and radio networks, syndicated columnists and more than 300 independent writers whose work includes medical and science topics. The price—\$90 (\$75 for non-profit organizations)—includes a mid-year update (published in July) and an option to renew the subscription next year (1990) at 1989 prices. All orders are covered by a 21-day, no-questions-asked, refund policy.

To order, or for further information, call Nancy Lewis at 212-864-0150, or write Larriston Communications, P.O. Box 20229, New York, NY 10025.

MAPS CONTAINED IN THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1639-1819: An Index and Checklist. By Jim Walsh. 383 p., 1988. Scarecrow Press. ISBN 0-8108-2193-1, \$37.50

DATABASES

Beginning June 1, online and offline print charges for searching the GeoRef database on STN will be \$.30 per hit. Connect charges of \$87 per hour will remain the same. For more information about STN International, contact STN International, Marketing Department 30789, Box 02228, Columbus, Ohio 43202. Phone: 800-848-6538.

IMMAGE, available on Pergamon InfoLine, is a bibliographic database that covers economic geology, mining and extraction technology, and developments in the non-ferrous metals and industrial minerals fields. Also included are mineral economics and management, health and safety, environmental aspects, tunnelling and underground excavation. The geographic scope is worldwide. Records give full bibliographic details and abstracts are included. The database covers approximately 1200 serial titles and more than 500 monographs and conference proceedings, dating from 1979 to the present. Updates occur every two months. For more information contact Library and Information Services, The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, 44 Portland Place, London W1N 4BR, England. Telephone: 01-580 3802; Telex: 261410 IMM G.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE FORUM

Editors' note: This letter to Joanne Lerud from Mike Collins of Elsevier is quoted in full.

20 April 1989

Joanne Lerud
Library
West Park Street
Montana Tech
Butte, MT 59701
USA

Re:GIS Newsletter No. 117, April 1989

Dear Ms Lerud,

I am writing in response to the item that appeared in the Information Exchange Forum section of the GIS Newsletter. I appreciate the comments of the GIS members. I shall put forward my views on the matter in the order that the comments appear in the article.

I endorse your comments on the dissemination of geoscience information and I feel that this is especially important for these where accessibility is somewhat restricted.

I acknowledge that GeoRef indexes Masters and Ph.D. theses, however, Rosalind Walcott (1988) indicated that 22% of geoscience Ph.D's for the years 1981-1985 were not indexed by GeoRef and 7.5% were not available from University Microfilms International (UMI); this may indicate that Elsevier/Geo Abstracts may cover theses that are not being covered elsewhere.

I feel that the full text of Ph.D./Masters abstracts is a significant contribution to the dissemination of geoscience information and as you point out, UMI does not cover the full text of Masters theses.

I do appreciate that geoscience departments and libraries are under severe financial restrictions and so I approached UMI to see if they could assist us in our acquisition of these abstracts. However, they would only cooperate if their abstracts were not altered in any way. We would not be able to comply with their wishes, as we have a limit on the length of the abstracts that appear in our journal Geological Abstracts. This limitation in abstract length allows us to cover as many informative abstracts as possible within our allocated page budget. The abstracts are edited and indexed by geoscientists in-house. We, therefore, have to request photocopies of these direct from their source and we are extremely grateful to the geoscience departments and libraries for their cooperation.

I do agree that duplication of keystrokes is not desirable, so that any cooperation with other organizations to reduce this aspect would be wel-

comed, but this would have to be weighed against the loss in the timeliness of the abstracts, if they were to be diverted around various organizations.

The dissemination of information as as important in other disciplines as it is in geology and, therefore, we also cover Ph.D. and Masters theses in ecology, physical geography, human geography and development studies from educational establishments in Canada, USA, UK and Ireland. We shall be extending our coverage on a country by country basis.

I shall be happy for this letter to appear in a forthcoming issue of your Newsletter.

Further discussions may be possible with representatives of GEOBASE, who will be available at the Special Libraries Association in New York in June, the International Geological Congress in July and possibly at the GSA meeting in November.

Walcott, R., 1988, Geoscience for the future --A case study from the United States: Geoscience Information Society Annual Meeting Proceedings, v. 18, p. 59-65.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Collins
(Manager)
Elsevier Science Publishers

Graham Curtis, a veteran geologist (25 years with Gulf Oil Corp. and 12 years with his own exploration and consulting company) is embarking on a project to better inform the public about the world of geology and the geoscientist: a series of U.S. postage stamps. He invites GIS members to submit suggestions and designs.

The categories and suggested formats are:

- I. Metallic minerals make America
 - A. Picture of a modern mine with major mined element listed. Mills and smelters also acceptable.
- II. Industrial minerals build America
 - A. Modern pictures, as above
- III. Energy minerals run America
 - A. Hydrocarbon
 1. Pictures of oil fields, wells, rigs, geophysical activity, geological maps and cross sections (hand or computer-made), the geological tools separate or in use, etc. all acceptable
 - B. Coal (Pictures, as above)
 - C. Uranium (Pictures, as above)
- IV. Historical mineral events
 - A. Hydrocarbons (Drake, etc.)

- B. Mining (Sutter's Mill, etc.)
 1. An event in your state that changed local or national history (old lithos).

- V. Great discoveries in geological sciences
 A. Such as the anticlinal theory, plate tectonics, etc.

- VI. Famous American geologists (deceased)
 VII. Geological societies and organizations
 A. Logos

Mr. Curtis requests:

1. A letter from GIS supporting the project
2. For parts I through VI, send in your choice of subjects and names
3. For part VII, send in a camera-ready logo and logo colored in the manner you would wish it presented.

Send these by August 1, 1989 to:
 Graham R. Curtis
 Gold Cup Exploration, Inc.
 11880 Swadley Drive
 Lakewood, CO 80215
 303/8293

WORKSHOPS

GIS GUIDEBOOK WORKSHOP

At the next GIS annual meeting (St. Louis, Nov. 5-9, 1989) a two-hour workshop on geological field trips will be held. The workshop will try to cover all aspects of a field trip: conceptualization, planning, outfitting, guidebook (and its marketing), execution, and follow-up. We want the workshop to attract the geologists who are planning field trips, the authors/editors, the publishers/distributors, as well as the information specialists and the guidebook users.

- Do you have any suggestions about:
 content that will draw the geologists to the workshop
 excellent speakers
 who will use lots of slides
 whose reputed authority will draw other geologists to the workshop
 who will represent different participants in the field trip process, such as field trip organizer, guidebook author/editor, guidebook publisher/distributor, trip outfitter (Nepal, Alps, Andes, Amazon, or other exotic area)
 who can describe the "challenges" that guidebooks present to the information specialist
 who uses guidebooks in their teaching
 who has been on many field trips and can describe (with slides) the good and the bad aspects from the participants view point

All suggestions concerning content or possible speakers are welcome. Please call Claren Kidd at 405-325-6217 or write to her at: Geology Library,

University of Oklahoma, 830 Van Vleet Oval, Rm 103, Norman, OK 73019

ALA PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP ON SATELLITE IMAGERY AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The Map and Geography Round Table and RTSD/CCS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access will cosponsor a workshop, "Remote Sensing Imagery: Identification, Control and Access," on Friday, June 22, 1990, in Chicago, prior to the ALA Annual Conference. The workshop will include discussions on identifying the special characteristics of remote sensing images (including satellite images and aerial photographs) as well as creating and coding catalog records for them. A practicum will follow. Instructors will be Dr. HelenJane Armstrong (Univ. of Florida), Mary Larsgaard (U.C., Santa Barbara), Betsy Mangan (L.C.), and Nancy Vick (Univ. of Illinois). For more information, contact Ellen Caplan (OCLC) at 614-764-6000 or Nancy Vick at 217-333-0827. Complete registration information will be available this fall.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

HEAD MAP LIBRARIAN, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, Tucson, Arizona

Responsibilities include administration, public services, collection development, and supervision of staff. Applicants must have an accredited MLS, library experience with cartographic materials, and good communication skills. Preferred qualifications include management and supervisory experience, knowledge of library automation, and a degree in a related field. Minimum salary is \$30,000 (higher salary negotiable). Send letter of application, resume, and names of three references to:

W. David Laird, University Librarian
 University of Arizona Library
 Tucson, AZ 85721.

Applications should be postmarked by June 1, 1989, to be considered.

NEW MEMBERS

Zelda Colodner
 Department of Geology
 Hebrew University
 Jerusalem, Israel

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 Sergeant, Hauskins, and
 Beckwith
 3232 W. Virginia Avenue
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Katherine V. Keefe
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 MIT
 Cambridge, MA 02139

Independencia Iselidh
 Geological Survey of
 Sweden
 Library, Box 670
 Uppsala, Sweden 751 28

BOOK REVIEW

Foundations of environmental ethics,
by Eugene C. Hargrove. Prentice Hall, 1989.
(ISBN 0133295745 \$21)

reviewed by D. R. Trombatore

Every day decisions are being made which will have profound consequences for the future of our planet. It is increasingly urgent that the participants in these processes have the kind of understanding Gene Hargrove is developing in this book; not so that they have a particular outlook, but so that they develop a greater breadth of awareness and capacity for reflection than traditional disciplines have been able to provide.

Hargrove has labored in the vineyards of applied ethics for many years, most prominently as founding editor of the journal Environmental Ethics. In this role he has fought the usual battles, rocky soil, pests and detractors to establish his new vintage.

Applied ethics in any form is like a motherless child—rejected in principal by purists of ethical theory, and suspect among the various professions affected by ethical concerns. Environmental ethics is particularly estranged because it intersects the young scientific discipline of ecology and the volatile emotional and political issues of lifestyle, property rights, and social policy.

Hargrove is at pains to demonstrate that this enterprise is deeply rooted in western intellectual history and that it is possible to attack a range of applied ethical concerns in a philosophically acceptable, rational and orderly way by analysis and review of the various arguments. The text is a kind of travelogue, illuminating the now sadly neglected realm that linked the natural sciences and the humanities throughout the eras of exploration. This mental landscape was once part of the natural reflective order of frontier life but now has become the path not taken by most scientists and humanists.

For those in the humanities and social sciences, the natural sciences have become the domain

of specialists—experts who increasingly are laboratory scientists, distanced from the effects of their work. Meanwhile, scientists are frequently ahistorical even about their own fields, are notably uncomfortable with the fuzzy processes of political and social change, and are relatively uninformed about the formalities of philosophical discourse.

Foundations of environmental ethics will be most interesting to readers with one foot in each world, but the need for this book is far broader. So many of our everyday decisions have possible global ramifications that there is a great need for the kind of intellectual development this book strives to generate.

The point that Hargrove makes most eloquently is that there are already untapped resources of intellectual and scientific considerations waiting to be applied to our search for a humane future. Foundations of environmental ethics also makes it clear that it is everyone's responsibility to actively find new vantage points to review where we have been, for clues to where we should go.

Someone with no background at all in philosophy, social policy or the history of science (particularly ecology and geology) will find this text moderately difficult, but not daunting. Those with no background at all in philosophy will have the hardest time, but these readers also have the most to gain from the book. All readers are likely to be surprised by the role Hargrove ascribes to the tradition of aesthetics, especially in relation to ethical questions.

Reading this book is like discovering for the first time the interplay of colors—None of the elements are surprising, but superimposed on each other they reveal new worlds of possibility.

Connie Manson - Editor
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