NEWSLETTER 1992

It is hard to imagine that it has been a whole year since Brian Harley died, and the year has been one of much reflection and soul-searching. It probably would comfort him to know that he had so imbued us with his wisdom and spirit that we feel we can carry on. We still feel deeply sad when he cannot share our celebrations and we still feel slightly cheated when he cannot share our frustrations.

The year did have good news. The Research Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities provided the funding we requested for two years beginning September 1992, and Volume 2, Book 1, Cartography in the Traditional Islamic and South Asian Societies, appeared in June. Thanks to the generous invitation of our Rare Books Librarian, John Tedeschi, a party was held on 11 September in the splendid quarters of the Rare Books Room on the top floor of the University Library overlooking Madison’s beautiful Lake Mendota. The event was co-sponsored by the University of Chicago Press, and Associate Director Penny Kaiserlian was able to be present. Other out-of-town visitors for the event included Matthew Edney, Kevin Kaufman, and Joe Schwartzberg.

We apologize for being slow getting word out of the publication of this volume and in getting books out to authors, but we were very late in receiving our quota of copies. We have not yet seen any major reviews of Volume 2.1 and are looking forward particularly to the reaction of the academic community of Arabists and South Asian specialists. We hope that the volume will introduce maps as things worthy of attention in cultural studies.

Typesetting has begun for Volume 2, Book 2, which deals with the cartographies of China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Greater Tibet, and Southeast Asia. We are particularly excited about this volume, which provides something completely new in material and approach. It will be somewhat larger than Volume 2, Book 1 and will contain almost 500 illustrations.

With the Prehistoric, Classical, Medieval, and Traditional Asian cartographies completed, we are turning our thoughts to Volume 3, Cartography in the European Renaissance. There will be some reorganization of Volume 3, and David will be in touch with authors early in the New Year to inform them of our plans.

David is rearranging his teaching in the academic year of 1993-94 to spend research time in Europe from August 1993 to January 1994. He will be centered in the London area but will make forays to France, Spain, and Italy and hopes to see many of his European friends.

We wanted to share with you our long-term strategy in fund-raising for the research for the Project. Presently, our annual funding is split almost evenly between Federal Funds (both the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation), Gifts from private sources, and 100% Federal matching of those gifts. Chart (a) shows the picture. We would like to move toward the reduction (ideally elimination) of direct Federal funding and the increase of private gifts, as shown in chart (b) assuming of course that we continue to attract Federal funds in any form. In this way, every Federal dollar would match every private dollar. We would not have dreamed that this was possible, but the recent increase in private donations has been so encouraging that we believe it is now a reasonable goal. Thanks to all of you who have contributed this year. For those who haven’t, gifts are tax deductible and may be designated as memorials to J. Brian Harley. Checks should be made out to The University of Wisconsin Foundation (a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization) and sent to the address at the bottom of this letterhead.

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