



NEMO Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter of the North East Map Organization

NUMBER 45

January 2002

Happy New Year!

From the Bridge

Best wishes to everyone for a safe, happy, and productive 2002. It is hard to believe that 2002 is here and that, as you read this, January is almost history! This means that before we know it, June will be here and our annual meeting.

I do have news about the NEMO 2002—our 16th Annual Meeting. I spoke with Pat McGlamery and we will be returning to our beginnings. NEMO 2002 will be held on Thursday and Friday, June 6-7, 2002 at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. Details on the conference registration, lodging and the program will be forthcoming (April newsletter and online).

In the meantime, David Bertuca needs your help in planning this year's program. If you have suggestions for topics, speakers, field trips, etc., please let David know. We want to have a preliminary program put together for the next issue of the newsletter.

Plan now for NEMO 2002. With your support and participation, NEMO 2002 could be the biggest and best meeting ever. I look forward to seeing everyone in June.



Take care,
Jim Walsh Captain NEMO



A New Atlas for an Old Armenia

by Nancy A. Kandoian

Among Armenian-Americans, and among students and scholars of Armenian, Anatolian, and Caucasian history and geography, there has been much anticipation for the long-awaited publication of *Armenia: A Historical Atlas*. I had first heard about it at a meeting of NACIS, the North American Cartographic Information Society, in the 1980s—perhaps in Pittsburgh in 1984—when cartographer Mark Mattson of Temple University mentioned that his lab was involved in it. Finally, this past fall, the labors of almost twenty years bore fruit. The University of Chicago Press published this work of Robert H. Hewsen and Christopher C. Salvatico. It came in an auspicious year, when Armenia celebrated 1700 years since the nation's adoption of Christianity.

Though the atlas had not hit the shelves yet in the New York Public Library, I was fortunate to have a preview of it and learn the story of its preparation when the publication was celebrated at Columbia University with a lecture by Dr. Hewsen on November 30th.

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"Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

History's Rough Draft in a Map of Ground Zero

by David Handelman

Laura Kurgan emerged from the R train at City Hall on Saturday carrying a shoulder bag crammed with a thousand copies of a map of the area unlike any other.

Ms. Kurgan, a 40-year-old architect with pixie-ish dark hair, designed the map, "Around Ground Zero," to help visitors explore a zone that defies easy access. Every day thousands of tourists pour into Lower Manhattan to see the site of the twin towers' collapse. Conventional street maps are of no help. "People are extremely disoriented," Ms. Kurgan said. "They have no idea what they're looking at." It took Ms. Kurgan, working with architects, designers, researchers and students, all of whom volunteered their time, about a month to produce the four-color map, which highlights an area from Duane Street to Bowling Green. She was distributing it for the first time on Saturday. "I've never stood on the street and handed anything out before," she said, making her way through a throng of tourists.

Along with streets and public transportation routes, the 18-by-24-inch folding map shows the locations of unobstructed sightlines, impromptu memorials and the viewing platform that opened on Saturday, as well as a suggested walking path around the site. Colored stars indicate building condition, from moderate damage to total collapse. The flip side has an aerial photograph of the site taken Sept. 23.

"The main way people get around the site is to ask policemen where to go," Ms. Kurgan said, mentioning one officer at West and Murray Streets who had a map that identified only the streets that were open. Among things people need to know, she said, is that they can view the site from the south.

Ms. Kurgan, a South African native who teaches at the Princeton University school of architecture and has lived in New York since 1985, produced the map under the auspices of New York New Visions, a temporary coalition of architects, planners, engineers and artists who are donating their expertise to make recommendations for renewing downtown.

Donald Shillingburg, one of three former students of Ms. Kurgan's who contributed to the map, said he thought it would help offset a carnival-like atmosphere developing around ground zero. "People are used to a kind of spectacle tourism," he said. "You have to help them out, to fulfill their reason for coming." Three institutional donors, including Princeton University and the Van Alen Institute, contributed \$8,700 to print 20,000 copies; Ms. Kurgan is hoping to raise money for a much bigger print run.

Among the volunteers distributing maps on Saturday were an arts magazine editor, a sociologist and a sculptor. Stationed among vendors hawking ground zero hats and red, white and blue scarves, they worked the east side of John Street, a block south of the new viewing platform.

Although at first suspicious of anything distributed free, visitors quickly realized what the maps were, and some doubled back for extra copies.

While handing them out, Ms. Kurgan said that this was the first map she had designed, inspired in part by an artists group that produced a kind of touristic map of war-torn Sarajevo in 1996. Like her map of ground zero, it showed "all the things that disappear after reconstruction," she said.

While a lot of public attention is being paid to rebuilding, Ms. Kurgan said she wanted to document the site as it is now, creating not only a helpful tool for visitors that can be updated with each printing, but also a series of snapshots of an area undergoing change. "Maps are always political and utilitarian, and sometimes they can be aesthetic," she said. "I suppose this map is all three. But the political aspect is what interests me most. I want to put the emphasis on memory, on thinking about commemoration before thinking about rebuilding."

One volunteer cartographer, Janette Kim, had to redraw the map three times before it was printed a week ago to incorporate the latest barricade lines and the new viewing platform. "The graphics are about understanding that however temporary the site looks, it's kind of a construction, too," Ms. Kim said. "They've created a city based on the emergency."

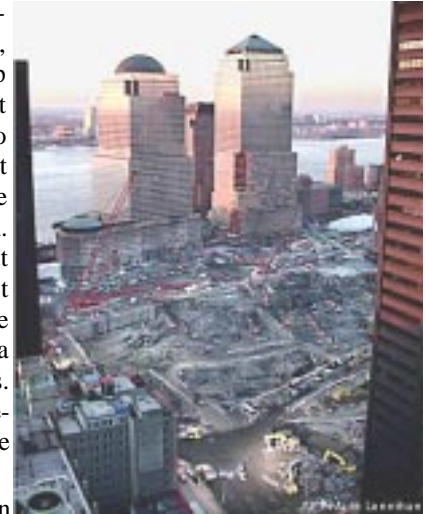
Assuming she can raise the necessary money, Ms. Kurgan hopes to update the map as the perimeter continues to shrink and streets reopen. "It's the most volatile site in New York," she said. Updating a Web site would be easier than remapping and reprinting a piece of paper, Ms. Kurgan said, but she wanted an object that people could have in their hands while visiting the site.

In practice, that proved somewhat difficult over the cold, windy weekend. Volunteers handed off maps to passers-by unable to find a big enough slice of sidewalk to unfold them. They had to hold tight to keep them from blowing away. But those who did seemed mesmerized and grateful.

David Avezov, wearing a hat that merged the logos of the Yankees and the New York Police and Fire Departments, was dodging crowds with his wife, two brothers, a sister-in-law and two infants in tow. The Avezovs live in Edison, N.J., and this was his first visit to the site since Sept. 11. Map in hand, Mr. Avezov plotted a route to Carlisle Street, where they could avoid the crowds around the platform.

As a teenager, Mr. Avezov used to come to the twin towers plaza to have lunch with an uncle who at the time worked on the 86th floor of one of the towers. "Coming here brings some kind of closure," he said.

Another pilgrim, Rick Werp of Huntsville, Ala., said he hadn't been to the city in 40 years. At the last minute, he decided to bring his daughter, 12, to visit ground zero and to watch the Times Square ball drop on New Year's Eve. "When she comes back here 40 years from now, there's going to be something else



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Armenia: A Historical Atlas, continued from page 1

Plans for the creation of the atlas were first articulated in 1982 at Columbia, where Armenian studies had been part of the curriculum for many years. Dr. Hewsen, a superb choice to head the project, was a professor at Rowan University in N.J., and a life-long lover of maps with a doctorate in history from Georgetown University. His research interests focused on the historical geography of Armenia, his dissertation having been translation of and commentaries on an early Armenian text of geography by Anania Shirakatsi of the 7th century.

When Dr. Hewsen learned of the contract cartography work at Temple University in Philadelphia and found his former student, none other than Mark Mattson, in the cartography lab there, he engaged the lab and the project began to take some shape. But the story from then on is one of dovetailing academic projects, upheaval in Armenia, and revolution in the field of computer cartography, not to mention the necessities of fundraising.

Dr. Hewsen was soon off to Tübingen, Germany, to work on several maps for the distinguished *Tübinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients*. Around the same time, Temple University cartographic lab became involved in a high priority state atlas of Pennsylvania. In 1987, another historical atlas of Armenia was published, the Armenian National Education Committee's *Historical Atlas of Armenia*. This bilingual atlas, with about 30 maps, was produced by the education arm of the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America. Its major audience was schools.

Meanwhile, in Armenia, the great earthquake struck in 1988. The struggle for self-determination of the Armenian people of neighboring Nagorno-Karabagh was going on in the late 1980s and early 1990s. And then came the break-up of the Soviet Union and the formation of the independent Republic of Armenia in late 1991.

As if this was not enough to keep up with, Dr. Hewsen also had to contend with advances in computer cartography, occurring rapidly during this period. With the whole project on his shoulders at this point, he took it upon himself to master as much as he could in the field. But he was eventually relieved to have Christopher Salvatico, a student of Mark Mattson, bring his cartography skills to the effort.

By the mid-1990s, the time had come to raise funds for the completion of the project. In order to secure a serious

funding commitment, it was necessary to locate an interested publisher. After feelers went out to a few university presses, everything seemed to fall into place with the University of Chicago Press. When a draft of the atlas was completed, it went out for review to Joseph E. Schwartzberg of the University of Minnesota, editor of the highly-regarded *Historical Atlas of South Asia*; and to Ronald Suny of the University of Chicago, a political scientist with a depth of knowledge in Armenian history. With positive and constructive input, Hewsen and Salvatico put another four years into polishing the atlas further.

Now the results of their work are available! At \$150, this atlas carries a hefty price tag. Think of it as capturing more than 2 millennia of history in 2 decades of work, with more than 340 pages and 278 color maps, and a bibliography to send readers in additional directions. After the main part of his talk, Dr. Hewsen shared examples of maps in the atlas, ranging from city plans to contour maps to annotated regional maps describing places, populations, and events. Images of sample maps can be seen on the publisher's website:

<http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/332284.html>. According to one of the funding stipulations, 150 copies of the atlas have been sent as gifts to libraries around the world—to 75 libraries in the United States and 75 libraries outside the U.S.

With satisfaction and appreciation, Dr. Hewsen introduced his cartographer-in-chief, Christopher Salvatico, who was in the audience; and he acknowledged the input of consultants from around the world.

He expressed the hope that his completed work would inspire similar projects for other former Soviet republics and a similar home-grown project from the Republic of Armenia, and that it would serve as a starting point for related research and publication on the history and geography of Armenia.

Armenia: A Historical Atlas / Robert H. Hewsen; Christopher C. Salvatico, cartographer-in-chief. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. ISBN 0-226-33228-4.



Until 1266, the **Isle of Man** was owned by Norway and was a separate country with its own King who also owned the Sodor, the southern isles of Scotland. Edward III was the Isle of Man's first English king, but in 1405, Henry IV gave it to the Stanley family and it later passed to the Dukes of Atholl. Finally in 1765 it was sold to the British Government for 70,000 pounds.

Ground Zero... Continued from page 2

there," he said, "and she will have seen the historical moment."

Police Officer Ronald Morse, trying to contain the crowds from spilling into Broadway traffic, was enthusiastic about the project. "It's a wonderful service," he said. The tourism aspect, he admitted, is a double-edged sword for him. "There are still body parts down there," he said. "People have to show respect. The map is a big help."

Ms. Kurgan's supply ran out in about an hour. As she was leaving she asked a man still clutching his folded-up copy, "Did you use that map yet?"

"Not yet," he replied. "I've lost the people I was with!"

From the *New York Times* (Jan. 3, 2002) Late Edition - Final Section F; Page 9; Column 1.

Thanks to Jim Walsh for submitting this article.

Carto Clips

Ronnie Ellenblum of the Department of Geography at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has created a new and quite impressive web site with very high quality historic maps of 55 European cities at:

<http://historic-cities.huji.ac.il/>

Ideas Wanted

The **2002 meeting** is fast approaching. We have some thoughts on programs, but would like to hear more ideas or suggestions. If you have any ideas for topics or presentations, or if you have a presentation that you would like to consider giving, please contact David Bertuca as soon as possible.

Do not forget also to save up maps for the map swap, and any other materials that you would like to share with the membership. *Let's make the 2002 meeting another great one!*

The NEMO Newsletter

Number 45

January 2002

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We invite and welcome contributions and suggestions. Please submit all materials to the editor using e-mail, 3.5" PC or Macintosh disk (in Word, RTF, or ASCII format), or by sending a typewritten document. Newsletter submissions and questions on submissions should be directed to:

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NEMO (North East Map Organization) is a group dedicated to serving as a unifying body for all who use, produce, collect, and market maps and cartographic information in the North-east; increasing communication between all interested in maps; and working with state, regional, and national organizations and government agencies in dissemination of maps and cartographic information. NEMO's principal region is CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

Subscriptions are included with membership in NEMO, which is fifteen dollars per year. Back issues for the current year will be included with new memberships.

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New Wall Map of the World

The Exploration Company has released a wall map of the world—one that contains features of an advanced political and physical map, but goes beyond that, featuring some elements commonly not found on world wall maps:

<http://www.theexplorationcompany.com/2.html>

In addition to conventional features, the map indicates terrain—e.g. savanna, tundra, forest—instead of elevation. It displays vastly populated regions. It notes prominent indigenous nations—e.g. Kurds, Palestinians, Intuit—shedding light on many of the ethnically-related conflicts. It includes environmental concerns: indicating severe marine pollution and destroyed rainforests. Other unique features include territorial capitals, the Antarctic desert, volcanoes, continent names, rose compass, cropland, and cultural regions (e.g. Kashmir, Transylvania, Scotland).

It is 60" x 37", laminated on both sides, markable, comes trimmed to size (USD \$59.95), mounted on brackets for elegant, conventional hanging (\$59.95), on a spring roller (window-shade style) (\$89.95), as a transparency set (\$59.95), or as a desk map, 22" x 13.5", (\$6.95). For more information and imagery go to:

<http://www.theexplorationcompany.com/2.html>

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