



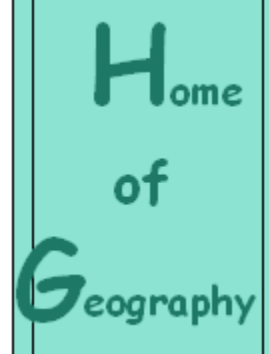
# **IGU E-Newsletter**

## **From the Rome Home of Geography**

Quarterly

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# 18

October

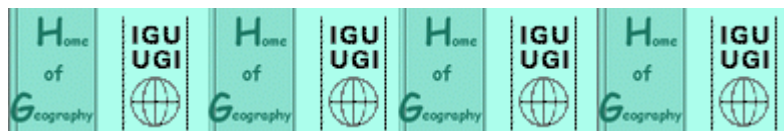
2009

Editor-in-Chief: *Ronald F. Abler*

Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

*This Newsletter is circulated to more than 1300 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome.*

*Please send them to [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org)*



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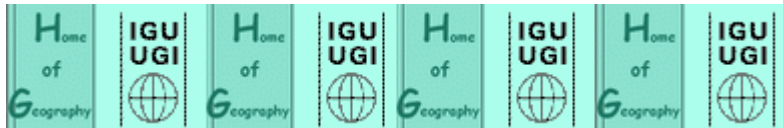
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**PRESIDENT ABLER's REMARKS**

Dear Colleagues,

The IGU Executive Committee met from 30 September-2 October in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, France with the generous assistance of the *Festival International de Géographie* (FIG), which was held this year from 30 September through 4 October. As noted in the summary report from the FIG Scientific Director Alexandre Moine later in this issue of the *IGU E-Newsletter*, FIG celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. This year was my seventh or eighth visit to FIG, and it has been gratifying to watch it develop over the years since my first visit. The event celebrates geography in all its applications and ramifications, and in doing so it now attracts more than 30,000 visitors each year.

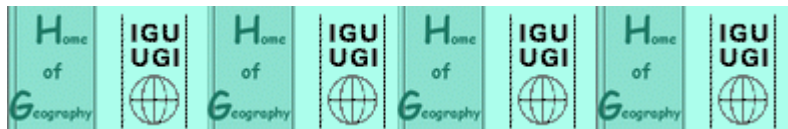
In addition to exposing geography to tens of thousands of non-geographers (or many millions if the extensive French media coverage of the event is included), FIG has profoundly affected French university geography. FIG has greatly increased the visibility of geography among the French public and simultaneously encouraged academic geographers to become much more open to the French media by addressing current topics of public interest and by doing so in ways that communicate effectively with the public. In an interview with a French journalist I suggested that Festival Founder and President (and Mayor of Saint-Dié-des-Vosges) Christian Pierret be designated Professor to Professors because of his role in teaching France's geographers how to strengthen the effectiveness and relevance of their discipline. FIG and the IGU are working to launch similar festivals in Italy and Portugal, with Vice President Giuliano Bellezza leading that effort for IGU.

As is usually true, much of the IGU Executive Committee's time was devoted to reviewing the IGU's internal operations: membership, finances, commission activities, outreach, *etc.* The meeting minutes will be included in the next issue of the *IGU E-Newsletter* so you will be able to read as much of the detail as you wish then. Aside from these usual matters, the committee focused on the United Nations International Year (UNIY) initiative (the successor to the Cultures and Civilizations launched by deceased President Adalberto Vallega), on ways to make the IGU's Congresses and Regional Conferences more attractive and better attended, and on its continuing discussion of priorities. UNIY is led by Benno Werlen of the University of Jena. He has obtained renewed financial support for the UNIY Project Secretariat from German sources. The executive

committee developed some specific ideas for closer coordination between the IGU and the local organizers of congresses and conferences that will be elaborated in the next few months and that should help make IGU meetings better attended. The priorities discussion is closing in on membership, finance, and meeting improvements as overriding concerns. The initiatives proposed by Ton Dietz (Netherlands) at the 2008 Tunis General Assembly are now being pursued by Dietz in collaboration with subcommittees of IGU Executive Committee members and others. Secretary General and Treasurer Woo-ik Yu announced at the meeting that he will not seek re-election for another term beginning in July 2010. The instructions for nominating candidates for the position will be sent to the chairpersons of IGU National Committees in mid-November 2009, with nominations due at the end of January 2010 or thereabouts. The election will be held by mail ballot in April or May 2010.

Since this is the last issue of the IGU E-Newsletter before the end of the calendar year, I offer all the members and friends of the IGU community my hopes that you all enjoy a fulfilling and relaxing holiday season and my best wishes for good health and good spirits in 2010.

Ron Abler



## **2) VEGA MEDAL, IMPORTANT SWEDISH AWARD, TO IGU PAST PRESIDENT ANNE BUTTIMER**

**Stockholm, Royal Palace, April 24, 2009  
Vega Medal Awards**



**King Carl Gustaf with Professors Anne Buttmer and Allen J Scott**

At a ceremony in Stockholm Royal Castle, the King of Sweden awards the Vega Medals of the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography, a society for which the King is the major patron.

Professor Anne Buttimer, University College Dublin, is awarded the Johan August Wahlberg Gold Medal for her contributions to humanistic geography and the development of geography in Sweden.

Professor Allen J Scott, UCLA receives the Anders Retzius Gold Medal for his contributions to economic and urban geography.

In the Irish press the event was proudly reported, particularly in the local newspaper "The Avondhou", where in the 20th August 2009 issue the following page was dedicated to Anne Buttimer:

## Glenville lady is world renowned

Rubbing shoulders with the world's most famous of people is nothing new to Glenville lady, Professor Anne Buttimer who has recently been honoured by the Swedish Society for anthropology and geography. A world renowned geographer, she has the distinction of being the first woman and the first Irish person to be elected president of the International Geographical Union.

Professor Buttimer, who came to live in Glenville when she was just eight years of age, was Professor and Head of the Department of Geography in UCD from 1991

- 2003. She has made significant academic contributions to the history and philosophy of geographical thought and practice; to human and cultural geography, particularly the temporal and spatial aspects of everyday life and, to the understanding of the interactions between science and policy. She has published 50 academic articles in peer-reviewed journals, and is the author or editor of 18 books.

In August 2000 Professor Buttimer was elected president of the International Geographical Union. In her role as president of the IGU she was invited to meet Pope John



Paul II in the Vatican and had the honour of awarding the International Geographical Union's Planet and Humanity Medal to Mikael Gorbachev in June 2004 and one month later, made the same presentation to Nelson Mandela in Durban, South Africa.

She was presented with the Johan August Wahlberg gold medal by King Carl Gustaf of Sweden in recognition for her contribution to humanistic geography and the development of geography in Sweden. Professor Buttimer has a long association with Sweden, visiting

Fulbright Professor of Social Ecology at Lund University in 1976 having been a full time researcher there between 1977 and 1979 and again from 1982 to 1988.

Her association with Swedish geography continues to this day and her book with Bom Mels 'By Northern Lights' on the making of geography in Sweden, provides a comprehensive account on developments in science and society over several centuries. The book is now used in courses in vetenskapsteori throughout Scandinavia. The August Johan Wahlberg Gold

• Ann after presenting the International Geographical Union's Planet and Humanity Medal to Mikael Gorbachev in June 2004 and (right), accepting her gold medal from the King of Sweden. (P)



Medal is only one in a long line of awards and honours Professor Buttimer has received over her career that include an Association of American Geographers Honours Award 1986; Honours Award, Taiwan Geographical Society 1990; Ellen Chachill Semple Award, University of Kentucky 1991; Royal Geographical Society (UK) Murchison Award 1997; Royal Scottish Millennium Award 2000; Membre D'honneur, Societe de Geographie 2001; Socio D'onore Societa Geografica, Italiana 2006; and Honorary doctorates from University of Joensuu, 1999 and Tama University 2004.



• THREE PRESIDENTS - Dec 1st, 2004, Ann is awarded the degree of 'Doctor Honoris Causa' with (left) the President of the Estonian Academy of Science and (right), President of Finland, Tarja Kaarina Halonen who received the same honour.



LEFT - In 2000, representing the international geographical community as a guest at the Vatican; (above right) with Nelson Mandela after presenting him with the IGU's Planet and Humanity Medal and (right) with the King of Sweden after receiving her gold medal. (P)





### **3) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

#### **3.1) SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOGRAPHIES OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

The Second International Conference on Geographies of Children, Youth and Families was held in the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain), July 16-18, 2009. The biannual event was organised by the Gender and Geography Group of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and counted with more than 70 participants from several countries.

The Conference theme "Diverse childhoods in international contexts:gender and other social and cultural differences" was developed in 16 sessions running in parallel and 3 keynotes, given by Cindi Katz (City University of New York), Lia Karsten (University of Amsterdam) and Louise Holt (University of Reading), which explored several issues such as:

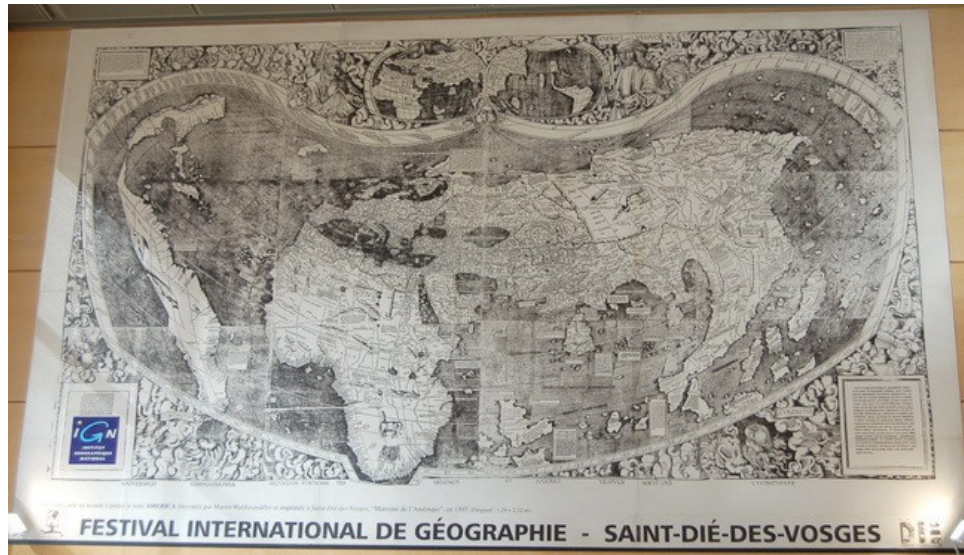
- children's mobility and migrations;
- family, housing and daily life;
- socio-spatial networks and relationships;
- identity and subjectivity, children and young people's emotional geographies;
- public policies and children's participation;
- experiences of security and risk;
- justice and law; and
- health and environment.

The aim of the Conference was to provide a forum for the exchange of different knowledge, ideas and experiences from researchers and practitioners working in variety of international contexts and disciplinary fields. The conference hosted 17 nationalities. According to the statistics 62% of the participants came from an English speaking country and 84% of the participants were Europeans. The diversity of disciplines of the participants enhanced a rich dialogue between feminist and other scholars and researchers of geographies of children, youth and families giving rise to an important usage of the concept of gender. One third of the papers contained the word of gender in their titles, and the concept was explicitly used in an important number of debates.

Submitted by **Maria Prats Ferret**,  
Department of Geography, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

#### **3.2) FESTIVAL INTERNATIONALE DE LA GEOGRAPHIE, SAINT DIÉ DES VOSGES, 1-4 SEPTEMBRE 2009**

Le FIG vient de fêter ses 20 ans ! Depuis deux décennies les géographes se retrouvent autour de sujets souvent brûlants, avec l'ambition de fournir des réponses claires à des questions de fond qui engagent l'avenir. En abordant la question des mers et des océans, la communauté des géographes s'est réunie à Saint-Dié-des-Vosges pour évoquer des questions clés qui déterminent l'avenir du « sixième continent ». Ce sont donc 7 tables rondes, plus de 70 conférences et pas moins de 10 conférences-débat qui ont réuni géographes, historiens, économistes, juristes, sociologues et politologues aux côtés d'acteurs économiques, politiques et militaires. Il était en effet nécessaire de croiser les points de vue pour comprendre, sur des fondements scientifiques, la réalité des mers et des océans aujourd'hui et surtout comment ils s'inscriront demain dans le cadre du développement humain sur terre...et sur mer.



*Saint Dié des Vosges, Town Hal: reproduction of the map of Martin Waldseemüller (1507), the first one where the “new world” is called America*

Le riche programme proposé dans le cadre scientifique a réuni plusieurs dizaines de milliers de festivaliers autour des itinéraires suivants :

1. **Mers, océans... entre mystère, fascination et appréhension** : Les abysses, autant que l’immensité des océans ont toujours fasciné les hommes. Comment avons-nous apprivoisé les immensités marines ? Qui sont les hommes de la mer ? Quelles croyances y attache-t-on encore ?
2. **Mers et océans tels qu’ils sont, tels qu’ils vont** : Les hommes et les océans sont face à une vulnérabilité partagée. Que connaissons-nous réellement du fonctionnement des mers et des océans ? Face aux multiples incertitudes comment appréhender les effets du Changement Climatique Global ?
3. **Les océans au cœur du développement économique mondialisé** : Les transports maritimes redessinent la carte du monde, reliant ou isolant les territoires. Par ailleurs, comment gère-t-on l’ensemble des ressources océaniques ?
4. **Stratégie et géopolitique autour des océans** : Si les mers et les océans peuvent paraître sans limites vus de la terre, force est de constater que des multiples découpages maillent progressivement la planète mer. Les océans peuvent-ils être sans partage ?
5. **Le tourisme et la mer : un couple infernal ?** : Le développement touristique balnéaire est ambigu, comment aborder sereinement cette question ? Entre concentration touristique, sélection et sanctuarisation, quelles solutions s’offrent à nous ?

6. **Des mers des océans, mais existe-t-il des modèles de développement ?** De l'Océanie à la mer méditerranée, comment envisager des mers qui réunissent plus qu'elles n'isolent ?



*Left: Le « Bateau de ville », dancing in the streets. Right: Le salon du livre*

En outre, le FIG a commémoré la chute du Mur de Berlin, évoquée lors du premier FIG consacré aux découpages du monde. Conjointement à cette chute, c'est aussi du décloisonnement de notre discipline dont on peut parler et auquel le FIG a fortement contribué. C'est également en ce sens que l'UGI-CE s'est réuni cette année à Saint-Dié-des-Vosges dans le cadre de ses travaux, et qu'il s'impliquera de manière plus importante dans la participation à la programmation du FIG 2010.



*Left, La tour de la Liberté ; right, J.R Pitte speaks on « Les Religions et la mer» in the Cathedral, crowded as always during his lectures.*



Enfin, les géographes, au terme des différentes conférences, conférences-débats et tables rondes, ont émis six recommandations particulières dans le cadre de la thématique « Mers et océans » :

**1. Patrimoine mondial reconnu :** Mers et océans relèvent du patrimoine de l'humanité et doivent être gérés comme tel, c'est-à-dire être à la fois protégés et utilisés de manière durable.

**2. Gouvernance mondiale partagée :** Mers et océans sont incomplètement partagés, il convient de poser des règles précises reconnues et respectées par la communauté internationale, qui garantissent un accès égal aux ressources, obligent à une préservation commune et à une gestion globale partagée.

**3. Observation renforcée et pérenne :** Mers et océans sont partiellement connus, tant d'un point de vue du fonctionnement que des ressources, il est indispensable d'approfondir les recherches et d'instituer un système d'observation partagé en tenant compte du Changement Climatique Global engagé.

**4. Développement régional concerté :** Mers et océans doivent être considérés comme des « territoires » en y associant de nouveaux outils de gestion politiques tels que nous les connaissons à l'échelle des territoires continentaux, et surtout en y associant les communautés riveraines dans des logiques interrégionales.

**5. Contrôle des transports maritimes renforcés :** Mers et océans sont des espaces de transport, nous devons considérer qu'il s'agit « d'interfaces à risque » et développer les mesures de préventions adaptées.

**6. Cogestion des littoraux :** Les littoraux sont soumis à une double logique de submersion et de sur-occupation qui nécessitent de profondes réorganisations spatiales des activités humaines. Il s'agit de les désigner comme des territoires à risque.

Submitted by **Alexandre Moine**, Directeur Scientifique FIG 2009



*Round table « Applied Geography and coasts management »  
left to right: F.Arenas, H.Boubekraoui, A.Toumi, L.Fonseca, A.Bailly, R.Stimson*





## 4) OBITUARIES

### 4.1 - REMEMBRANCE OF PROF. LEMVEL H. VALESSIAN

Professor Lemvel H. Valessian, an Honorary Head of the Department of Social-Economic Geography at Yerevan State University, Doctor of Geography Science, and Academician of the Russian Pedagogy Academy of Science, has departed from life.

Professor Lemvel Valessian made significant contributions to the development of education and science, as well as to the organization of higher education in Armenia. He was the author of more than 350 scientific publications, including monographs, school and university textbooks, atlases, and maps. He was the Head of the Editorial Board of the first volume of the Atlas of Armenia (published in 2007) and one of the authors of the Atlas of Nagorno Karabagh. He supervised many PhD and Post-Doctoral dissertations.



In 1979-1987 Professor Valessian was the Rector of Yerevan State Kh. Abovian Pedagogical Institute, where he founded and headed for years the Department of Economic Geography. For the last twenty years of life he lectured and conducted research at his Alma Mater (Yerevan State University), where he headed the Faculty of Geography Social-Economic Department, and Chaired the Specialisation Board on Scientific Titles for Geographic Sciences. From 1975 onward he was the only President of the Armenian Geographical Society as well as of the Armenian National Committee for the IGU. His contributions were highly regarded beyond the borders of the country: he was an elected member of the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, and a presiding member of the USSR Geographical Society.

The memory of this outstanding man, citizen, pedagogue, and scientist will remain forever in the hearts of those who knew him.

## 4.2 - THE PASSING OF MICHAEL WILLIAMS

Professor Michael Williams had a life-long research interest in Historical Geography and the formation of landscapes, and published widely on these themes, in recognition of which he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1989. Early work was on land draining and landscape evolution in *The Draining of the Somerset Levels* (Cambridge, 1970), and then on initial settlement and environmental and landscape perception and understanding in *The Making of the South Australian Landscape* (Academic, 1976). Other works on Australian humanized landscapes appeared in *Australian Space, Australian Time*, (OUP, 1975) with J.M. Powell, and *The Changing Rural Landscape of South Australia* (Heinemann, 1977, and State Govt. Printer, SA, 1991).

Shifting focus to global land-use/land cover transformation and change, especially in North America, he wrote *Americans and their Forests* (Cambridge, 1989), followed by *Wetlands: A Threatened Landscape*, (Blackwell, 1991), and *Planet Management* (Andromeda/OUP, 1992).

Returning to the practice of historical geography and geography in general he was lead editor (with T. Coppock, H. Clout, and H. Prince) of *The Relations of History and Geography; Studies in England, France and the United States* (Exeter, 2001) and co-edited with Ron Johnston the British Academy's centennial volume *A Century of British Geography* (British Academy/OUP, 2003). His latest work was a global account and interpretation of deforestation entitled *Deforesting the Earth: From Prehistoric to Global Crisis* (Chicago, 2003).

These more recent works were awarded international prizes including the Weyerhaeuser Prize of the American Forest and Conservation Society (1990) for *Americans and their Forests*, again in 2004 for *Deforesting the Earth*, which was also awarded the Meridian Prize of the Association of American Geographers for "the most scholarly work in geography" (2004), and was runner-up in the annual British Academy's Book Prize (2004).

Most recently he was working on a biography of the life and work of Carl Ortwin Sauer (1889-1975), American geographer, environmental thinker, student of Latin America, and many other interests including plant and animal domestication, and entry of early man into the Americas, the relationship of geography and the Social Sciences, and the nature of landscapes and change.

Submitted by **Professor Diana Liverman**  
Institute of the Environment  
University of Arizona  
Tucson AZ 85719 USA



## **5) FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

*(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2009)*

**5.1) ICA (INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION) 24th CONFERENCE, SANTIAGO DE CHILE, 15-21 NOVEMBER 2009**

**5.2) SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS, NANCY(FRANCE), 4-6 NOVEMBER**

**5.3) NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS OF INDIA, 31st CONGRESS, JABALPUR (MADHYA PRADESH), 19-21 NOVEMBER**

**5.4) VOLCANOES, LANDSCAPE AND CULTURE, CATANIA (ITALY), 11-14 NOVEMBER**

**5.5) ATIGN (ASSOCIATION TUNISIENNE INFORMATION GEOGRAPHIQUE NUMERIQUE, TUNIS, 16-20 DECEMBRE**

**5.6) BASCHLIN LECTURE ON FEMINIST GEOGRAPHY, BERN, 16-16 JANUARY 2010**

**5.7) STRATEGIC ISSUES IN GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION, WAIKATO, 19-22 JANUARY 2010**

## **6) HOME OF GEOGRAPHY UPDATE**

Writing now an update of the Home of Geography (HofG) is a difficult task, but at the same time can be very easy: today the HofG does no longer exist. But as the Italian old saying goes, seeing the glass half empty or half full depends on you: I still look at it as half full. The reason of today difficulties is banal, but rather insuperable.

The initiative started in the catholic Holy Year 2000: in these occasions the Roman Municipality usually receives exceptional funds from the Italian Government. That's why the Mayor could favorably receive the request of the SGI (Società Geografia Italiana) and give a major financial contribution for hosting the IGU's Archives: an international body of sure prestige. The contribution granted for a three year term was generous. After this period the Roman Municipality was still administrated by the left, but in 2001 the National Government changed.

Under the "Berlusconi 2" (from 2001 to 2006) the National annual funds to the Capital were greatly reduced; the financial situation of the HofG can be summarized in a few words (and numbers). In the first three years (September 2000-April 2003) the HofG income was 300,000 euros from Rome and 60,000 US\$ from IGU. My appointment as Director started in July 2003, and in the following years, to October 2009, the HofG received 100,000 euros from Italian sources and 55.000 US\$ from IGU. In 2008 IGU told the SGI that, in the continued absence of

substantial funds from Italian sources to support the HofG, it was impossible for IGU to continue supporting the HofG. By mutual and tacit agreement IGU and SGI decided that the experiment had come to its end, a conclusion that was formalized in an exchange of correspondence between SGI and IGU in 2009.

In the first year the Director received a monthly salary of 1,500 euros, but in 2004, some months after my appointment, I lowered it to 500 euros and then to 0 in 2007. I also terminated the paid webmaster and began to maintain web site myself. In September 2009 the SGI took back the two rooms given for the HofG, so I am now working from home.

Nobody works for nothing, of course, and I enjoy the non-monetary rewards of being involved in IGU. First of all, I make friends all over the world. I received pleasant visits in the HofG, and I am afraid this is something that will no longer happen, since the SGI took back the two rooms. I remember, among others, Professor Nathalie Gravel of the University Laval, Quebec, and President of the Société de Géographie de Quebec, who visited on 27 January 2009 and wrote a very kind report with photos of her visit in Vol. 3, n. 2, Printemps-Eté 2009 of the *Bullettin de la Société de Géographie de Quebec*.

After every *IGU E-Newsletter* issue I receive several mails, some of them really very kind. I am rather proud, because more than once somebody thanked me for the amount of information found in the website and for my rapid answers to some particular questions. The *IGU E-Newsletter* is an idea and a desire of the late President Adalberto Vallega, who saw only the first six numbers. The *E-Newsletter* was an easy task with Adalberto, as he was sending me two-thirds of the text some weeks in advance. He was satisfied with my amateur work, so I will continue to prepare and diffuse it, as well as operating the HofG website, to honor and maintain his legacy.

I wish to express again my gratitude for the invaluable help of three secretaries who helped run the office and edit the *IGU E-Newsletter*: Tania Lines (through June 2004), Laura Ayo (September 2004-December



*In chronological order of appearance, Tania, Laura and Dawn*

2005) and Dawn Bissell (December 2005-July 2007). Dawn had the idea to find volunteer translators and we were able to post on the HofG website the first six issues in French after definitive editing by Andre Louis Sanguin and Paul Claval. Recently, at the Festival de Géographie in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, I received an offer of assistance in reviving the French version of the *IGU E-Newsletter*, which I hope will become a reality.

Giuliano Bellezza



## **Publications Series: Sales**

**a 10% discount will be applied when ordering 2 books, and 15% when ordering 3 books or more. Costs (including postage and packing) are as follows:**

(Vol I - *Human Mobility in a Borderless World?* (2002) and Vol II – *Food and Environment – Geographies of Taste* (2002) are OUT OF PRINT)

**Vol III – *Rights to the City*** (2005), D Wastl-Water, L. Staeheli & L. Dowler Eds (EU: € 18 / non-EU: € 24)

**Vol IV – *The New Geography of Human Mobility – Inequality Trends*** (2003), Y. Ishikawa & A. Montanari Eds; (EU: € 20 / non-EU: € 26)

**Vol V – *Migrations in Europe – The Four Last Decades*** (2004) C. Vandermotten, G. Van Hamme, P. Medina Lockhart & B. Wayens Eds; (EU: € 13 / non-EU: € 19)

**Vol VI – *Gendered Cities: Identities, Activities, Networks – A Life-course Approach*** (2004) G. Cortesi, F. Cristaldi & J. Droogleever Fortuijn ; (EU: € 20 / non-EU: € 26)

**Vol VII – *Managing Water Resources in a Changing Physical and Social Environment*** (2007) P. J. Robinson, J. A. A. Jones & M-K. Woo Eds; (EU: € 18 / non-EU: € 24)

**Vol VIII – *Migration in a new Europe: Peoples, Borders and Trajectories*** (2007) T. van Naerssen and M. van der Velde Eds; (EU: € 18 / non-EU: € 24).

To obtain copies of the volumes, please send e-mail to [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org).

Payment can be made directly by bank transfer, while to pay by Visa or Mastercard you should ask the IGU Secretariat General: [isguseoul@snu.ac.kr](mailto:isguseoul@snu.ac.kr).

**NEW: Volume IX** dedicated to Geographical Education should appear by the end of 2009.