

information Bulletin



WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF MAP LIBRARIES

"... to encourage high standards in every phase of organization
and administration of map libraries ..."

NEWSLETTER

September 24, 1969

To: All members and friends of the Western Association of Map Libraries

From: Robert Sivers, President

Our Fall meeting will be held October 24, at the University of California, Davis, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The program, maps, transportation information and a list of accommodations are in the second section of this packet.

In this first section, I would like to begin a newsletter in which the Association's activities, problems, interests and decisions are reported and discussed. The newsletter will be edited by the president; contributions of interest to the general membership are invited. The newsletter will be mailed with the semi-annual program announcement or at any other time judged necessary by the executive committee.

New Officers, Offices, and the Redistribution of Responsibilities

As a result of decisions made at the Spring '69 meeting, the ballot on the revision of the constitution and the election of officers, the new WAML officers and their responsibilities are as follows:

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PRESENT OFFICER</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITIES</u>
President	Robert Sivers Sciences-Engineering Library Map Room University of California Santa Barbara, California 93106	1. Works with president-elect on general program planning. 2. Edits and mails newsletter and program for WAML meetings. 3. Chairs WAML meetings. 4. Participates in executive committee meetings and casts one vote on policy decisions.

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PRESENT OFFICER</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITIES</u>
President-elect	Mary Schell Head, Government Publications California State Library P.O. Box 2037 Sacramento, California 95809	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works with president on general program planning. 2. Contacts speakers; arranges program sequence; plans use of local facilities with host; responsible for the forwarding of all necessary information to the president. 3. Participates in executive committee meetings and casts one vote on policy decisions.
Secretary	Karyle Butcher History Department Los Angeles Public Library 630 West 5th Street Los Angeles, California 90017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receives proposals to be voted on by the membership; reads proposals at WAML business meetings; mails ballots on proposals; counts returned ballots and reports results to president. 2. Writes, edits, and mails minutes of WAML meetings. 3. Collects, edits, and mails resumes of talks given at WAML. 4. Participates in executive committee meetings and casts one vote on policy decisions.
Treasurer	Stanley Stevens Map Librarian University Library University of California Santa Cruz, California 95060	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sends dues payment notices; collects dues and maintains a list of paying members.

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PRESENT OFFICER</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITIES</u>
Treasurer (continued)	Stanley Stevens (continued)	<p>2. Issues payment for authorized WAML activities; maintains necessary accounting records; reports at least once a year on expenditures and balance of WAML accounts.</p> <p>3. Participates in executive committee meetings and casts one vote on policy decisions.</p>
Immediate past president	Carlos Hagen Head, Map Library University of California Los Angeles, California 90024	Participates in executive committee meetings and casts one vote on policy decisions.
Executive Committee Officers	Incumbents listed above	Under majority rule, members make policy decisions delegated to the committee by the constitution.

All offices are held for one year, beginning July 1 and ending as of July 1 the following year.

For the membership I would like to thank Carlos Hagen who handled the very detailed and time consuming work on the revision of the constitution. Duties are now far more equitably distributed than last year when the work was carried by the president and secretary alone. There should now be little reason for reluctance in accepting an office in WAML, an organization which is so important to all our interests.

New Program Format

While complimentary of the variety and interest of topics presented, a considerable number of those attending the Spring meeting complained of the length of the program. The length was due to the unpredictable amount of time required for presentation and discussion of topics.

A second problem encountered last year was the reluctance of many members to accept a topic on which to speak alone before the membership.

A third problem was the short amount of free time available to get acquainted with one another and to talk shop.

Mary Schell and I have tried to work out a program format to meet these problems. We are using it for the forthcoming meeting and will need your comments as to its success or failure. If the comments are favorable, we will use the format for the Spring meeting and recommend it for the following year.

The format is as follows:

We will arrange for only four topics to be presented. If possible, one will be given by a guest speaker. We will select topics so that at least half of them deal with broad, general interests of map librarianship; the remainder will concern topics relevant to more specialized or advanced map libraries. We will include at least one topic of interest to those from public libraries.

Time allotted for topics -

Presentation will be limited to 45 minutes for each topic. Group discussion will be limited to 15 minutes. Further individual discussion can take place during coffee breaks or the luncheon.

Panel organization -

With the exception of the guest speaker, the topics will be given by panels of two or more. (This, we hope, will eliminate some reluctance on the part of members who do not feel qualified or have no time to prepare a talk on an entire topic.)

Panel co-ordinator -

A co-ordinator will be designated for each panel. The responsibility of the co-ordinator will be to organize panel treatment of the topic so that no more than the allotted time is used, that the time is fully used and used well.

Business meeting -

The business meeting will be the last item on the agenda. It will be mercifully short. It will consist of 1) the secretary's reading those proposals which will require ballot approval, to be sure all such proposals have been received and recorded properly, and 2) a reading of the decisions of the executive committee which have been reported to the membership previously by mail. Those members who must leave early to catch a plane or drive home can skip the business meeting assured that no substantive measures will be adopted. All business of WAML will be handled by mail, including distribution of reports. Committee assignments and conferences will be taken care of by mail, telephone or informally during luncheon or coffee breaks at WAML meetings.

Location of WAML Files

Sheila Dowd, Librarian for the Map Room at the University of California, Berkeley, has very generously volunteered to maintain the permanent files of WAML. Her Library Administration has given permission for use of University equipment and space for these files. Since the membership has voted to hold all meetings in the Bay area, this seems to be an excellent place for our permanent files.

If you object to this location, please notify a member of the executive committee. With the committee's approval, the files will be shipped to the UCB Map Room.

The Directory of Map Collections and Other Committee Work

Other than our semi-annual meetings, the most important business of WAML is that done by its committees. The following committee information is brought to your attention.

The Map Directory Committee has completed its assignment with the publication of Directory of Map Collections..., published by the California State Library, Government Publications Section as GPS Publication number 4. The report contains a wealth of information on the scope, specialties and services of map libraries throughout most of the western conterminous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Alberta and British Columbia. The index is detailed, and so far as I can determine, accurate. If you have not purchased a copy for your library, I urge you to do so. Our thanks to Mary Schell, Chairman, Sheila Dowd, Wallace St. Clair, Mimi Sayer, Edward Thatcher and Eleanor Wilkins for a job very well done.

A new Committee on Minimum Standards for Map Libraries is beginning to take shape. The work of this committee will be important to all of us, since it will establish basic guide lines on equipment, space and collections required for satisfactory minimum service and processing. The Chairman will be appointed this year by the executive committee. He or she will require your help if this project is to succeed as well as that of the Map Directory Committee.

There are at least two other committees whose work may be valuable to all of us. Their purposes are submitted here for your consideration. A proposal for their establishment by the executive committee will be made on the forthcoming ballot to the membership.

Committee on Acquisition Sources -

One of the biggest problems facing a new map librarian is where to buy maps or obtain free maps for a collection. There may be as many as 300,000 map sheets on sale or for the asking, but there is no reasonably comprehensive and up to date list of sources. A committee should be set up to collect, list and produce a subject-area index of map sources. An essay on prices, problems and tips for the map collector should also probably be included.

Committee to Investigate Sources of Foreign Mapping -

Those of our members fortunate enough to have the Army Map Service Depository can claim at least a basic collection for much of the world. Some members, however, have reported that new depository items have been reduced significantly. For those who do not have the AMS Depository, the situation is more serious. First of all, the chances of being added to the depository list appear to be quite dim. Second, important areas of the world such as India, Pakistan, Syria, Angola and Mozambique are closed so far as purchase of good topographic maps of medium scales or larger are concerned.

The results of this situation are that, at best, scholarly study of many areas of the world is restricted to the use of old, incomplete and out of date medium scale maps, and at worst, to a few small scale maps.

A committee such as the one proposed would investigate the possibilities of obtaining mapping of foreign areas. Such possibilities may include the following:

- 1) persuasion of TOPOCOM to establish additional Army Map Service Depositories and to broaden the existing program to include more up to date sheets and larger scales.
- 2) working to establish a civilian organization within the United States government, say within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, which is funded to acquire maps from other agencies in order to establish depositories or sell mapping of sufficient quality that the needs of scholarship in the United States would be reasonably satisfied.

The immediate objectives of the committee would be to gather information on feasible objectives and the best means of achieving them; and to report such information to the executive committee for further possible action.