

# Taking a Moment to Bask in Our Past: Six Decades of APCG and AAG Presidential Addresses<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN years old, my mother introduced me to *Van Loon's Lives*, and today I continue to enjoy its clever presentation of history and biography. In this 1942 book, the author, Hendrick Willem Van Loon, and his friend Frits give a series of dinner parties. Several famous guests from different times, places, and walks of life are invited to each party; for example, Plato and Confucius come to one, Emily Dickinson and Frédéric Chopin to another. We learn about the guests through essays Van Loon writes for the less-cosmopolitan Frits so that he knows what to talk about and—equally important—what *not* to talk about at the party. The hosts plan suitable food, drink, and music for each evening, taking into account the guests' backgrounds and tastes. The guests arrive via historically appropriate means of transport, have dinner and talk, and then disappear at midnight. The setting for the dinner parties is Van Loon's house in the little Dutch town of Veere. A subtext of the book is the threat to such free association and free discussion by the growing power of the Nazis.

What I want to borrow tonight from Van Loon's imaginative work is the idea of the ongoing conversation that we can have, and should have, with people who are not our contemporaries. The idea of this conversation-through-the-ages was reinforced for me by two years of undergraduate study at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The college's curriculum is built upon reading and discussing the "Great Books," selected classic works of mostly Western

Civilization. The aim of the St. John's program is to give students a chance to converse with a set of people whose ideas were important shapers and reflectors of the world.

Tonight we will converse with some of the people whose ideas shaped and reflected Pacific Coast and American geography, the past presidents of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG) and the Association of American Geographers (AAG) from 1939–40 through 1998–99. Our conversations with the 56 APCG presidents and the 59 AAG presidents or honorary presidents will be through the medium of their 115 presidential addresses (Appendixes 1 and 2). Now it may be a source of some amusement to you that I seem to be comparing the past presidential addresses of our regional and national professional organizations to *The Odyssey*, *The Divine Comedy*, or *The Origin of Species*. Actually, maybe the comparison to *The Divine Comedy* is not too far off: Melvin Marcus in his 1979 AAG Presidential Address said that reading “every single [presidential] speech...must be the closest approximation we find to purgatory on this earth” (1979, p. 526). Certainly, many APCG and AAG presidential addresses are not classics within the geographical canon, let alone in any larger annals of scholarship. Or, again quoting from Marcus, “some Presidents have been more equal than others in the preparation of annual addresses” (1979, p. 526).

By paying attention to this entire body of work, we practice the virtue of inclusivity and avoid prejudging which addresses might have meaning for us today. As part of this exercise, we will look for differences and similarities among the two sets of voices, the regional and the national. We follow in the footsteps of John K. Wright, who in 1966 asked, “What’s ‘American’ about American Geography?” (Wright 1966, pp. 124–139). We ask, “What’s Pacific Coastal about Pacific Coast geography?”

Why did I choose to have this particular conversation? I was led to it by a convergence of my teaching and research paths and by the calendar. We are nearing the end of the decade, the century, and the millennium (if not in three months, then in 15), and retrospection is part of the *zeitgeist*. I have been teaching the History of Geographic Thought for more than a decade, but before my recent descent into purgatory, I had read only sporadically among older AAG presi-

dential addresses and no early APCG addresses. My primary research focus has been on historic preservation, an activity by which people identify, protect, and interpret the past in the landscape in ways that meet contemporary needs. This interest of mine in how people treat their past and incorporate it into their present includes geographers too.

Why should you listen to this conversation and become part of it? Several presidential addresses answer this question. H. Bowman Hawkes, in his APCG presidential address titled "Conservation: Retrospect and Prospect," stated that "in order to appraise more accurately the true meaning of the two philosophies of conservation as evidenced in the modern scene, the investigator would search along the warp of the pattern in time." Hawkes made vivid his personal need to trace conservation ideas to their roots by referring to "his boyhood days on an inadequately irrigated farm" in "the sagebrush and salt grass west of Ogden" (1956, p. 5). He also thought that there was a social need to understand the history of conservation ideas, given the recent national controversy over the proposed Echo Park Dam on the Colorado River. AAG President Marvin Mikesell echoed these sentiments in 1977, arguing that "the record of cultural geography reveals continuity more than discontinuity, which implies that the work of its pioneers still has some currency." Moreover, "one can appreciate ancestors without worshipping them" (Mikesell 1978, p. 4).

Ron Abler, in his AAG address (1987, 513), declared that,

We are the curators and the creators of our own intellectual heritage. We must fashion and refashion that heritage to meet the needs of changing times. It is now time to reshape our regional heritage to meet the needs of the coming years and decades. In so doing, let us be eclectic. We should use any tool that better equips us to meet those needs, whether it is an idea that was well known to Strabo or an algorithm that was developed yesterday.

Abler was answering in the affirmative a question raised in 1954 by J. Russell Whitaker, who was president in the AAG's golden anniversary year. "Is it not possible," he asked, "that hidden in their [our predecessors'] writings are germs of thoughts we need?" (Whitaker 1954, pp. 237–238).

Honorary AAG President Preston James pointed out in his 1966 allocution that, "One major source of error that impedes geographic scholarship is the persistent failure of too many geographers to read what other geographers, past and present, have written. The common ignorance of the flow of geographic thought is a surprising characteristic not only of contemporary geography, but also of the geography of centuries past" (James 1967, p. 2).

Carl Sauer, in his 1956 statement as AAG Honorary President, stated that, "The training of the geographer should give attention finally to the history of geographic thought, to the ideas that have prompted and focused geographic inquiry, and to the circumambient intellectual climates within which geography has lived at different times and places" (Sauer 1956, pp. 296–297).

Margaret Trussell, APCG president in 1985–86, urged us to "recognize the achievements of all geographers, even those who do not fit our preconceived notions. We must abandon procrustean expectations and look with new eyes at the contributions that have built our discipline. We owe it to these pioneers and others to give recognition wherever it is merited; we owe it to ourselves and we owe it to geography" (1987, p. 31).

To sum up, we undertake this conversation with our past presidents in order to learn more about the evolution of currently circulating ideas, to reconsider and perhaps retrieve forgotten ideas, to correct errors, to be socialized into geographical ways, and to honor a diverse past.

### **To Preach or Not to Preach**

AAG presidents have been moved on numerous occasions to grace their addresses with religious language. Sauer referred to his 1940 address as a "confession of the faith that has stood behind [my] work" (Sauer 1940, p. 1). He called his 1956 address "a sermon" (Sauer 1956, p. 291), and six subsequent AAG presidents spoke of their addresses as sermons or preaching: Clark, Marcus, Morrill, Abler, Demko, and Mather. In their messages they used such words as "pulpit," "ministry," "homily," "parish," "devils," "sackcloth and ashes," and "benediction."

Sauer spoke critically of technology's false promises of "forgiveness and redemption" (1956, p. 299). Contemplating world problems, Platt wondered whether, "having approached the Promised Land of a better world, we may be about to enter, or we may be about to retreat into the Wilderness of national and international chaos, to wander there until a new generation, better prepared than we, in some later century, returns to enter" (1946, p. 13). Leighly spoke (at the first ever West Coast meeting of the AAG) of nominating John Muir "to a place in our list of secular saints" (1958, p. 309). Meredith Burrill wanted us to "look on what we know now as geography not as the last word, not as a system suddenly flowering under our tender care at this instant in time, but like its components continuously variable in both time and space, a continuum, a sort of geography-without-end-Amen..." (1968, p. 11). Birdsall (1996) condemned secularization and the severing of the spiritual and the tangible. Wilbur Zelinsky's address was an attack on what he called "the Religion of Science" and he felt hopeful of "the stirrings of a spontaneous new religion quite unlike any of its predecessors" (1975, p. 142).

The urge to preach has been much weaker among APCG presidents. None has referred to his or her address as a sermon—even Terry Kramer, who was an ordained Lutheran minister. The closest anyone has come was Homer Aschmann calling his address a "diatribe, perhaps Jeremiad" (1966, p. 15). Despite his name, Parsons, in his 1954 APCG presidential address, saw a *problem* when geographers "get religion." He thought that too much emphasis on doing what we feel we should do, usually seeking answers to contemporary problems, made us a "somewhat dull lot whose capacities for wonderment are not being properly exercised" (1954, p. 3). Phil Wagner used his APCG presidential address to renounce his earlier conception of cultural geography, attacking it as smug and "almost theological" (Wagner and Mikesell 1962; Wagner 1975, p. 8). Avoidance of religious language is consistent with the lack of dogma found in Pacific Coast presidential addresses. Perhaps Parsons' "unabashed hedonist" (1954, p. 3) is not so deeply buried in the West.

## Regions Addressed by Presidents

Places or regions are among the most central concerns of geography; for some geographers, they are *the* central concern. Of the 56 APCG presidential addresses, 36 (64%) focused on a particular region, while the remaining 20 (36%) had little or no regional focus. These figures are roughly reversed for the 59 AAG presidential addresses: 39 (66%) had little or no regional focus and 20 (34%) did. It is difficult to know how much to attribute this difference to variation in the two groups of geographers and how much to variation in the circumstances of their offices. Many of the individuals, both AAG presidents and APCG presidents, who did not give addresses with a regional focus were or are very productive regional scholars. Addressing a national audience seems to have encouraged presidents to articulate broad visions concerning the entire discipline or a major subdiscipline, while regional presidents have been humbler, which as Charlotte told Templeton, means both “not proud” and “near the ground” (White 1952, p. 140). APCG presidents have stayed nearer the ground.

To which regions have our presidents turned their attention? Twenty-five of the 36 regional APCG addresses were on the U.S. or Canada, five on Latin America, three on Europe, two on Oceania, and one on Asia (Table 1). Twelve of the 20 regional AAG addresses were on the U.S. or Canada, three on Asia, and one each on Africa, Latin America, the world’s deserts, the Arctic, and multiple world regions (Table 2). A little over half of the APCG addresses with a regional focus were about places within APCG territory, while nearly the same proportion of the AAG addresses with a regional focus were about places within AAG territory, so these two groups of presidents have been about equally parochial. The APCG’s connection to Latin America, understood in light of its proximity and the deeply cultivated interest of Carl Sauer and the Berkeley school in that region, is demonstrated by the five presidential addresses focused there, which form the largest foreign regional cluster among either AAG or APCG addresses.

If we look a bit more closely at the APCG addresses on places within the APCG region, we see that five were on the region broadly considered, five on California, three on Oregon, one on Washing-

**Table 1. Thirty-six APCG Presidential Addresses, 1940–1999, by Region<sup>1</sup>**

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United States and CanadaCanada

Robinson 1951

United StatesU. S. Broadly

Hawkes 1956

Nelson 1974

Durrenberger 1976

Eastern & Central U. S.

Meigs 1940

Western U. S.Western U. S. Broadly

Church 1947

Hoffmeister 1948

Marts 1961

W. Thomas 1978

Trussell 1986

Alaska

Lantis 1981

Steiner 1989

Arizona

Gibson 1987

Burns 1995

California

Baugh 1949

Gregor 1960

Aschmann 1966

McIntyre 1977

Pryde 1991

Rowntree 1993

Nevada

Kersten 1984

Kramer 1990

Oregon

Dicken 1952

Courtney 1967

Urquhart 1980

Washington

Rockie 1953

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ElsewhereLatin AmericaLatin America Broadly

Crowley 1994

Mexico

Shreve 1942

Jensen 1958

Arreola 1998

Caribbean

Parsons 1954

EuropeEurope Broadly

Patton 1968

Eastern Europe

Kostanick 1957

Southern Europe

Stanislowski 1972

AsiaCentral Asia

Dunbar 1982

OceaniaAustralia

McKnight 1969

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<sup>1</sup>The remaining 20 addresses from this period had little or no regional focus.Source: Presidential addresses, *Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers*, 1940–2000

**Table 2. Twenty AAG Presidential Addresses, 1940–1999, by Region<sup>1</sup>**


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<u>United States and Canada</u>	
<u>Canada</u>	<u>Eastern &amp; Central U. S.</u>
Hare 1964	Platt 1945
	Kniffen 1965
<u>United States</u>	<u>Great Plains</u>
<u>U. S. Broadly</u>	Kollmorgen 1968
Bennett 1943	Borchert 1970
Rose 1978	
Adams 1984	
Jordan 1989	<u>Western U. S.</u>
Ward 1990	<u>California</u>
	Leighly 1958
	Palm 1986
<hr/>	
<u>Elsewhere</u>	
<u>Asia</u>	<u>Latin America</u>
<u>Central Asia</u>	Parsons 1976
Smith 1942	
<u>East and South Asia</u>	<u>The World's Deserts</u>
Orchard 1960	Cressey 1957
<u>East and Southeast Asia</u>	<u>The Arctic</u>
Ginsburg 1972	Mackay 1971
<u>Africa</u>	<u>Multiple World Regions</u>
Whittlesey 1955	Cohen 1991

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<sup>1</sup>The remaining 39 addresses from this period had little or no regional focus.

Source: Presidential addresses, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 1940–2000

ton, and two each on Alaska, Arizona, and Nevada. All of these addresses were written by presidents living in the states they wrote about, except the two papers on Alaska, which were written by interlopers from California (one for delivery at an annual meeting in Alaska). This pattern makes it safe to conclude that the major reason we have heard no presidential addresses on Hawaii or Idaho is that we have had no presidents from those states. AAG presidents who wrote about places in the U.S. tended to study regions larger than states, but they also tended to be the regions where they lived.

In other words, presidential addRESses (speeches) often revealed something about presidential ADdresses (residential locations).

Since we are meeting in Nevada, it seems appropriate to recall what our regional and national presidents have had to say about it. Bill Kersten's 1984 APCG presidential address discussed the evolution of the Nevada economy, pointing out how it had been shaped in many instances by the state's physical character and relative location. Observing that "there is little poverty and the quality of life is very good," Kersten nonetheless concluded that "wise policy and careful planning are necessary when guiding the state in future decades, for the limits of the environment continue to place severe constraints upon human actions, particularly in the area of water quantity and quality and air quality. Nevada remains an area with significant disadvantages and is still a part of the periphery" (Kersten 1985, p. 25). Kersten's remarks remind one of Griffith Taylor's 1941 AAG presidential address, wherein he underscored his persistent belief in the ultimate importance of the influences of harsh physical environments.

In his 1990 APCG presidential address, Terry Kramer laid out the reasons why the area around Wheeler Peak in the Snake Range, as opposed to some other area in the Great Basin, was chosen to become Great Basin National Park. He concluded that it was selected because it includes examples of nearly all the Great Basin life zones, together with several outstanding features including a rare rock glacier, bristlecone pines, and outstanding caves. He documented the struggles over establishing the park. The conflict between park proponents and opponents illustrated the tensions surrounding Nevada's economic evolution away from primary economic activities and toward tourism, as well as the clash between economic and aesthetic values. The final portion of Kramer's paper had to do with park management, or geographically speaking, with organizing the space in the park into a functional region.

Now, what have AAG presidents had to say about Nevada? Very little, although the state is mentioned in two addresses. Charles Brooks, whose 1947 talk was about the importance of improving the collection and use of climatological data, illustrated his point about records being invented to cover absences: "The standard joke on

this score is about the observer at a station in Nevada who went fishing for a week after leaving a complete observation for his friend, the telegraph operator, to send each day. Unfortunately for the observer, however, the operator was replaced by another before he got back, and several days' "weather" were sent in at once!" (Brooks 1948, p. 163). The only other mention of Nevada by an AAG president was by Walter Kollmorgen in his 1968 address, "The Woodman's Assault on the Domain of the Cattleman." He pointed out that the 1902 federal Reclamation Bill was authored by Nevada Representative Francis Newlands (1969, p. 231). Apart from these glancing blows, AAG presidents have ignored Nevada. This fact underlines a point made by AAG President Larry Brown in an *AAG Newsletter* column about the regional divisions: "every regional meeting I've attended has a set of interesting papers that reflect the regional or local milieu; this is a rare treat that reminds me why I became a geographer in the first place" (Brown 1996, p. 2). It may be rare among AAG presidential addresses, but not among the addresses of those who have led the APCG.

### **Scales Addressed by Presidents**

What scales were the regions discussed by APCG and AAG presidents? Transnational (regions crossing international boundaries), national, and multi-state scales were well represented among both groups of presidential addresses (Tables 3 and 4). Studies concerning a single state or a region smaller than a state were presented by 12 APCG presidents, compared to two by AAG presidents.

The importance of doing work at all scales was a major theme of Robert Platt's AAG presidential address in 1945. His opening paragraph read (1946, p. 1),

During attendance at meetings of the Association of American Geographers in the past twenty-odd years, I have spoken many times about seemingly insignificant things. Therefore to avoid disappointing anyone on this occasion I must begin with something small, an item of microgeography. The object chosen for attention is a small piece of land, one square mile, in northern Illinois.

**Table 3. Thirty-six Regional APCG Presidential Addresses, 1940–1999, by Scale<sup>1</sup>**


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<p><u>Transnational</u>            Parsons 1954: Caribbean            Kostanick 1957: Eastern Europe            Marts 1961: U.S. &amp; Canada            Patton 1968: Europe            Stanislawski 1972: Aegean            W. Thomas 1978: U.S. &amp; Canada            McIntyre 1977: U.S., Mex., N.Z.            Dunbar 1982: Central Asia            Steiner 1989: U.S. &amp; Canada            Crowley 1994<sup>2</sup>: Latin America            Arreola 1998<sup>2</sup>: U.S. &amp; Mexico</p> <p><u>National</u>            Robinson 1951: Canada            Hawkes 1956: U.S.            Jensen 1958: Mexico            McKnight 1969: Australia            Nelson 1974: U.S.            Durrenberger 1976: U.S.</p> <p><u>Subnational</u> (region involving all or part of several states or provinces)            Meigs 1940: Eastern U.S.            Shreve 1942: Northern Mexico            Church 1947: Western U.S.            Hoffmeister 1948: Western U.S.            Trussell 1986: Western U.S.</p>	<p><u>One State</u> (of the U.S.)            Gregor 1960: California            Aschmann 1966: California            Lantis 1981: Alaska            Kersten 1984: Nevada            Pryde 1991: California</p> <p><u>Substate</u> (rural or urban region)            Baugh 1949: Mother Lode, CA            Dicken 1952: Rogue River, OR            Rockie 1953: Palouse, WA            Courtney 1967: Eastern Oregon Desert            Gibson 1987: St. John's &amp; Bisbee, AZ            Kramer 1990: Great Basin N. P.            Burns 1995: Phoenix, AZ</p> <p><u>Part of an Urban Region</u>            Urquhart 1980: West 11th Ave., Eugene, OR            Rowntree 1993: Berkeley-Oakland Hills, CA</p>
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<sup>1</sup>The remaining 20 addresses from this period had little or no regional focus.

<sup>2</sup>Also could be classified as “substate (rural or urban region),” as cities within a transnational region are discussed.

Source: Presidential addresses, *Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers*, 1940–2000

Platt soon has us seeing not only the local ties of Section 16, T38N, R13E, but also its global ones, provided by the Chicago airport located there. Platt argued near the end of his discussion of Section 16 (1946, p. 14),

One step toward solution of national and international problems would be to dispel the false notion that concern with world affairs

**Table 4. Twenty Regional APCG Presidential Addresses, 1940–1999, by Scale<sup>1</sup>**Transnational

Smith 1942: Grasslands of Asia  
 Cressey 1957: Deserts of the World  
 Orchard 1960: China, Japan, & India  
 Mackay 1971: Arctic  
 Ginsburg 1972: East & S.E. Asia  
 Cohen 1991: World

National

Bennett 1943: U. S.  
 Whittlesey 1955: S. Rhodesia  
 Rose 1978<sup>2</sup>: U. S.  
 Adams 1984<sup>2</sup>: U. S.  
 Jordan 1989: U. S.  
 Ward 1990<sup>2</sup>: U. S.

Subnational (region involving all or part of several states or provinces)  
 Leighly 1958: Western U.S.  
 Hare 1964: Labrador-Ungava, Canada  
 Kniffen 1965: Eastern U.S.  
 Kollmorgen 1968: Great Plains, U.S.  
 Borchert 1970: Great Plains, U.S.  
 Parsons 1976: Antioquia, Colombia

One State (of the U. S.)

Palm 1986: California

Substate (rural or urban region)

See footnote 2 below.

Part of an Urban Region

Platt 1945<sup>3</sup>: Section 16, T38N, R13E, Chicago

<sup>1</sup>The remaining 39 addresses from this period had little or no regional focus.

<sup>2</sup>Also could be classified as “substate (rural or urban region),” as cities within a national urban system are discussed.

<sup>3</sup>Also could be classified as “transnational,” as linkages between Section 16, T38N, R13E, and the rest of the world are discussed.

Source: Presidential addresses, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 1940–2000

is per se more important than concern with local affairs, attending a meeting on world peace more important than attending one on neighborhood law enforcement, casting one vote in millions for President of the United States more important than one vote in a hundred for village councilor. Our success in world affairs is likely to depend on our success in local affairs (since both are handled by human beings), getting them localized and into focus by direct and intimate understanding.

Platt’s point was reiterated by Susan Hanson almost half a century later in her AAG address on the common ground between feminism and geography. She argued that one of several pieces of territory they share is an “interest in the everyday, the small, the mundane” (Hanson 1992, p. 572). This has shown up more strongly

in the addresses of APCG presidents than in those of their national counterparts.

### **Topics Addressed by Presidents**

The topics addressed by our regional and national presidents have been diverse (Tables 5 and 6). They represent about half of the current 45 topical specialty group interests of the AAG. This diversity has itself been a topic for discussion in several presidential addresses. APCG President Benjamin Thomas, in his 1962 address "On Exclusionism in American Geography," endorsed diversity and argued that "in order to improve the status of geography, we should reject exclusionism in favor of a better development of all the provinces which are already within the discipline" (1962, p. 13). Voicing a different opinion in 1980, by which time the diversity Thomas described had grown and had added epistemological and methodological schisms to topical ones, was AAG President Brian Berry: "Behavioral geography, humanistic geography, a plurality of other 'geographies' all developed their group of adherents, and we succumbed to a new tribalism. A quarter century that began as if it might be dominated by a new set of ideas within a unitary mainstream quickly became one in which growth, after first providing the freedom in which large numbers of speculative new ventures could be launched, degenerated into license" (1980, p. 451). Berry did not argue for the exclusion of anyone from the discipline, but for a measure of unification around a single task: creating future geographies in keeping with what he judged to be enduring American values. Berry's call, as well as other presidential pleas for a core subject matter, theme, or method for American geography, broke apart on the shores of post-modernism with its deep suspicions of all unifying, totalizing discourses and of gender geography with its emphasis on differences. Geography, like the world it seeks to understand, remains divided in all sorts of ways.

Beyond declaring that they are diverse, what else can be said about the topics chosen by APCG and AAG presidents? By far the most popular topic, chosen by 35 total presidents, has been the history and philosophy of geography (Tables 5 and 6). In the decade of the 1980s alone, seven AAG presidential addresses were in this cat-

**Table 5. APCG Presidential Addresses, 1940–1999, by Topic<sup>1</sup>**


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<u>History &amp; Philosophy of Geography</u>	<u>Cultural Geography</u>	<u>Urban Geography</u>
Appleton 1946	Earle 1941	Nelson 1973
Robinson 1951	Patton 1968	Urquhart 1980
B. Thomas 1962	Stanislawski 1972	Crowley 1994
E. Price 1963	Wagner 1974	<u>Biogeography</u>
Cole 1964	Field 1976	Shreve 1942
Highsmith 1965	Ford 1983	McIntyre 1977
Kaatz 1970	Loy 1988	Rowntree 1993
Dunbar 1982	Arreola 1998	
Trussell 1986	<u>Resources &amp; Conservation</u>	<u>Transportation Geography</u>
Scott 1992	Church 1947	Steiner 1989
McIntire 1996	Hawkes 1956	Burns 1995
Datel 1999	Marts 1961	
<u>Economic Geography</u> (Agricultural)	Aschmann 1966	<u>Climatology</u>
Meigs 1940	Luten 1971	Durrenberger 1975
Hoffmeister 1948	Kramer 1990	Court 1979
Jensen 1958	Pryde 1991	<u>Geomorphology</u>
Gregor 1960	Clemons 1997	Kesseli 1950
McKnight 1969	<u>Regional Geography</u>	<u>Environmental Perception</u>
(Other)	Dicken 1952	L. Price 1985
Baugh 1949	Rockie 1953	
White 1955	Parsons 1954	
Courtney 1967	Kostanick 1957	
Kersten 1984	W. Thomas 1978	
Gibson 1987	Lantis 1981	

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<sup>1</sup>Some addresses could have been placed in multiple categories. Methodological and philosophical statements about a subdiscipline were listed under that subdiscipline rather than under “History and Philosophy of Geography.”

Source: Presidential addresses, *Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers*, 1940–2000

egory, perhaps partly in response to anxious concerns about the future of our discipline at that time. Many viewpoints on what geography should be or should do are represented in this body of APCG and AAG addresses; the one most clearly missing, given its place in twentieth-century American geography generally, is a strongly leftist perspective.

**Table 6. AAG Presidential Addresses, 1940–1999, by Topic<sup>1</sup>**

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<p><u>History &amp; Philosophy of Geography</u> Whittlesey 1944 Platt 1945 Wright 1946 Hudson 1951 Whitaker 1954 Sauer 1956 Clark 1962 Ackerman 1963 James 1966 Kohn 1969 Taaffe 1973 Zelinsky 1974 Berry 1980 Helburn 1982 Morrill 1983 Lewis 1985 Palm 1986 Abler 1987 Demko 1987 Birdsall 1996 Brown 1997 Gober 1999 Gober 1999</p> <p><u>Economic Geography</u> (Agricultural) Kollmorgen 1968 (Other) Orchard 1960 Ginsburg 1972</p>	<p><u>Cultural Geography</u> Sauer 1940 Smith 1943 Kniffen 1965 Burrill 1967 Mikesell 1977 Jordan 1989</p> <p><u>Resources &amp; Conservation</u> Bennett 1943 Cressey 1957 Wilbanks 1994 Kates 1995</p> <p><u>Regional Geography</u> James 1952 Whittlesey 1955 Hare 1964 Borchert 1970 Parsons 1976 Hart 1981</p> <p><u>Urban Geography</u> Taylor 1941 Rose 1978 Adams 1984 Ward 1990</p> <p><u>Climatology</u> Brooks 1947 Mather 1993 Thornthwaite 1961</p>	<p><u>Geomorphology</u> Russell 1948 Mackay 1971</p> <p><u>Environmental Perception</u> Leighly 1958</p> <p><u>Political Geography</u> Hartshorne 1950 Jones 1959 Cohen 1991</p> <p><u>Population Geography</u> Trewartha 1953</p> <p><u>Social Geography</u> Wolpert 1975</p> <p><u>Physical Geography</u> Marcus 1979</p> <p><u>Gender Geography</u> Hanson 1992</p> <p><u>Geographical Technology</u> Olson 1997</p>
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<sup>1</sup>See Footnote 1, Table 7.

Source: Presidential addresses, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 1940–2000

AAG presidents were twice as likely as APCG presidents to discuss the history and philosophy of geography. I suspect that presidents of regional divisions in general do not feel the same burden as national presidents do to make order out of the chaos they survey, since they are not called on to represent the entire discipline of geography to outside groups. Furthermore, the approach to ge-

ography with the most widespread influence in the Pacific Coast region, Carl Sauer's landscape-as-culture-history school, generally was not interested in disciplinary boundary drawing or methodological coherence.

The other topic given noticeably more attention by AAG than APCG presidents was political geography. No APCG presidents have spoken on this topic, while three AAG presidents have. Pacific Coast Ph.D.-granting geography departments traditionally have not been strong in this subject. Sauer's skepticism toward the state as a force for positive change and his personal disengagement from it may have played a role in discouraging political geography in the region. Perhaps laid-back Pacific Coast culture discourages engagement with issues of competition and power. California is where people came to search for the ideal, not face up to the real (Vance 1972). Additionally, the Pacific Coast is far from our national capital.

On the other hand, topics in economic geography, resources and conservation, biogeography, and cultural geography were more popular with APCG presidents than with AAG presidents. The Pacific Coast region's important resource-extractive and recreation sectors, vast quasi-natural public lands, ecological diversity and aridity, and highly evolved environmental consciousness help explain the importance of resources, conservation, and biogeographical topics to APCG presidents and audiences (Bendix and Standley 1998, Wyckoff 1998). Furthermore, the prominence of these topics, and of cultural geography, is consistent with the interests of Carl Sauer and the Berkeley school.

That economic geography makes such a strong showing is a bit surprising, as we are not used to thinking of this as a strength of Pacific Coast geography. In fact, the cultural-historical focus of Pacific Coast geography often has been contrasted with the economic focus of Midwestern departments (James and Martin 1978, p. 175; Hart 1972, p. 281; Sauer 1940, pp. 3-4). The role of extraregional influences on Pacific Coast geography, as opposed to indigenous ones, can be seen here: only four of the 10 APCG presidents speaking on economic topics had Ph.D.s from Pacific Coast departments (and one of these was from the University of Washington, which was

never in Berkeley's ambit), while six out of eight speaking on cultural topics did. Three of the APCG presidents who spoke on economic topics had their Ph.D.s from Clark University, home of the journal *Economic Geography*, and another three from Midwestern institutions. Even so, none of the presidents who spoke on economic geography used an approach that featured the "universalized economic man" to whom Sauer so objected (1940, p. 6). Even for him, "the traits of making a living are...the dominant things to observe" (1940, p. 12).

While we are onto this matter of presidential Ph.D.s, let us pursue it briefly. Berkeley is dominant among APCG presidents, 13 of whom received their doctorates there. Chicago occupies the same position with respect to the AAG presidents in our time period, with 13 addresses being delivered by Chicago Ph.D.s, double-counting Whittlesey and Sauer. Among APCG presidents, Clark comes next after Berkeley, with six (all granted before 1950), followed by Oregon and UCLA with five each, Washington with four and Minnesota and Ohio State with three each. Considering the representation of Berkeley Ph.D.s on some of these other faculties, especially Oregon and UCLA, its influence in the APCG is not hard to explain. As for AAG presidents in our time period, Berkeley is the second most important institution for presidential Ph.D.s with eight, indicating its significance well beyond the Pacific Coast. It is followed by Wisconsin with seven, Harvard with six, and Clark, Minnesota, and Northwestern with three each. Two AAG presidents received their Ph.D.s from the University of Washington, but UCLA and Oregon have not yet produced any AAG presidents. As for which faculties have provided APCG presidents from their ranks, UCLA (with seven) and Oregon (with four) lead, while on the national level, Wisconsin (with five) and Harvard, Chicago, and the U. S. Government (with four) have proven the most fertile.

Returning to the discussion of topics, you will notice that I did not mention a topical category called "historical geography." Although historical geography is recognized as a distinctive subdiscipline with its own AAG specialty group and serials, the line between historical geography and other types of geography is fuzzy indeed. In a separate accounting, I identified those presidential ad-

dresses that dealt with geographies of the past, that emphasized change through time, or that used or encouraged the use of genetic forms of explanation. They were equally common among the APCG (16 out of 56) and the AAG (16 out of 59) addresses. They overlapped nine different topical categories, cultural being the most common. No APCG addresses in the "History and Philosophy" category dealt with historical geography (although several dealt with the history of geography), while several endorsements of the importance of time and change in geography came from AAG presidents, starting with Carl Sauer's famous 1940 call, "Foreword to Historical Geography" and ending with Larry Brown's 1998 "Change, Continuity, and the Pursuit of Understanding," which discusses continuity and change both in the world we study and in how we study it. I suspect that there would not be much difference of opinion between the APCG presidents and the AAG presidents were they asked to agree or disagree with Derwent Whittlesey's statement that "all geography is historical geography" (1944, p. 33; see also Whitaker 1954, p. 236).

### **Traditions Addressed by Presidents**

Another way to categorize presidential addresses is by broad themes, such as the four traditions identified by William Pattison in 1964: spatial, man-land (now human-environment), area studies, and earth science. Many addresses exemplified more than one tradition, and in a significant share none of the traditions was emphasized—these latter addresses tended to be those that were biographical or philosophical or that encouraged geographers to work on social problems.

The human-environment tradition was the most important in both sets of addresses, but was more dominant in the APCG addresses (54%) than in the AAG ones (37%). The spatial tradition, although not in its abstract model-building form, was prominent in about 30% of the addresses of each group and the area studies tradition in about one-quarter of each. The earth science tradition was the least common of the four in both the APCG and the AAG addresses. It was important in six APCG and 11 AAG addresses. Twice as many AAG addresses (14) as APCG addresses (seven) empha-

sized none of the four traditions. Examples range from APCG President Harold Hoffmeister's "In Defense of the Sugar Beet Industry" (1948) to Wilbur Zelinsky's warning about the religion of science in "The Demigod's Dilemma" (1974).

One of the AAG presidential addresses, "The Spatial View in Context," given in 1973 by Edward Taaffe, was a discussion of three of Pattison's four traditions (he argued that earth science could be subsumed under the other three). Taaffe (1974, p. 16) endorsed a pragmatic pluralism:

The pluralism calls for continuing viability of the three different emphases in geography rather than a continuing search for the one best view which subsumes the others. The spatial view can coexist with the ecological view and, in many instances, reinforce it. The spatial view and areal interrelationship view should draw closer together during the seventies as their inherent complementarity becomes more evident.

In the quarter-century since Taaffe's address, the integration of the traditions has continued to be a concern of both regional and national presidents. For example, APCG President Larry Ford's address on architecture and geography included the following plea (1984, p. 25):

To get the full, accurate, and changing picture, we must combine the approaches of space and place. We must use the full arsenal of geographical research techniques. Just as architecture must be located in space to be of interest to the geographer, so must space be fleshed out with architecture if we are to develop meaningful models of the real world.

The AAG addresses of John Mather (1993) and Pat Gober (1999) provided encouraging words to those geographers who alone or in teams integrate work in the earth science tradition with human-environment, area studies, and spatial endeavors.

### **Techniques Used by Presidents**

"The principal laboratory for geographic investigation is the field," according to the report of the National Research Council's Rediscovering Geography Committee (1997, p. 51). This statement finds some, although not overwhelming, support in the six decades

of presidential addresses examined. Fieldwork appeared to underlie 22 of 56 APCG addresses and 12 of 59 AAG addresses. Three additional APCG presidents and eight additional AAG presidents endorsed or recognized the importance of fieldwork, although their own addresses did not depend upon it. Among the most powerful testimonials to fieldwork came from the only man who ever gave both an APCG presidential address and an AAG presidential address, Jim Parsons.<sup>2</sup> Both of these substantive regional papers, one on the English-speaking lands of the Caribbean and one on the Antioquia of Colombia, begin and end with statements on the importance of being in the field. In his APCG address, Parsons wrote: "To be thrown into the midst of a totally unfamiliar setting, preferably one that has not been picked over too much by the 'experts,' and faced with the task of pulling together observations into a meaningful pattern and interpretation is certainly one of the best tests of geographical competence" (1954, p. 4). More than 20 years later, in his AAG address (1976, p. 15), he penned:

As we seek out paths to expanded awareness through teaching or writing we would do well not to forget that our subject was originally rooted in the comparative observation and analysis of places. The field experience that such geography almost inevitably entails has the virtue of lifting us quite decisively from the quagmire of definitions of our subject and from methodology and it gets us back into the open air. It reaffirms the spirit of geographical adventure and the validity of personal observation and of intuitive knowledge. It may encourage the integration of large general themes, the weaving together of disparate strands into a tapestry of land and life in a regional context that is both satisfying and useful.

Some of the field accomplishments reported by presidents were remarkable. APCG President Peveril Meigs described his "strictly morphologic field study," in which his method consisted of "visiting all major and many minor fruit districts of the eastern and southern United States, and in each district driving by automobile through a representative cross section, tabulating to the nearest twentieth of a mile the linear extent of each type of orchard and vineyard classified according to status of age and condition" (1940, p. 3). In the summer of 1939 he drove 13,000 miles, 1,000 miles of which were

orchard transect along which he recorded data. Today it might be possible to gather the same data through remote sensing, but the experience would be in no way the same, and the opportunities for field interviews, which Meigs conducted, would be lost. AAG President Fred Kniffen in his 1965 address, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," did not include "the massive accumulations of field data" that underlaid his summary map of "Source Areas and Routes of Diffusion" of American folk housing. He did wax eloquent on certain fieldwork experiences: "Perhaps in a discourse with pretensions to intellectual respectability it would be unseemly to admit the delights of fieldwork, of the pleasure of speaking leisurely of the old days with those who lived them or know them in oral tradition, of losing oneself in the less-demanding but more-direct concerns of a simpler day." On the other hand, "there are times in the field when a deluge of variant new types and combinations leads to a state of utter confusion on the part of the observer. There is then no alternative to stopping for as long as necessary to identify the pieces and fit them into place" (Kniffen 1965, pp. 555–556). Incidentally, Kniffen's detailed field survey of folk cultural survivals led him to denounce Lincoln Logs and Hollywood movies as misrepresentations of American traditions (p. 577).

The report of the Rediscovering Geography Committee, quoted above on the centrality of field work to geography, lists cartography, Geographic Information Systems, geographic visualization, and spatial statistics as the discipline's display and analysis techniques. GIS and geographical visualization have been referred to on various occasions by presidents, but have scarcely been used in their addresses, in part because of their newness. AAG president David Ward applied the terms "multi-media exhibits" (1990, p. 495) and "prototypical geographic information system[s]" (p. 500) to the urban social surveys of the early twentieth century; Judy Olson's 1997 AAG address was devoted to multimedia. Cartography, on the other hand, can be seen in 22 APCG addresses and 16 AAG addresses. AAG President Robert Platt's study of Section 16 had 25 maps, while the highest number included by any APCG president was 13, which Clyde Patton used to illustrate the distribution of European universities in successive centuries. Map scales range from the very

large—Kniffen’s floor plans of American folk houses and barns (1965, pp. 556 and 566) and Taylor’s floor plan of the communal hut at Cape Evans, Antarctica (1941, p. 7)—to the very small—world maps in the APCG presidential addresses of C. Langdon White, Arnold Court, and Elliot McIntire, and in the AAG presidential addresses of J. Russell Smith, Robert Platt, George Cressey, and Saul Cohen. The maps viewed as a group remind us that one of geography’s jobs is to study and connect events happening at different scales.

While the presidents’ use of illustrations might not merit the high-technology term “geographical visualization,” photographs have appeared in some addresses. Eight AAG presidential addresses from our period are accompanied by photos (including six with air photos), the most recent being Ross Mackay’s look at underground ice in 1971. Not a single photograph has appeared in an AAG presidential address since that time, although Thomas Wilbanks’ 1994 piece on sustainable development does include a remotely sensed image of deforestation in the southern Amazon basin. In contrast, 13 APCG presidential addresses are illustrated with photographs, and 11 of these talks-with-slides have been given since 1976. It has gotten to the point that APCG presidents who do not show slides with their talks will disappoint part of their audience, who have become used to having the lights out after dinner. The heavy use of slides by APCG presidents suggests the importance of landscapes to Pacific Coast geography.

Tables, graphs, and other illustrations (such as drawings and diagrams) each were used by less than 20% of presidents. AAG presidents have made more use than APCG presidents of graphs (they appear in seven compared to three addresses) and other illustrations (10 compared to six). Tables have been used by nine presidents in each group. Some presidential addresses include what we might call signature illustrations, such as Griffith Taylor’s block diagrams, John Borchert’s graphs of change through time, and Dan Arreola’s postcard views. For a discipline that takes space and place as its central objects of study and one in which recent years have seen numerous presidential calls for more applied work, data and illustrations from the real world seem a little thin among the presidential addresses, especially the national ones.

Spatial statistics have become a key tool for geographers, especially for followers of the spatial tradition. However, as far as presidential addresses are concerned, the spatial view makes its appearance in traditional cartography and narrative descriptions of locational patterns or diffusion processes. Presidents do not seem to find mathematical models suitable postprandial entertainment, although Richard Morrill admitted that “I really was tempted by the advice of others to slip in some equations for the first time on such an occasion” (1983, p. 1). Actually, Ross Mackay’s 1971 address on underground ice does contain a couple of equations, albeit in the footnotes. Chester Cole was the only APCG president whose address included an equation, one relating to population and resources borrowed from Edward Ackerman (1964, p. 12). This is not to say that numerous presidents have not used spatial statistics in their other work; just that they do not lead by this particular example in their presidential addresses. Despite the importance of mathematics to geography, it is not the tie that binds us nationally or regionally.

### **Critical Issues Addressed by Presidents**

*Rediscovering Geography* identified six contemporary problems or what its authors called “critical issues” with geographical dimensions: economic health, environmental degradation, ethnic conflict, health care, global climate change, and education (National Research Council 1997; see also Brunn 1998). About half of the APCG and two-thirds of the AAG presidential addresses in the period under study had something to say about one of these or similar critical issues. “Environmental degradation” or “destructive exploitation” has been the most popular critical issue, discussed by about one-third of APCG and AAG presidents. This topic includes not only damage to natural systems but also to traditional cultures. Global climate change also can be included in this category. APCG president Arnold Court’s has been the only presidential address so far to pay sustained attention to that subject, and far from condemning it, he saw it as a possible stimulus to innovation—a stimulus that humans might need, once Zero Population Growth was achieved (Court 1980, pp. 29–30).

Let's listen to a sample of the concerns and recommendations on destructive exploitation, first from APCG presidents, for whom as a group this was by far the most frequently addressed critical issue. Frances Earle criticized the "wave of impatient functionalism" in American house design, and she called for "a more harmonious and useful adjustment" of housing to climate, relief, vegetative covering, and historical background (1941, p. 15). W. A. Rockie hoped, in his 1953 presidential address, for further adoption of the conservation farming practices that he had helped develop over a 23-year period in the Palouse. Richard Highsmith called his 1965 address "Geography and the Great Society," and called upon our discipline to provide global education, a conservation ethic, and planning expertise. The next year, Homer Aschmann suggested that we use the tax code to encourage owners of rural property to open it up for enjoyment by the public, since there is so little true wilderness left. He told his audience, "my paradise will certainly include diversity. I hope yours will too" (1966, p. 14). Dan Lutten, in his unpublished 1971 remarks, chided us for calling environmental problems crises, when they weren't, while doing too little to address the most critical environmental issue of all, population growth. Dan Stanislawski, at the end of his discussion of the diversity of ancient Greek cultures, pointed out that cultural diversity was today under attack by "victorious and prosperous people" who want "the rest of the world to dress in front of their mirror" (1973, p. 25). Chris Field in 1976 warned of "the relentless and systematic commercial penetration of mankind's diverse cultural ecologies" and called upon geographers to "cherish the values of provinciality, not allowing technical planners to make Kosher Chinese Pizza of our landscapes" (1977, pp. 12 and 16). William Thomas praised the people of the Pacific Coast of North America for demonstrating social and ecological responsibility in the following ways: changing their attitudes toward Asian peoples, taking measures to protect the porpoise and to clean up ocean pollution, and providing a place for the preservation and revitalization of Buddhism (1979, p. 25). Al Urquhart in 1980 called for human environments incorporating organic diversity, complexity, interdependence, stability, and low entropy, characteristics he did not find along Eugene's West 11th

Avenue commercial strip (1981, p. 20). Larry Ford urged geographers to advocate architectural preservation in the same way that they had argued for nature or resource conservation (1984, p. 17). Phil Pryde offered seven ways to manage natural resources and population growth in California, where “the fat of the land is fast becoming supersaturated” (1992, p. 20). Joan Clemons argued that geographers have a vital role to play in the development of resources reclaimed from sewage and waste (1998, p. 20).

AAG presidents also addressed issues of environmental and cultural degradation. In 1943 Hugh Bennett reported with approval the Soil Conservation Service’s requirement that each conservation plan be tailored to the physical and social situation of the field, farm, ranch, watershed, or other unit to which it applied. He endorsed the soil conservation district as a useful institution for spreading good agricultural practices; he was also a fan of kudzu (you can’t be right all the time!). Robert Platt spoke of “safeguarding the values of local life and cultural variety” (1945, pp. 11–12). Sauer (1956) urged his colleagues to make value judgments, to condemn the ugliness and poverty wrought by destructive exploitation, and to speak of morals in the face of the marketplace. George Cressey, sounding like Eliza Doolittle, wrote: “In place of theory I will turn to practice, and perhaps therein *is* my chief advice: It is high time that geographers do something about the world rather than merely *describing* what anyone can see” (1957, p. 105). He thought geographers should help figure out where in the world more food could be grown without damaging the environment. The scientist Ackerman argued that geography’s great problem should be “the man-environment system,” not the hierarchy of regions or the geographical expression of culture processes (1963, p. 437). Kollmorgen minced no words in condemning the ineptitude of our land and settlement policies in the West: he said that both our land and our people had been put through a meat grinder (1969, p. 238). Ginsburg thought that geography’s emphasis on geometrics and its ignoring of ecosystemic approaches in a time of deepening ecological concern helped set the discipline back years (1973, p. 4). In 1976 Parsons also scolded geographers for leaving largely to others “the task of exploring the man-nature relationship and facing up to the consequences of the

materialistic philosophy with which we have infected so much of the world" (1977, p. 2). Mikesell identified cultural geography with an ethic of responsibility for man's terrestrial inheritance; cultural geographers, he said, were engaged and enraged in their concern for depletion of resources and habitat abuse (1978, p. 5). Marcus urged geography to focus on the problems of "energy, environment, and urbanization" (1979, p. 529). Helburn noted that geographers are well-positioned to "speak up for place," and should work on issues of environmental deterioration and quality of life (1982, p. 451). Morrill identified the earth as one of six areas of responsibility for geographers (1984). Wilbanks explored the idea of sustainability and the difficulties in achieving it (1994). The next year, Kates talked about the strange life of environmental jeremiads. Birdsall implied that geography could play a role in reconnecting people to, and re-establishing our communal sense of responsibility for, one another and the earth (1996). Gober argued that synthesis must be given more attention "in order to help the nation make better decisions about the environment" (2000, abstract).

For APCG presidents, all other critical issues were weak seconds to environmental degradation. Issues of economic health and education each appeared in about 10% of the addresses, and ethnic and other types of violent conflict and health care were mentioned less often. In contrast, about one quarter of AAG presidents touched on issues of economic health, about one-fifth on issues of violent conflict, and about 10% each on aspects of health care and education. Many references to poverty and economic inequality were brief; for example, they were listed among a host of problems geographers should tackle. More sustained pieces on economic health were those by APCG president C. Langdon White, who spoke in 1955 on "Industrialization: A Panacea for Underdeveloped Nations?"; and by AAG presidents John Orchard, who in 1960 discussed "The Industrialization of Japan, Mainland China, and India in Its World Significance"; and Norton Ginsburg, whose 1972 address was "Colonialism to National Development—Geographic Perspective on Patterns and Policies." Ginsburg talked about the dualism characteristic of most developing regions and countries and about what kinds of development approaches are needed in the face of that

dualism. In attacking the issues of dualism and development, Ginsburg had much more faith in “the experiential wisdom geographers have acquired over a long period of time” than in science, which “has been concerned primarily with problems relating to the richer countries” so that “its concepts are ill-suited to the appropriate definition of problems in other contexts” (1973, p. 6). On the local scale, APCG president Lay Gibson addressed the economic health of small towns coping with large changes in the size of their labor forces due to plant closures or expansions (1988). AAG president John Adams, in his address on the meaning of housing in America, wondered how to help improve housing for low-income households without threatening middle-class neighborhoods (1984).

While about a dozen addresses touched on the critical issue of violent conflict, two stand out by reason of their sustained treatments of this topic. J. Russell Smith’s 1942 AAG presidential address, “Grassland and Farmland as Factors in the Cyclical Development of Eurasian History,” is a sweeping historical survey of the interactions between central Eurasian nomadic peoples and their sedentary neighbors in Europe, the Indian subcontinent, and China. Smith was writing at the same time as Hendrick Willem Van Loon and felt the same shadow: he mentioned Hitler and Naziism several times, and he not only compared Hitler and Genghis Khan, but said that the former studied the strategy and tactics of the latter. The word “Hun” never appears in Smith’s account but it lurks between the lines. Smith believed that the power lust is born in all individuals, and he argued that the grasslands of central Asia were particularly dangerous as a stage and base of operations for an ambitious leader and people. He wrote, “I wonder what he [Mackinder] now thinks since he has seen what Russia alone has done, and contemplates what those hundred and eighty million people might do in another quarter century if the germs of the old grassland conquest fever should rise up out of the grass and infect them with the desire to dominate Asia—and then—?” (1943, p. 160). Smith ends with a plea for “world organization to outlaw war” (pp. 160–161).

Just as Smith told a story of violence with meaning for his own day, so did Harold Rose in 1978, with his address titled “The Geography of Despair.” His subject was the spatial aspects of what was

then an increasing rate of death from homicide among African-Americans. Near the end of his address he wrote, "It is not uncommon to find acres of territories of despair in America's larger core cities. The extent of despair is seldom measured, but most would agree, on the basis of a number of quality-of-life assessments, that despair is commonplace. No attempt has been made here to detail the level or extent of despair, as it varies from place to place within American cities, but it is clear that acts of lethal violence promote the spread of despair." Finally, he concluded that "it would have been more pleasant to have reported on a topic that reflects the geography of happiness, but such a report for me at least, would have represented hope, rather than reality" (1978, p. 464).

No APCG presidents treated health care, except via the theme of maintaining and creating a healthy environment. Several AAG presidents mentioned it briefly, and one presidential address, "Opening Closed Spaces," given by Julian Wolpert in 1975, focused on it. This address looked at the volunteer sector in general and in particular at how it could do the job of helping people who were handicapped or mentally ill function in community settings. At the time he delivered his address, many such people were being released from custodial institutions and Wolpert was leading a charge to discover ways that volunteers could create community-based support systems to replace them.

As for geographical education, various presidents of the APCG and AAG commented on its importance to the elementary school, high school, college, the liberal arts curriculum, and to the general public. For those going on to be professional geographers, presidents variously endorsed training in mathematics (Thorntwaite, Cole), physics (Thorntwaite), history of geographic thought (Sauer, James), history of exploration (Scott), natural history (Sauer), field work (Sauer, Parsons), detailed regional studies (Clark), Pattison's four traditions (Taaffe), place name geography (Loy), expressive writing (Sauer, Clark, Hart, Lewis, Demko), cartography (Clark, Demko), foreign languages (Demko), computer skills (Demko), volunteerism (Wolpert), and collaborative research (Gober). This potpourri of pedagogic recommendations is yet another face of geography's diversity.

When referring to critical issues, both APCG and AAG presidents often endorsed taking an ethical or moral position, sometimes explicitly contrasting the suggested position to one concerned with efficiency or profit-making. Alternative values at odds with progress, values having to do with aesthetics, justice, or health, were affirmed (Wallach 1991, pp. vii–xiv). The most well-known presidential expression of moral judgment—against industrial civilization, environmental destruction, poverty, and the values of the market place—and for simple folk, harmonious landscapes, good husbandry, and moral philosophy—comes at the end of Carl Sauer’s “Education of a Geographer” (1956, pp. 298–299). But there are numerous others (some have been noted already). APCG President Richard Highsmith wrote: “We may notice that many values cannot be measured in monetary terms and, moreover, that development progressing under such an atmosphere causes many problems for those living under it. In the longer view, which we as a nation have scarcely begun to take, a purely monetary valuation system fails to compensate for the unfavorable influences engendered by uncontrolled development” (1965, pp. 15–16). AAG President Tom Wilbanks wrote that “it is possible that sustainable development will require an *ethical revolution* to go along with the other revolutions of our time: globalization, scarcity, information, and democratization” (1994, p. 553). Continuing the critique of science that Wilbur Zelinsky began in his 1974 presidential address, Stephen Birdsall denounced the fact that “rationalization as method and efficiency as goal have been transferred from analysis of the physical world to prescription for the social world” (1996, p. 629). He endorsed “a continuing search for an alternative moral geography of the everyday,” rooted in an understanding of the interconnectedness of the world and a sense of mutual responsibility (p. 629). Perhaps the most morally admirable of all presidential comments came from APCG President Martin Kaatz, who, while appreciating concern for earth’s ecosystems, pointed out that “if the *have-nots* in the world are not to be allowed to become *haves* by continuing the despoilation of their planet precipitated by the developed nations, then they must be partially subsidized by the wealthy nations. The cost of such a

subsidy surely must be felt in higher taxes, lower levels of consumption, and perhaps lower salaries" (1971, p. 14).

### **Citations by Presidents**

Another window on presidential addresses is provided by their citations, which help answer the question, "with whom are our presidents conversing?" In general, APCG presidents did a lot less citing than AAG presidents. Only 17 authors were cited more than twice in six decades of APCG presidential addresses, while 112 were cited more than twice in the same period by AAG presidents (excluding self-citations). The five authors most frequently cited by APCG presidents have been, in order, Preston James (cited in seven addresses), Carl Sauer (six), the U.S. Census Bureau (five), John K. Wright (five), and Wilbur Zelinsky (four) (Table 7). The top six (because of a tie for fifth place) cited by AAG presidents in the same period were Carl Sauer (14), Richard Hartshorne (12), William Morris Davis (12), Brian Berry (10), Edward Ackerman (nine), and Preston James (nine) (Table 7). Carl Sauer and Preston James emerge, in this exercise, as key figures in both our regional geographical endeavor and in our national one. The high ranking of the Census Bureau on the list of those cited by APCG presidents but not on that of the AAG presidents is consistent with the stronger empirical tendency of the former. Wright and Zelinsky, with their cultural and historical strengths, appear only a bit further down the AAG list than the APCG one. On the other hand, APCG presidents cited Hartshorne only twice in six decades and Davis, Ackerman, and Berry once. Hartshorne's methodological statements were at odds with those of Sauer, and as noted above, his specialty, political geography, was not a strong strand of the Pacific Coast geographical weave. Davis, the first president of the AAG, we would expect to be given a much higher profile by that organization than by the APCG. The low profiles afforded Ackerman and Berry in our region reflect the strong identification of the APCG with the descriptive cultural propensities of the Berkeley school and the relatively weak representation of spatial science, despite the presence in the region of one of the cradles of spatial science, the University of Washington.

**Table 7. Most Frequently Cited Authors in APCG and AAG Presidential Addresses, 1940–1999<sup>1</sup>**

Author	No. of APCG addresses in which cited	No. of AAG addresses in which cited	Author	No. of APCG addresses in which cited	No. of AAG addresses in which cited
E. A. Ackerman	1	9	D. W. Meinig	3	7
H. Aschmann	3	1	R. L. Morrill	0	6
H. H. Barrows	0	8	R. S. Platt	1	6
B. J. L. Berry	1	10	F. Ratzel	0	6
I. Bowman	2	7	C. O. Sauer	6	14
W. M. Davis	1	12	E. C. Semple	3	8
R. Dubos	3	0	J. E. Spencer	3	1
P. R. Gould	1	6	L. D. Stamp	3	2
T. Hagerstrand	0	7	T. G. Taylor	3	2
F. K. Hare	1	7	G. T. Trewartha	3	5
C. D. Harris	3	0	Y. Tuan	2	6
R. Hartshorne	2	12	U.S. Census Bureau	5	2
D. Harvey	0	6	U.S. Weather Bureau	3	2
A. Hettner	0	6	G. F. White	0	8
E. Huntington	3	4	D. S. Whittlesey	0	6
P. E. James	7	9	J. K. Wright	5	8
J. B. Leighly	1	7	W. Zelinsky	4	6
G. J. Martin	3	1			

<sup>1</sup>I counted as a citation any mention by a president, whether in notes or in the text itself. Self-citations were excluded. Listed in this table are the 17 authors mentioned three or more times by APCG presidents and the 24 authors mentioned six or more times by AAG presidents. These numbers do not include mentions in this presidential address.

Source: APCG and AAG presidential addresses

The next group on the APCG presidential citation list consists of 12 sources who were each cited three times in the six decades under study. These were Homer Aschmann, Rene Dubos, Chauncy Harris, Ellsworth Huntington, Geoffrey Martin, Donald Meinig, Ellen Churchill Semple, Joe Spencer, L. Dudley Stamp, Griffith Taylor, Glenn Trewartha, and the U.S. Weather Bureau. By way of comparison, consider the next group on the AAG list, each of whom was cited six, seven, or eight times: Harlan Barrows, Kenneth Hare, Ellen Churchill Semple, Gilbert White, John K. Wright, Isaiah Bowman, Torsten Hagerstrand, John Leighly, Donald Meinig, Peter Gould, David Harvey, Alfred Hettner, Richard Morrill, Robert Platt,

Frederick Ratzel, Yi-Fu Tuan, Derwent Whittlesey, and Wilbur Zelinsky. Now our overlap group consists of Sauer, James, Wright, Semple, Zelinsky, and Meinig. Notice the preponderance of cultural-historical geographers. Eventually, Trewartha, Huntington, and Taylor appear on the AAG list lower down, with three or more citations each. But the remaining names on the APCG most-frequently cited list (Aschmann, Dubos, Harris, Martin, Spencer, Stamp, the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and the U.S. Weather Bureau) were more frequently cited there than by AAG presidents. The most surprising name on this list is Chauncy Harris, a man of high stature in the discipline and in the AAG itself whom we would expect to rank more highly on their list. He served as AAG president in 1957, during that period when the president did everything except give a presidential address, and quite a few presidential citations are to other presidential addresses. It does seem to help get one noticed by presidents of the AAG to have been a president oneself; 17 of the 24 most frequently cited authors in AAG presidential addresses were other AAG presidents, while only one of the 17 most frequently cited authors in APCG presidential addresses was an APCG president. Half of all APCG most-frequently cited authors were AAG presidents.

This discussion of citations makes clear that both APCG and AAG presidents have done a lot of talking to one another and to other geographers. On the other hand, presidential addresses are replete with citations to works by non-geographers, but they are less likely to appear on another president's citation list than works by geographers are. What non-geographers were cited at least three times by APCG presidents? Only biologist Rene Dubos. Twelve non-geographers each were cited three or more times by AAG presidents. Included are a group of historical figures who might not have called themselves geographers but whom we often claim as part of our pre-disciplinary past: Thomas Jefferson, George Perkins Marsh, Matthew Fontaine Maury, John Wesley Powell, and Alexander von Humboldt. Twentieth-century figures mentioned by three or more AAG presidents were economist and social thinker Kenneth Boulding, historian of science Thomas Kuhn, biologist E. O. Wilson, student of the cultural landscape J. B. Jackson, physicist and chaos

theoretician Ilya Prigogine, botanist Homer Schantz, and historian Walter Prescott Webb; these figures certainly reflect the diversity of disciplinary influences on geography. These thinkers are “bridge people,” who like geographers have been concerned with closing the gaps among the humanities, the social sciences, and the physical sciences and between humans and their environment.

### **Are We Having Fun Yet?**

Being president of the APCG or AAG is a pretty strait-laced affair. Still, a few presidents have managed to insert a bit of playfulness here and there into their addresses. I could not find any references to gambling, except in Earl Kersten’s address about Nevada (discussed above), but drinking and sex do pop up. Peirce Lewis (1985, p. 466), Ron Abler (1987, pp. 511–512), and George Demko (1988, p. 576) all talked about cocktail parties. Larry Brown served up “old wine in new bottles, new wine in new bottles, wine somewhat differently flavored, like the old wine but better” (1998, p. 20). Andrew Clark judged that “tippling at the statistical inn” could be fun and was appropriate for geographers (1962, p. 237).

For Carl Sauer, it was not liquor but maps that “stimulate our glands and loosen our inhibitions” (1956, p. 289). For Peirce Lewis, “topophilic ecstasy” was okay, but he drew the line at “geographic orgies” (1985, p. 469). J. K. Wright wrote of the “geographical libido” (1947, p. 9), while John Borchert’s phrase “the Grand Probe of Science” had a rather suggestive sound to it (1971, p. 22). Andrew Clark said that the richly variegated world was the geographer’s “mistress sensitive to his every mood, the inseparable companion of his waking hours, and the happy arbiter of his dreams” (1962, p. 142). Of course, we need an updated version of this image, along the lines of “the geographer’s lover sensitive to *her* every mood, the inseparable companion of *her* waking hours, and the happy arbiter of *her* dreams.” Larry Ford topped all of these sexual allusions with his quip that “many people read *National Geographic* for the same reason they read *Playboy*, that is, to see places they will never have the opportunity to visit in person” (1984, p. 8). It was no accident that he used the phrase “flesh out” elsewhere in the same paragraph.

APCG and AAG presidents have been more forthcoming about less racy pleasures. Dave Lantis naming and remembering the books on Alaska he read starting in childhood, Jim Scott recalling the accounts of great voyages and expeditions that fired his youthful imagination, Al Urquhart revealing his deeply felt intellectual debts—these are some of the most personal moments in the presidential address corpus. Andrew Clark's entire address was devoted to recounting what he called the incidental rewards of a geographical career. My favorite passage from Clark is this (1962, p. 233):

Each morning's newspaper is devoured as we attach more and more fragments to our knowledge of the earth and its people: forest fires, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions; elections, revolutions, assassinations; mineral deposits, changed industrial processes, new regional plans; fresh archeological finds, altered trading patterns, new routes of transportation; all these and a hundred others we find fascinating in turn. It is not that most of them are germane to our specialized research interests for they clearly are not; it is not that others, of whatever occupation or interest may not share with us much of the same thirst; but such a catholic inquisitiveness is almost universal among us, for these are events and phenomena that occur or exist in places, and they feed our insatiable curiosity about the world.

Here is the explanation for why it is so hard to leave the morning paper unread, despite all of the other things that demand our attention!

## **Conclusion**

There is much detail that I have been forced to leave out. For example, it is fun to try to pair up an APCG and an AAG president—for coffee together, rather than a dinner party—based on the commonalities in their addresses. John Kesseli and J. R. Russell both spoke on the need for a geographical geomorphology. John Appleton and George Demko both urged geographers to undertake research that would be of practical value to an agency like the U.S. Department of State. Ed Price and Griffith Taylor both addressed, but disagreed about, environmental determinism. Larry Price and John Leighly both celebrated mountains. Gary Dunbar and J. Russell Smith both took us to the drylands of Central Asia. Howard Nelson and

Terry Jordan both explored aspects of U.S. settlement history. R. W. Durrenberger and Charles Brooks both called for better climatological data. Huey Kostanick and Saul Cohen both reported on changes in Eastern Europe. Tom McKnight and Walter Kollmorgen both wrote on cattle and sheep. Michael McIntyre and Carl Sauer both talked about origins and diffusions. Meredith Burrill and Bill Loy both shared their love of geographic names. Betsy Burns and Susan Hanson both highlighted ways in which gender is important in understanding cities.

These examples and many others demonstrate the great extent of the overlap between APCG and AAG presidential addresses. They also demonstrate the temporal continuity (or perhaps cyclicity) of interests among presidents, as often the best coffee companion for an APCG president who spoke in the 1980s is an AAG president who spoke in the 1950s; or for an AAG president who spoke in the 1990s, it is an APCG president who spoke in the 1970s. Continuity, even if sometimes of a dialectical nature, can be seen in the regions, topics, traditions, techniques, critical issues, and citations of APCG and AAG presidential addresses.

Despite the great overlap between APCG and AAG presidential addresses and between Pacific Coastal and American geography, certain emphases distinguish the former from the latter. Homer Aschmann, in his essay for the APCG-sponsored volume, *Carl O. Sauer, A Tribute*, wrote that, "He [Sauer] noted that when it was published, Alexander von Humboldt's *Kosmos*, an effort to comprehend the physical universe, was the marvel of the age; now it is unread. On the other hand, any serious student of Mexico today and in the future must read Humboldt's less pretentious *Essay of the Kingdom of New Spain*. Put another way, the greatest discoveries of science are destined to be superseded, yet informal and insightful observations at a given place and time find a permanent place in human knowledge" (Aschmann 1987, p. 139). It is this greater devotion to "informal and insightful observations at a given place and time" that distinguishes APCG from AAG addresses and Pacific Coastal from American geography. The greater importance placed on the human-environment theme in its many dimensions (landscape as culture history, destructive exploitation, natural resources planning,

a conservation ethic that applies to ecosystems and to cultures) also characterizes APCG presidential addresses and by extension, Pacific Coastal geography. The roots of these emphases can be traced to the physical character and human history of the region itself and to the ideas of its leading geographers, foremost but by no means exclusively, Carl Sauer.

As we get caught up daily in powerful currents of change, it is worthwhile to jump from the tumbling waters and take a moment to bask in our past. If basking sounds too lazy and self-congratulatory, then how about critical basking? This can help meet our personal need for a sense of connection. It can help meet our professional need for a deeper understanding of the discipline we practice. I hope this presidential address has taken the *terrae incognitae* of past presidential geographies, revealed something of their contours, and encouraged you to explore them further.

### **Dedication**

This address is dedicated to the memory of my sister, Kerry Joyce Dattel (1952–1994), who each day as a school social worker and art therapist met and fought AAG President Harold Rose's geography of despair.

### **Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup>The first part of the title of this address, "Taking a Moment to Bask in Our Past," was chosen with the cuisine of the annual banquet—Basque—in mind.

<sup>2</sup>John Leighly was both President of the APCG and Honorary President of the AAG, but he gave no APCG presidential address. According to the 1938 *Yearbook*, Leighly, who was APCG vice-president at the time, gave an address, "Methodologic Controversies in Nineteenth Century German Geography," at the annual APCG banquet. His article, "Methodological Controversy in Nineteenth Century German Geography," appeared in the *AAG Annals* in that same year.

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**Appendix 1. APCG Presidential Addresses, 1940–1999<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Year of Address</b>	<b>Year of Publication</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Title of Address</b>
1940	1940	Peveril Meigs	Exploring American Orchards (summary only)
1941	1941	Frances M. Earle	Habitation and Environment
1942	1942	Forest Shreve	Vegetation of Northern Mexico
1946	1947	John Appleton	Geographic Research and World Affairs
1947	1947	Phil E. Church	Snow as an Environmental Factor in the West
1948	1948	Harold Hoffmeister	In Defense of the Sugar Beet Industry
1949	1949	Ruth E. Baugh	Mother Lode 1949
1950	1950	John E. Kesseli	Geomorphic Landscapes
1951	1951	J. Lewis Robinson	The Development and Status of Geography in Universities and Government in Canada
1952	1952	Samuel N. Dicken	The Rogue River Country of Oregon: A Study in Regional Geography
1953	1953	W. A. Rockie	The Palouse
1954	1954	James J. Parsons	The English Speaking Settlement of the Western Caribbean
1955	1955	C. Langdon White	Industrialization: A Panacea for Underdeveloped Nations?
1956	1956	H. Bowman Hawkes	Conservation: Retrospect and Prospect
1957	1957	Huey Louis Kostanick	Eastern Europe: Retrospect and Prospect
1958	1958	J. Granville Jensen	The Ejido in Mexico
1960	1960	Howard Gregor	Agricultural Intensity and Its Regionalization
1961	1961	Marion E. Marts	When Can California Join the Union?
1962	1962	Benjamin E. Thomas	Exclusionism in American Geography
1963	1963	Edward T. Price	Aspects of Cause in Human Geography

<b>Year of Address</b>	<b>Year of Publication</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Title of Address</b>
1964	1964	Chester C. Cole	Human Skills as a Geographic Variable
1965	1965	Richard M. Highsmith	Geography and the "Great Society"
1966	1966	Homer Aschmann	People, Recreation, Wild Lands, and Wilderness
1967	1967	Dale E. Courtney	The Oregon Desert, 1967: A Pioneer Fringe?
1968	1969	Clyde P. Patton	The Origins and Diffusion of European Universities
1969	1970	Tom L. McKnight	Biotic Influences on Australian Pastoral Land Use
1970	1971	Martin R. Kaatz	The Geography Behind the News
1971	—	Daniel B. Luten	With Crisis Today, What Tears for Tomorrow (unpublished notes)
1972	1973	Dan Stanislawski	Culture Zones of the Ancient Aegean Area: Selective Contact and Persistence
1973	1974	Howard J. Nelson	Town Founding and the American Frontier
1974	1975	Philip L. Wagner	The Themes of Cultural Geography Rethought
1975	1976	Robert L. Durrenberger	Our Solar Energy Resource
1976	1977	Chris Field	Planning, Provinciality, or Kosher Chinese Pizza
1977	1978	Michael P. McIntyre	Antecedentia Relictus: The Closed-Cone Pines of California
1978	1979	William L. Thomas	The Pacific Coast of North America as Viewed from the Pacific
1979	1980	Arnold Court	Changing Climate
1980	1981	Alvin W. Urquhart	Stripping the Urban Landscape
1981	1982	David W. Lantis	Alaska: 1925–1981, Personal Percepts and Concepts

<b>Year of Address</b>	<b>Year of Publication</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Title of Address</b>
1982	1983	Gary S. Dunbar	Geography Rides, Geology Walks: The Barrett-Huntington Expedition to Central Asia in 1905
1983	1984	Larry R. Ford	Architecture and Geography: Toward a Mutual Concern for Space and Place
1984	1985	Earl W. Kersten	Nevada Then and Now: Forging an Economy
1985	1986	Larry W. Price	Images of Mountains: A Search for the Ideal
1986	1987	Margaret E. Trussell	Five Western Woman Pioneer Geographers
1987	1988	Lay James Gibson	Restructuring the Landscape
1988	1989	William G. Loy	Geographic Names in Geography
1989	1990	Rodney Steiner	To Alaska by Train
1990	1991	Terrill J. Kramer	Great Basin National Park: Rationales, Concepts, and Conflicts
1991	1992	Philip R. Pryde	Thirty Million Californians Can't Be Wrong: Reflections on Reaching a Dubious Milestone
1992	1993	James W. Scott	Geography, Geographers, and Exploration
1993	1994	Lester B. Rowntree	Afforestation, Fire, and Vegetation Management in the East Bay Hills of the San Francisco Bay Area
1994	1995	William K. Crowley	Order and Disorder: A Model of Latin American Urban Land Use
1995	1996	Elizabeth K. Burns	Involuntary Mobility, Gender, and Travel Demand Management in Metropolitan Phoenix
1996	1997	Elliot McIntire	Linnaeus's Geographical Legacy

<b>Year of Address</b>	<b>Year of Publication</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Title of Address</b>
1997	1998	Joan Clemons	Emerging from Sewage and Waste: A Postmodern Landscape
1998	1999	Daniel D. Arreola	Across the Street in Mexico
1999	2000	Robin Elisabeth Datel	Taking a Moment to Bask in Our Past: APCG and AAG Presidential Addresses, 1940–1999

<sup>1</sup>There were four earlier presidents of the APCG (Otis W. Freeman, Howard W. Martin, George M. McBride, and John B. Leighly), but no presidential addresses exist for them. There were no APCG meetings and no presidential addresses in 1943, 1944, and 1945. Francis J. Schadeegg was APCG president in 1959–60, but no address was published in the *Yearbook* and no other records of an address have been found. Daniel B. Luten gave the presidential address in 1971, but it was never published. He kindly lent me notes on it from his files.

Sources: Compilation by former APCG archivist James W. Scott; *Yearbooks of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, 1940–2000*

## **Appendix 2. AAG Presidential Addresses, 1940–1999**

<b>Year of Address</b>	<b>Year of Publication</b>	<b>President<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Title of Address</b>
1940	1941	Carl O. Sauer	Foreword to Historical Geography
1941	1942	Griffith Taylor	Environment, Village and City: A Genetic Approach to Urban Geography
1942 <sup>2</sup>	1943	J. Russell Smith	Grassland and Farmland as Factors in the Cyclical Development of Eurasian History
1943	1943	Hugh H. Bennett	Adjustment of Agriculture to Its Environment
1944 <sup>3</sup>	1945	Derwent Whittlesey	The Horizon of Geography
1945	1946	Robert S. Platt	Problems of Our Times
1946	1947	John K. Wright	Terrae Incognitae: The Place of Imagination in Geography

<b>Year of Address</b>	<b>Year of Publication</b>	<b>President<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Title of Address</b>
1947	1948	Charles F. Brooks	The Climatic Record: Its Content, Limitations, and Geographic Value
1948	1949	Richard J. Russell	Geographical Geomorphology
1950 <sup>4</sup>	1950	Richard Hartshorne	The Functional Approach to Political Geography
1951	1951	G. Donald Hudson	Professional Training of the Membership of the Association of American Geographers
1952	1952	Preston E. James	Toward a Further Understanding of the Regional Concept
1953	1953	Glenn T. Trewartha	A Case for Population Geography
1954	1954	J. Russell Whitaker	The Way Lies Open
1955	1955	Derwent Whittlesey	Southern Rhodesia—An African Compagne
1956	1956	Carl O. Sauer	The Education of a Geographer
1957	1957	George B. Cressey	Water in the Desert
1958	1958	John B. Leighly	John Muir's Image of the West
1959	1959	Stephen B. Jones	Boundary Concepts in the Setting of Place and Time
1960	1960	John E. Orchard	Industrialization of Japan, Mainland China, and India in Its World Significance
1961	1961	C. Warren Thornthwaite	The Task Ahead
1962	1962	Andrew H. Clark	Praemia Geographicae: The Incidental Rewards of a Professional Career
1963	1963	Edward A. Ackerman	Where is a Research Frontier?
1964	1964	F. Kenneth Hare	New Light from Labrador-Ungava
1965	1965	Fred B. Kniffen	Folk Housing, Key to Diffusion
1966	1967	Preston E. James	On the Origin and Persistence of Error in Geography
1967	1968	Meredith F. Burrill	The Language of Geography
1968	1969	Walter M. Kollmorgen	The Woodman's Assault on the Domain of the Cattleman

<b>Year of Address</b>	<b>Year of Publication</b>	<b>President<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Title of Address</b>
1969	1970	Clyde F. Kohn	The 1960s: A Decade of Progress in Geographical Research and Instruction
1970	1971	John R. Borchert	The "Dust Bowl" in the 1970s
1971	1972	J. Ross Mackay	The World of Underground Ice
1972	1973	Norton S. Ginsburg	Colonialism to National Development—Geographic Perspective on Patterns and Policies
1973	1974	Edward J. Taaffe	The Spatial View in Context
1974	1975	Wilbur Zelinsky	The Demigod's Dilemma
1975	1976	Julian Wolpert	Opening Closed Spaces
1976	1977	James J. Parsons	Geography and Exploration and Discovery
1977	1978	Marvin W. Mikesell	Tradition and Innovation in Cultural Geography
1978	1978	Harold M. Rose	The Geography of Despair
1979	1979	Melvin G. Marcus	Coming Full Circle: Physical Geography in the Twentieth Century
1980	1980	Brian J. L. Berry	Creating Future Geographies
1981	1982	John Fraser Hart	The Highest Form of the Geographer's Art
1982	1982	Nicholas Helburn	Geography and the Quality of Life
1983	1984	Richard L. Morrill	The Responsibility of Geography
1984	1984	John S. Adams	The Meaning of Housing in America
1985	1985	Peirce Lewis	Beyond Description
1986	1986	Risa Palm	Coming Home
1987	1987	Ronald F. Abler	What Shall We Say? To Whom Shall We Speak?
1988	1988	George J. Demko	Geography Beyond the Ivory Tower
1989	1989	Terry G. Jordan	Preadaptation and European Colonization in Rural North America

Year of Address	Year of Publication	President <sup>1</sup>	Title of Address
1990	1990	David Ward	Social Reform, Social Surveys, and the Discovery of the Modern City
1991	1991	Saul B. Cohen	Global Geopolitical Change in the Post-Cold War Era
1992	1992	Susan Hanson	Geography and Feminism: Worlds in Collision?
1993	1993	John R. Mather	A Shared Vision
1994	1994	Thomas J. Willbanks	"Sustainable Development" in Geographic Perspective
1995	1995	Robert W. Kates	Labnotes from the Jeremiah Experiment: Hope for a Sustainable Transition
1996	1996	Stephen S. Birdsall	Regard, Respect, and Responsibility: Sketches for a Moral Geography
1997	1997	Judy M. Olson	Multimedia in Geography: Good, Bad, Ugly, or Cool?
1998	1999	Lawrence A. Brown	Change, Continuity, and the Pursuit of Geographic Understanding
1999	2000	Patricia Gober	In Search of Synthesis

<sup>1</sup>In the years prior to 1955, the presidential address was delivered by the President of the AAG. Between 1955 and 1966, the address was delivered by the Honorary President of the AAG. From 1967 on, the address was given by the immediate Past President of the AAG.

<sup>2</sup>No AAG meeting was held in 1942 because of wartime restrictions on travel. President J. Russell Smith read his address at the 1943 meeting.

<sup>3</sup>No AAG meeting was held in 1944 because of wartime restrictions on travel. President Derwent Whittlesey's address was published in the *Annals*, but was not presented at an AAG meeting.

<sup>4</sup>No AAG presidential address was given in 1949, because the annual meeting time was moved from December 1949 to April 1950.

Sources: Preston E. James and Geoffrey J. Martin, *The Association of American Geographers: The First Seventy-Five Years, 1904–1979*; *Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 1940–2000*