

Introduction to the Volume

Robert B. Kent and Vern R. Harnapp

Department of Geography

University of Akron

Akron, Ohio 44325 USA

We feel both pleasure and relief in completing our tasks as the editors of the CLAG Yearbook 1989. It has been our objective to maintain the high scholarly standards that the Yearbook has established in its previous editions and to bring together a range of quality articles representing the diverse methodological and regional foci of Latin Americanist geographers and other Latin Americanist scholars studying geographic questions. The papers in this volume represent the scholarly research of not only geographers, but also a biologist, an economist, a historian, and a sociologist. The papers include contributions from scholars based in Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the United States. Two papers are published in Spanish and all papers include abstracts in Spanish and/or Portuguese and English.

A large number of high quality papers were submitted to the editors for publication, and the competition for inclusion in the volume was particularly keen. We received forty-three research papers and two research notes. Ten research papers and one research note were accepted for publication, representing an acceptance rate of about 25 percent. The CLAG Yearbook remains committed to the process of peer review of research papers and the editors depended heavily upon the conscientious work of numerous reviewers. In so far as possible, each paper submitted for publication was sent to two or three external reviewers utilizing the double-blind method. The decision on a paper's suitability for publication was based on the editors' evaluation of the manuscript and the evaluation of the external reviewers. We, however, assume full responsibility for the final decisions and these were often difficult. The decisions on the acceptance for publication of the research notes were made solely by the editors.

We appreciate the reviewers' efforts because only with the assistance of a wide range of scholars, including nongeographers, can informed and fair decisions be reached and the scholarly quality of the Yearbook be maintained. We wish to thank the following individuals for their time and effort: Daniel D. Arreola, Homer Aschmann, John Augelli, Conrad J. Bahre, Francois J. Belisle, Eric Belsky, Charles F. Bennett, Waltraud A. Brinkmann, Jill Brody, Ray Bromley, John Browder, Lawrence Brown, Rod Burgess, Cesar N. Caviedes, Juan M. Oark, Colin Clarke, David L. Clawson, PJan K. Craig, William K. Crowley, N. Ross Crumrine, David J. Cuff, William Davidson, William M. Denevan, Paul-Yves Denis, Joshua Dickinson, William E. Doolittle, Gary S. Elbow, Elizabeth Erickson, Ronald Foresta, Alan Gilbert, Brian Godfrey, Linda Greenow, Ernest Griffin, Robert N. Gwynne, Carolyn Hall, Lawrence A. Herzog, Frank C. Innes, Stephen C. Jett, P. P. Karan, Thomas Klak, James S. Kus, Greg Knapp, Eric Langer, David J. de Laubenfels, Victoria A. Lawson, Sheldon Liss, Tom L. Martinson, Kent Mathewson, Janice Monk, Charles B. Monroe, Bernard Nietschmann, Mary Lee Nolan, James J. Parsons, Rafael Pico, Susan E. Place, Bonnham C. Richardson, David J. Robinson, Clara E. Rodriquez, Dennis A. Rondinelli, James S. Saeger, Charles Sargent, Joseph L. Scarpaci, Robert H. Schmidt Jr., Robert B. South, Charles F. Stansifer, Hilgard O'R. Sternberg, Norman R. Stewart, Rolf Sternberg, Robert J. Tata, Bradford L. Thomas, Robert N. Thomas, John Treacy, B. L. Turner, Thomas T. Veblen, Bob I. Walter, Peter M. Ward, Rolf Wesche, Gene Wilken, Barbara J. Williams, Lynden S. Williams, Martha Works, Eric Van Young, and Robert Voeks.

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Finally, we wish to thank the authors of the papers for their time and effort. They complied professionally and in a timely manner to our requests for revisions of their manuscripts. It is only through their efforts and those of future contributors that publication of the CLAG Yearbook is possible. **[end p. 2]**