



August 1988

Dear Member,

At its annual mid-summer meeting, the Council of the Harvard Travellers Club reviewed the past year with satisfaction and turned its attention to the coming season.

1987-88 was a good year for the Club. Our membership remained stable at well over 200. Our meetings continued to attract strong turnouts, the average attendance at dinner being 81. We enjoyed a diverse and generally excellent group of speakers. Laying the foundation for continued success in future years, we overhauled the dues structure at the Annual Meeting for the first time in quite awhile. This move gives the Club needed resources to meet speakers' fees and related expenses, to insure orderly publication of the Year Book, and to sustain our new tradition of serving wine with dinner.

Looking ahead, the Council is working on three initiatives of note. One is to approach the Harvard Club to explore ways of obtaining better meals or at least better value. We are disturbed at the disparity between what one is served for \$25 downstairs (filet mignon, etc.) compared with upstairs (chicken, scrod). A special committee, chaired by Rob Stephenson, has been formed to pursue this matter with the management of the Harvard Club.

A second initiative is to consider recommending for vote at the next Annual Meeting an Emeritus category of membership for those who value their association with the Club but who, for various reasons, are increasingly unable to attend meetings. In the past most such people have simply resigned. The Council is exploring several alternatives to resignation and would appreciate suggestions from the membership.

The third initiative is to reinstate the practice of having one special evening per year. This was accomplished in the past by Ladies Night, happily a solution no longer available to us. The Council is considering an evening at which Club Medalists, Honorary Members, and Fellows would be recognized, along with 25- and 50-year members and past Presidents. This would be a more elegant affair than usual, with a meal to match and a speaker of exceptional distinction. The Council would again welcome any comparable ideas from the membership. Our intent is to test out at least one option this coming year.

All of us can help the Club by recommending qualified persons for membership and by bringing exciting speakers to the attention of the Council. May I also request that we help our new Secretary-Treasurer by informing her no later than the Friday before a meeting of our intent to attend or cancel. The Club must pay for reservations that are not filled.

Club neckties in maroon and blue are still available and may be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer by post (\$16) or at meetings (\$15).

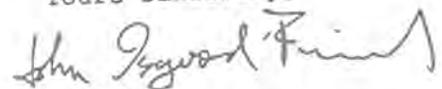
Each year the Club awards some \$1,000 in grants from the interest earned from our Permanent Fund, currently valued at \$14,000. These grants support innovative travel and enhance the Club's favorable tax status. Members who would like to strengthen the Club's ability to assist worthy travel are cordially invited to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Permanent Fund, the trustees of which are Ken Henderson, Ralph Forbes, and Peter Fiscoeder. Even though last year's letter elicited a rather disappointing response, I am hopeful that this year will show marked improvement.

Members with a particular fondness for the Harvard Travellers Club are reminded that even a small bequest will be received with utmost gratitude. All bequests are duly recorded in Club records by the Secretary-Treasurer.

The Council this year will miss the wise contributions of Ray Kjellberg and Charlie Davidson. New members include Bob Boardman and Dan Senecal. Of special note is the fact that Katherine Walters has become a Vice-President while Kathryn Nickel assumes the pivotal position of Secretary-Treasurer. All of us on the Council welcome ideas and suggestions from the membership.

The coming season promises to be a most interesting one. As of this writing, we have scheduled talks on two areas of China not previously open to foreigners, on Annapurna and environs in Nepal, on the mapping of Mt. Everest by Brad Washburn, and on the golden age of travel. Additional talks being negotiated feature Canada's Arctic Barrens, Turkey, the Central African Republic, Java, and remote Amazon tribes. Please join us as often as possible.

Yours sincerely,



John Osgood Field
President

P.S. Thanks to Rob Stephenson and Rory Cowan, the new Year Book is scheduled for distribution this autumn.

631st Meeting



Number 1

1988-1989

The first meeting of the season will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, October 4, 1988**. Cocktails will be served at 6:15 PM; dinner is at 7:00 PM (price \$25.00 per person); and the meeting will start at 8:15 PM. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Reservations or cancellations must be received by the Friday preceding the meeting. The Club must pay for dinners of those who do not attend after having indicated they would. Therefore, members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge. Wine will be served with dinner.

THE HIMALAYA OF YUNNAN, CHINA

Our members, Robert H. Bates and H. Adams Carter, are retired teachers and mountaineers of long distinction.

Last May Messrs Bates and Carter and their wives, along with several other mountaineers, were invited by the Chinese Sports Information Bureau to visit the very eastern end of the Himalaya in a corner of Yunnan which borders Tibet just north of India and Burma. Three great rivers—the Salween, Mekong, and Yangtze—have cut deep gorges through the mountains. These gorges run parallel to each other in a region only 60 miles wide. The area is sparsely inhabited by Tibetan, Bai, and Naxi people. The party, the first Westerners allowed in the area for 60 years, penetrated as far as the town of Deqen and to Yunnan's highest mountain, 22,440-foot Kang Karmo.

On October 4 Messrs Bates and Carter will show slides of their trip, *emphasizing* the rugged topography encountered and hardy people befriended along the way.

Please note the dates of future meetings: Nov. 15, Dec. 12, Jan. 17, Feb. 14, March 14, April 18, and May 23. Next month W. Stephen Thomas will speak on the golden age of travel.

CLUB NOTES: We welcome new members Lewis Naylor Scotton and Ms. Blue Magruder.

Kathryn Nickel, *Secretary*

Harvard Travellers Club
P.O. Box 413
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Boston, MA 02123



1988-1989

The second meeting of the season will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on Tuesday November 15, 1988. Cocktails will be served at 6:15 PM; dinner is at 7:00 PM (price \$25.00 per person); and the meeting will start at 8:15 PM. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Reservations or cancellations must be received by the Friday preceding the meeting. The Club must pay for dinners of those who do not attend after having indicated they would. Therefore, members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge. Wine will be served with dinner.

THE 1930'S: A GOLDEN AGE OF TRAVEL AND EXPLORATION

Our member, W. Stephen Thomas, is the director (retired) of the Museum and Science Center in Rochester, New York. He is a naturalist, historian, and museologist who has been a member of the Harvard Travellers Club for the past 57 years.

After a brief sketch of our Club's early history, Mr Thomas will share colorful anecdotes and reminiscences of some of our more adventuresome members of the 1930s. These include Vilhjalmur Stefansson and Bob Bartlett, both of Arctic fame; also Dr. William Lord Smith, a famous hunter and naturalist whom Theodore Roosevelt called "Tiger Smith;" Dr. Thomas Barbour, an authority on snakes; Herbert J. Spinden, archaeologist and unraveler of the Mayan calendar; and-- of course -- Harold J. Coolidge, the world renowned conservationist and expert on gorillas.

On November 15, Mr. Thomas will show slides of these men, their ventures, and their many contributions.

CLUB NOTES: We welcome new member Edmund K. Summersby.

Please note the dates of future meetings: Dec. 13, Jan. 17, Feb. 14, March 14, April 18, and May 23. Next month H. Bradford Washburn and Barry C. Bishop will speak on the mapping of Everest. This will be an especially festive event honoring our medalists, 50 year members and other distinguished members.

If you have not received your new Yearbook, please contact the Secretary.

Life memberships are now \$500.

Please contact the Secretary if you have a current address for these "missing members": Lucy Jones Langman, Vaughan A. Langman, Owen Lattimore, Dennis Mc Allister, Walter Lee Straus, Mrs. Roger Nichols.

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633rd Meeting

Number 3

1988-1989

MEDALISTS NIGHT

The Club meeting of December 13, 1988 will be the first annual Medalists Night, at which we recognize past officers of the Club, 25- and 50-year members, Fellows and Honorary members, and – above all – recipients of the Club Medal, the Harvard Travellers Club's highest honor. The special dinner this evening will be \$35 per person. Cocktails will be served at 6:15PM; dinner is at 7:00PM in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club; and the meeting will start at 8:15PM. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Reservations or cancellations must be received by the Friday preceding the meeting. The Club must pay for dinners of those who do not attend after having indicated they would. Therefore, members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge. Wine will be served with dinner.

MAPPING MOUNT EVEREST

Our member, Dr. H. Bradford Washburn, Jr., is former director of the Boston Museum of Science and a leading figure in international cartography. Dr. Barry C. Bishop is a distinguished geographer with the National Geographic Society. Dr. Bishop is an Honorary member of our Club; Dr. Washburn is a Club Medalist who has been a member since 1931.

For the past eight years Drs. Washburn and Bishop have collaborated with people and institutions in eleven countries to create the most detailed map of Mt. Everest in existence. The map combines vertical photography taken from the U.S. space shuttle Columbia with earlier ground surveys conducted by the British, Chinese, and Austrians. Then the area was rephotographed from an altitude of 39,400 feet using a Swissair Wild RC-10 aerial camera. Contouring of the 366-square mile area on a scale of 1:10,000 was completed by Swissair Photo in Zurich, followed by relief-shading, cliff-drawing, nomenclature, and cartographic artwork performed at the Swiss Federal Institute of Topography. Eleven million copies of the map have been produced to date, including publication in the November 1988 issue of the National Geographic magazine.

On December 13, Drs. Washburn and Bishop will show slides of the project as it unfolded, culminating in a recent five-week trip to Nepal and China to thank all who contributed to this unique product, the first precise, large-scale map of Mt. Everest and its environs.

Please reserve these dates for future meetings: Jan. 17, Feb. 14, Mar. 14, April 18, and May 23. In January Dr. Farouk El-Baz will speak on the deserts of China.

CLUB NOTES: If you have not paid your '88-89 dues, please do so now to save the Club the expense of sending you a second notice.

Club ties will be available at the meeting for \$15.00. There are only a small number left and they will not be reordered in the near future.

Kathryn Nickel, *Secretary*

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634th Meeting

Number 4

1988-1989

The fourth meeting of the season will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on Tuesday, January 17, 1989. Cocktails will be served at 6:15 PM; dinner is at 7:00 PM (price \$25.00 per person); and the meeting will start at 8:15 PM. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Reservations or cancellations must be received by the Friday preceding the meeting. The Club must pay for dinners of those who do not attend after having indicated they would. Therefore, members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge. Wine will be served with dinner.

JOURNEY TO THE DESERTS OF NORTHWESTERN CHINA

Dr. Farouk El-Baz is Research Professor and Director of the Center for Remote Sensing at Boston University. Between 1978 and 1981 he served as science advisor to the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

Dr. El-Baz was a member of the first group of American scientists to be invited in 1980 to visit northwestern China, a territory which had been closed to foreigners for four decades. He served as the geologist on a team of specialists during a six-week journey into China's desert regions, a trip that was sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Since then he has been host to and co-worker with several Chinese desert specialists. In addition, he has contributed to the study of China's arid regions through the analysis of satellite photographs.

On January 17 Dr. El-Baz will show slides of the deserts of China, noting their inexorable expansion as well as the efforts of local inhabitants in Ganzu and Xinjiang to halt the advance of immense sand dunes.

Please note the dates of future meetings: Feb. 14, March 14, April 18, and May 23. Next month Tom Brosnahan will speak on his travels in Turkey.

Kathryn Nickel, *Secretary*

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635th Meeting

Number 5

1988-1989

The fifth meeting of the season will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, February 14, 1989**. Cocktails will be served at 6:15 PM; dinner is at 7:00 PM (price \$25.00 per person); and the meeting will start at 8:15PM. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Reservations or cancellations must be received by the Friday preceding the meeting. The Club must pay for dinners of those who do not attend after having indicated they would. Therefore, members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge. Wine will be served with dinner.

TRAVELS IN TURKEY

Tom Brosnahan is an author of travel books who lives in Concord, Massachusetts. He first went to Turkey as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1967 and has returned on numerous occasions since then. His publications include Turkey - A Travel Survival Kit and Turkey on \$25 A Day.

On February 14 Mr. Brosnahan will discuss Turkey as one of the world's greatest cradles of civilization whose pre-history includes some of humanities earliest communities, among them Catal Hoyuk (7,500 B.C.). He will review a history that spans a dozen distinct cultures, from the Hittites through the Hellenistic empire, the Romans, the Seljuks, the Ottomans, and the Turkish Republic. His talk, illustrated with slides, will provide an overview of the land, its people, and the major civilizations which have flourished there, with particular focus on the beautiful Anatolian region of eastern Turkey.

Please reserve the following dates for meetings: March 14, April 18, and May 23. In March, Kenneth S. Brecher will speak on the Wausha tribe of the Brazilian Amazon.

CLUB NOTES: Please notify the club secretary if you have current addresses for the following "missing" members: Ms. Katherine Bailey, Mr. Jeffrey Lewis Morby, Mr. George Putnam, and Mr. Walter Straus.

We have club ties in navy available at \$15.00 each. Please contact the secretary to purchase one.

Kathryn Nickel, *Secretary*

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636th Meeting

Number 6

1988-1989

The sixth meeting of the season will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, March 14, 1989**. Cocktails will be served at 6:15 PM; dinner is at 7:00 PM (price \$25.00 per person); and the meeting will start at 8:15 PM. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Reservations or cancellations must be received by the Friday preceding the meeting. The Club must pay for dinners of those who do not attend after having indicated they would. Therefore, members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge. Wine will be served with dinner.

THE WAUSHA TRIBESMEN OF THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

Kenneth S. Brecher is an anthropologist who currently serves as Director of the Children's Museum in Boston.

While doing post-graduate studies at Oxford in the early 1970's, Mr. Brecher became a member of the Royal Society/Royal Geographical Society expedition to central Brazil. There he made contact with 15 tribes, including the Wausha, a distinct tribe of 100 individuals having its own language and social order while living in the most isolated reaches of the Xingu River. The Wausha are hunter-gatherers in the Amazonian forest who have had little contact with the outside world. Mr. Brecher spent two years among them. He is the first non-Indian to speak their language and the last anthropologist to do fieldwork in their midst before the arrival of the Trans-Amazon Highway.

On March 14, Mr. Brecher will show slides of the Wausha and their habitat. He will discuss Wausha family life and the role of myth, ritual, and symbol in giving meaning to it. He will introduce the tribe's chief, a commanding figure functioning as warrior, philosopher, and psychologist rolled into one. Finally he will describe Amazonian solutions to such universal concerns as love, the stages of life, and death.

Please reserve the following dates for meetings: April 18 and May 23. In April, Dr. James Abel will speak on the Arctic Barrens of Canada's Northwest Territories.

CLUB NOTES: We welcome Dr. Robert Aranow as a new member.

We have club ties in navy available at \$15.00 each. Please contact the secretary to purchase one.

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637th Meeting

Number 7

1988-1989

The seventh meeting of the season will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, April 18, 1989**. Cocktails will be served at 6:15 PM; dinner is at 7:00 PM (price \$25.00 per person); and the meeting will start at 8:15PM. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Reservations or cancellations must be received by the Friday preceding the meeting. The Club must pay for dinners of those who do not attend after having indicated they would. Therefore, members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge. Wine will be served with dinner.

ARCTIC BARRENS EXPEDITIONS: A 1972-1988 RETROSPECTIVE

Dr. James R. Abel is a senior staff physician at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst.

Dr. Abel first travelled to the Subarctic and Arctic regions of Canada's Northwest Territories in 1972, when he served as team physician for the Arctic Barrens Expedition sponsored by Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington. In the ensuing years he trained to become a Flat Water and White Water Canoeing Instructor. In 1980 Dr. Abel was appointed director of the Arctic Barrens Expedition programs, which were relocated two years later to New England, where they have since enjoyed academic sponsorship by the University of Massachusetts.

Over the years more than 250 men and women have participated as team members on these canoe expeditions. Dr. Abel's personal experiences encompass more than 10,000 miles of travel by portage and canoe across scores of lakes and on many rivers of the remote and vast tundra in the Great Barrenlands.

On April 18, Dr. Abel will give a pictorial essay of these adventures. His slide show is a multi-image, four-projector program with a musical format and live narration.

Please reserve the following dates for meetings: May 23, October 10, November 14. In May, David A. May will speak on trekking in the Annapurna region of Nepal and we will have our Annual Meeting.

CLUB NOTES: We welcome Susan Wakefield Coons and Tom Brosnahan as new members. We are saddened to report the following deaths: Brenton Dickson, August 29, 1988; George Clowes, September 10, 1988; Royal Little, January 14, 1989; Colton Hazard, March 11, 1989.

A few club ties are available for purchase at \$15.00 each. Please contact the Secretary.

Kathryn Nickel, *Secretary*

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REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Article VII of the Constitution, the Nominating Committee presents the following nominations for the year 1989-1990.

<i>President:</i>	Dr. John Osgood Field
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Robert B. Stephenson Katharine Walters
<i>Secretary-Treasurer:</i>	Robert Owen Boardman
<i>Councillors:</i>	George P. Bates George N. Bradt Daniel W. Senecal Sidney Butler Smith Gabrielle H. Whitehouse

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN H. ROSS, *Chairman*
DAVID THRONDIKE
DR. JOHN B. STANBURY
Nominating Committee



638th Meeting

Number 8

1988 - 1989

The ninth meeting of the season will be held in the Asclepian Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, May 23, 1989**. Cocktails will be served at 6:15 PM; dinner is at 7:00 PM (price \$25.00 per person); and the meeting will start at 8:15 PM. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Reservations or cancellations must be received by the Friday preceding the meeting. The Club must pay for dinners of those who do not attend after having indicated they would. Therefore, members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge. Wine will be served with dinner.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The following amendment to the Constitution has been approved by the Council and will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

That Article III, No. 2 shall hereafter include Emeritus members.

That Article III, No. 7 shall be added as follows:

Emeritus members are senior members of the Club to be honored by this status in lieu of resignation under special circumstances and in the sole discretion of the Council. They may receive Club announcements and may attend meetings but are exempt from paying dues.

ANNAPURNA HIMAL

Our member, David A. May, is an entrepreneur-investor with a background in population studies in India and manufacturing in Ghana.

In October 1986 Mr. May and his wife Doris, also a member of the club, organized a 20-day trek around Annapurna (26,502 ft.) in central Nepal. The trek crossed six unique scenery zones and five distinct cultures among the local inhabitants. Beginning in the pre-harvest rice fields of the lowlands at 1,500 feet, their circuit reached the physical and emotional high point of the Throng La at 17,700 feet, before plunging into the deepest river valley in the world, the Kali Ghandaki, amid 8,000 meter peaks. The trip back to Pokhara took the Mays and their party through rhododendron forests with breathtaking view of the Annapurna massive from the south.

On May 23, Mr. May will show slides and share the sights and feelings of this classic trek through one of the most beautiful topographies in the world.

CLUB NOTES: We would like to welcome Nathaniel Bates as a new member. Please see the Annual Report for upcoming meeting dates.

Kathryn Nickel, *Secretary*

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