1 of E

Computer File : Inst of Geo Exp.

Institute of Geographical Exploration

A Nod to Ham Rice

The story has been told of how **Alexander Hamilton Rice**, A.B. 1898, M.D. '04, in 1929 offered to build Harvard an **Institute of Geographical Exploration** at 2 Divinity Avenue if in return he was named its director and appointed a professor; how President A. Lawrence Lowell and the Corporation accepted the deal, perhaps in deference to Mrs. Rice's money, she being the former Eleanor Elkins Widener; how academic politics smote Harvard's geographers and geologists; how President James B. Conant, declaring that geography is not a university subject, scuttled the geography department in 1948; how Rice, piqued by this dissing of his discipline, withdrew his support and went back to Eleanor's 65-room Newport cottage in his chauffeured, blue Rolls Royce; and how Harvard closed his institute in 1952 and installed in its place the Harvard-Yenching Institute and the department of East Asian languages and civilizations, whose personnel may have been puzzled about why the bas-relief globe above the building's entrance shows North and South America, rather than Asia ("Harvard, Bring Back Geography!" by Edward Tenner, May-June 1988).

What has not been told is that on December 10, 1998, a plaque honoring Rice was unveiled in the vestibule of 2 Divinity Avenue. **H. Bradford Washburn** '33, L.H.D. '75, once a student of Rice's, later assistant director of his institute, and then director of Boston's Museum of Science—a celebrated aerial photographer and cartographer of the Grand Canyon, Mount McKinley, Everest, and now the Himalayas--had suggested to the University that some recognition of Rice's contributions to geology was in order.

"Rivers became [Rice's] specialty," wrote Tenner. "He knew headwaters the way other society folk know headwaiters." "On seven expeditions to South America he...explored some 500,000 square miles of the Amazon basin," Thayer Soule '39 writes in his memoir, On the Road with Travelogues. "On his last trip, in 1924-25, he...ascended the Orinoco River to its headwaters, traversed the natural Casquiare Canal, and descended the Rio Branco to the Amazon at Manaos. It was the first expedition to use aerial photography and shortwave radio." A map resulted, Washburn said in remarks at the unveiling, "the first map, I believe, of a large area that was ever made from the air."

In charge of the camera work was Captain Albert W. Stevens, U.S. Army, who went on to do extraordinary things with high-altitude balloons and become one of several distinguished lecturers in Rice's institute. While Rice himself expounded to students the history of geographical exploration, he engaged others to pioneer the field of photogrammetry.

The plaque honoring Rice thus reads in part: "Within these walls, he and his colleagues laid the foundations for the mapping of the world from the air."

http://map.harvard.edu/level4/SciLabs/twodivinity.shtml

Two Divinity Avenue
[Back to map | Main Map | Search the Map | FAS Home Page]

Two Divinity Avenue is located to the rear of William James Hall. The building currently houses the Harvard-Yenching Library, the Department of East Asian Languages and

Civilizations, the Committee on regional Studies--East Asia, the Harvard-Yenching Institute, and the Visiting Scholars Program. Built in 1930, it housed the **Institute of Geographical Exploration** until 1958, when Harvard discontinued its geography department. The building has also housed the departments of mathematics and statistics, which are now located in the Science Center.

Two Divinity Avenue was designed by Horace Trumbauer (hon. A.M. 1915), the architect of Widener Library. Construction and maintenance funds were donated by **Dr. and Mrs. A. Hamilton Rice (formerly Mrs. Widener).** Marble plaques representing the signs of the zodiac adorn the exterior of the building, and over the entrance is an Aitoff projection of the world. The building's two guardian lions were given to the Harvard-Yenching Institute by Polly Thayer Starr, in memory of her parents Ezra Ripley Thayer (Dean of Harvard Law School from 1910 to 1915) and Ethel Randolph Thayer, who brought the lions from China. In the main corridor hangs a picture of Charles M. Hall, the discoverer of the process for commercial production of aluminum.

http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~maps/hpabout.htm

The Harvard Map Collection is one of the largest and oldest collections of cartographic materials in the United States. It was formed with the gift of the Ebeling Collection of 10,000 maps and books, purchased by Israel Thorndike and presented to the University in 1818. Daniel Christoph Ebeling, a professor of Greek and History at the Gymnasium in Hamburg, was an authority on America. It was during the preparation of his significant Erdbeschreibung und Geschichte von Amerika (1793-1816) that he acquired many maps of North America. Although the seven published volumes of the Erdbeschreibung included no maps, Ebeling enlisted the aid of geographer Daniel Friederich Sotzmann to compile and draft maps for an Atlas von Nordamerika. While eighteen maps were drawn, only ten were actually published, and Harvard is one of the few American collections to have all ten copies of these rare maps.

With this solid beginning, the Harvard Map Collection slowly increased in size. The collection of New England cartographic materials grew substantially in the era of Reconstruction following the Civil War. This was the great railroad-building period, as well as one of significant urban growth. Boston's population increased from 177,840 in 1860 to 560,842 in 1900, and Harvard's collection of Boston and New England maps reflects this growth. With the appointment of Justin Winsor as Librarian in 1877, acquisitions increased in all areas. Winsor identified the map collection as an area for expansion and used the collection extensively for his own research, specifically his Bibliography of Ptolemy's Geography (Cambridge, 1884) and Bibliography of the Kohl Collection of Maps Relating to America (Washington, GPO, 1904). With the opening of the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library in 1915, the map collection was given more appropriate accommodations and renamed the Winsor Memorial Map Room.

The collection grew steadily during the two world wars and received a large influx of maps in 1957. The closing of Harvard's **Institute of Geographical Exploration** resulted in 90,000 sheet maps being transferred to the Map Collection, thereby increasing holdings in every geographical area. In 1962, the library commissioned R.A. Skelton, of the British Museum, to survey the Harvard Map Collection and report on its future. Skelton recommended better cataloging and improved accommodations and the collection moved to the Lamont Library in 1964 and then to its present location in Pusey Library in 1976.

Since its inception almost two centuries ago, the Harvard Map Collection has grown to encompass 400,000 maps, 6,000 atlases and 5,000 reference books. The library's collections include rare editions of Mercator, Ortelius, and Ptolemaic atlases, as well as large-scale current topographic maps for geographic areas throughout the world. The collection also includes early state maps, county maps, and town maps from the mid-nineteenth century. While these maps are often located among random local repositories, they are seldom found in such numbers in a centralized regional collection.

One of the most notable sections of the collection is its strong holdings of New England. Among the New England maps is the very rare 1753 Plan of the British Dominions of New England published by Boston physician William Douglas, which became the source for the very popular Jefferys Map of the Most Inhabited Part of New England, published two years later. The collection also includes examples from one of New England's most notable cartographers, Osgood Carleton. His published maps for Boston, Maine, and Massachusetts are represented in the collection, as well as a Maine map in manuscript. The Sotzmann maps and a unique series of early state maps drawn by such cartographers as Samuel Holland, James Whitelaw, Amos Doolittle, and H.F. Walling, are among the first examples of American cartography, representing the new republic's definition of its boundaries and transportation systems.

Another of the signal strengths of the Harvard Map Collection are its holdings of early railroad maps. Included are railroad plans and surveys for railroads that grew far beyond New England, along with many which either went out of business early, or were never developed beyond the planning stage. A small sampling of this collection includes the 1828 survey for a railroad from Boston to the Connecticut River; an 1838 plan for the Boston and Worcester Railroad; an 1845 railroad route from Boston to Lake Champlain; an 1845 Vermont Central Railroad map; an 1845 Portsmouth and Concord Railroad map; an 1850 European and North American Railroad map; and an 1850 proposed railroad from Boston to Burlington.

The Massachusetts collection is by far the largest, and includes a rare manuscript map of the state dating from the mid-eighteenth century. A unique collection of unpublished county maps by H.F. Walling are extant as publisher's proofs and many of the early 1830s Massachusetts town surveys and plans of individual towns are also included. Numerous maps, some in manuscript, of Boston and Cambridge from the colonial period will also be found.

Harvard's New England map collection is complemented by extraordinary book and manuscript collections in American history, colonial history, and New England history. The College Library's local history sources are well developed and include a significant collection of pamphlet materials dealing with individuals and New England history. The printed materials documenting New England are also chronologically comprehensive.

INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHICAL EXPLORATION (from Scrapbooks in computer)

"Dr. Erwin Raisz was appointed Librarian. The question of the library was fully discussed and it was decided to present to the Library of the Institute of Geographical Research all of our travel books not written by members of the Harvard Travellers Club and to confine our library to works of members of the Club."
(Minutes of Council Meeting, 7 May 1936. Min1 p36 item47)

13 regular meetings were held at the IGE between November 23, 1931 (Meeting 201) and April 12, 1949 (Meeting 317). Several of these were Ladies' Night. Famous speakers in the IGE: Bertram Thomas, Roy Chapman Andrews, Lieutenant Colonel Ilia Tolstoy (grandson of the novelist).
(from regular meeting database)

HARVARD, BRING BACK GEOGRAPHY!

Academic politics put an end to an old and useful field of study—but the loss is not irreversible.

by EDWARD TENNER

The year 1988 marks two notable events in our knowledge of the earth. The first is the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the National Geographic Society. The second is the fortieth anniversary of the abolition of the geography department at Harvard. If you can slap a whole discipline in the face, Harvard did. It hurt. Jean Gottmann, long the head of the department at Oxford, later told the Rutgers geographer Neil Smith that Harvard's action was "a terrible blow" from which the field "has never completely recovered." It didn't help Harvard, either.

Fortunately, Smith and the Boston University historian Thomas Glick have been clearing away the gossip and innuendo that surrounded Harvard's purge of geography. Smith's "Academic War Over the Field of Geography" in the June 1987 *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* (to which I am indebted for both facts and issues of the event) shows how academic politics and geographers' own disagreements brought on the debacle.

At Harvard, Nathaniel Southgate Shaler (1841-1906) and his disciple William Morris Davis (1850-1934) had been giants among geologically trained nineteenth-century geographers. Davis was a memorable graduate teacher whose influence is felt in physical geography to this day. But for decades geography remained a subsidiary part of the geology department. Derwent Whittlesey, appointed in 1928, fought to expand the field as a separate area of research and to promote its historical and political side. During World War II a University committee on postwar plans called attention to the need for trained geographers and recommended that geography be further expanded and given departmental status. Shortly after the war Harvard hired two outstanding younger geographers, Edward Ackerman '34, Ph.D. '39, and Edward Ullman, A.M. '35, as assistant professors.

Geography appeared to be flourishing. Geographic skills, so often linked to economic and military power, had been invaluable during the war. America's new global role seemed to cry out for them. Yet a single tenure decision showed how precarious geography's position was. It was becoming too big (and too strongly social-scientific) to remain a part of the geology department. Yet Marland P. Billings '23, Ph.D. '27, the chairman of that department, saw human geography as a drain on the resources of geology and a doubtful discipline. In the spring of 1947 Billings opposed his own department's vote to promote Ackerman—an unquestionably gifted scholar—and urged Harvard's provost, Paul Buck, to let the geography program expire.

An ad hoc committee convened by Buck supported the promotion recommendation but was overruled by Buck and President James Conant. To the amazement of the senior faculty and the irritation and outrage of many students and alumni, they dissolved the nascent department. Derwent Whittlesey was kept on, but other geographers, including Ackerman, were to be fired. Conant turned the knife when he stated in a directive that "geography is not a university subject." Administrators argued that Harvard could not maintain programs in every field and could not expect sufficient financial support to stay in the vanguard of geographic research and teaching.

The decisive figure in the fall of geography at Harvard turns out to have been Isaiah Bowman '05, president of the Johns Hopkins University and a former student of William Morris Davis. Bowman, who had just joined the Board of Overseers,

PHOTOGRAPH BY JANE REED

sat on Buck's ad hoc committee. As Neil Smith points out, he was a vigorous promoter of geography in the Federal government and elsewhere, yet as an Overseer he remained silent and stalled all efforts to get him to intervene on behalf of geography at Harvard. His abstention doomed the department.

Bowman's reasons were partly personal. He was hostile to Derwent Whittlesey. Years before, the young Whittlesey had offended him by declining an invitation to adapt Bowman's *The New World* for the high-school market. (Whittlesey's supposed homosexuality also seems to have offended the puritanical Bowman.) It didn't help that, independently of all this, former President Abbott Lawrence Lowell had allowed Alexander Hamilton Rice '98, M.D. '04, a grandiloquent, decoration-collecting gentleman explorer, to finance a professorial chair and an "Institute of Geographic Exploration" for himself (see opposite page). In the late forties Rice was still lecturing at the institute, commuting from Newport in a chauffeured Rolls Royce.

But as Smith notes, academic issues were even more important to Bowman. He believed that historical and political geography, unlike geography, was unscientific. Its special [illegible] of the new generation of geographers, [illegible] Bowman seems to have hoped that he could persuade Conant to reestablish geography at Harvard on a solider basis. But when a committee was formed in 1949 to reconsider the status of geography, Bowman's published claims for the field were dismissed by one of its members—the historian Frederick Merk—as "digressive and diffuse and disjointed." As Smith puts it, "Bowman's silence condemned Harvard geography; his words provided nails for the coffin."

PRINCIPALS IN THE FALL OF GEOGRAPHY AT HARVARD

Derwent Whittlesey fought to expand geography and promote its human side. His defeat was unexpected and crushing.

Marland Billings, geologist and department chairman, was in favor of letting the geography program expire.

Overseer Isaiah Bowman, a self-styled champion of the field, kept mum when Harvard geographers needed him.

Provost Paul Buck, backed by President James Conant, overrode an ad hoc committee's vote and scuttled the department.

President Conant added insult to injury when he stated in a directive that "geography is not a university subject."

PHOTOGRAPH OF BILLINGS, GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA; OTHERS, HARVARD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Harvard's decision to do away with geography points to a dilemma of research universities. They cannot do everything. Funds are limited, and were especially so in 1948. They must make hard choices. They must specialize. This has long been the central dogma of American academic administration. The *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* quoted approvingly from the 1947 commencement speech of President Ernest C. Colwell of the University of Chicago: "The time has passed when a university can succeed in becoming all things to all students."

This necessary truism is in fact a half-truth, avoiding the question of what is worth teaching, and where. If some programs are starved, dissolved, and cannibalized for the sake of others, there are value judgments at work, conscious or not. Balliol's Benjamin Jowett was lampooned as declaring "there's no knowledge but I know it." When President Conant pained Bowman, his brother captain of erudition, by declaring that geography was "not a university subject," he showed how easily pieties of specialization yield rationalizations of indifference.

Geographers lost at Harvard and elsewhere, as Smith shows, in part because they could not present Conant and others with a powerful and coherent definition of their discipline. But a field of study hardly needs a consensus to be viable. Historians, art historians, and literary scholars may be almost as divided now as geographers were in 1948, yet no one suggests banishing them from the academy. I think geography has a different set of problems.

The first is the curse of the phenomena: the need to teach the most elementary facts. Recently, a quarter of Dallas high-school seniors were unable to identify the country south of the U.S. border. A North Carolina survey of *college* students revealed, among other things, that "the Soviet Union lies between Panama and Nicaragua" and that "Africa is the only country in the Americas that is larger than the United States." Only about a third of the students could place the Seine in France, a quarter the Amazon in Brazil, a fifth the Ganges in India. Dublin appeared in Ohio, Vladivostok in Germany, and Lima in Italy.

This ignorance alarms American geographers. They know their discipline has less academic support here than in any other industrial country. But they also resent the lay assumption, perhaps secretly shared by some fellow academics, that the geographer is (in G.H.T. Kimble's words) "a dealer in terrestrial bric-a-brac, whose sole function is to provide other people with the answers to quiz questions." When President Conant told the young Harvard geographer Edward Ullman about his excellent elementary-school geography teacher who had taught him where all the rivers and mountains were, the

WHEN SCHOLARS WERE GENTLEMEN

Indiana Jones he wasn't. Alexander Hamilton Rice '98, M.D. '04, was a proper Bostonian, named for a grandfather who had been mayor of the city and later governor of Massachusetts (1874-1876). The young Rice began his exploring as a College junior, accompanying a party "a short way" inside the Arctic Circle. He dropped in and out of medical school to travel around the world and mounted an expedition from Quito to the Amazon.

If Rice ever practiced medicine (apart from some World War I service) he never said much about it later. Rivers became his specialty instead. He knew headwaters the way other society folk know headwaiters. In his 25th-anniversary class report we learn that he had "[e]stablished Unilla and Hilla as the N. & S. sources respectively of the Caiari-Vaupés" in 1908; ascended Rio Incrida to its source in 1913 ("till then unknown"), then found the source of the Içana (ditto). His greatest exploit was being "lost" and "found" by the Boston press: EXPLORER RICE DENIES THAT HE WAS EATEN BY CANNIBALS, read one headline.

The expedition that led him to a Harvard chair was one not to the equatorial rain forest but to the dedication of Widener Library in 1915: Eleanor Elkins Widener, the donor, and Hamilton Rice discovered each other. Although he had resembled Beefsteak Charlie as a student, he must have swept her off her feet. President Lowell presented him with an honorary degree at the same Commencement—as "explorer of tropical America, who heard the wild call of nature and revealed her hiding-place." The faculty Memorial Minute would later note his height, "powerful build, broad shoulders, narrow hips, and long, thin legs. A boxer in college, he never lost the characteristic posture and walk . . . He had a vise-like grip. His physical and

Alexander Hamilton Rice: from the Arctic to the Amazon.

nervous energy were prodigious, and his aura of tension included all near him." The local newspapers had a field day again: DR. RICE TO WED TITANIC WIDOW.

The Elkins and Widener fortunes—Eleanor left him $60 million on her death in 1937, when that was a lot of money—helped finance more exploring, Abercrombie class. It included another close carnivorous encounter on the upper Orinoco with what Rice, evidently an expert on such matters, termed "so-called white Indians." "Several casualties on the cannibals [sic] side," he wrote in his class report; Franz Boas he wasn't, either.

The Rices set up housekeeping in Eleanor's 65-room Newport cottage, Miramar. Eleanor failed to secure the presidency of the American Geographical Society (AGS) in New York for Hamilton despite a promise of a $1 million endowment, according to the geographer Neil Smith; perhaps fatefully for Harvard geography, the incumbent she proposed to oust was Isaiah Bowman (see main article).

Undaunted by AGS ingratitude, Rice established Harvard's Institute of Geographical Exploration with his wife's help in 1930-31. The Philadelphia society architect Horace Trumbauer, who had designed Widener Library, left stacks for 80,000 books and ample rooms for the best in shortwave radio, an excellent map collection, and the last word in surveying and cartographic equipment.

The title of Professor of Geographical Exploration was apparently a condition of his gift, and Rice lectured majestically on how to mount an expedition. Then in 1950 he took a pleasure trip to Europe and failed to meet his classes, which were cancelled. Two years later, piqued by the decline of geography at Harvard, he withdrew his support. Harvard closed his institute and took over the building, which was later occupied by the Harvard-Yenching Institute.

When Rice died in 1956 his biography was one of the longest in *Who's Who*, thanks to membership in "an exceptionally large number of military, medical and historical societies, and . . . medals and awards which are really too numerous to mention," as he had put it in his last class report. Who can say whether he really mapped 500,000 square miles of South America, as he claimed, or whether he bought his Harvard chair, as his many detractors in professional geography claimed?

Whatever the truth, he shows what was possible when the American mind was wide open and scholars were gentlemen. He started a school for "indigenis" children in the Amazon and raised half a million dollars for Francisco Franco. Well might his classmates quote from *As You Like It* in the 1938 reunion report:

> After a voyage, he hath strange places cramm'd
> With observation, the which he vents
> In mangled forms.

wounded Ullman replied (according to Thomas Glick): "We don't do rivers and mountains any more."

Most outreach to nongeographers has come from the lay-managed 10.5-million-member National Geographic Society; the professional American Geographical Society and Association of American Geographers have 1,300 and 5,700 members respectively. The Society has begun to share some of its $400-million budget with academic geography and to support its teaching in the schools. Yet Christopher L. Slater, the U.C.L.A. geographer who coordinates the National Geographic Society's Geographic Alliance Network for research geographers and high-school teachers, acknowledges that assistant professors who work with teachers "risk having to wear the scarlet E, for Education."

Geography's second problem, evident to geographers themselves, is confusion of boundaries. Even in its more academic origins, the magazine of the National Geographic Society was established to report on "the earth and everything on it." Geography is physical, biological, social, and humanistic, pure and applied. It mixes with geomorphology, meteorology, ecol-

ogy, political science, economics, history, sociology, urban studies, planning, psychology, and philosophy—among others.

Fearing partition, geographers sometimes dream of conquest. Thomas Glick points out that in the 1920s, Clark University phased out doctoral programs in chemistry, physics, and mathematics and combined *all* the others in its Graduate School of Geography. Geography, as its historians have observed, combines a lack of a central method with an equally strong conviction of its unity as a discipline. This makes it hard to start a department and easy to dissolve one, as Stanford (1962), Yale (late 1960s), and Michigan (1981) have done. A feature of the spring 1987 meeting of the Association of American Geographers, according to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, was a seminar for department chairmen "to find out what they could do to avoid finding their departments on a university hit list."

Isaiah Bowman's refusal to help his Harvard colleagues points to a third problem: "The tendency," as the historical geographer Carl Sauer put it in 1941, "to question not the competence, originality or significance of research that has been offered to us, but the admissibility of work because it may or may not satisfy a narrow definition of geography." Where does debate end and fratricide begin? Few subjects have displayed such a magnificent range of method and ideology, from nationalist geopoliticians like the German Albrecht Haushofer to visionary anarchists like the Russian Prince Peter Kropotkin and the Frenchman Elisée Reclus. Among the Johns Hopkins colleagues of the Cold Warrior Bowman was the McCarthyist target Owen Lattimore. Rugged individualism, like diffuse subject matter, makes for good reading but not for concerted action.

If geographers cannot agree on a satisfactory definition of their own subject, lay people shouldn't try. But is it necessary to define a subject to recognize that it is worth studying? Is there a generally accepted definition of philosophy, or for that matter, of art? Do the divisions of psychology make the whole field questionable? Do the conflicts of quantitative and interpretive sociology make that discipline unworthy of representation at Harvard? Would we gain by splitting history into retrospective political science, economics, and sociology?

The best defense of geography is not what it *is* but what it *does*. If geographers have distinctive techniques to contribute to a university, and these fit with its goals, there should be a place for them. In the years since Harvard abolished geography, the field has been more influential than most people suppose. The French *Annales* historians have captivated the English-speaking academic world in the last fifteen years; Lucien Febvre and Marc Bloch were indebted to the historical geographer Paul Vidal de la Blanche. Traian Stoianovich has calculated the ratio of historical geography to social history in Fernand Braudel's *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II* as five to one.

The 1955 Princeton symposium, *Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*, of which the proceedings were published in two volumes by the University of Chicago Press, helped lay the foundations for a new generation of environmentalism. Meanwhile Gilbert F. White was transforming land-use planning with flood-plain management and other creative approaches to water and other environmental questions. Terence [illegible] remains the standard history of [illegible].

Jean Gottmann's *Megalopolis* awakened America to the transformation and the prospects of the Northeast Corridor. The work of Peter Gould, Reginald Golledge, and others on mental maps has shown planners the importance of perception. Donald W. Meinig's *Shaping of America* illuminates how empire worked in the eighteenth-century Atlantic. Yi-Fu Tuan's *Landscapes of Fear* analyzes the emotions we have attached to spaces.

Meanwhile the instruments of geography have been changing: Satellite maps, computer graphics, and high-speed microcomputers now make it possible for undergraduates to perform analyses and prepare maps and graphics that would once have taken hours of their professors' time.

Geography remains strong in the western part of this country. California high schools now have a geography requirement for graduation. John Noble Wilford has reported in the *New York Times* that there are now 6,000 to 7,000 undergraduate degrees awarded in geography each year, 750 masters, and 175 doctorates—all record levels. Geography majors are now offered at a quarter of American colleges and universities.

Harvard's fired junior faculty members went on to distinguished careers, and the 25 or so graduate students also seem to have done well. One of them, George Lewis, Ph.D. '56, now an emeritus professor at Boston University, remembers his teachers as "no phonies: real people interested in the field." Lewis also recalls meeting with a "flip" McGeorge Bundy, then Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, who received Lewis and other graduate students with his feet on his desk and assured them he would establish a geography department if they brought him "a few million bucks." Today the amount for a full department would have to be tens of millions, especially if Harvard were to seek the quality it would want. Could it be raised? I can't say, but Harvard has found endowments for an extraordinary variety of subjects.

In any case, it is possible to teach geography without starting a full department; geography lends itself to affiliation with other programs as few other fields do. Already John Stilgoe of the School of Design—a landscape historian rather than a geographer as such—has contributed to the field with his studies of the American vernacular landscape and of the "metropolitan corridor" formed by the railroads. Surely room could be made gradually for individual geographers, from America or overseas, in both natural and social sciences as funds were raised.

Even a single geographer might meet the need. At Princeton Julian Wolpert, who is Henry G. Bryant professor of geography, public affairs, and urban planning at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs, has shown that geography can thrive in alliance with related subjects. He reports that his undergraduate survey course is well subscribed and has led a number of students to pursue graduate work elsewhere.

The trend toward fewer and stronger departments, while necessary in some places, has gone too far in others. It has deprived Harvard of geographers' distinctive ways of analyzing and synthesizing information about the spaces we live in. It's time for the University to admit it was wrong and find a way to bring geography back.

Edward Tenner, a former junior fellow at Harvard, is executive editor at Princeton University Press and a contributing editor of this magazine.

Dr. Rice Ends Harvard Aid, Institute Closes

'Difference on Academic Values' Shuts Explorer's Building at University

A "difference of opinion" between Harvard University officials and Dr. Alexander Hamilton Rice, New York explorer and Harvard alumnus, has resulted in the closing of Harvard's Institute of Geographical Exploration in Cambridge, it was learned yesterday.

News of the closing came in a formal announcement by Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard, that "owing to Dr. Rice's decision to discontinue his financial support of the institute, it will be necessary to discontinue its operation effective at once."

Since its establishment in 1920, Dr. Conant said, the institute "has received its entire financial support directly from Dr. Rice," who, he said, "has decided to discontinue connection with and financial support of the institute."

Had Spent 2 Million

Although neither Dr. Rice, who lives at 901 Fifth Ave., nor Harvard officials would discuss the matter, it was learned that the explorer, a member of the class of 1898, had spent more than $2,000,000 on the institute, building the brick-and-granite structure at a cost of $400,000, equipping it and paying for its maintenance and staffing at an estimated annual outlay of $40,000.

"The university," Dr. Conant said, "has never contributed to its support in any way. The building and its contents which were the gift of Dr. Rice are the property of the university." With the withdrawal of Dr. Rice's support, he said, "the building will remain closed pending the decision of the president and fellows as to its future use." Dr. Rice, he added, had stated that he would pay the six employees of the institute, two of them courtesy instructors at Harvard, "an amount equal to what they would have received as salary through June 30, 1952."

Difference of Opinion"

Reached at his summer home at Newport, R. I., Dr. Rice refused to discuss the contents of a reportedly "scathing" letter he had written Dr. Conant, notifying him of his intention to withdraw his support from the institute.

"It's not a question of annoyance or anger," Dr. Rice said. "It's a matter of a difference of opinion on academic values and emphasis."

One aspect of the "difference of opinion," it was learned, was Dr. Rice's objection to the abolition of the geography major at Harvard.

A university official explained, however, that this was done in 1948. Up to that time, he said, it was possible for a student to select a "geography concentration" under the department of geological sciences. Since then, he said, students are able to take any number of geography courses, including those given by the two instructors at the institute. He said that last year fourteen students were registered for the courses given by the two. The other four employees of the institute were on its maintenance staff.

Dr. Rice, a noted physician and geographer, achieved particular fame for his expeditions to South America for the study of tropical diseases and native tribes. His first wife, the former Mrs. George D. Widener, who died in 1937, gave Harvard University its $2,000,000 Widener Memorial Library, in memory of her husband and son, Harry E. Widener, who died in the sinking of the Titanic.

Model A Ford Bests Freight Train in Crash

SAN JOSE, Calif., Oct. 4 (UP) —A Model A Ford driven by Orin Andrews, of San Francisco, ran into a seventy-car freight train at a grade crossing yesterday. The Ford suffered slight damage to the bumper, fender and radiator. The Southern Pacific Railroad had to send five freight cars to the shops for repairs.

2 Join Roosevelt Hospital

Raymond W. Brooke, of Washington, and Robert E. Toomey, of Cambridge, Mass., have joined the administrative staff of Roosevelt Hospital, it was announced yesterday by Dr. Madison B. Brown, executive vice-president and medical director. Mr. Brooke, who becomes an assistant director of the hospital, formerly held the same position with Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. Mr. Toomey, who is an administrative assistant in charge of out-patient services, was formerly an administrative resident with the Hospital Council of Greater New York.

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Since its establishment in 1920, Dr. Conant said, the institute "has received its entire financial support directly from Dr. Rice," who, he said, "has decided to discontinue connection with and financial support of the institute."

Had Spent 2 Million

Although neither Dr. Rice, who lives at 901 Fifth Ave., nor Harvard officials would discuss the matter, it was learned that the explorer, a member of the class of 1898, had spent more than $2,000,000 on the institute, building the brick-and-granite structure at a cost of $400,000, equipping it and paying for its maintenance and staffing at an estimated annual outlay of $40,000.

"The university," Dr. Conant said, "has never contributed to its support in any way. The building and its contents which were the gift of Dr. Rice are the property of the university." With the withdrawal of Dr. Rice's support, he said, "the building will remain closed pending the decision of the president and fellows as to its future use." Dr. Rice, he added, had stated that he would pay the six employees of the institute, two of them courtesy instructors at Harvard, "an amount equal to what they would have received as salary through June 30, 1952."

Difference of Opinion"

Reached at his summer home at Newport, R. I., Dr. Rice refused to discuss the contents of a reportedly "scathing" letter he had written Dr. Conant, notifying him of his intention to withdraw his support from the institute.

"It's not a question of annoyance or anger," Dr. Rice said. "It's a matter of a difference of opinion on academic values and emphasis."

One aspect of the "difference of opinion," it was learned, was Dr. Rice's objection to the abolition of the geography major at Harvard.

A university official explained, however, that this was done in 1948. Up to that time, he said, it was possible for a student to select a "geography concentration" under the department of geological sciences. Since then, he said, students are able to take any number of geography courses, including those given by the two instructors at the institute. He said that last year fourteen students were registered for the courses given by the two. The other four employees of the institute were on its maintenance staff.

Dr. Rice, a noted physician and geographer, achieved particular fame for his expeditions to South America for the study of tropical diseases and native tribes. His first wife, the former Mrs. George D. Widener, who died in 1937, gave Harvard University its $2,000,000 Widener Memorial Library, in memory of her husband and son, Harry E. Widener, who died in the sinking of the Titanic.

Copy to J. K. Howard, Esq.

January 22, 1936

Prof. Edward Laurens Mark
109 Irving Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Prof. Mark:

I am afraid you have thought that your generous offer of the photographs of President Lowell and President Eliot of Harvard to the Harvard Travellers Club had been forgotten but the delay in taking up the matter with you has been occasioned by the fact that your proposal had to be considered by the Council of the Club and was not within the jurisdiction of its President. No Council meeting has been held since you spoke to me until a short time ago.

The Council requests me to advise you that while we greatly appreciate your generosity in being willing to give these two pictures to us, it seems necessary to decline your offer with thanks and deep regret because the policy of the Club with respect to its room in the Institute of Geographical Exploration is to have therein only objects which have a direct significance from the point of view of travel and exploration. We have therefore found it necessary to decline several gifts which did not come within these limitations.

I trust you will feel that we are most appreciative and regretful, and particularly so because of your long membership in the Club and your loyal support of it.

Very sincerely yours,

GAL/G

George A. Lyon

158

THROUGH the Courtesy of the Institute of Geographical Exploration of Harvard College, the members of the Harvard Travellers Club are given the privilege of attending certain courses during the coming year without charge. All lectures last an hour and are held at the Institute at 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. Members taking advantage of this privilege are requested to sit at the rear of the Lecture Room. No formal registration will be necessary, but, as a matter of courtesy, it is suggested that the members inform whoever is in charge of the course that they are taking advantage of the invitation of the institute. Courses start Thursday, October 1, 1936. The following is a list of the courses. If a member wishes to attend one of the courses for which the hours are undetermined, please call Dr. Raisz at Kirkland 7600, Extension 373, to obtain further details.

Geography 31a — Dr. Rice

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12 o'clock.

First half year.

A lecture course on the history of geographical exploration and the principles of geography. This course also takes up in detail the essential requirements for the modern geographical explorer: physical and mental equipment, field methods, technical knowledge and morale.

Geography 32a — Reconnaissance Surveying — Mr. Washburn

Tuesday and Thursday at 2 o'clock, and additional hours for field work.

First half year.

An elementary course in the principles of geographical surveying and topographic mapping. This course deals especially with the preparation in the field of compass traverses, route surveys and plane-table maps, as used on the modern expedition.

Geography 32b — Topographical Surveying — Mr. Washburn and Dr. Raisz

Tuesday and Thursday at 2 o'clock, and additional hours for field work.

Second half year.

This course deals with the more precise fundamental technique of mapping, covering the elements of triangulation, traversing, and levelling with the aid of the theodolite and precise level.

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November 4th,
1 9 3 1.

Dr. A. Hamilton Rice,
901 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Rice:

As Secretary of the Harvard Travellers Club I am writing to express the thanks and appreciation of the organization for your generosity in setting aside a room in the new Institute of Geographical Exploration for the use of the Club. I understand that it will be called the Harvard Travellers Club Room and have the Club shield on the door.

Dr. Strong tells me that you have expressed a willingness to allow the Club to hold its next meeting on November 24th in your building and that you have very kindly offered to be the speaker at that meeting and to demonstrate the unusual appointments of your Lecture Hall with several reels of moving pictures. We look forward to this with much pleasure.

Will you please advise me the general subject of your talk and what pictures you will use so that a notice may go out to the members at once.

Very truly yours,

GAL-KAC

George A. Lyon, Secretary
P. O. Box 2287,
Boston, Massachusetts.

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-16

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New York, Dec. 18, 1931

Dear Mr. Lyon;

It was a great pleasure to receive your congratulatory telegram yesterday and I beg that you will, at the next meeting of the Harvard Travellers Club, express to all the members there present my gratitude for their generous memory of their "first president".

And will you at the same time extend to them my congratulations on the good fortune that has come to them in having the beautiful rooms of the Institute of Geographical Exploration for their meetings? I had opportunity of inspecting the fine rooms of that fine building under the guidance of its donor last September and was greatly pleased not only with them, but (as the minister said, in thanking his congregation for the gift of a jar of brandy-peaches) with the spirit in which they were given.

My service through the fall term at Columbia is now closed and on Dec. 27 I shall set out for California, but with a two-day stop at Tulsa, Okla. in order to receive there, at a meeting of the Geological Society of America, the medal that was the subject of your telegram. From January to June, 1932, I shall be lecturing at the California Institute of Technology; my address there being 441 S. Chester Ave. Pasadena, Calif. where it would be a pleasure to see you or any of the H.T.C. members who hav leisure for a real vacation.

Sincerely yours,

W. M. Davis

NEG NO: **146** FRAME: 8A DATE: 9/02

VIEW: Entrance, former I nstitute of Georgraphical Exploration, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge.

NEG NO: **146** FRAME: 6A DATE: 9/02

VIEW: Plaque at former I nstitute of Georgraphical Exploration, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge.

PURPOSE PATIENCE PERSEVERANCE
ARE FACTORS OF SUCCESSFUL GEOGRAPHICAL
EXPLORATION AND SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

NEG NO: **146** FRAME: 6A DATE: 9/02

VIEW: Plaque at former I nstitute of Georgraphical Exploration, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge.

NEG NO: **146** FRAME: 9A DATE: 9/02

VIEW: Facade, former I nstitute of Georgraphical Exploration, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge.

Geography 35a — Cartography — Dr. Raisz

Two lecture hours and six laboratory hours to be arranged.

First half year.

The historical development of maps. The study of projections, symbols, relief representation and contour lines; types of topography by the physiographic method. Diagrams, cartograms, globes and models. Conversion of field notes, sketches and aerial photographs into maps. Lettering, fairdrawing and methods of engraving.

Geography 35b — Geographic and Geologic Illustration — Dr. Raisz

Two lecture hours and six laboratory hours to be arranged.

Second half year.

A course to enable geographers and geologists to express their ideas graphically and to illustrate their own papers. Preparation of simple maps, cross-sections, profiles and multiple profiles. Rules of perspective. Conversion of topographic maps into block diagrams. Blackboard drawing, lettering, drawing of small objects, fossils; the proper use of pen, crayon and wash. Interpretation of maps and airplane photographs. Several spring afternoons will be spent in the field sketching and plane-table work.

Geography 36b — Aerophotography and Aerosurveying — Major Albert W. Stevens and associates

Hours to be arranged.

Second half year.

The development and present state of photography from the air as an auxiliary method of exploration and surveying. Airplane photographs will be taken and utilized in making maps.

Geography 37 — Field Communications — Mr. McCaleb

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 10 o'clock and hours by arrangement.

First and Second half years.

The theory, practice and present state of field communications, both by telegraphy and telephony. Attention will be paid to the reception of time signals for longitude determinations as well as for geodetic and geophysical work.