



National
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the Mapping
Sciences
Institute,
Australia

Mapping Sciences National

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SSC 2005 Conference

The SSC 2005 Conference was held 14 - 16 September in Melbourne at the Melbourne Convention Centre (a venue befitting the Conference).

There were, as advised by the SSI CEO Jim Conolly, 920 registrants, more than 220 abstracts from which 150 technical papers were selected and presented in 4 parallel sessions and approx 45 industry exhibitors. The parallel sessions catered for all attendees and covered a diverse range of topics including Photogrammetry, Spatial Data Infrastructure, Spatial Analysis, Cartography and Visualisation, Remote Sensing, Location Based Services, Emergency Management, Surveying, Spatial Information, GPS, Planning, Education, and Mobile Spatial Information. All of the individual papers are on CD and are available from the SSI office.

An excellent well attended Conference Dinner was held at the National Gallery of Victoria on Thursday evening 15/9. Overall it could be said the conference provided diverse and challenging papers, enjoyable social

activities and first class fellowship and networking opportunities.

Preceding the SSC 2005 were a day and a half of workshops on the Monday and Tuesday and topics covered included Local Government Applications, Surveyors Office Practices - The Business of Surveying, Mapping for Socio-Economic Outcomes, Spatial Interoperability in Action, Mapping Geospatial Supply and Value Chains - Responding to Customers and the Role of Standards, The Shuttle Radar DEM: providing Quality Terrain Data for the Australian Spatial Sciences Community, safeguarding Australia's Water Resources - Roles for the Spatial Information Sciences, Geographical Visualisation, and Geospatial Support to the National - All Hazards - Counter Terrorism Emergency Management and Critical Infrastructure Protection Communities.

On Wednesday evening the Asia - Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards were held at a gala dinner at the Melbourne Convention Centre. Awards were issued

under two major categories Industry Award and Individual Award. Some people well known in the MSIA community were successful at the awards - **Mark Reed** (Vic) won the **Young Professional of the Year Award**; **Graeme Wright** (WA) won the **Education and Professional Development Award** whilst Peter Bowen (WA) accepted an award in the Community section on behalf of the National Native Title Tribunal.

Various commissions, including Cartography met during the conference, Peter Bowen was re elected Commission Chair.

An SSI regional group has been established in NSW..



Col Mitford
NSW National Councillor

Google brings mapping to the desktop

*Is this just a whizzy bit of software, or a glimpse into the future of search technology?
A bit of both, we think.*

If you run a business, don't let your staff download Google Earth: it's one of the best time-wasters we've seen for a while. However, while it's great fun to play with, the program also shows what the Google of the future - or at least, the Google Local Search of the future - may look like.

First things first: Google Earth is a very demanding program, so forget running it on an ageing PC with a slow modem connection. It's useless without broadband (we tried it on dial-up just

to see what it was like on a modem connection; it's not an experience we'd recommend), and you'll need a decent PC with a powerful graphics card to get the most from it. You'll probably need to tweak your firewall, too, as Google Earth is blocked by most firewalls by default.

At its simplest, Google Earth is a 3D map view that enables you to zoom around the planet and get a birds' eye view of places in London or LA, and it has a nifty play feature that rotates

the world to move between two points. It's very hypnotic and very impressive, and you could easily spend days playing with it. Google Earth isn't just eye candy: it also integrates with Google's other services, including local search and Google Maps. That means you can get the program to give you driving directions to places, or you could overlay key information - such as the location of pubs - over the satellite imagery

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Aberdeen hosts CoastGIS 2005

**.. a unique forum
that enables a
rich blend of
science, research,
technology and
technique**

**.. papers will find
their way onto
www.coastgis.org
where papers
from previous
meetings can
be located**

One of the enduring achievements of the ICA Commission on Marine Cartography has been its collaborations in conceiving, founding and organising the CoastGIS series of Symposia. Previously run in Cork, Ireland; Aberdeen, Scotland; Brest, France; Halifax, Canada and Genoa, Italy; these bi-annual Symposia bring together practitioners and researchers in the field of marine and coastal Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing and computer cartography. They afford a unique forum that enables a rich blend of science, research, technology and technique.

CoastGIS2005 was the sixth in the series and, for the second time, was hosted in Aberdeen under the chairmanship of Dr. David Green from the Centre of Marine and Coastal Zone Management at The University of Aberdeen. The Symposium was held at the new Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre. The theme of the meeting was Defining and Building a Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure. The theme is of vital importance to all coastal and marine research and applications as a means to share disparate data and information, strengthen co-operation between coastal communities, enhance existing networks, develop new alliances, and to foster better channels of communication.

Attracting around 100 specialists, the papers and presentations focussed on the theme and were generally of a very good standard. A number of workshops complemented the paper presentations. The meetings were conducted over a very busy and full two and a half days. Ron Furness holds a digital copy of most papers should anyone wish to find out more specifically about the content. A book is in preparation and eventually the papers will find their way onto www.coastgis.org where papers from previous meetings can be located. Ron will happily send a list of presentations to those who contact him on rfurness@ozemail.com.au.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration conducted a workshop entitled GIS for Assessing Risk and Vulnerability. The aim was to help coastal resource and emergency managers to use the NOAA Community Vulnerability Assessment Tool to assess a community's risk and vulnerability to hazards, including floods, hurricanes and earthquakes. Subsequent events in the US and elsewhere suggest the significance of such work as well as the concomitant urgency of getting the decision-makers and budgetary authorities to prioritise according to properly assessed risk parameters.

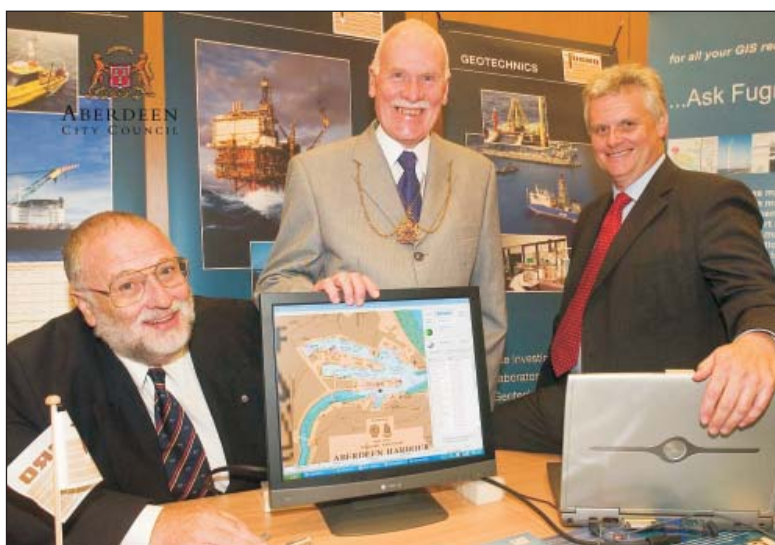
PCI Geomatics conducted a workshop Turn Imagery Into Answers where we learned about an initiative known as COASTCHART and the use of tools to do just that.

Professor Green conducted a workshop that presented an example of the IGU and International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) led Oceans 21 initiative. He discussed the role of GIS and geographical data in Mediterranean tsunami. He was supported by UK-based expert, Roger Longhorn. Roger Longhorn and Keiran Millard (H R Wallingford, UK) then presented a final workshop *Land-Sea-Air Data Integration for Coastal Stakeholders*. The focus was on the benefits to users from more harmonised access to and use of multiple data sources and disciplines; the advantages and limitations of applying open-source tools; the use of "Use Case" templates; organisation infrastructure implementation and an introduction to the EU-supported action known as MOTIVE (Marine Overlays on Topography).

A number of social events complemented the Symposium which was generally regarded as having been very successful. These included a field trip to see the local coastal region, an historically focussed walk around Old Aberdeen, a gala dinner, complete with whisky tasting and a civic reception hosted by the representative of the Lord Provost of Aberdeen.

Breaking with the two-yearly frequency of the CoastGIS Symposia the next will be conducted in Sydney and Wollongong. MSIA supports this meeting which is reported on elsewhere herein.

Ron Furness



Ron Furness (left) with Aberdeen Councillor Ron Webster (centre), representing the Lord Provost and local organiser Dr David Green at CoastGIS 2005.

AWARD

Applications are invited for:
**Australasian Hydrographic Society
Education Award**
for Academic Year 2006
worth AUD \$2,500

**Application forms can be downloaded
from www.ahs.asn.au closing
Friday 16th December 2005**

Letters:

The Editor

Mapping Sciences National Newsletter

As current members of MSIA, we would like to comment on a number of the points raised in the articles – “A Need for Change? - The Future of MSIA” by Adam Ladhams and “Another Grimm Fairytale” by Alan Armitage, which appeared in the August 2005 edition of the National Newsletter.

Under “A need for Change”, Adam suggests that support for SSI in the greater industry has waned, citing the announcement earlier this year that IEMSA will continue to operate as a separate body. We would hardly consider IEMSA to make up a significant proportion of “the greater industry”, and although MSIA has so far indicated their reluctance to fully support the SSI, the other three founding organisations which make up a sizable chunk of the spatial sciences industry – ISA, AURISA and RSPAA - have indicated their support. The latter two have completely wound up as separate organisations, and although ISA for legal/technical reasons continues to exist, it at least has a joint MOU with SSI for reciprocal membership rights

with a stated intention of future transition into SSI, subject to review.

The lack of movement by MSIA members to SSI is acknowledged but the statement that “membership of MSIA” has rebounded from the previous year needs to be questioned. That certainly does not appear to be the case within our own division and the recent National membership figures (104 members paid nationally as of 14 November 2005) do not bear this out. A further factor that clouds this issue is the fact that the 2004 fees for members were waived.

Both Adam and Alan expressed concern at the apparent takeover attitude of the SSI and the “instant absorption” of the MSIA membership. If one refers to the original draft MOU that was prepared for consideration by MSIA, this did not dictate “instant” absorption, but provided for SSI to deliver membership services to MSIA over a transition period with the prospect of there being eventually one body to cover the industry, similar to what has been arranged with ISA as indicated above. The advantage of such an arrangement would have enabled those MSIA members wishing

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Google brings mapping to the desktop

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using the same push-pins as Google Maps.

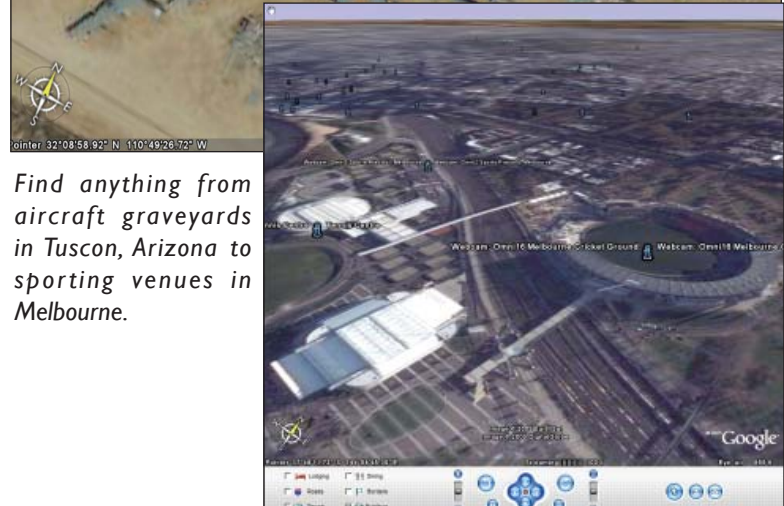
The program comes with a large collection of information that ranges from crime figures to the location of roads and state borders, and it's possible to add your own information. Judging by the range of Google Maps hacks (tinyurl.com/cou88), it's just a matter of time before some equally inspired ideas are brought to Google Earth.

It's the combination of satellite data and search that makes things interesting. For example, you can zoom in on a particular building and then quickly search for pubs, cafes or anything else nearby; in the near future user-created content should be able to overlay anything from inside information about a particular area to deranged collections of nonsense. It's a fantastic way to find things and much more fun than using the Yellow Pages.

If you go for a paid-for version, things are smarter still. The £11 Google Earth Plus adds GPS support, hi-res printing and the option to import spreadsheets to create your own data layers, while the £222 Pro version is ideal for architects.

It's not all rosy, though. In its current incarnation, Google Earth suffers from the same problem as the early incarnations of Google Maps did: if you're in the US then everything's great, but in other countries things are decidedly patchy. There's not much available for the UK outside of London, and cities such as Glasgow suffer from low-res, blocky satellite photos. That said, this is a beta and things will improve over time. It's also Windows-only (specifically just Windows 2000 and XP) at the moment.

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Find anything from aircraft graveyards in Tucson, Arizona to sporting venues in Melbourne.



VALE - ALEXANDER GORDON YOUNG

Gordon Young (B. 16 August 1923, d. 31 July 2005) was a great personality of the then Australian Institute of Cartographers (AIC) and one of the leaders of cartography in Western Australia and well known in Divisions throughout Australia where he established lasting friendships. He won the respect and gratitude of members, especially for his dedicated service as Honorary General Secretary for a period of ten years.

Born in New Zealand in August 1923, in 1930 Gordon moved with his family to Western Australia. He commenced his career in 1941 as a Junior Clerk in the State Public Service, was trained in Australia and Canada to qualify as a RAAF navigator-bombardier in 1942 and served with Bomber Command in England until his discharge in 1946. Gordon's cartographic career spanned roles of Survey Draftsman, Planning Assistant, Senior Draftsman and Chief Draftsman within the Western Australian Government until his retirement in 1983.

Gordon served as inaugural Treasurer, Councillor, Secretary and President of the Institute of Cartographers of Western Australia prior to its amalgamation with the federal institute in 1970. He was one of the new Division's first Councillors and became Honorary General Secretary when the Western Australian Division assumed responsibility for the Federal Executive Committee of the Australian Institute of Cartographers in 1977.

In 1949 Gordon married Joan. They had three children and later became grandparents to nine. Sadly, Joan passed away in 1995 and tragically, three grandchildren predeceased Gordon. Later, Gordon married Ruth, with whom he enjoyed happy senior years of love, companionship and golf. Alexander Gordon Young died after a short illness on 31st July, 2005. He is survived by his three children, six grandchildren and Ruth.

Gordon will be remembered for his leadership and contributions to cartography and the AIC in the post war era of rapid change and development.

CONFERENCES

PERTH

February 12 - 15, 2006

Australian Map Circle 2006

<http://australianmapcircle.org.au>

BRISBANE

July 3 - 7, 2006

IGU 2006 Regional Conference

www.igu2006.org

WOLLONGONG - SYDNEY

July 13 - 17, 2006

CoastGIS 06

www.coastgis.org

SURFERS PARADISE

July 18 - 21, 2006

IGNSS 2006

www.ignss.org

See page 6 for details

DARWIN

August 23 - 25, 2006

MSIA Conference

"400 Years of Mapping Australia"

menzies2@bigpond.net.au

SINGAPORE

November 14 - 17, 2006

IMTA International Global Conference

www.maptrade.org.au

GITA Events:

New Zealand, Darwin

Florida, Brisbane - See page 6

400 YEARS, MORE OR LESS

On the school ground, I would have bet my bag of marbles on it: CaptainCook discovered Australia. Education then was strongly Anglo-centric and if there were foreign players in the drama they missed the spotlight. On our mental map of the world, the red bits stuck out like magnetic anomalies. I could locate the Tweed, Tyne and Tees Rivers of England with precision, long before I heard about the Fortescue, which is ten times as long and sometimes holds water. And the Ord River never existed until Bob Menzies said it did, when he opened the Dam. On my birthday, as it turns out, but I was busy with other things. Anyway they weren't even in Queensland.

Looking back past the Endeavour, there seems to have been a long queue of intrepid navigators in Australia's vicinity, all operating under the position-fixing technology of the day, which often meant, lost. Dutch, Portuguese, Chinese - none of them has ever come back to claim the Mahogany Ship, perhaps because it too keeps getting lost.

The buccaneering Dampier in 1688 formed part of the passing parade, which was duly recorded in ochre in remote rock art galleries. He judged the aborigines to be "the miserablism people in the world". They didn't think much of him either, and would have been bemused

that somebody had "discovered" their country. After all, they hadn't lost it - yet.

Fast-forward to the Colonial mapping offices, where a strange breed of men (as in "men only") gripped their crowquills, smoothed their aprons, twirled their moustaches, wiped watery eyes and documented Progress. Perched on high stools they delineated (yup - that's the word) the inexorable advance of a spidery modern cadastre, till finally Australia was not only Discovered, but Owned. For the very first time. After all, myalls had wandered over it for think-of-a-number millennia and never actually - properly - owned it, showing an appalling lack of initiative.

Sometimes it seems that the only way to discover Australia is to leave it. Home thoughts from abroad bring a new intensity and clarity to our perceptions, and like earlier residents we feel not so much owners of the land as owned by it. The realization is most acute and poignant in time of war, when Australians face the possibility of never seeing it again. The impact is not unlike our first satellite view of this lonely, lovely planet, when the world discovered itself in a new way, a personal discovery worth all the rest.

Les Isdale

Some Australian Memorabilia

Being asked if I could deliver an article for this Newsletter, I thought that rather than provide some boring financial brief, I would supply something more interesting like the following dinky di Aussie stuff.....

Alan Armitage, Hon National Treasurer

- Australia ... from the Latin *Australis*, meaning *southern*. In 1817 Governor Macquarie recommended that the name *Australia* should replace the earlier name *New Holland*.
- Formerly Anniversary Day and then Foundation Day, the annual Australia Day holiday commemorates the landing of Captain Arthur Phillip and convicts of the first fleet at Sydney Cove, NSW, on 26th January 1788. Many Australians have the misconception that Australia Day marks the first landing of Captain Cook on this country's shore. Australia Day was first celebrated in Sydney on 26th January 1818. This was the 13th anniversary of the founding of NSW as a British colony. The Governor of the day, Governor Lachlan Macquarie, ordered a 30 gun salute, followed by official celebration.
- In 1712, the Dutch ship *Zuytdorp* left Capetown for Batavia. In April 1927 a stockman found some of her remains on the remote Western Australian coast, north of Geraldton.
- Australia's first recorded bare-knuckle fight under English prize ring rules took place on 7th January 1814.
- Frank McNamara became Australia's first Air Force winner of the Victoria Cross in 1917.
- Horace Rice was first chosen in the Australia Davis Cup team at the age of 39.
- Edward Trickett became Australia's first world sculling champion in 1876.
- Australia's first win in yachting's Admirals Cup was in 1867 at Cowes.
- Built in 1835, the " Old Mill " remains one of Perth's most historic landmarks.
- The first distinctly Australian flag was the *Southern Cross* of Eureka Stockade fame (1854). It had a blue background, silver cross and five stars, one at the intersection of the cross and the others at the ends of the arms.
- Australians use more toothbrushes than people in any other country. It is claimed that almost all Australian households buy toothpaste, unlike most countries, where fewer than 90 per cent of households use it.
- The biggest selling Australian story of all time is *The Magic Pudding*, by Norman Lindsay.
- During your lifetime, you will probably eat 92 sheep, 17 cows, 4000 loaves of bread, 165 000 eggs, half a ton of cheese, 10 tons of vegetables and 8 tons of fruit.
- Nullabor is not an Aboriginal word, as many people think, but comes from the Latin. *Null* means *no*, and *arbor* means *trees*. Hence *no trees*.
- Because eucalypt trees burn easily, Australia is regarded as one of the most explosive and fire-prone countries in the world.

400 Years of Mapping Australia Conference

Darwin, 23 – 25 August 2006

This unique event is being conducted by the Mapping Sciences Institute of Australia (MSIA) from Wednesday 23 August to Friday 25 August 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Darwin. The venue is near the Northern Territory Parliament House where the MSIA in conjunction with the Institution of Surveyors Australia, NT Division, the Northern Territory Library and the Department of Planning & Infrastructure will be holding a public exhibition of historic maps, instruments and photographs. The conference and exhibition are being held under the national Australia-on-the-Map 1606-2006 program of events to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first European contact with Australia.

The Program

The technical program will run over 3 days and will comprise papers to celebrate 400 years of mapping in Australia. The range of topics will cover aspects of the mapping achievements of:

- **early European cartographers and hydrographers,**
- **land explorers and colonial land administrators,**
and
- **government agencies and private sector firms**

The social program will include a welcome reception, historic sights cruise on Darwin Harbour and a conference dinner.

The Location

The early European contacts with Australia occurred on the northern coast so Darwin is an appropriate location for this particular conference. The city is scenically situated on a magnificent natural harbour of the Timor Sea and enjoys a tropical monsoon climate with a distinct wet and a dry season. After a history of surviving three destructive tropical cyclones and devastation by enemy bombing in the Second World War, Darwin has grown into a modern, lively, multicultural city of some 110,000 residents. Tropical cyclones will not be a problem at the time of the conference during the dry season of August 2006. The dry season brings warm clear days and balmy clear nights due to the cool prevailing south-easterly trade winds at that time of year.

After mining, tourism is the Territory's second largest industry so the place has excellent tourist facilities and attractions. A range of hotel and apartment accommodation options as well as many restaurants, cafes and bars are located within walking distance of the conference venue. Direct flights at reasonable fares connect Darwin at least daily with all mainland state capital cities. Rail travel on the new *Ghan* is a good option for those with time to appreciate the vast interior of Australia in comfort and prepared to spend a bit more on travel.

Further Information

Conference program and registration forms will be distributed early 2006 and will also be available on www.mappingsciences.org.au

Inquiries to Trevor Menzies at email menzies2@bigpond.net.au or telephone (08) 8981 3413 or 0418 892 897.

GITA Annual Conference Sydney 2005

The Sydney conference was like previous years, very well attended with delegates and presenters coming from all parts of Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Exhibitors reported lively interest throughout the two days and many have already booked for next year. Sponsors too have reported much interest in response to their sponsorship of parts of the conference.

We were fortunate to have Professor Sakura Shinoaki of Japan as our key note speaker. Prof Shinoaki is the Professor of GIS at Otsuma Women's University in Tokyo. Prior to that, he was in charge of GIS at Tokyo Gas and spent some time in his presentation sharing with the audience, the challenges faced and the enormity of the task of converting Tokyo Gas to a fully integrated GIS.

Other key note speakers were Roland Slee from Oracle Asia Pacific and Pete Gomez from Xcel Energy in Colorado. Pete is also President of GITA North America.

This year's conference again featured the 'Spatial Visionaries' session – a sort of panel session cum 'hypothetical'. This year it was lead by Michael Zammit of Energy Response. Michael is one of the founding fathers of GITA ANZ and has been a keen conference supporter and participant.

His panel or 'visionaries' this year comprised: Bruce Douglas – Chairman GITA ANZ and Principal Consultant, Corporate GIS, Pete Gomez – President GITA North America and Executive Xcel Energy in Colorado, Bill Meehan – Director of Utility Solutions ESRI, Steve Milroy – Microsoft Regional Director, Microsoft USA

Excellence Award

Congratulations to Brendan Soustal and MidCoast Water – this year's winner of the GITA Excellence Award. Each year GITA recognizes outstanding achievements by a company or individual in their innovative use of geospatial technologies.

The judges of this year's award said "Mid Coast Water have developed and implemented a system where standardised templates are used by their contractors to submit digital "As Built" or "Work as Executed" plans, using the popular AutoCAD system. Because the incoming plans are in a standard format, they can be loaded automatically into MidCoast Water's master GIS. This reduces the time taken to load plans from weeks to hours - not only does turn-around time dramatically decrease, but MidCoast Water GIS staff are now free to do other, more interesting GIS work. It also encourages the contractors to submit electronic data - with more and more contractors doing so - and so the amount and quality of data in the GIS system rises. As the GIS is now more accurate and more up to date, the door opens to new development and new functionality.

The system has proved very popular, with significant local and international interest, and

so deservedly wins the excellence award for encouraging the use of GIS.

Speaker Award Winners

We were fortunate to have a high caliber of speakers at the Sydney Conference and the winner of this year's award was Daren Day. Daren presented Auckland City Council's case study on implementing a holistic information system to support asset management.

Among the finalists were Ron Cross who presented an exceptionally interesting paper on Oil Spill Recovery and Bill Meehan who spoke passionately on how to get your GIS projects supported by your business managers.

The GITA speaker's awards recognize speakers who are judged by delegates to have mastered the subject matter, visual aids, context, clarity of message and overall interest.

Feedback

From the delegate evaluation forms, the response was overwhelmingly positive with 100% indicating the conference was informative and they would attend future GITA events

What's On When

New Zealand - 1 day Seminar 23 February 2006

Darwin - 1 day Seminar April 2006? (need to gauge interest)

Florida - 4 day Annual GITA Conference North America 23-26 April 2006 www.gita.org

Brisbane - 1 day Seminar 9 June 2006

Melbourne - Annual Conference 21-24 Aug 2006

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IGNSS 2006



Conference, Exhibition and Workshops
Holiday Inn, Surfers Paradise, Queensland
18-21 July 2006

Free membership with discounted conference registration fees can be obtained by logging on to www.ignss.org

Information:

Postal: PO Box 1237, Milton Qld 4064, AUSTRALIA

Courier: 476 Milton Road, Auchenflower Qld 4066, AUSTRALIA

Tel: +61 7 3371 0333

Fax: +61 7 3371 0555

E-mail: ignss@ignss.org

Website: www.ignss.org

Letters . . from page 3

to join SSI to pay one membership fee and retain their membership of MSIA for at least the transition period. The eventual creation of a single professional body for the whole industry was clearly the intent of the original national industry action agenda.

In discussing the merits of the "Moving the MSIA forward" strategy, Adam identifies that some of the benefits with this include developing and maintaining friendships, seeking member satisfaction relating to provision of services and recognition of the professional contributions by members within the industry sector. We believe that all of these benefits are achievable through SSI. The closure of several of the former divisions of MSIA and the reduction of various others down to a "Caretaker" operation hardly provides a good indicator of the Institute's ability to continue to provide services to members. This may be the case in one or two divisions or regional areas, but is not happening on a national basis.

In the past a major flagship of the MSIA was the provision of biennial national conferences for the benefit of members and other industry partners. In 2003 and this year in September 2005, SSI ran very successful Spatial Science Conferences covering a wide range of interests across the whole industry. The number of delegates attending the most recent 2005 conference was in excess of 800. It is most unlikely that MSIA will be able to put on such a conference again and in fact is no longer seen to be a major player in providing such an event or, for that matter, a national voice for the mapping industry. In our view this does not provide the impression that the MSIA is moving forward. In effect it is stagnating and becoming a "sideshow".

As part of the future outlook, Adam points out the importance of creating networks, alliances and partnerships with other similar organisations. This is one of the primary objectives within SSI and what better opportunity to network than the industry conference just held. Although existing MSIA members may not be flocking to join SSI, a strong indicator that SSI will be successful in attracting newer and younger members of the profession is the successful "Young Professionals" initiative that exists within SSI. Many of these are joining SSI without any previous involvement with a founding organisation and they will provide the pool of members to ensure that SSI moves forward as a professional body catering for the industry as a whole. To encourage this future evolution, MSIA should join forces with SSI and not oppose it.

Alan Armitage, within his "Another Grimm Fairytale" article, tries to raise barriers to future integration by pointing out various legal aspects. Although the 2003 survey of members was not a formal vote, this does not detract from the fact that the majority of those members who responded were in favour of moving towards the establishment of SSI, eventually to become a single professional body representing the whole industry. Agreed that legally you cannot transfer members directly into a new body, however under a suitably structured

MOU, the new body could provide services to MSIA members under a transitional arrangement, with a view to a future vote being taken to allow the membership to eventually become members of the new body.

Alan also raises the issue of "conflict of interest" and that a director of an organisation has a duty to avoid conflict of interest. This seems to be hinting that any office bearer of MSIA should not belong to SSI on the grounds that the organisations represent opposing interests. This is a ridiculous argument given that both organisations represent the interests of spatial science professionals and in fact have converging interests.

It is difficult to believe that the views and content of these articles can come from the same state as the article "The Fruits of the SSI – Queensland Style" which appeared in the August/September edition of Position magazine. This article prepared by Robert Bischof, Regional Chair of SSI in Queensland, paints a refreshing picture of how that group is moving forward under the SSI banner. Like the WA experience, the Queensland SSI group is delivering services to its members, no matter what their background disciplines. It is perhaps appropriate to quote from some of the final paragraphs from this report:

"Operating as a unified organisation we have been able to bring together the best parts of the founding organisations, jettison the baggage and create a new regional structure that represents the rich culture of the founding organisations, whilst at the same time combining new elements which represent the multidisciplinary nature of the SSI membership".

"The challenge in Queensland is to continue the success we are enjoying by taking on the responsibility of growing our membership, creating and protecting our culture and participating in the function of our Institute. The Challenge for the SSI nationally, is for the other jurisdictions and hesitant founding organisations to realise the benefits the SSI brings to the professions of the spatial industry. The SSI model works and does deliver, surely it's time we all focused our energies to shape the future, while still remembering a glorious past."

Peter Shaw, Graeme Wright, Peter Bowen,
Ric Mahoney

WA Division

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FINDING OUR WAY

For many years Melburnians have been able to find their way around their beautiful city with the assistance of the "Melway" Street Directory - a Melbourne institution. More recently Sydney-siders have had the opportunity to obtain similar cartographic guidance from "Sydney" and now Brisbanites can avail themselves of "Brisway"; that is, in addition to their long-established UBD "Refidex".

International Cartographic Association
ICC2005 Seminar (Madrid) and Conference (A Coruna)
 Saturday July 2nd to Monday July 18th, 2005 Report by: David Fraser (19/7/2005)

JOINT SEMINAR - MADRID, Spain

The participants are mostly members of the five organizing commissions: Commission on Education and Training, Cartography and Children, National and Regional Atlases, Maps and the Internet, Visualization and Virtual Environments. There are several areas where the activities of these commissions overlap each other. It was not easy to find a good title for the seminar which is short enough, but covers most activities. The title "Internet-Based Cartographic Teaching and Learning: Atlases, Map Use, and Visual Analytics" sounds like a good compromise.

The diversity of research topics actually being developed by the members of the ICA commissions all over the world are clearly demonstrated in the papers and in this proceeding. Forty (40) papers were presented from 55 authors. The 73 participants of the joint seminar came from 25 countries on four continents.

Website www.ICACI.org

Seminar proceedings

Each delegate has a hardcopy or you can purchase your own copy from the ICA.

Australian delegates:

David Fraser, Maree Feuerherdt, Craig Feuerherdt, Lachlan Feuerherdt, Cristhiane de Silva Ramos, Karen Wealands, William Cartwright, Christopher Pettit

Australian presentations:

David Fraser - *Cartographic Education - Issues We Now Face*

Craig Feuerherdt - William Cartwright - Michael Black - *Augmented reality for assessing future landscapes*

William Cartwright - *Delivering Education with Contemporary Tools*

CONFERENCE - A CORONA, Spain

The 22nd International Cartographic Conference and the 13th General Assembly was conducted by the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the Spanish Society for Cartography, Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and the A Coruna Local Organising Committee.

Two thousand delegates attended the conference which focused on specialized cartography and geographic information topics, and was undertaken to improve the global awareness of these sciences.

Five hundred and forty (540) papers were selected for presentation on 29 theme areas. A further two hundred and ten (210) were delivered as poster presentations. All of them have been incorporated into the proceedings of the conference in DVD format.

The conference is considered as a prime forum and reference throughout the world for the study and analysis of improvements in cartographic techniques. Every two years this

event gathers together the most relevant experts in modern geographical information technologies, professionals, academics and researchers.

The ICA had 78 member nations, with each nation contributing financially to the running of the ICA. The Australian contribution comes from the subscriptions of members of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia.

Websites

www.ICACI.org www.icc2005.org

Conference proceedings

Each delegate has a CD copy or you can purchase your own copy from the ICA.

Australian delegates:

David Fraser, Maree Feuerherdt, Craig Feuerherdt, Lachlan Feuerherdt, Cristhiane de Silva Ramos, Karen Wealands, William Cartwright, Ron Furness, Graciela Metternicht, Christhiane de Silva Ramos, Karen Wealands, Michael Black

Australian presentations:

1. Development of the ICA-sponsored Internet Cartography Teaching Programme (*Fraser, Zental*)

2. Multi-temporal spatial modeling of noxious weeds distribution using historical remote sensing imagery (*Metternicht, Robinson*)

3. Using open source technologies to provide a template for publishing school atlases on the web (*de Silva Ramos, Cartwright, Doin de Almeida*)

4. Community collaborative decision-making tools: determining the extent of "Geographical Dirtiness" for effective displays (*Cartwright, Pettit, Nelson, Berry*)

5. Mapping water resource data (*Feuerherdt*)

6. Sustainable futures through integrated data collection (*Platt*)

7. Development of a 3D georeferenced groundwater model for salinity management (*Fraser, Lee*)

8. Web cartography web-enabled geographic information systems (GIS) – new possibilities, new challenges (*Black, Cartwright*)

9. Using computer gaming technology to explore human wayfinding for navigating urban landscapes (*Germanchis, Cartwright, Pettit*)

10. Communicating flood risks to the public using a digital visualization process (*Basic, Cartwright, Handmer*)

11. A user assessment for developing optimal cartographic representation models within an Australian mobile location-based services travel application (*Wealands, Cartwright, Miller*)

12. Exploring future landscapes using virtual environments (*Feuerherdt, Cartwright*)

13. A Semi Automated Approach for GIS Based on Generation of Topographic Attributes for Landform Classification (*Metternicht, Klingseisen, Paulus*)

.. The title "Internet-Based Cartographic Teaching and Learning: Atlases, Map Use, and Visual Analytics" sounds like a good compromise"

.. a prime forum and reference throughout the world for the study and analysis of improvements in cartographic techniques



Other Involvements

William Cartwright, vice-president, ICA Executive

Ron Furness, commission chair

David Fraser, co-vice-chair Commission on Education and Training

Map Exhibition - Australia

Australia had 21 maps on display from Victoria, Tasmania, ACT, NSW and Northern Territory..

Technical Exhibition

Thirty five organisations exhibited including Intergraph, Hewlett Packard, ESRI, ITC, and Elsevier.

Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition

An excellent display of maps.

Conference Themes

Theme 1: Theoretical Cartography.

Theme 2: Map Projections.

Theme 3: Map Design and Production.

Theme 4: Education and Training in Cartography. Internet Courses.

Theme 5: Digital Cartography and GIS for Sustainable Development of Territories.

Theme 6: Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI, GSDI and SDI). Development, Standards, Prices and Copyright.

Theme 7: Data Capture and Quality Assessment of Spatial Data.

Theme 8: Incremental Updating and Versioning of Spatial Data Bases.

Theme 9: Cartographic Generalization and Multiple Representation.

Theme 10: Cartography and Satellite Imagery for the Management of Natural Resources and the Environment.

Theme 11: Maps and the Internet.

Theme 12: Internet Location-Based Services, Mobile Mapping and Navigation Systems.

Theme 13: Marine Cartography, Navigation and Ocean Mapping.

Theme 14: National and Regional Atlases. Electronic Atlases. Thematic and Multimedia Cartography.

Theme 15: Virtual Models, Visualisation, Animation and Cartography.

Theme 16: History of Cartography.

Theme 17: World and Aeronautical Cartography and Military Mapping.

Theme 18: Mountain Cartography.

Theme 19: Tourist Cartography.

Theme 20: Cartography and Children. Educational Products.

Theme 21: Gender and Under-represented Groups and Cartography.

Theme 22: Maps for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Theme 23: Planetary Cartography.

Theme 24: Research and Development: New Products and Cartographic Systems.

Theme 25: History of Colonial Cartography in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

Theme 26: Other Themes: Cartography and Advertising, Maps in the Media, Census Cartography, Cadastral Maps, Three Dimensional Mapping, New Concepts in Cartographic Symbolology, Space and Time in GIS, Toponymy.

Theme 27: Orienteering Maps.

Theme 28: Geospatial Analysis and Modelling.

Theme 29: Early Warning and Risk Management.

Countries- Presenting

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Daressalaam, Bulgaria, Cameroun, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, HongKong, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay

Future ICA Conferences

Moscow in 2007

Chile in 2009



BOOK REVIEW & COMMENTARY

"The Island of Lost Maps:**A True Story of Cartographic Crime",**

Harvey, M. (2000) Weidenfeld & Nicolson: London, pp. 405. ISBN 0-297-842834-X. RRP £12.99.

by Adam Ladhams

.. the life of one of the greatest map thieves of modern time

Harvey recounts the life of one of the greatest map thieves of modern time. "The Island of Lost Maps" is an adventure into a dangerous mind – that of a compulsive map thief. Gilbert Bland was a vicious collector, or rather seller, of antique maps. Driven by greed and perhaps, the sense of being caught, Bland literally stole hundreds, perhaps thousands of maps.

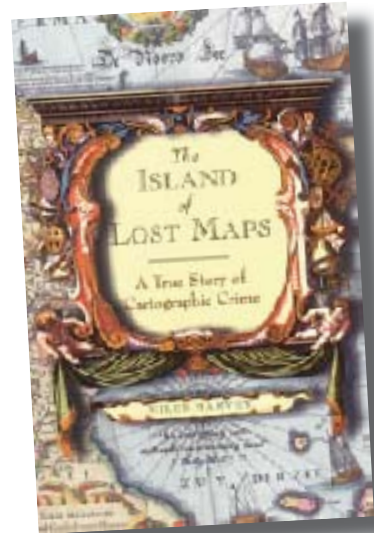
The end of the road for Bland was at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, Illinois when a librarian witnessed what seemed to be a very awkward and conspicuous individual tearing out a page of a rare atlas. Bland was caught in the act. The librarian alerted security and Bland's encounter with security ensued with a slow-speed pursuit through downtown Baltimore. In a red spiral notebook that Bland attempted to dispose of during his attempt to escape were four folded 232 year old maps. More devastating were the notes that Bland had written into the notebook, signifying the maps and libraries on his hit list.

Bland led a destructive path spanning two years (1993-4) throughout America and Canada. During his sometimes frequent visits under different aliases, Bland sliced through antique manuscripts and atlases to steal century year old maps for monetary gain. Gilbert Lee Joseph Bland Jr. was a master of disguise assuming many names including Jason Michael Pike, Jack Arnett, Gilbert Anthony Bland, Gilbert Joseph Bland, John David Rosche, Richard M. Olinger and Steven M. Spradling. For Harvey, Bland can merely be perceived as a petty criminal, excusing his melee of map theft on mental illness. Bland can also be perceived as an opportunist, creating networks in the antique map trade, securing clients for future stock, researching which maps to acquire and even briefly, established an antique map shop.

For Bland, the libraries were easy pickings. As a consequence, security in libraries (particularly in rare books sections) has been bolstered and recording attendees have become standard practice. The actions of Bland and others like him may one day destine rare books and maps to the dusty confines of a secured room, seldom read or viewed.

The antique map world should have been suspicious of Bland and his ability to acquire rare antique maps. The maps that Bland had stolen were so few, that many were not available for trade in the private market and only existing in the libraries that Bland pilfered. Through the years of investigative work on Bland, Harvey uncovered that map collectors were aware of Bland's activities, however deliberately chose to turn a blind eye. As Harvey states "...somewhere, too, beautiful maps hung on the walls of perfect homes, crimes waiting to be solved" (p. 340).

Bland served a jail sentence of 1½ years. The FBI, even after Bland's release, were still milling



through the hundreds of maps that Bland had stolen. Of the 250 maps retrieved from Bland's possession (with a market value of US\$500,000), the FBI were unable to find the original homes of 70 maps, even after extensive forensics and pleas to the many libraries that Bland was meant to have visited. All up, 19 libraries admitted that Bland had paid them a visit. Some libraries that Bland visited were unaware that maps were missing from their atlases. The number of maps that Bland stole, either still missing or sold, remains a mystery.

Reading through Harvey's book, I was enthralled and appalled at the same time. What could possess a person to desecrate rare artworks? A lone stolen map makes the book naked and incomplete – less valuable. Libraries are essentially free public repositories for the gathering of knowledge, research and for reading entertainment. A stroke of a crayon, the ply of the scissors or in Bland's case, the slice of a razor blade denies others in their ability to procure information. There is always a fine line that one should not cross, much like a political demarcation boundary that appears on many maps.

After numerous attempts and the threat of legal action, Harvey never met up with Bland. Instead, Harvey paints a picture of Bland through army records, court proceeding and interviews with old family and friends. Harvey dubs Bland as a kind of "Mr Nobody", always appearing under the radar and non-suspecting to library staff.

One disappointing feature is that Harvey attempts to unsuccessfully draw parallels with map thieves over the centuries. This is particularly reinforced through his cameo appearance in the BBC series "Map Maker". The context in which Harvey compares map theft from ancient to modern times is somewhat irrelevant and non-contrasting. Harvey can be portrayed more as a detective rather an avid map enthusiast. The book provides the suspense, drama and insightfulness of a good thriller novel, with the exception that Bland is a real-life character. A must read for librarians and map enthusiasts.

For more information about the book or the author, Miles Harvey, visit <http://milesaharvey.com>.

Rating 3 ½ out of 5.

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.. a must read for librarians and map enthusiasts

One Planet, Many People: Atlas of Our Changing Environment

In celebration of World Environment Day on June 3, 2005 the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in cooperation with NASA, United States Geological Survey (USGS) and University of Maryland launched *One Planet, Many People: Atlas of our Changing Environment*—a publication that provides visual evidence of environmental change using satellite images, graphics and text. The focus is on the status and trends over several decades, both in physical and human geography.

The 332 page hardbound Atlas discusses human influences on our Earth including changes in land use, biological diversity, and climate. One Planet presents visual evidence of global environmental changes - both the good and the bad - resulting from natural processes and human-induced activities including those of the atmosphere, coastal areas, waters, forests, croplands, grasslands, urban areas, and tundra and Polar regions.

The Atlas demonstrates how our growing number of people and their consumption patterns are shrinking our natural resource base. The challenge is how do we satisfy human needs without compromising the health of ecosystems. One Planet, Many People is an additional wake-up call to this need. You may access the Atlas on line at www.na.unep.net or you may purchase a hard copy from www.earthprint.com.



ADMINISTRATION and MOVING AHEAD

The centralised administration for fee receipts and membership processing is working reasonably well, with a couple of refinements the odd glitch should be fixed. With the statement earlier this year that the MSIA is continuing as it was in the past, as a separate organisation to the SSI, to support members and provide a basic service appears to have been accepted by the majority of the MSIA membership.

Many members who held off paying their membership fees whilst the uncertainty of the perceived forced interaction with the SSI was apparent have now paid up. Fee payments have been rolling in and those members with outstanding accounts would you please forward your payments. Receipts for payments received to date have been included with this newsletter.

Reactions from members to the last newsletter have been quite positive with a few replies being received from members. I believe we will be able to gradually build up services which will be delivered nationally to all members with some being delivered via the web. This institute is here for those who want to be MSIA members and to receive what we can deliver.

Financial Members (ex Company Members)

Count of Reg Number	Current Grade									Grand Total
Division	Affiliate	Associate Member	Fellow	Honorary Fellow	Life Associate Member	Life Fellow	Life Member	Member	Student (free)	
ACT		4	1	2			1	3		11
NSW	1	11	1	3	2	2	4	9	1	34
NSW (Bathurst)							1			1
NT		3	1					1		5
QLD	1	9	2	3	1	4	4	23	5	52
SA		3						4		7
VIC		9	3	2			1	22	3	40
VIC (Tas)					1					1
WA	2	12	5	4			1	21	24	69
Grand Total	4	51	13	14	4	6	12	83	33	220

Unfinancial Members (ex Company Members)

	Affiliate	Associate Member	Fellow	Honorary Fellow	Life Associate Member	Life Fellow	Life Member	Member	Student	Grand Total	% Financial
ACT		5	2					6		13	46%
NSW	2	10	2					26		40	46%
NSW (Bathurst)	1	19	1					20		41	2%
NT	3	10	2					10		25	17%
QLD	1	9						16	1	27	66%
SA										0	100%
VIC	2	26	1					35		64	38%
VIC (Tas)		1						4		5	17%
WA	2	22	3					42	1	70	50%
Grand Total	11	102	11					159	2	285	44%

The Divisional structure may be waning in some areas but we do have a number of strong pockets of activity and I believe we will be able to use these specialist areas to create service packages which will be able to be made available to members from the national perspective like the journal and National newsletter.

Membership invoices for 2006 will be posted shortly.

John McCormack

.. the MSIA is continuing as it was in the past, as a separate organisation to the SSI

Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia

www.mappingsciences.org.au

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"The mapping sciences are those disciplines that deal with the acquisition, management and communication of geospatial information. The Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia promotes the theory, practice and understanding of all facets of the mapping sciences".

NATIONAL OFFICE-BEARERS

President - Peter Shaw [WA], **President-elect** - Vacant, **Executive Chair** - Ron Furness [NSW]
Past President - John Mc Cormack [Q] **Secretary** - Keith Smith [Q] **Treasurer** - Alan Armitage [Q]
Councillors - David Adams & William Cartwright [V/T] Colin Mitford & Michael Turner [NSW]
 Greg Heron & Trevor Menzies [NT] Adam Ladhams & Alan Unkles [Q]
 Ric Mahoney & Graeme Wright [WA]

PUBLICATIONS

The journal "SPATIAL SCIENCE" is published in June and December in cooperation with the Spatial Sciences Institute. The Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Graeme Wright [WA].

"MAPPING SCIENCES NATIONAL" is a newsletter issued three times a year.

Editors are Greg Heron [NT] gph@octa4.net.au and Alan Unkles [QLD]

DIVISIONAL ADDRESSES

New South Wales: GPO BOX 4365, SYDNEY 2001 **Bathurst Group:** PO BOX 370 BATHURST 2795
Northern Territory: GPO BOX 3693 DARWIN 0801 **Queensland:** GPO BOX 1817, BRISBANE 4001
Victoria/Tasmania: GPO BOX 1155K MELBOURNE 3001 **Western Australia:** GPO BOX H592 PERTH 6001
 Members in the ACT and SA are administered by the NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION GROUP - MSIA,
 GPO BOX 1817, BRISBANE 4001. Contact: John Mc Cormack - johnmack@vti.com.au

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION

MSIA is affiliated with the International Cartographic Association [www.icaci.org].

Dr. William Cartwright is a vice president and Graciela Metternicht is the editor of "ICA News".

ICA Commission participants:

David Fraser **Education**; Dorothy Prescott **History**; Abbas Rajabifard **Standards**; Ron Furness **Marine Cartography**; Bill Cartwright **Geographic Visualisation & Virtual Landscapes** and **Maps & the Internet**

400 Years of Mapping Australia

Darwin - 23 to 25 August 2006

The MSIA is celebrating the 400th anniversary of the first authenticated map of any part of Australia with a three day conference in Darwin. Included are technical and social activities and an historic map exhibition.

Papers include mapping achievements of:

- **Early European cartographers and hydrographers**
- **Land explorers and colonial land administrators**
- **Government agencies and private sector firms**



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www.mappingsciences.org.au

See page 5 for more details,
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