

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

*Royal Geographical Society
with the Institute of British Geographers*

Newsletter

November 2000

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Albert Edward Frank Moodie

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Please send any material for inclusion in the Newsletter, and any suggestions for future content, to the editor

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COMMITTEE NEWS

AGM AND ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting will be held at lunchtime on Wednesday January 3rd, during the Time/Space and Society session (details below).

A number of committee members' terms of office come to an end at this year's AGM and we would welcome nominations from our members. The posts of Chair, Newsletter Editor, and two Committee Members become vacant. Please submit your nominations, together with the names of a proposer and seconder, to Alison Blunt by December 15th.

IDEAS FOR SESSIONS FOR RGS-IBG, BELFAST 2002

The following themes have been designated for the 2002 Annual Conference. If anyone is interested in convening a session – either for the HPGRG alone or in conjunction with another research group – they are invited to contact Felix Driver or Alison Blunt before the AGM in Plymouth or as soon as possible thereafter. Sessions must be finalised during January 2001.

“Landscape: For this broad theme we would particularly welcome sessions that link physical and human geography. For example, the UN has declared 2002 the ‘International Year of Mountains’ and has invited governments and other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development. Several Research Groups may find an opportunity, either singly or in association, to use the theme of ‘landscape’ to address issues associated with this UN Year.

Divided cities, divided communities: This may seem a very apt theme for a conference centred on Belfast. However, we do not wish it to be narrowly focused, but want to encourage contributions dealing with different parts of the world and divisions that may be based on many factors - ethnic, social, economic, religious etc. The theme is also one that should encourage sessions organised by single Research Groups or in association with others.

Chaos and complexity: Many systems, including those of interest to geographers, display properties that cannot be predicted simply from a study of their parts. Chaos is one such system-level response. Emergence, the spontaneous genesis of new systemic properties due to interactions of their components, is another. The formation of well-defined trails and tracks from human preference for ‘keeping to the path’, standing waves in water, periglacial stone stripes, and rill networks: all are examples of geographical phenomena that can be viewed in the context of chaos and complexity, but the theme should not be viewed as relevant only to physical geography.

Migration: We hope that the location of the conference may stimulate sessions from those interested in Irish migration, particularly in the Irish diaspora worldwide and in Ireland's immigrations. Sessions exploring broader topics of diaspora, transnationalism, the migrant condition, asylum-seeking as well as internal population movements and migration models will also be welcome. This theme can also be interpreted to include sessions on plant and animal migrations.”