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## A Century of Geography

**T**HIS year the American Geographical Society is celebrating its hundredth birthday. During the past century it has grown from a handful of men interested in accumulating accurate knowledge of the earth to a large, independent research organization that employs more than 50 full-time staff members. Its specialized library now includes more than 150,000 publications, and its map library, the largest private collection in the Western Hemisphere, more than 250,000 maps and 3,000 atlases.

To celebrate its centennial year, the society is planning a number of special events. An exhibit, tracing its 100 years of activity, will be on display all during the summer months. In April a publication party is scheduled for John K. Wright's history of the society, *Geography in the Making* (cf. *Sci. Monthly*, 74, 121 [1952]). On May 22 the society will give a Charter Day party at its New York headquarters. August 4-6 it will play host to delegates from forty member-nations of the International Geographical Union, and awards will be presented to George B. Cressey, Maxwell professor of geography at Syracuse University and president of the Union; Roberto Almagia, professor of geography at the University of Rome and vice president of the Union; Carlos Delgado de Carvalho, director of the Brazilian Institute of Educational Research; and Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic Society.

In 1952 the society is beginning a new project, which will include an educational program for schools and colleges, and a workshop to test and distribute maps, movies, globes, and periodicals that will help raise the level of geographical knowledge throughout the United States. A second project is that of publishing in cooperation with the Association of American Geographers a "National Atlas," to depict the land, life, and livelihood of America.

Nearing completion is a new map of North and South America, done on a scale of 1:12,500,000, and

drawn on a new projection (bipolar oblique conic conformal), which was devised by O. M. Miller. It is a direct descendant of the society's *Millionth Map of Hispanic America*, which took 25 years to complete. Consisting of 107 sheets, the Millionth Map was constructed by society geographers through cooperation of Latin American governments, corporations, and scientists. Six sheets of this map—which was completed in 1945—are being revised and brought up to date this year.

The Juneau Ice Field Research Project—the society's annual expedition to Taku Glacier in Alaska—will carry on its fifth year of investigations this summer. With a base camp now permanently established on a rocky island in the glacier's center, the society hopes to continue indefinitely its study of glacial movements and their relation to climatic changes.

The Medical Geography Department, established four years ago, is producing medical maps at the rate of four a year. It is planned to publish a comprehensive "World Atlas of Diseases," and five maps have already been completed—on Poliomyelitis, Cholera, Malaria, Helminthiasis, Yellow Fever, and Dengue.

In addition to Dr. Wright's history of the society, two other books are scheduled for publication in 1952: "Land for Tomorrow: The Underdeveloped World," by L. Dudley Stamp, to be published jointly with the Indiana University Press; and "Agricultural Origins and Dispersals," by Carl O. Sauer. A third book—"An Introduction to Photogrammetry," by O. M. Miller—is in preparation.

The society had its beginnings in an age of discovery and exploration, but it is increasingly devoting its energies to new types of exploration—the study of man-land relationships. This modern program was inaugurated in 1915 by Isaiah Bowman and has continued under the direction of John K. Wright and George H. T. Kimble to seek "new horizons in a shrinking world."

HARRIET H. GIBNEY

*American Geographical Society, New York*

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