Pergamon

Journal of Transport Geography Vol. 5, No. 3, p. 225, 1997
Published by Elsevier Science Ltd. Printed in Great Britain
0966-6923/97 $17.00+0.00

TGRG page[1]

International links

The furthering of international links with other transport geographers is a major aim of the TGRG. The British based committee has co-opted several corresponding members who represent research interests in Transport Geography around the world. The Group's corresponding members are interested in making links with researchers in their own region with the aim of exchanging information and widening the interest in Transport Geography.

Dr Jacques Charlier is the corresponding member for *Europe* and can be contacted at Institut de Géographie, Université Catholique de Louvain, Batiment Mercator, Place Pasteur, B1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

In Adelaide, Derek Scrafton would like to hear from those in *Australia*, *New Zealand* and the *southern Pacific*. The contact is: Dr D Scrafton, Director General of Transport, Ministry of Transport, Box 1599, G.P.O., Adelaide 5001, South Australia.

In Africa, Maleck Khayesi is forming a network of *East African* Transport Geographers with an interest in transport and compiling a bibliography of publications on East African transport. He can be contacted at Geography Department, Kenyatta University, P.O. Box 43844, Nairobi, Kenya.

In *North America*, Professor Bill Black, the Associate Editor of the *Journal of Transport Geography*, is also the TGRG corresponding member and the link with the Transport Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. He can be contacted at Department of Geography, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405-6101, USA. The TGRG and the TGSG are proposing to hold a joint session at the annual conference of the Association of American Geographers which will be held in Boston in April 1998. The theme of the session will be *'Issues in Urban Geography: UK–North American comparisons'*. The aim of the session is to build on the increasing links between the two specialist groups and to discuss a common issue which had dominated the research interests of both groups.

Future activities of the TGRG

Third Postgraduate Seminar

The seminar will be held at the RGS–IBG Headquarters, 1 Kensington Gore, London on Wednesday 17 September 1997. There will be no overall transport theme for the day since papers are welcome from all postgraduate researchers working in transport and related fields. Overall, the emphasis will be on an informal atmosphere in which ideas can be tested, the aim being to provide preparation for more formal presentations. For further details, please contact Dr Brian Turton, Department of Geography, Keele University, Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG. Tel.: 01782 583160/583168, Fax: 01782 584144. E-mail: gea49@cc.keele.ac.uk.

Postgraduate Prize

The TGRG will be awarding the second postgraduate prize for a reserch paper in Transport Geography. The deadline for submission is November 1997 and further details are available from Dr Turton at the above address.

RGS–IBG Conference, Kingston University, 6–8 January 1998

The TGRG will be convening a one day session as part of this conference with the theme of *'Mobility, Leisure and Lifestyle'*. Further details are available from Professor Brian Graham, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Ulster at Coleraine, Coleraine BT252 1SA, Northern Ireland.

Professor J H Bird (1923–1997)

The sudden death of Jim Bird, a founder member of the TGRG, has deprived the field of transport geography of a world-reknown and much-respected figure. His main contribution was to the study of seaports: his first book, *The Geography of the Port of London* (1957), led to a more major substantial study of the *The Major Seaports of the United Kingdom* (1963) which contains a synthesis of his theory of port development. This was based on his famous 'Anyport' model, first presented at the Institute of British Geographers annual conference in 1959, and on what became known simply as Bird's Law, 'that ports move downstream'. These ideas were subsequently applied to the Australian system, leading to a substantial volume on *Seaport Gateways of Australia* (1968). Further port based research at Southampton produced studies of *Seaports and Seaport Terminals* (1971) and papers from European seaport research projects.

Jim Bird was also a staunch supporter of the TGRG's parent body, the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers. He served as an RGS Council member (1968–71), as a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee (1977–81), and in 1980 he became president of the IBG. Throughout this time and until his retirement in 1988, he supported the work of the Transport Geography but, above all, he will be remembered for his study of seaports and their role as gateways.

José Smith
TGRG Chairman

[1] TGRG: Transport Geography Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers.