Historical GIS Contributors

Merrick Lex Berman's interests in Chinese landscapes and human geography are reflected in his master's thesis on the economic and environmental impact of new transportation infrastructure along the China-Southeast Asia border. Currently, Berman manages the China Historical Geographic Information System project, which tracks 2,000 years of changes in administrative geography. Dealing with problems of incomplete, inconsistent, and vague records about historical locations is the focus of Berman's current research.

Philip C. Brown is Associate Professor of History at Ohio State University. His book, *Central Authority and Local Autonomy in the Formation of Early Modern Japan* (Stanford 1993), treated the pacification and establishment of stable government in the domain of Kaga (modern Ishikawa and Toyama Prefectures). His current research on land-redistribution systems entails collaboration with Japanese scholars to identify village settlement and boundary locations in order to explore the interaction between village resources, land-tenure systems, taxation, and other elements of early modern rural life.

Wendy Bigler is Lecturer of Geography and Environmental Resources at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Her research centers on understanding the interrelationships between rivers and people through time. In addition to spatial analysis, she employs archival and field methods in her investigations of historical ecology and landscape transformation. The National Science Foundation supported her graduate training at Arizona State University through an Integrative Graduate Education Research and Training Fellowship, allowing her to explore the intersection of geomorphology and historical scholarship.

Donald A. DeBats undertook his doctoral work in American history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is Professor of American Studies at Flinders University in Australia and is also Professor of Political and International Studies. His work on North American electoral poll books is reflected in many articles and in his joint effort with Paul Bourke, *Political Life in Ante-Bellum America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995). A major new study—influenced by GIS—is underway using several case studies of the poll books to explore the political life of ordinary citizens in nineteenth-century America.

Paul S. Ell is Director of the Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis at Queen's University Belfast. He was a co-developer of the Great Britain Historical GIS and has used GIS widely in his research. He coauthored, with K.D.M. Snell, *Rival Jerusalems: The Geography of Victorian Religion* (Cambridge 2000). He and Ian N. Gregory are currently writing a book on historical GIS to be published by Cambridge University Press.

Ian N. Gregory is Associate Director of the Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis at Queen's University Belfast where he currently holds a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship. He was the architect of the Great Britain Historical GIS and has written extensively on historical GIS including *A Place in History: A Guide to Using GIS in Historical Research* (Oxbow 2003). His research interests include database design for historical GIS, visualization, and approaches to analyzing historical data within a GIS environment. He and Paul S. Ell are currently writing a book on historical GIS to be published by Cambridge University Press.

Anne Kelly Knowles is Assistant Professor of Geography at Middlebury College. She has edited two other volumes of essays on historical GIS, including *Past Time, Past Place: GIS for History* (ESRI Press 2002). In addition to advocating the use of GIS in historical scholarship, she has published widely on nineteenth-century Welsh immigration. She is currently writing a book about the role of skilled labor and technology transfer in the modernization of the American iron industry from 1800 to 1868.

Mark Lethbridge has been lecturing on geographical information systems, spatial statistics, and computer modeling for the past twelve years, most recently at Flinders University. His primary research interests are in the field of animal ecology. More broadly, Mark uses GIS and computer modeling in a wide range of research interests including crime analysis, demographic studies, threatened-species management, plant-distribution modeling, archaeology, and historical geography.

James W. Wilson is Visiting Lecturer at Old Dominion University for the 2004-2005 academic year. James' previous experiences include his work as geospatial application integration manager for the Commonwealth of Virginia and nearly twenty years as an administrator and instructor at James Madison University. James is a doctoral candidate in geography at the University of Maryland. He earned an M.A. in history from James Madison University, where he also obtained his B.S. degree with majors in geography and anthropology.