THE MONADNOCK

of the

Clark University Geographical Society

"All scientific laws are statements of probability rather than of infallible sequence or causation."

R. B. Cattell

VOLUME XXXV, No. 1

DECEMBER, 1960
A MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Monadnock staff wishes a Merry Christmas to all members of the Graduate School of Geography -- former and present. The staff sincerely hopes the New Year will be a happy and fruitful one for you -- personally and professionally.

A WORD OF THANKS -- And to some, a nudge

The staff wishes to thank those who have returned the questionnaire which was mailed in October. Another "thanks" to the many friends of CGGS who have contributed to the Monadnock fund. The cost of mailing the questionnaires, and the cost of printing and mailing two editions of The Monadnock, is increasing each year. The staff urges those who have not responded to do so as soon as possible. This is the only way we have of maintaining contact with CGGS members -- and to help you do the same.

THE MONADNOCK STAFF

Editor
John C. Lowe

Business Manager
Robert A. Paul

It is again my pleasant task to wish you -- also in name of the other members of the staff -- a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

When I think over the year that is now almost completed my thoughts go back to the Clark luncheon at the I.G.U. Meeting in Stockholm which more than eighty attended. It was a high spot in my life to see so many of you there -- some of you I had not seen for a long time -- and to hear personally about your work and achievements. We at Clark are proud of what you have accomplished and your success is the satisfaction we get out of teaching.

May the next year be good to you and bring you what you are hoping for.

S. Van Valkenburg
Ali Nagar is a small agricultural village in the heart of East Pakistan. Its population of 2,297 is spread out over an area of 679 acres. Because the village is surrounded by two arms of a river, flooding during the rainy season makes communication within the area most difficult. Like any other part of East Pakistan, Ali Nagar enjoys the effects of a tropical monsoon climate with hot and humid summers and cool, dry winters.

Ali Nagar is located on a recently deposited flood plain which shows the effects of man's work through the years: levees, bar ridges, channel scars, etc. Much terracing has gone on throughout the centuries and today, five distinct levels can be recognized. Although they are not necessarily contiguous, each one has its own elevation and can be identified from the others by levees of one to two feet. The land use on each of the various levels or terraces is determined by two factors:

1) the frequency of flooding and effectiveness of drainage.
2) the amount of silt deposited by flooding.

Although flooding is inherently a great threat to cultivation, it is also beneficial in that it increases soil fertility through the deposition of silt. This is particularly important in an area such as this where there is no use of commercial fertilizers. Nevertheless, soils are very poor and thus, yields are also very poor.

This is an area of intensive cultivation. Agriculture is of course the most important land use as is evident in the following table of land use percentages:

| Settlement and other non-agricultural lands | 7.7% |
| Crop lands | 86.3% |
| Foot paths | 3.3% |
| Unproductive lands | 0.3% |

The upper level is of course taken up by the settlement, as far away as possible from flood hazards. The entire village of Ali Nagar is divided into approximately nine blocks which are arranged linearly along the levees. There are some 515 huts in the settlement. These are arranged, within each block, around a rectangular courtyard. There is no post office within the village and the largest buildings include the mosque and other public buildings.

Most of the land is double-cropped. The ratio between double-cropped and single-cropped is approximately three to one. For ease of presentation, we shall look first at the summer crops, and then at the winter crops.

Summer crops are divided between aman (summer rice) and jute. Aman occupies a little more than half of all the cropland. It is sown in April-May and is usually harvested in November-December. Yields are low and vary from 820 to 980 pounds per acre, whereas the normal yields in East Pakistan range from 1,300 to 1,500 pounds per acre. The total production of 106,500 to 147,600 pounds, depending upon the year, is consumed locally and will generally feed the population for a period of six months.

Jute, the other summer crop, is the only cash crop of Ali Nagar. It occupies the second highest levels. Sown mostly in April and harvested in June-July, its yields are again very low as compared with the average yields of East Pakistan. They amount to 330 to 500 pounds per acre.

The principal winter crops include: boro (winter rice), tobacco, pulse, and mustard seed.

The boro paddies, which occupy 12% per cent of the area, are the most valuable crop of the season. Boro is grown mostly in marshy areas and dehydrated river channels. The seed bed is prepared near the water and the crop is seeded in October. By November, it is transplanted to the actual fields and harvested in May. The yields vary from 820 to 980 pounds per acre.

Pulse is the most important winter crop, acre-wise. It is used as both a foodstuff and animal feed. Sown in mid-October, it is usually harvested in January. Yields vary from 820 to 980 pounds per acre.

Tobacco is planted mostly near the settlements. High taxation has kept the acreage down to a minimum and the yields are very low, ranging from 160 to 330 pounds per acre. Its quality is generally inferior. The seed is usually transplanted from the seed bed in January and harvested at the end of March.

Mustard seeds and other wild seeds occupy a very small acreage. Yields vary from 330 to 500 pounds per acre.

Horticulture is not particularly important in Ali Nagar. A number of crops such as sweet potatoes, radishes, pumpkins, onions, garlic and tomatoes are mostly winter vegetables. They are usually grown very close to the homesteads and are consumed locally.

A few bananas and mango trees are found scattered around the settlement and along the paths. These produce an inadequate crop. However, they provide a certain amount of protection from storms and afford some privacy from neighbors.

Approximately ten acres of the entire area are devoted to grazing. The grasses are unimproved and 670 heads of cattle plus 120 goats are grazed on it. This is obviously not adequate. Thus, during the winter, this livestock is fed on pulse while during the rainy season, the staff of rice and water hyacinths provide the necessary forage.
It is evident from the preceding that Aliagar, with its combination of poor soils, flood hazards and high population density, is an example of a very poor type of subsistence economy. Because of this, many people in the area are drawn away from the land towards the jute mills located in a radius of ten miles.

To improve the economy of this village, typical of many such villages, these five steps seem appropriate:

1) The use of chemical fertilizers to increase the fertility of the soil.
2) The adoption of scientific farming techniques and the use of better quality seeds to improve present yields.
3) The control of pests which are an annual threat to production.
4) Flood control for the protection of crops on the lower levels.
5) Irrigation which is often needed during the sowing season.

It is obvious that government help is imperatively needed to carry out each one of these steps, and that it is only through government help that the area will come out of its present state of poverty.

The thoughts which I here record on paper are taken off the top of my head, so to speak. There will be those among the readers who will be somewhat appalled by the lack of documentation so obvious in the paragraphs which follow. There is a reason, however inadequate it may appear, for having adopted this policy at the very outset. After a few years of attempting to assimilate myself with the teachings and preachings of various philosophical scholars within the field of geography, and after having attempted to sort out random thoughts and to place them in their proper perspective within what is commonly referred to as a personal philosophy, I have come to the conclusion that the ability to speak these various phrases in my own terms is more important than the ability to recall the originator. I firmly believe that this is what each of us is seeking in his own way; the development of the ability to express in one's own words those things which are of a philosophical nature, insofar as geography is concerned. This stated, we may proceed.

Perhaps I should begin by introducing myself. I am nobody. That is to say, I have never published anything of a geographic or other nature. Now, for those who place great emphasis on the amount of publication, let me state that there is absolutely no reason to read further.

Notwithstanding the conspicuous lack of literary recognition, I feel justified to place these thoughts before the public with the hope that they may be, at least in part, representative of some of the feelings of other young, aspiring geographic "scholars".

The interest with which each individual member maintains in his field is, in part, due to the experiences of youth. The initial entry into the field is oftentimes attributable to some deep-seated urge to know more about the people and the physical qualities of the earth on which we live. While there is this aspect to my initial forayings into geographic studies, there is the added, and utterly true, factor that the girl that I intended to marry (and later did, by the way) was an undergraduate geography major. Following this somewhat questionable beginning, I found that there were certain areas in which I had talent, that there were certain things in which I was deeply interested, and thus, the pursuit of a degree in geography appeared to be a worthwhile effort. This brings us nearly to the present, but there is still some need for a review of the elementary school geographic days which also play a part in the development of contemporary thinking.

I recall with the greatest of pleasure having spent many hours gazing longingly at the world map and conjuring up visions of the people and places designated thereon. In our classes at the time we devoted considerable energy
to the memorization of place names here, there, and everywhere. This was what we firmly believed geography to be. Later, however, there came the thought that perhaps geography was an attempt to gather the sum total of all human knowledge and bring it together under the broad heading of geography. This, as was pointed out to me still later, was fallacious thinking on my part; but, try as I may, it takes great effort to clear this line of thinking from mind even to the present day, whether the evidence supports or refutes this belief is of little consequence for the moment.

Then came the inevitable day - the time that graduate studies loomed on the horizon. As the fateful day drew near I spent much time (considerable time is perhaps more correct) in an effort to develop a personal viewpoint as to the actual purpose of the field of geography. Ultimately, with the help and benevolent assistance of men more learned than myself, I managed to bring forth the following definition which I considered both adequate and meaningful:

"Geography is the study of how much of what is where and why."

Armed with this definition I journeyed forth. To date I still cling to the attitude. The approaches put forth by various of the sub-fields have had little effect on me, as I am trying, above all else, to retain the broad outlook. There are those who state the assorted notions regarding area differentiation, areal interrelationships, and the like, these, for my way of thinking, are all inherent in the broader definition stated above.

The recent literature (and, for that matter, the past - particularly on the American scene) has been full of assorted works topped by grand titles as that which heads the present work: "House Types, Place Names, and Yam Culture in Southeast Burlap". Granted, of course, that the mere accumulation of data, facts if you prefer, regarding places and things, has merit in particular instances. But what of the answer to the final element of the definition: why? Why aren't the features characteristic of Southeast Burlap found elsewhere? or are they?

"But, if this sort of work doesn't satisfy the requirements of the stated definition, then what does? As Shakespeare spake it: 'Aye, there's the rub!' What does?"

If geography is a correlational science, then what is the point of correlation? To me it is the region, regardless of the extent of that delimited region. It is the region in relation to those regions to which it is both similar and dissimilar, as viewed in terms of the various elements of the physical and the cultural, or, if you will, the economic environments. It is thus, in the broad view, a science which must, of necessity, seek the ultimate accumulation of all human knowledge. But, more than that - so much more than that - it involves a scientific appraisal or evaluation of the various factors of that accumulated knowledge as well.

In reflecting past events and studies, there arises the firm conviction that this definition of the field which I have adopted for my own was first put forward by a more prominent scholar. If there is one who might inform me of the origin of the statement I would be quite grateful. Although, I must state most emphatically that the name will mean absolutely nothing to me for my purposes - all that matters is that I still tend to agree with him, whoever he may be.

And, if it is a science, then the scientific method is the only approach justifiable for any study under its far-reaching wings. This scientific method, for all practical purposes, has been re-defined as the "problem" approach. In short, it is the formulation of a hypothesis, the subsequent testing of that hypothesis by as many suitable techniques as possible, the checking of the results thus obtained, and, finally, the statement of the various conclusions regarding the original hypothesis as well as the various methods by which it was tested. If the scientific method is neglected, then geography is not a science. All of this has led me to believe firmly that a course in the philosophy of science and scientific methodology is an important in the curriculum of a geography student as any of the courses presently offered.

And what of the increased recent tendency to place emphasis on the quantitative method? Need this necessarily be the case? The rather rapid stress placed upon the advanced statistical methods in perhaps a bit more than the limited mind can take in one gulp; but, as one man for whom I have the utmost respect, has put it recently: "The quantitative approach has proven worthwhile in other fields of science; it seems likely that it would prove useful in the field of geography."

But bear in mind that ours is a correlational science - perhaps the correlational science - and not merely "House Types, Place Names, and Yam Culture in Southeast Burlap". Let us remind ourselves constantly that we must eventually be interested in bringing all things back to a common frame of reference. Is it too early for this to begin? After all, an immense number of similar case studies are already available for these correlational efforts.
Dr. Van Valkenburg spent a busy summer as usual in Europe. He attended the IUU meetings in Stockholm where he reports, eighty-one showed up for the Clark luncheon. From there he proceeded to conferences in Amsterdam, Zurich and Munich. He did find some time in all this to continue his studies in land use, this time, concentrating his efforts in eastern Austria. Back home, Dr. Van spoke recently at a meeting of geographers in Millerville, Pennsylvania.

This past year, Dr. Van has published "An Evaluation of the Standard Land Use in Western Europe" in the October issue of Economic Geography as well as "A Political Geographer Looks at the World", in the July issue of the Professional Geographer. He is currently involved in research on national incomes.

Dr. Murphy spent eight weeks this summer teaching at the University of Nebraska. He then spent one month in Europe. While there, he attended the IUU meetings in Stockholm, the five-day Symposium on Urban Geography at land where he delivered a paper on research on the GED. The proceedings of this Symposium are to be published shortly.

At a distance, Dr. Murphy also supervised a research project sponsored by the Bureau of Public Roads on the effects of freeways on the GEDs of American cities. The final report of this project is under completion.

Dr. Warnam spent a summer of teaching at Clark, and later at the University of Colorado, where he conducted a workshop in "geography in education". From there, he proceeded to the IUU meetings in Stockholm.

Dr. Warnam has also been continuing research in human and cultural geography with a view to stating the case for "geography in the social sciences" for the American Council of Learned Societies Committee of which he is a member.

Mr. Burnham was on hand this past summer to give his cartography course to the eager beavers who could not wait till the regular school year. They are still "talking about it in the backroom", as they have been doing for years. A fresh crew of cartographers (would-be) is enrolled for the current season, keeping Mr. Burnham busy and mildly happy.

Dr. J.W. Birch is visiting professor this year. He comes from the University of Bristol, and has recently published an article "A Note on the Sample-Farm Survey and its Use as a Basis for Generalized Mapping", in Economic Geography, July 1960. After a summer at the IUU meetings, Dr. Birch has been kept busy settling his family, wife and two small children, and getting accustomed to the American way of life. He is teaching an introductory economic geography course as well as the land use course.

Dr. Walter F. Wood is also visiting professor this semester, in physiography. Dr. Wood, a resident of Natick, is in charge of quantitative terrain analysis research for the Office of the Quarter-master. He has been applying statistical techniques to physiography, vegetative and climatic phenomena.

Dr. Karl E. Shaw, Professor of Geography at Assumption College here in Worcester, has been giving his specialty: Anglo-America. Dr. Shaw plans to travel, continue research in regional and economic geography and retain the light teaching load which he is carrying.
CONGRATULATIONS

Several Clark graduates have recently gained new positions within the profession and the workroom offers our sincere congratulations and wishes for continued success.

John P. Augelli (B.A. 1970) was recently promoted to full Professor in the Department of Geography, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Ambrey Dienes (M.A. 1965) has recently taken the position of Assistant Professor of Geography at the Waterloo University College, Waterloo, Ontario.

Leo J. Zuber (B.A. 1961-1962) was recently named Assistant Regional Director for Special Programs, Urban Renewal Administration, Housing and Home Finance Agency, Region III, Atlanta, Georgia.

1960-61 GIDS OFFICERS

Dale Severson President
Fredric Ritter Vice-President
Janet Olsen Secretary
Abdul Al Debbagh Treasurer
Hilma Angelbeck Social Chairman
David Auerle Program Director
John Lowe Editor Monadnock
Robert Paul Business Manager

HELP NEEDED --- UNKNOWN ADDRESSES

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following people, please drop us a line. These names will be retired to the inactive file if information is not forthcoming.

Avad, Hassan
Kohomban-Wickrema, Mildred
Krebs, I.C.
Lathrop, Frances M.
Lee, James S.
Liu, En-Lan
Logan, Marguerite
McEntyre, Wallace E.
Moody, William B.
Nordell, Per Gof
Jesus, Paul
Prince, Paul
Reinward, Lewis
Sax, Anthony
Shih, Li-chang
Simmons, Robert B.
Stoneman, Cyril A.
Waterman, Nancy

THE WORKROOM

ABDUL NAHAB AL DABBAGH (M.A. University of Birmingham, 1969) spent his summer at the University of Colorado where he perfected his cartographic technique and studied French in anticipation of his language exams. Abdul, who is interested in economic development, will return to the College of Education in Baghdad where he is assistant professor of geography.

WILMA M. ANGELBECK (M.A. Columbia University) comes to us from Montclair, New Jersey. Wilma spent her summer in Mr. Burnham's "salvage". She is interested in cultural geography and intends to go back to teaching after the completion of her residence year.

VAN M. ARDIAN (M.A. Harvard, 1953) spent his summer in the cartography lab. Van's interests are divided between political geography, urban geography and, talking about Armenian nationalism.

PAUL R. BEAUSEJT (B.S. in Education, Pitchburg State Teachers College, 1957) is taking his Ph.D. residence while writing his theses on the climate of the Altimetia. Paul hopes to start teaching after this year.

SUMITHI BENDIT (M.A. Allahabad University, 1952) is back with us this year, working on her dissertation, a socio-economic-political study of the Indian state boundaries.

DAVID D. BREDEUR (M.A. Clark, 1960) spent his summer working on the Public Roads Research Contract under Dr. Murphy's guidance. Dave, who is interested in political geography, hopes to go to Turkey for his dissertation research.

DAVID E. BIERLE (M.S. in Economic Geography, Columbia University, 1959), a Naval Reserve officer, has travelled through Europe, the Caribbean and Brasil.

Dave, whose interests are split between political and economic geography, has been working for the New York Port Authority. He hopes to enter university teaching.

FAROUK ELSAMAL (B.A. Honors, Cairo University, 1959) spent last year as a "demonstrator" in the Department of Geography of Cairo University. Farouk is here on an Egyptian government grant to study political geography. He is also interested in economic geography and will teach at his alma mater upon completion of his Ph.D.

ROBERT GARDELII (B.S. Education, Bridgewater State Teachers College, 1960) spent a busy summer as waiter and completing Mr. Burnham's cartography course. Bob plans to be married next June and return for his Ph.D. residence after that. Eventually, he intends to teach.

JANET L. GLEN (B.S. Drexel Institute, 1931) comes to us from Island Heights, New Jersey. Janet is currently working in the "cove" in addition to a full master's program.

DONALD W. GRIFFIN (M.S. Illinois State University, 1956) is taking his Ph.D. residence. He is married and has two small children. Bill is interested primarily in political geography and hopes to teach in a university. For the past two years, he has been working for the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

JOAN ELIZABETH HARRIS (B.A. New Jersey State College, 1953) is beginning work on her master's. She intends to teach on a college level and is interested in regional and human geography.

JOSEPH HICKEY (M.A. Clark, 1958), the "grand ole man" of the workroom spent a summer which left much to be desired, doing social sampling, qualitative and quantitative, on Cape Cod. Joe is currently doing
research for the Worcester Planning Department and working on his dissertation.

HERMANN HILSE (B.A. Trenton State College, 1960) is taking his M.A. first year residence. Hermann, whose major field of interest is political geography, plans to teach at the college level.

BEN KNOWATT (B.S. Education, Farmington State Teachers College, 1959) is Dr. Murphy's assistant this year. Ben has just passed his master's oral and is taking his Ph.D. residence. This past summer, he worked on the Department of Public Roads Research Project.

ROBERT KUNTZEN (B.S. Education, Bridgewater State Teachers College, 1958) is working on his thesis on the changes in land values in Worcester. This past summer, "Boot" worked for Dr. Murphy on the Public Roads Research Contract. He continues to express a strong interest in urban and economic geography.

M. AMINUL BIAN (M.Sc. University of Daava, 1957) is here on a Fulbright grant. Along with his work as Lecturer in geography at the University of Daava, Ibaan has been involved in a great deal of land use research. He is interested in human and cultural geography and is anxious to get back to his wife and year-old daughter.

HAROLD F. KEEPER (B.S. Carroll College, 1959) is taking his Ph.D. residence, working on his thesis and, babysitting with his daughter, born in May. This summer, Harry worked for the Worcester Planning Department. Time spent at the Berkshire Festival in Tanglewood provided inspiration for continued interest in urban geography.

JOHN LUBB (Educated in Holland) is starting on his M.A. residence. John, who has been in this country twelve years, comes to us with his wife from sunny California. He is interested in a teaching career.

JOHN C. HOEK (M.A. George Washington University, 1960) spent his summer as cartographer for the Maryland Nat. Cap. Parks and Planning Commission. He is interested in urban geography and industrial location and would like to do basic research and planning.

MURLINE MATTINGHEE (B.S. Education, Worcester State Teachers College, 1957) is beginning work on a master's degree. She intends to continue teaching upon completion of her work here.

ALBERT R. MITCHELL (M.A. Clark, 1960) is studying French in preparation for the Ph.D. language requirements. Al is interested in human geography and intends to teach after completion of his degree.

DUNCAN MUSTARD (B.A. Atlantic Union College, 1960) comes from England originally. Dunc is starting residence for his M.A. and expresses a tentative interest in human and cultural geography. He currently makes his home in Montreal.

GERALD OVERSTREET (B.S. Northwestern State College, Oklahoma, 1954) is back with us, studying for his oral. Jerry is interested primarily in agricultural geography and intends to teach upon completion of his degree.

ROBERT A. PAUL (B.S. Education, Bryant College, 1955) is on leave of absence from his alma mater where he has been teaching for the past five years. Bob admits being "torn" between human-cultural and physical geography. He intends to return to teaching.

RICHARD J. PETERS, JR. (B.S. Tufts University, 1959) has had enough geology in his undergraduate work to label him an inveterate physical geographer. He is starting out master's work and is not definite about his plans.

RICHARD ELLIS PEPWTON (M.A. University of Washington, 1957) was married this summer to Janet Caldwell, who is currently teaching elementary school in Grafton. Dick also worked with Dr. Murphy on the Public Roads Research Project. He is presently preparing his prelisis and hopes to have completed everything by summertime, after which he plans to teach.

FRANK E. BARKER (M.A. Clark, 1960) is finishing his Ph.D. residence. Frank, who is particularly interested in the Far East and physical geography has just been named instructor in geography at the University of Missouri for the coming spring semester.

FRIEDRICH R. BITTER (M.A. Clark, 1955) is another one of our new folks. Fred was married this past June. He spent his summer doing agricultural research for the Office of Planning of Carroll County, Maryland. He is interested in urban geography and intends to teach.

CAROLYN RYAN (B.S. Education, Bridgewater State Teachers College, 1960) spent her summer in Mr. Buxton's cartographic class, after which she worked for the Bristol County Treasurer, Carolyn, who is starting on her master's residence, is very much interested in medical geography. She is working for Economic Geography.

HARLEY E. SCOTT (B.A. University of Buffalo, 1960) is continuing work on his master's. He plans a trip to the Soviet Union for the summer of 1961 and is interested in working as a transportation analyst for the Federal Government.

DALL SEVERTSON, U.S.A.F. (M.Sc. Oregon State College, 1958) is finishing his Ph.D. residence. He maintains a strong interest in physical geography and exploration and plans to teach at the Air Force Academy.

CHESTER SMOLISKI (M.A. Clark, 1953) is on leave of absence as assistant professor of geography at the Rhode Island College. Gesh is taking his Ph.D. residence. He spent six weeks this summer on a study grant of the Aluminum Company of America. He is interested primarily in Asia and Economic geography.

THAN SWE (B.A. Honors, Rangoon University, 1959) has been an assistant lecturer at the Defense Services Academy in Mayyo, Burma. He is here as a Smith-Mundt grantee. With members of the staff, he has published (in Burmese) a book on the forests of Burma. He is primarily interested in political and military geography and intends to return to teaching.

DAVID E. VINCENZ (B.S. Education, Salem State Teachers College, 1959) has come back to finish his master's residence and to work on his thesis. He is interested in political geography and intends to teach when he gets through.

WILLIAM WHITE (B.S. Education, Bridgewater State Teachers College, 1960) is starting his M.A. residence. Father of three, he intends to continue the teaching career upon which he has embarked.

RUDOLPH WIEZEL (B.S. Syracuse University, 1930) is preparing his doctoral prelisis which he intends to take in the spring. He is sitting in on all classes for first-hand brushing-up.

STEPHEN O. WILSON (B.A. Dartmouth, 1959) is completing master residence after a hectic summer "oceanographizing" and meetings in Helsinki and in Stockholm. Steve was married to Carolyn Day on the 17th of December. CONGRATULATIONS.
The Monadnock deeply regrets to announce the recent deaths of three former graduates of the Graduate School of Geography.

Wallace R. McConnell, Ph.D. 1925, passed away at his home in Redlands, California, in February of this year.

Joan Goodfellow, M.A. 1955, drowned while on a geographic survey on Great Bear Lake in July of this year.

Maartini (Karno) Siagian, M.A. 1959, died in November of this year. She was married in August and had been teaching with her husband in Sumatra.