Editorial

R. H. Whitbeck

To cite this article: R. H. Whitbeck (1918) Editorial, Journal of Geography, 17:4, 166-167, DOI: [10.1080/00221341808984428](https://doi.org/10.1080/00221341808984428)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00221341808984428>

Published online: 13 Feb 2008.

Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)

Article views: 3

View related articles [↗](#)

ing pendants touch edge to edge and form a tapering shape that earns and merits the name of the Angel's Wing. In the Great Ball Room the chandeliers hang in the profusion of a royal palace. Even the guide's rustic jokes and his attempts at serious descriptions of the "Ample Theatre" and "Proserpeens" bower add only a touch of variety. He points out in tender tones the image of Christ blessing little children and the figure of St. Peter standing with bowed head. And both are very realistic even without the guide's reverential tones.

Two groups of stalactites of varying lengths and sizes form the "Organ" and the "Cathedral Chimes"; upon these the local musician plays familiar airs. The tones are of a remarkable bell-like purity. The cavern is lighted with incandescent lights, skillfully placed where they illuminate features of peculiar beauty.

A trip to the caverns of Luray is one well worth taking.*

R. H. WHITBECK.

EDITORIAL

THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AND THE JOURNAL OF GEOGRAPHY

WITH this issue of the Journal of Geography the magazine passes into new hands,—back to New York whence it came to us somewhat more than eight years ago. Back to the metropolis, but to new editorial and business management.

A few years ago the American Geographical Society of New York adopted a policy of expansion. Dr. Isaiah Bowman, then a professor of geography at Yale, was called to the directorship of the Society. The Society's monthly magazine, *The Bulletin of the American Geographical Society*, was given new form and new standards and became the present *Geographical Review*, regarded by some as the leading geographical magazine in the English language. The Society also established very close ties with the Association of American Geographers, holding an annual joint meeting with the Association, providing for the printing of its *Annals* and otherwise co-operating with it on terms of great benefit to the Association.

When the organization of the National Council of Geography Teachers was under consideration, the Director of the American Geographical Society, Dr. Bowman, gave his unqualified support to the movement, and after the formation of the National Council, gave it financial assistance each year.

* An illustrated booklet of information may be obtained free by addressing *The Luray Caverns Corporation, Luray, Va.*

While the American Geographical Society has been aiding other geographical organizations, it has never in the slightest degree sought to control or influence their policies. The Society has become the patron of scientific and educational geography in this country, as the National Geographic Society (Washington) has become the greatest popularizer of geography in the world.

When Dr. Bowman offered to take over the *Journal of Geography* and give it the firm backing and financial support of the American Geographical Society, the editor felt that the acceptance of the offer was the best thing that could happen to the magazine. A magazine like the *Journal of Geography* can scarcely be expected to pay its way. Some one must give liberally of his time or else some generous person or organization must make up the financial deficit. This situation will now be permanently met and we look forward to seeing the *Journal* strengthened in every way. Instead of going to 2200 subscribers, it ought to reach 5000 or 10,000 or more.

We believe that the greatest epoch for American geography lies just ahead. We see evidences everywhere of new and widespread interest in world geography. If ever conditions were propitious for launching a great movement for more geography and better geography in American schools, those conditions are here today. If the three strong geographical societies in this country, or even one or two of them, will join hands with the recently formed National Council of Geography Teachers and give it hearty support, geography can be made to hold a place of high esteem in American education. And now is the time to do it.

Believing that this can best be attained by placing the *Journal of Geography*—which is vital to the life of the National Council—in the hands of the American Geographical Society, we find genuine satisfaction in seeing this accomplished.

We have a host of people to thank, people who have been friends of the *Journal* in many ways, and we take this opportunity to express our appreciation. If the editor is poorer financially for his connection with the *Journal*, he is richer in acquaintances.

And now we throw a horse shoe to the new editor and new manager.

R. H. WHITBECK.

A FEW EXAMPLES OF OFFICIAL GERMAN BOASTS AND THREATS

In view of the complete collapse of Germany, the flight of the Kaiser, the humiliation of the whole military caste, and the utter defeat of the "invincible" German armies, it is interesting to recall a few of the many official boasts made during the past four and one-half years.