

Los Angeles Geographical Society

Southland Geographical Notes

www.lageography.org



October

2010

Annual Banquet

The Forgotten People: The Ethnic and Tribal Minorities of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam

Dr. Gerald Tyner

On December 3, the Annual Banquet will again be held at Taix French Restaurant near Downtown Los Angeles. Dr. Gerald Tyner will share his extensive travels in Southeast Asia and insight about *The Forgotten People: The Ethnic and Tribal Minorities of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam*. Dr. Tyner earned a PhD in Geography at the University of California at Los Angeles. The presentation will follow dinner and raffle fundraising for Student Scholarships. Everyone will again have the opportunity to network with returning and new friends during this annual social event.

Annual Banquet

December 3

Taix Restaurant

1911 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90026

6:00 pm – Social Hour
7:00 pm – Dinner/Raffle
8:30 pm – Presentation

\$30 – Members
\$35 – Non-members

Menu – Short Ribs
Grilled Salmon

RSVP by November 22
(Return form and check
to LAGS mail box)

*Remember to RENEW DUES for 2011
when Reserving for Annual Banquet*

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2010 Scholarship Awards

The Los Angeles Geographical Society annually awards merit-based scholarships of \$500 to outstanding Geography majors.

The McKnight-Clemons Scholarship fund is a memorial to the late Tom McKnight of the University of California at Los Angeles, and Joan Clemons of Los Angeles Valley College. McKnight-Clemons Scholarships are awarded to students majoring in Geography at local Community Colleges.

The Richard F. Logan Scholarship fund is a memorial to the late Richard Logan of the University of California at Los Angeles. Richard Logan Scholarships are awarded to Upper Division students majoring in Geography at local Universities.

2009 scholarships were awarded May 9. McKnight-Clemons Scholarships awarded to Community College students were:

Natalie Gorodnitski, Santa Monica College
Daniel Pearlman, El Camino College

Richard F. Logan Scholarships awarded to Upper Division students were:

Flavio Mercado, CSU Long Beach
Tiffany Seely, CSU Fullerton

Scholarships are made possible by generous donations from our members, plus raffle ticket sales at the annual Banquet. You may include donations towards either Scholarship fund when you pay or renew your membership on the form provided on the website at www.lageography.org. Information may also be found there for minimum requirements for Scholarship application.



Los Angeles Geographical Society

Free illustrated lectures are presented each month during the academic year about geographical research and world travel. Lectures are usually on the first Friday of the month at 8:00 pm at Los Angeles City College. For current room location, go to the website at:

www.lageography.org

Inquiries may also be addressed to either our e-mail or mailing address:

lageographicalsociety@yahoo.com

Los Angeles Geographical Society
Los Angeles City College
855 North Vermont Avenue, Box # 1259
Los Angeles, CA 90029

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	Kris Jones
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	Zia Salim
	Vienne Vu
Student Representative	Daniel Pearlman

May 2010

*Student Presentations
and Posters Night*

On May 7, 2010, the annual Student Presentations Night was held at Los Angeles City College in a multi-room format in the Science-Technology building. The event was excellently programmed and staged by Vienne Vu with assistance by Zia Salim (MA, CSU Fullerton for both).

After announcing Scholarship awards by the Los Angeles Geographical Society (see separate article on page 2), the following presentations were given by graduate and undergraduate students in Geography programs at local universities and colleges.

GIS Network Analysis for Finding the Potential Metro Rail Ridership by Access Modes in Los Angeles County
Bin (Owen) Mo, CSU Los Angeles

The Grey Areas of Green: Insights into Life & Conservation in Vila Picinguaba, Serra do Mar State Park, Brazil
Aline Gregorio, CSU Fullerton

The Role of Place Attachment in One Foothills Community's Reaction to Fire
Jenny Novak, University of Southern California

Sovereignty in Outer Space
Mia Bennett, UC Los Angeles

Mapping Murals: An Interactive Guide to Los Angeles Murals
Zia Salim, San Diego State University / UC Santa Barbara

Waiting on the Snow: Maintaining Local Identity in Mammoth Lakes, California
Kalli Fullerton & Samantha Roth
CSU Long Beach

Compound Life: The Western Experience of Saudi Arabia
Tiffany Seeley, CSU Fullerton

Insufficient Funds: The Effect of Solar Farms on the Desert Atmospheric and Surface Energy Budget
Theresa Stoumbos, CSU Fullerton

Plastic Marine Debris
Celika Saito, Los Angeles Valley College

A number of excellent Posters and Maps were also exhibited.

At the 2010 conference of the California Geographical Society, Bin (Owen) Mo, Aline Gregorio and Jenny Novak were respectively awarded First, Second and Third Place for graduate student papers. The 2010 conference of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers also awarded Mr. Mo for Outstanding Student Paper for all academic levels (BA/BS, MA/MS and PhD), as well as Outstanding Paper by a Master's Student.

Geography students at local universities are encouraged to prepare ahead to present their latest research at the next annual Student Presentations Night on May 6, 2011. Next year's event should be even larger with more presentations and bigger audience in the many large rooms with the latest technology in the new Science-Technology building. Grateful appreciation is extended to Los Angeles City College for hosting us, and also to resident Geography faculty Michael Farrell for coordinating venue logistics.

September 2010 Lecture

Rivers, Streams, and Waterfalls of Yosemite

Presentation by Dr. John Keyantash
Associate Professor of Geography
California State University,
Dominguez Hills

Review by Kris Jones
M.A., California State University, Fullerton

Dr. John Keyantash of California State University, Dominguez Hills gave an engaging presentation on the waterways of Yosemite, especially in the backcountry seldom seen by the typical tourist. He began with natural history of the Sierra Nevada, discussed watersheds and waterfalls of Yosemite, and concluded with field hydrology classes he has taken to Yosemite and the techniques they used to estimate stream discharges in the area.

The Sierra Nevada are primarily a granitic mountain range, formed between 240 and 80 million years ago. Then various glaciations during the Pleistocene epoch produced the striking vertical topography for which Yosemite is famous. The glacial valleys have sizeable mountain rivers and hanging valleys which were cut by the glaciers and which produce the numerous world-famous waterfalls found in Yosemite. Most notable is Yosemite Falls, which is the fifth highest waterfall in the World with a total drop of 2,425 feet.

The three major watersheds in Yosemite and their rivers are the Yosemite Valley with the Merced River, the Hetch Hetchy Valley and the Grand Canyon of the

Tuolumne River, and in the south the Wawona watershed which is drained by the South Fork of the Merced River. Waterfall heights, and whether perennial or ephemeral (seasonal), were described with beautiful photos and maps. The highest water levels for Yosemite rivers are during spring afternoons with maximum snowmelt. The maximum discharges in the waterfalls occur when the spring melt gets to them which could be much later in the evening for falls at the lower course of the rivers.

Dr Keyantash showed many of the popular waterfalls of Yosemite including the Giant Staircase of the Merced which connects the Yosemite Valley to the upper Little Yosemite Valley. The Giant Staircase includes Nevada Falls (592 feet) and Vernal Falls (317 feet) and are visited by many hikers every year. Bridal Veil Falls (620 feet) is one of the most photographed falls located across from El Capitan in the classic view of the Yosemite Valley from the tunnel viewpoint. Before and after photos of the flooded Hetch Hetchy Valley were also shown with Tueeulala Fall (1,000 feet) and Wapama Fall, which used to be 1,700 feet but is now only 1,300 feet after the flooding of the valley.

Dr Keyantash's students estimated the discharges of rivers by wading in the water using mobile instruments and using discharge formulas. Student calculations matched closely the measurements recorded by the fixed U.S. Geological Survey's stream gauging stations.

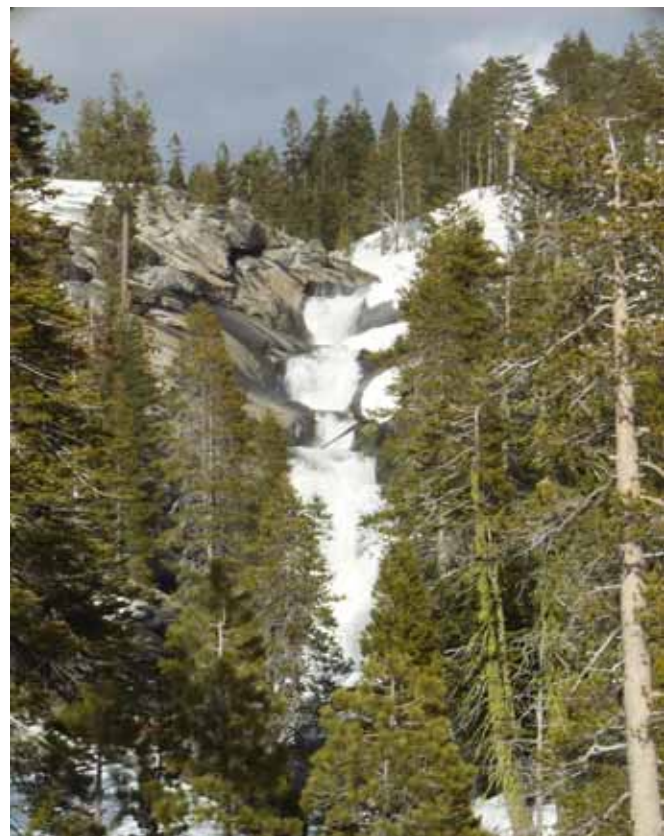
Dr Keyantash's presentation described the famous rivers and waterfalls of Yosemite and how this world class national park could be used effectively as a laboratory for hydrology students.



Tuolumne River



Tuolumne Falls (in north)



Chilnualna Falls (in south)

October 2010 Lecture

Cyprus: An Island Divided

Presentation by Matt Ebner
 Professor of Geography
 El Camino College

Review by Julianne Gard
 M.A. California State University, Long Beach
 PhD Candidate, University of Southern California

Professor Matt Ebner presented “Cyprus: An Island Divided” with stunning photos showing his 2006 adventure to the Mediterranean island with his wife Suzan. The lecture touched upon the physical, historical and cultural profiles of a country plagued by political strife.

Sweeping azure seascapes and majestic limestone formations provide a paradoxical backdrop for centuries of invasions, destruction of religious structures, and extreme ethnic violence. Cyprus came under Grecian, Roman, French, Venetian, Ottoman, and British rule before gaining independence in 1960.

Following independence, recent conflict was triggered by desires for “enosis” (union with Greece), followed by military invasions by Turkey and Greece, and ultimately, displacement of thousands of Turks in the south and Greeks in the north. A United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping mission began in 1974, and is now the longest continuing in the World. Cyprus is currently occupied by Turks in the north and Greeks in the south.

Although most of Cyprus is now ethnically homogenized on each side of a cease-fire line (a few thousand Greeks still reside in

the north), the effects of sequential cultural influences can be seen on the cultural landscape. Mr. Ebner presented vivid images of Roman temples, French Gothic architecture, a Venetian bridge, Turkish mosques, and Catholic cathedrals. Sometimes even a single structure represent the collision of cultures. An example of this amalgam can be seen in the photo of Lala Mustafa Pasa, a mosque converted from a Catholic cathedral.

The clear political boundary demarcation that divides the country is referred to as the “green line.” The buffer area between the country’s two portions is what Ebner calls the “dead zone” – an eerily quiet, policed, overgrown, and deserted space that he likened to the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. Tourists are allowed to traverse the country by car or cross through the shared capital city of Nicosia, albeit the more rural Turkish region caters far less to tourism.

Political discord aside, Cyprus offers a host of sights not to be missed. In particular, Mr. Ebner cites as examples the Salamis ruins, the Kourion amphitheater, St. Barnabas Church in the Muslim north, and the coastal town of Varosha located in the “dead zone.” The destinations situated within the buffer zone and in the northern region are likely to become more accessible, for better or worse, in forthcoming years.

Given its prosperous economy, recent border openings in Nicosia and UN-prompted attempts at reunification, many Cypriots are hopeful that one day the “green line” will transform into a relic boundary similar to that of the Berlin Wall.



Lala Mustafa Pasa Mosque
(converted from a Catholic cathedral)

OTHER PHOTOS OF CYPRUS



November 5, 2010

8:00 pm

*Historical Wetlands Mapping
in Southern California*

Dr. Shawna Dark, CSU Northridge

**Los Angeles Geographical Society
Los Angeles City College
Science-Technology Building**

www.lageography.org

University of California,
Los Angeles

The Todd Spieker Colloquium

The Geography Department of the University of California, Los Angeles sponsors The Todd Spieker Colloquium on Fridays at 3:00 pm in the Green Room, 1261 Bunche Hall (refreshments are served). Information on past and current Colloquia will be found at:

<http://www.geog.ucla.edu/colloq.php>



GEOTOURS

Experience the world's wonders

Matt Ebner, Vice President of the Los Angeles Geographical Society, will lead small-group tours in 2011 through his company **GeoTours**. There are many exciting and exotic destinations: Egypt/Jordan, Ghana, Bali, Turkey, Guatemala, Peru, Ireland, and South Africa/Swaziland/Zambia. Past tours were praised as excellent in quality and value.

Although not study abroad programs with formal class time, they are excellent learning experiences with a great variety of attractions and activities. The itineraries focus on nature, culture, and adventure, with excellent opportunities for photography and hiking. The trips are open to all ages, but participants should be willing to walk up to 2-3 miles per day.

For more information and detailed itineraries go to www.geotours.us, or e-mail mattebner@geotours.us, or call GeoTours at 888-496-8676.



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 Los Angeles City College
 855 North Vermont Avenue, Box # 1259
 Los Angeles, CA 90029

Free Public Lecture Series

8:00 p.m. – First Friday of most months

**Los Angeles City College
 Science-Technology Building**
 855 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles CA
 Complimentary Refreshments after the Lecture

www.lageography.org

FALL 2010	SPRING 2011
<p>September 10</p> <p><i>Rivers, Streams, and Waterfalls of Yosemite</i></p> <p>Dr. John Keyantash Associate Professor of Geography, CSU Dominguez Hills</p>	<p>February 4</p> <p><i>Transforming Public Space: Return of the Streetcar to U.S. Cities</i></p> <p>Dr. John Kirchner Professor of Geography Emeritus, CSU Los Angeles</p>
<p>October 1</p> <p><i>Cyprus: An Island Divided</i></p> <p>Matt Ebner Professor of Geography, El Camino College</p>	<p>March 4</p> <p><i>The Geography of Post-Disaster Recovery</i></p> <p>Dr. Jacqueline Mills Assistant Professor of Geography, CSU Long Beach</p>
<p>November 5</p> <p><i>Historical Wetlands Mapping In Southern California</i></p> <p>Dr. Shawna Dark Associate Professor of Geography, CSU Northridge</p>	<p>April 1</p> <p><i>Globalization and Sovereignty</i></p> <p>Dr. John Agnew Professor of Geography, UCLA</p>
<p>December 3</p> <p>Annual Banquet at Taix Restaurant</p> <p><i>The Forgotten People: Ethnic/Tribal Minorities of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam</i></p> <p>Dr. Gerald Tyner</p>	<p>May 6</p> <p><i>Student Presentations, Posters and Maps</i></p> <p><i>by students at universities In Southern California</i></p>

Association of American Geographers

Annual Meeting

April 12 to 16, 2011

The Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers will be held on April 12 to 16, 2011 in Seattle Washington. Information for registration, tentative schedule, and submitting an abstract for a paper presentation is now available at www.aag.org.

California Geographical Society

Annual Conference

April 29 to May 1, 2011

The Annual Conference of the California Geographical Society will be held on April 29 to May 1, 2011 in Bishop, California. The California Geographical Society provides networking among educators and students, and field trips will provide a great view of the nearby physical landscape. Conference information will be available later at www.calgeog.org.

Association of Pacific Coast Geographers

Annual Conference

September 28 to October 1, 2011

The Annual Conference of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers has been announced for September 28 to October 1, 2011 in San Francisco at the Holiday Inn near Fisherman's Wharf.

Santa Monica College

Fall 2010 Lecture Series

This series continues a 9-year tradition of speakers on Environmental and Urban issues. Presentations will be on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm, at the Bundy Campus Room 123 (next to Santa Monica Airport).

September 7

Making Santa Monica College More Sustainable

From expanding Sustainable Works to our Center for Environmental and Urban Studies, from a more efficient campus to our organic garden efforts, learn how Santa Monica College is defining campus sustainability and becoming a better neighbor and how you can help.

October 19

Building and Living Los Angeles: Past, Present, and Future

Author and designer Margaret Bach shows her classic historical film, "Landscape with Angels" and discusses her recent book as we explore Los Angeles history and dream about what our city can be.

November 2

Your Food, Your City, Your Health

From local to organic, from processing to packaging, learn how City of Santa Monica staff work to encourage food choices that may improve our health and heal our community and planet.

November 30

What is Sustainable Seafood?

A Heal the Bay scientist will discuss California's developing sustainable seafood policy and local fish contamination issues.

California Institute of Technology (CalTech)

Ernest C. Watson Lecture Series

These lectures feature speakers from CalTech and JPL, speaking on cutting edge research taking place at CalTech. No tickets or reservations are required and seating is first-come at Beckman Auditorium, Lecture beginning at 8:00 pm. For campus map and venue location go to:

<http://library.caltech.edu/about/maps>

October 27

Rising Mountains and Sinking Oceans: Earthquakes That Shape the Earth

Jean-Philippe Avouac
Professor of Geology and Director of the Tectonics Observatory, CalTech

“Among all natural hazards, earthquakes stand out as the most difficult to assess and are a most dreadful threat, as well. One single event can cost tens to hundreds of thousands of lives, and can bring down the economy of a whole country, as the recent earthquakes in Haiti, Pakistan, Sumatra, and China demonstrated. Earthquakes reflect sudden deformation events of the Earth’s crust and are, therefore, manifestations of the tectonic processes that shape the Earth. Unfortunately, the factors that determine the locations, time, and size of earthquakes remain poorly understood.

“Over the last few years, Jean-Philippe Avouac and his colleagues and students have been studying some of the most active plate boundaries to understand these processes. Combining modern

space and traditional geological techniques and field observations, they have collected an exceptional set of observations in the Himalaya, Sumatra, and South America. These observations bring new light on the physics of earthquakes and on how they relate to rising mountains and sinking oceans.”

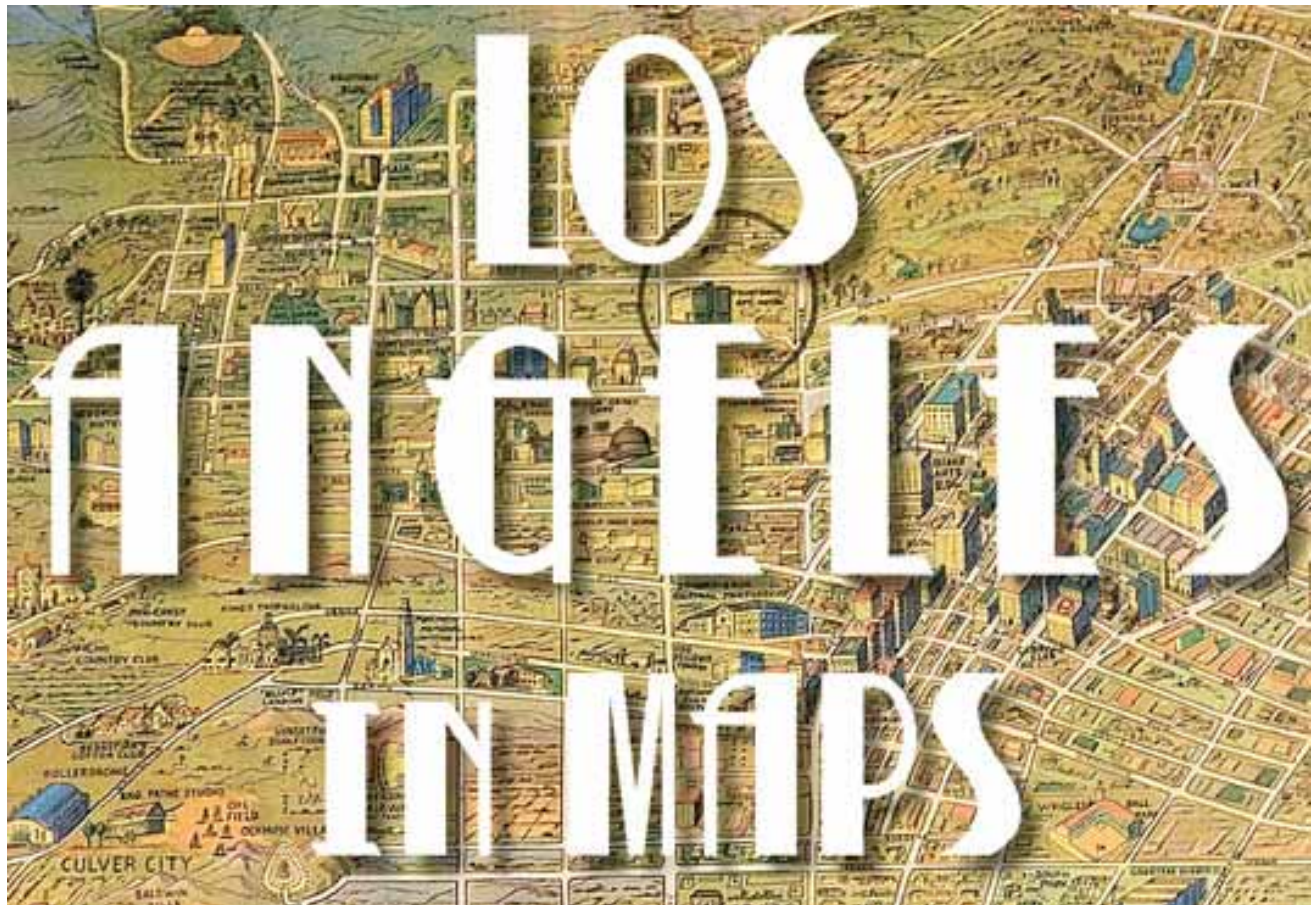
November 17

Re-Creating the Great Fort Tejon Earthquake of 1857

Swaminathan Krishnan
Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering and Geophysics, CalTech

“On January 9, 1857, a large earthquake of magnitude 7.9 occurred on the San Andreas Fault, with rupture initiating at Parkfield in central California and propagating in a southeasterly direction over a distance of more than 360 kilometers. Such a unilateral rupture produces significant directivity toward the San Fernando and Los Angeles basins. Indeed, newspaper reports of sloshing observed in the Los Angeles River point to large amplitude, long-period (2 to 8 seconds) and long-duration (1 to 2 minutes) shaking. There were no long-period structures in the Los Angeles region at the time. Now, the region has upwards of 650 long-period, 10-plus story buildings. What would happen if such an earthquake were to repeat today?

“Using state-of-the-art computational tools in seismology and structural engineering, we have recreated such an event in a region-wide rupture-to-rafter simulation. This lecture details how such a unification of science and engineering can help us better prepare for the Big One.”



Mark Taper Auditorium-Central Library

Thursday, October 28, 2010 7:00 PM

[GLEN CREASON & D.J. WALDIE](#)

A land of palm trees and movie stars, sunshine and glamour, Los Angeles inhabits a place of the mind as much as it does a physical geographic space. Often imagined as a kind of paradise, the actual reality of the city is far more complex. Join us for cartographic history of the City of Angels from the colonial era to the present, with Creason, author and Los Angeles Public Library Map Librarian and Waldie, cultural critic and author of *Holy Land*.

Glen Creason has been the Map Librarian for the Los Angeles Public Library for the past twenty-one years and a reference librarian in the History Department since Jimmy Carter was President. He was a co-curator of the landmark map exhibit "Los Angeles Unfolded" and has written about local history, maps and popular culture for local publications. He is the author of *Los Angeles in Maps* and has been a speaker at local events such as the Center for Land Use Interpretation and the California Map Society.

D. J. Waldie is the author of books, essays and blogs about Los Angeles and Southern California. He is a contributing writer at *Los Angeles* magazine and a contributing editor for the *Los Angeles Times*. He has lectured on the social history of Los Angeles locally and internationally. His most recent book is *California Romantica*, in collaboration with Diane Keaton.