

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ARTHUR H. ROBINSON**

Arthur H. Robinson, professor emeritus of geography, passed away on October 10, 2004 in Madison, Wisconsin. He was born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on January 5, 1915. In his youth, Robinson lived and was educated in the United States, Canada and England. In 1936 he completed his B.A. degree at Miami University, Ohio and went on to the University of Wisconsin for graduate studies. He received his M.A. degree from Wisconsin in 1938 and started work on his Ph.D. at The Ohio State University. His graduate studies were interrupted when he joined the Office of Strategic Services (OSS which later became the CIA) in Washington D.C. At the OSS, Robinson became the chief of the Mapping Division. There he assembled a diverse group of cartographers which became responsible for the production of over 5,000 maps to assist in the war effort. Robinson was awarded the Legion of Merit by the Army in recognition of the leadership he provided to the advancement of cartography and military mapping. After the war, Robinson returned to The Ohio State University and completed his Ph.D. in 1947. He joined the geography faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1946 and began a teaching and research career that would last over 60 years. Robinson retired in 1980 and continued to attend professional meetings and pursue many writing projects. To the end, Robinson stayed active in his field and continued his research and writing pursuits.

Professor Robinson's career was highlighted by many scholarly contributions to the cartography community. He authored numerous professional papers as well as fifteen books and monographs, one of which, *Elements of Cartography*, went through six editions and became the standard text in the field for over 30 years. His other publications helped establish acceptable methods and procedures in the mapping sciences. Robinson is equally well known as inventor of the Robinson Projection. Adopted by the National Geographic Society in 1988 as its standard world projection, the Robinson Projection is widely used by U.S. government agencies, educators, map and textbook publishers.

Robinson rose through the faculty ranks from assistant to professor and in 1967 was named Lawrence Martin Professor of Geography. As an educator, Robinson was greatly respected and attracted students from all over the world to the Department of Geography at Wisconsin. In the beginning of his career, he developed an undergraduate mapping curriculum not taught at any other university. He supervised many master's and Ph.D. programs in cartography. His work was internationally recognized; among his many honors were honorary doctorate degrees from Miami University and The Ohio State University. He received the Distinguished Service Award and the Helen Culver Gold Medal of the Geographical Society of Chicago, the Carl Mannerfelt Gold Medal of the International Cartographic Association, the Silver Medal of the British Cartographic Society, and the John Oliver La Gorce Medal of the National Geographic Society. During this long and distinguished career he served as president of the International Cartographic Association and as vice president and president of the American Association of Geographers. He served on many university and departmental committees and was chair of the Department of Geography from 1965-1968.

Arthur H. Robinson was a true gentleman, an internationally respected scholar, and a nurturing mentor to many. Robinson was always available to all his students, and he took great pride in encouraging his many students to pursue professional and academic careers in cartography. His devotion to cartography was long lasting and profound.

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