

## Arthur Robinson: An Academic Family Tree

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Imagine a quiet pond into which a small stone is tossed. The impact of the stone creates a series of concentric waves that radiate out from that point of contact. This seems a fitting metaphor for the life and influence of Arthur Robinson on countless people who are or were fascinated by maps.

I have used this idea in making "genealogical trees" for several branches of my family. Starting with a particular ancestor at the center, the generations radiate out and expand in time onto ever-larger circles. These diagrams can be considered "maps" that connect one generation to another. On any given line, the ages read from left to right, or counterclockwise, around the circle from oldest to youngest. To follow the generations of any particular person, the diagram must be rotated so that their sector can be read from top to bottom or from the inside to the outside of the circles.

In the case of Arthur Robinson, we have a much less tangible offspring relationship as we have no way of knowing in how many different ways he has influenced the intellectual development of his students, colleagues, and others. But symbolically, I have chosen to "map" one aspect of this story by noting the graduate students for whom Robbie has served as major professor and then, in the "next generation," those for whom his graduate students served as major professor. And so it may go into a third or perhaps fourth "generation" where the ties to Robbie and his specific work will become quite tenuous. I have stopped the tree at two generations for cartography has changed much since Robbie's days. The intellectual considerations and alternate perspectives that now crowd our conversations and research agendas mean that the specific influences of his ideas are in competition with myriad other ideas, many of which were introduced by his own students. But I think that we would all agree that many of Robbie's lasting influences were intangible and have been manifest in our approaches to our work, the questions we have been asking, and the respect that we have for our colleagues and their work.

Thus the names entered in the "family tree" are limited to those "cartographic offspring" who completed an MA or MS thesis with known or likely cartographic content or a Ph.D. dissertation on a cartographic topic.

They were advised by Robbie, or by one of his graduate students. The major exceptions involve Robbie who, as you can see, directed 54 Master's students before there was a thesis requirement. It would be difficult to determine to what degree those students specialized in cartography although clearly many overtly or covertly began to think about maps and mapping. Randall Sale, Norman Thrower, Haruko Kishimoto, Jon Leverenz, Barbara Bartz (Petchenik), and Joel Morrison are notable among this group. Robbie also directed four Ph.D. students on geographic topics, but their students have not been included, nor have the non-cartographic advisees of his students. We have identified a total of 93 graduate students advised by Robbie, which is surely some kind of academic achievement record! As it happens, Robbie's "family tree" has at least 199 names spread over 56 years. It has not been possible to adhere strictly to my genealogical model but I have tried to keep the names proceeding in order around each circle so that a rough chronology is followed such that each line has names from roughly the same generational time frame.

Thus one should consider the nested circles to really be an extended spiral. Scott Freundsuh and Judy Olson have helped me enormously in this project. A number of others have also assisted in gathering information or helped adjudicate the names that are entered here. Except for Robbie's, non-thesis degrees were not included nor theses and dissertations done under joint supervision, especially if more than one discipline was involved. In the end, however, I am responsible for its content.

Cartography was not considered to be a subject of sufficient intellectual rigor for a Ph.D. dissertation until Robbie wrote his at Ohio State University, subsequently publishing it as *The Look of Maps*; then he began directing theses and dissertations himself. His progeny are by no means the only geographers writing on cartographic matters over the past half century, but he is probably more responsible than anyone else for "getting it all started." The other elements in this special issue of *Cartographic Perspectives* provide further evidence of his influence. The diagram stands on its own, however, as a tribute to Arthur Robinson.

Author's Note:

Imagine a quiet pond into which a small stone is tossed. The impact of the stone creates a series of concentric waves that radiate outwards from the point of impact. The life and influence of Arthur Robinson on countless people who are or were fascinated by maps.

I have used this idea in making "genealogical trees" for several branches of my family. Starting with a particular ancestor at the center, I have created several generations of ever-larger circles. These diagrams can be considered "maps" that connect one generation to another. On any given line, the ages read from left to right, or counterclockwise, around the circle from oldest to youngest. To follow the generations of any particular person, the diagram must be rotated so that their sector can be read from top to bottom or from the inside to the outside of the circles.

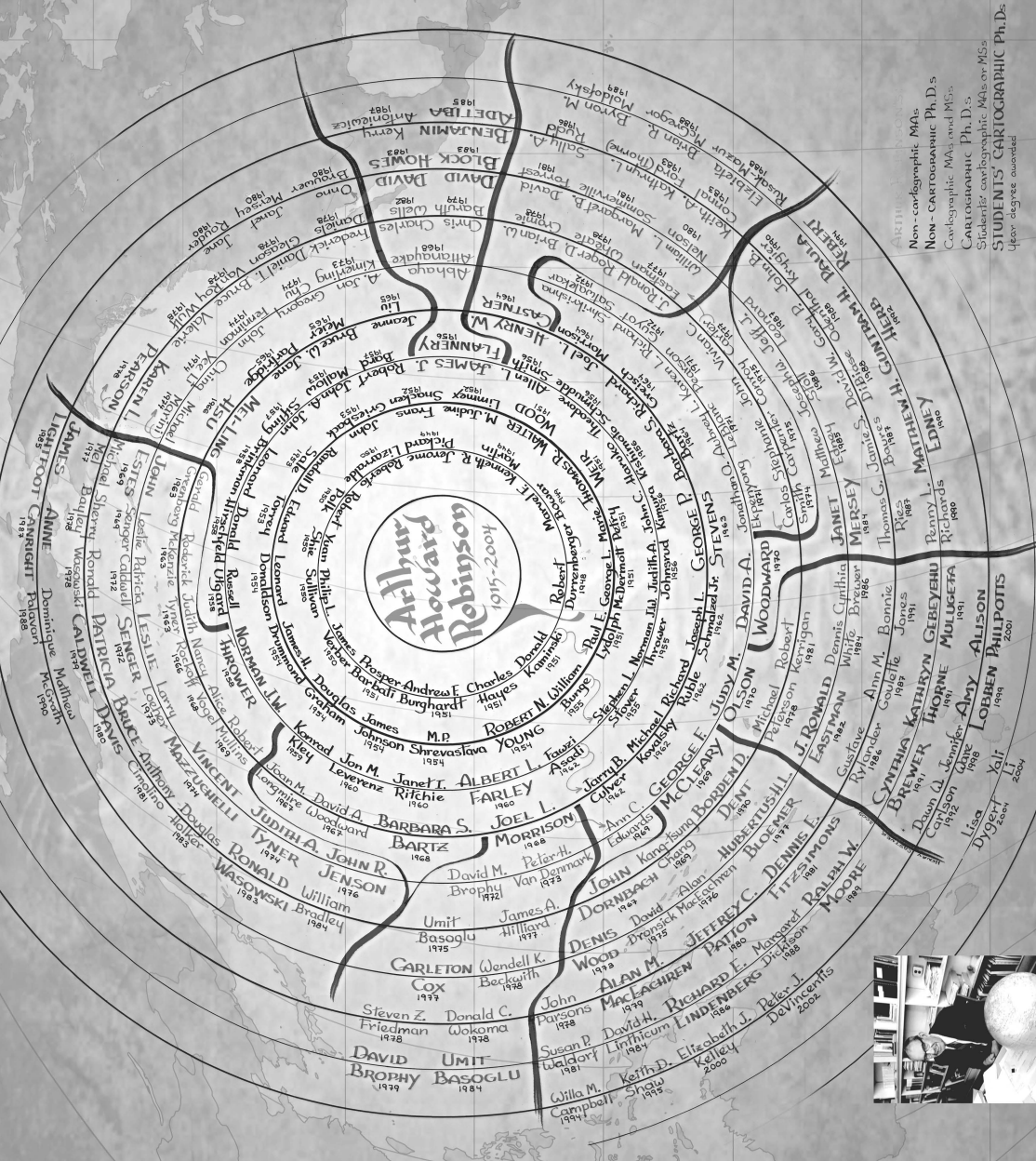
In the case of Arthur Robinson, we have a much less tangible offspring relationship as we have no way of knowing in how many different ways he has influenced the intellectual development of his students, colleagues, and others. But symbolically, I have chosen to use the same concentric circles to represent the intellectual influence of Arthur Robinson on his students and those for whom he has served as major professor and then in the "next generation," those for whom his graduate students served as major professor. And so it may go into a third or perhaps fourth "generation" where the ties to Robbie and his specific work will become quite tenuous. I have stopped the tree at two generations for this reason. I have also included a few names of other intellectual considerations and alternate perspectives that now crowd our conversations and research agendas mean that the specific influence of his ideas are in competition with myriad other ideas, many of which were introduced by his own students. But I think that we would all agree that many of Robbie's lasting influences were the questions he has been asking, and the respect that we have for his colleagues and their work.

The names entered in the "family trees" are limited to those cartographic offspring who completed an MA or MS thesis with Arthur Robinson as their major advisor and whose theses were on a cartographic topic. They were advised by Robbie, or by one of his graduate students. The major exceptions involve Robbie who, as you can see, directed 54 Master's students before there was a thesis requirement. It would be difficult to determine to what degree those students specialized in cartography although clearly many overtly or covertly did. Names include Haruka Kishimoto, Ian Leppert, Barbara Bartz (Pachnik), and Joel Morrison are notable among this group.

Robbie also directed four Ph.D. students on geographic topics, but their students have not been included, nor have the non-cartographic advisees of his students. We have identified a total of 93 graduate students who completed a thesis with Arthur Robinson as their advisor. At least 191 names spread over 56 years. It has not been possible to adhere strictly to my genealogical model but I have tried to keep the names proceeding in order around each circle so that a rough chronology is followed such that each line has names from roughly the same generational time frame.

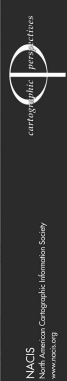
This one should consider the nested circles to really be an extended spiral. Scott Freundschuh and Judy Olson have helped me enormously in this project. A number of others have also assisted in gathering information or helped adjudicate the names that are included in these diagrams. I am grateful to the following individuals for their help and advice: Scott Freundschuh, David G. Jones, and Scott Freundschuh, especially, if more than one discipline was involved. In the end, however, I am responsible for its content.

Cartography was not considered to be a subject of sufficient importance to be included in the proceedings of the 1975 meeting of the Ohio State University, subsequently publishing it as The Book of Maps, then he began directing theses and dissertations himself. His progeny are by no means the only geographers writing on cartographic matters over the past half century, but he is probably more responsible than anyone else for "getting it all started."



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