

# cartographic perspectives

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Members of NACIS,

I am honored to be writing the editorial column for this *Special Issue of Cartographic Perspectives*. This issue celebrates the lives and careers of Professors Arthur Robinson who passed away October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and David Woodward who passed away August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004. When the idea for this special issue was born, there was a sureness that whatever was produced would have to be unrivaled...not found elsewhere...entirely unique. That whatever was produced would have to provide a lens with a whole new tint through which to view the accomplishments of these two vastly influential men. That whatever was produced would not only honor their academic contributions, but would provide a glimpse of who Arthur and David were as colleagues, mentors and friends.

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(letter from editor continued)

I think that this issue of CP succeeds in every way.

Beginning with the cover, which is an image of a sculpture of a T & O map created by Patricia Gilmartin, each page of this issue shares some kernel of the impact of these two men. During the past 8 months, I have had the incredible and humbling experience of working with past Ph.D. students of David Woodward and Arthur Robinson on contributions for this issue. I have traded letters and/or emails with Albert Farley, Norman Thrower, Henry Castner, Joel Morrison, George McCleary, Judy Olson, Karen Severud Cook, Janet Mersey, Matthew Edney, Guntram Herb and Paula Rebert, and with Judith Tyner, a Ph.D. student of Thrower's. I have worked closely with Henry Castner on an academic genealogy. I have had email contact with at least 53 (at last count) people who hold a place in the Robinson academic genealogy. I have learned much...enough to

cause me to feel relatively inadequate to be writing this column, really. But I write none-the-less.

In this issue are papers by Judith Tyner and Matthew Edney on the impact of Robinson's *Elements of Cartography* over the past 50 years (Tyner) and how Woodward's *History of Cartography* transformed the discipline (Edney). Following these papers is Robinson's Academic Family Tree that Henry Castner crafted by hand...a wonderful contribution! Henry's tree includes only those students who completed theses in "cartography"...there is a more complete genealogy at the end of this issue that includes 458 names.

Following this are nine personal stories from past Ph.D. students of Robinson's and Woodward's...letters that share thoughts, reflections and memories about their mentor. These stories are priceless, really, but one is especially worthy of note. When I asked for remembrance pieces from past Ph.D. students, I suggested a 1000 word length. Karen Severud Cook

submitted a pared down version of a recorded discussion that she had with Arthur Robinson in 1997 so as to meet this suggested length. When I read her submission, I found it so fascinating that I insisted that she submit the entire transcript...which she did...and which is published here in its entirety. I am certain that you will find it as fascinating as I did. The last part of this issue includes an image called The Robinson XI Projection...an "Escher type" image created by, and given to Arthur by his doctoral students upon his retirement in 1980. This diagram is all about scale, bringing the various "worlds" of Robinson together into one graphic. Following this diagram is a letter from Lawrence Martin from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). This letter was written to E. F. Bean at UW Madison when Madison hired Robinson at the end of his term at the OSS in 1946. It speaks of Robinson's immense impact on the production of maps for the military, and how he rose from draftsman, to Chief of the Map Division at the OSS. He achieved this before ever becoming a Professor.

I want to thank Henry Castner, Matthew Edney, Judy Olson and Judy Tyner—they were invaluable in terms of historical knowledge and fact checking. I especially want to thank Henry Castner for his knowledge and talent that produced (by hand!) the Academic Family Tree of Arthur Robinson, and for his contribution of the Robinson XI Projection and the letter from Lawrence Martin. Lastly, I want to thank the Department of Geography at UW Madison for its assistance in putting together this issue. Enjoy!

As always, I welcome your ideas, comments and suggestions.

Warmest Regards,

Scott Freundschuh, Editor

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