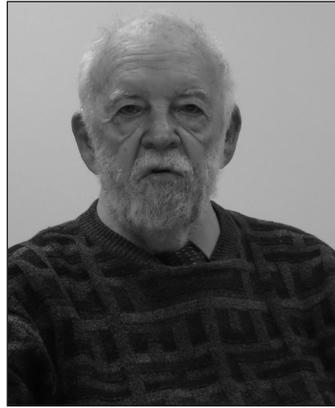


## Obituary



### Remembering Joseph E. (Joe) Schwartzberg (1928 - 2018)

It is an honor to be asked to remember Joseph E. Schwartzberg, Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of Minnesota, USA, in the pages of the *Transactions of the Institute of Indian Geographers*. Professor Schwartzberg--lovingly called Joe by his family, students, and colleagues--passed away at age 90 on 19 September, 2018. We came to know Joe in the mid to late 1980s, took classes with him during our Ph.D. course-work in Human Geography, and also had the opportunity to work with him as an advisee (David) and as research assistants (David and Richa) during that period. We came to admire his passions and his quirks as a teacher, who was as enthusiastic about world peace as he was about precise maps and grammatically correct sentences, and who spent the Friday Coffee Hour lecture sessions in the Geography Department making the finest doodle drawings we have

ever seen. He worked tirelessly for the principles and values he believed in until he breathed his last.

Professor Schwartzberg was a scholar, writer, speaker, peace and justice activist, committed world citizen who travelled widely to meet his fellow citizens, and an avid and gifted doodler. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, the second of four children. As a teenager towards the end of World War II, he left a summer farm job in Texas and hitchhiked throughout Mexico. He graduated from Brooklyn College, Cum Laude in 1949 and moved on to study for his MA at the University of Maryland while working for the U.S. Army Map Service. During this time Joe learned of the World Federalist movement, an idea that soon became an abiding commitment, and defined his priorities and some of his key relationships for the rest of his life. Indeed,

Joe met his partner, Louise Pardee, through their associations with this movement.

Schwartzberg was drafted into the United States Army in 1950 and served in Germany in a topographic engineering battalion. Between his discharge from the Army in 1952 and his enrollment in the Geography Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin in 1956, Joe spent several years living and travelling in Spain, Paris, Israel, North Africa, the Middle East, India, and other countries of South and Southeast Asia, and Japan. Early in this period, Joe drew up a rough draft of a World Constitution, many of whose ideas he built upon in articles and books throughout his career. His experience in India, the world's most populous federal country, reinforced his belief in world federalism. If India, with many serious problems, meager resources and incredibly diverse population, could sustain a viable democracy, so could a federalized world, he thought.

In September 1956, Joe entered the Ph.D. program in Geography at the University of Wisconsin under the renowned geographer, Richard Hartshorne. In 1958, Schwartzberg was awarded a year-long fellowship for field work in India. Accompanied by interpreters from India, he travelled thousands of miles by bicycle, and visited more than 200 villages throughout India. His dissertation, *Occupational Structure and Level of Economic Development in India: A Regional Analysis*, was later published as monograph no. 4 of the 1961 Census of India. After earning his Ph.D. in 1960, Schwartzberg accepted a teaching position at the University of Pennsylvania. There, he was in charge of training the first group of Peace Corps volunteers to be sent to Ceylon (now Sri

Lanka), in 1962. He accompanied them to Ceylon for a final month of training and then spent almost a year in India continuing his research as a Fellow of the American Institute of Indian Studies. During this year Joe met Monique Ribaux, a Swiss medical lab technician working for the World Health Organization. The two met when he was injured in a motorcycle accident, and they got married in Geneva in December 1963. Joe and Monique had two sons, Philip and Paul. They were divorced in 1998.

Joseph Schwartzberg joined the University of Minnesota's Geography Department in 1964 to lead a project to create *An Historical Atlas of South Asia*. This was a massive project lasting almost a decade and a half and involving over 85 person-years of work by a multidisciplinary team. It was published by the University of Chicago Press in 1978. The Atlas won the Watumull Prize of the American Historical Association, as the best work on Indian history in 1979; and an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Association of American Geographers. Oxford University Press issued an updated edition of this Atlas in 1992, and the University of Chicago issued a digitized edition in 2006 (<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/reference/schwartzberg/>).

After the Atlas, Professor Schwartzberg was recruited into what became an even larger project, the preparation of a multi-volume *History of Cartography*. Joe was asked to write an article on the indigenous cartography of South Asia, and became the associate editor and principal author of two volumes of the *History of Cartography*, one on South Asia and the Islamic World, and the other on East Asia, Southeast Asia and Greater Tibet (University of Chicago Press,

1992 and 1994 respectively).

It was during this time when he was revising, updating, and advancing his work on the Atlas that Schwartzberg recruited both of us into the Geography Ph.D. program at Minnesota. Having seen Joe at work, we can vouch for the fact that his research on such projects was exhaustive and his attention to detail meticulous. Professor Schwartzberg was hard working, and was almost always in his office -- including late into the evenings and on weekends -- ready to answer questions and offer advice. His office was full of books, reports, and maps, with just enough room for one more person to squeeze in at any given time, and there was always a kettle ready so that he could offer instant coffee (and sometimes also an apple) to those who stepped in for a conversation! Joe was not known for exciting lectures, but he never failed to capture the attention of students on the first day of his large courses. He would enter the auditorium, take center stage and then stand on his head and unfurl a banner between his spread legs welcoming all the students into the class. When Richa first came to Minneapolis from India on 1st September 1989, she stayed with Joe, Monique, Philip, and Paul for a night, and one of the most indelible impressions she has about her first day in the United States is when she woke up and came downstairs from the bedroom to the kitchen, only to find Joe smiling at her in a headstand position, right at the bottom of the stairs.

In addition to his large, long term projects, Professor Schwartzberg continued teaching, travelling, writing and lecturing to advance two more long-term interests: peace in Kashmir and world federalism. He traveled widely in Kashmir on three

occasions during the 1990s and, as a member and co-founder of the Kashmir Study Group, he wrote extensively as part of his efforts to promote a peaceful resolution of what he defined as multi-partite disputes over Kashmir.

As part of his love for global citizenship, Joe wrote and shared with all of his students, colleagues, and the world an *Affirmation of Human Oneness*. This document, which he recruited students and friends to translate, now exists in 42 main languages of the world and it has been widely reprinted by peace and justice organizations. For three years (1984-87) he directed the Minnesota Studies in International Development program (MSID), a service learning program providing unpaid student internships in a number of countries of the global South. He established the MSID program in India and was the India program director for several years. In 2009 the University bestowed on Joe its annual "Award for Global Engagement" and the title "Distinguished International Professor Emeritus."

Following his formal retirement from the University of Minnesota in 2000, Joe Schwartzberg focused more heavily on issues of global governance and the United Nations system, and on promoting international understanding. He remained a central figure in the World Federalist Association and the organization into which it has evolved, Citizens for Global Solutions. He co-founded the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, a consortium of 76 local peace and justice organizations. This wrote many essays for the above organizations and papers for the Academic Council on the United Nations System in whose journal, *Global Governance*, he published papers on

UN peacekeeping and weighted voting. He expanded his advocacy of the latter idea in a monograph published in 2004 by the World Federalist Movement's Institute for Global Policy, *Revitalizing the United Nations System: Reform through Weighted Voting*. A related monograph, *Creating a World Parliamentary Assembly: An Evolutionary Journey*, was published by the Berlin-based Committee for a Democratic United Nations in 2012.

In December 2014, Professor Schwartzberg legally established The Workable World Trust, the principal purpose of which is to disseminate and promote the many global governance proposals in his most recent book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*.

As long as Professor Schwartzberg was fit, we often saw him at local peace gatherings and marches, wearing his Veterans for Peace t-shirt and carrying a placard. Then, after a long lull, we saw him occasionally over lunches and dinners over the past three years, each time with his loving partner, Louise Pardee, who brought him alive in beautiful ways even as his body was rapidly declining. Although Joe's stamina was failing in his last months, his mind was as sharp and engaged as always. On May 19, exactly 4 months before his death, there was an open house for Joe Schwartzberg at his home at which there were friends, colleagues, former students and movement members. He engaged with each of us in unique ways that were in line with his relationships with us, and he talked about the writing projects he planned to finish next.

After all the guests left that day, the two of us lingered for another half hour with Joe and his family--Louise; Joe's son, Phil; and Phil's son, Levi. At the end of that last meeting, Joe suddenly remembered the Master's thesis that Richa had completed in 1989 at the University of Pune, where she had used choropleth maps.

"I think I told you this when you first came to our Ph.D. program, didn't I, that I don't care for choropleth maps so much... There are better ways for showing population growth!" he remarked in a very serious tone.

Then all of us laughed together about the silly dots on choropleth maps.

That was our last meeting with Joe, a passionate geographer and perfectionist to the end.

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[i] Many of the details come from a document that Joe himself wrote a month before he passed, entitled *The Life of Joe Schwartzberg, 1928 – 2018 (?): A Kaleidoscopic Account*.