



# STATE CARTOGRAPHER'S OFFICE

## Created in 1974

Arthur Robinson was the driving force behind the creation of the Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office. Robinson, a cartography professor in the Geography Department at the University of Wisconsin, began advocating for the office in the early 1960s. With the support of Speaker of the Assembly Norman Anderson, Robinson helped craft the legislation that formally created the State Cartographer position in 1973 as a special program within the university. Robinson's vision was that the State Cartographer would serve the citizens of the state through dissemination of cartographic information, preparation of special-purpose maps, and coordination of mapping activities to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Responsibility for the State Cartographer was assigned to the Chancellor's Office at UW-Madison by John C. Weaver, President of UW System. The Dean of the College of Letters & Science was directed to establish and assume administrative control over the State Cartographer's Office (SCO). A search committee chaired by Arthur Robinson was also established and the first State Cartographer, Art Ziegler, was appointed in 1974. At the time, Ziegler was employed by the Defense Mapping Agency in St. Louis, Missouri.

The UW-Madison Geography Department allocated space for the SCO in Science Hall. Staffing consisted of the State Cartographer, a specialist, and part-time student hourly clerical assistants. The Committee on State Cartography, the SCO's advisory committee, was also created at this time. Many Geography faculty members have

served as Committee chair, including Arthur Robinson, Joel Morrison, Phil Muehrcke, David Woodward, Waltraud Brinkman, Jim Burt, Bob Ostergren, Tom Vale, Rob Roth, and A-Xing Zhu.

Art Ziegler retired in 1990, and Ted Koch, then employed by the New York Department of Transportation, was appointed State Cartographer in 1991. Koch retired in 2009, and the current State Cartographer, Howard Veregin, was then appointed. Over its history, the SCO has been home to dozens of staff members and hundreds of student assistants.

The statutory duties of the State Cartographer have changed little over the years and remain important to the vitality of the state's mapping programs. The SCO is a unique institution, the only office of its kind in the nation tied so closely to an academic geography department. This arrangement has fostered the values and principles of the "Wisconsin Idea" to bridge the gap between the university and citizens of the state.

Through these efforts, and thanks to the vision and determination of Arthur Robinson, the State Cartographer's Office continues to support Wisconsin's citizens and the state's mapping and geospatial communities.

*Researched and compiled by SCO staff.*

