
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

THEODORE SHABAD, 1922–1987

On Monday 4 May 1987 the community of Russian and Soviet scholars and the geographic community lost a great friend and intellectual resource. Ted Shabad, born in Berlin, educated in New York, and citizen of the world will be sorely missed by many of us who on numerous occasions used his formidable expertise for things Soviet. He was a wonderful human being, journalist, and geographer. Ted served as *New York Times* correspondent in Moscow from 1961 to 1966 and from 1971 to 1973, and Soviet affairs editor at the *Times* in New York (1953–1961, 1966–1971, and 1973 until his death). He held an adjunct professorship at Columbia University and was the editor of three journals—*Soviet Geography*, *Polar Geography and Geology*, and *Mapping Sciences and Remote Sensing*.

As a Soviet specialist, Ted Shabad was a genuine national resource. His data files and knowledge of Soviet resources, places, journals, and mores were unmatched and shared graciously with anyone who needed his help. No serious request was ever left unfilled. The Association of American Geographers recognized his prodigious contributions by selecting him for their Meritorious Contributions to Geography Award for his “international geographic communication and understanding by means of his sensitive reportorial interpretation of the USSR.”

Ted Shabad was also a prolific scholar who wrote numerous articles, book chapters, reports, and books. His major books included *Geography of the USSR* (Columbia University Press, 1951), *China's Changing Map* (Praeger, 1972), *Basic Industrial Resources of the USSR* (Columbia University Press, 1969). He coauthored *Gateway to Siberian Resources* (Wiley, 1977) and *The Soviet Energy System* (Wiley, 1979). He coedited and wrote a number of chapters in the prize-winning volume *Soviet Natural Resources in the World Economy* (University of Chicago Press, 1983). He was also the associate editor of the *Columbia Lippencott Gazetteer of the World*.

Ted was active in the scholarly exchange program between Soviet and American geographers and a valued participant in joint seminars. He regularly attended All-Union Soviet geographical meetings during the last twenty-five years and had built an enormously valuable set of contacts with Soviet scholars in many fields.

His greatest intellectual love and contribution, however, was *Soviet Geography*, the journal he founded and edited for twenty-seven years. He selected and solicited each article for the journal, translated those in Russian into English, proofread, copyread, and edited them, prepared the enormously useful News Notes, translated tables of contents of Soviet journals, and more, for twenty-seven volumes—271 individual issues. This Herculean labor was all done in his spare time and resulted in one of the most-often cited and highly respected geographical journals on the international scene. *Soviet Geography* stands as a vibrant memorial to his life.

In more personal terms, Ted Shabad was a quiet, modest, and unassuming man, wonderfully ingenuous and possessed of a delightful sense of humor. He was often described by his wife, Leslie, and sons, Steven and Peter, as a man of three passions—his family, international news, and Soviet affairs. Those of us in his intellectual family will miss him primarily for the latter but shall always be grateful that he touched, improved, and graced our lives.

GEORGE J. DEMKO
Department of State