MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR FEDERICO JORGE PROHASKA

1914 - 1970

Professor Federico Jorge Prohaska, Chairman of the Department of Geography, The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, passed away from cancer at the untimely age of 56, on December 22, 1970.

Professor Prohaska, known to his friends as Fritz, was born in Vienna, Austria, May 16, 1914. His wide interests covered the fields of meteorology, climatology, and geography which he vigorously pursued on three continents. The son of Carl Prohaska, famous composer and director of the Vienna and Warsaw Philharmonics before World War I, he obtained his education in Vienna. He received his doctorate in meteorology and physics from the University of Vienna in 1937. His professional activities commenced as a forecaster with the Austrian Meteorological Service (1937-39) but in the following three years he engaged in research in actinometry at the Physical Meteorological Observatory, Davos, Switzerland. During World War II and shortly thereafter, he resumed forecasting in Germany and Austria. After two additional years at Davos, he moved to Argentina for the next seventeen years. For nine years he was a research meteorologist with the Servicio Meteorologico National in Buenos Aires, and in 1959 became head of the Division of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute Nacional de Tecnologia Agropecuaria. In addition, from 1956 to 1960, he held a position as Professor in the Department of Geography in the Catholic University, Buenos Aires. He also applied his rich experience during leaves of absence on several occasions to serve as a UN technical expert. In 1962-63, he was an advisor to the Guatemalan government in the establishment of a hydrometeorology service to investigate water resource problems. In the summer of 1966 he conducted a similar project in Nicaragua with ATID and the Development Research Corporation, under the Chairmanship of David Lilienthal, former head of the TVA.

Fritz came to the United States in 1964 to take a position as Professor in the Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He taught courses in Introductory Meteorology, Dynamic Meteorology, General Climatology, Meteorological Instruments, Microclimatology and Meteorological Oceanography. He was appointed Chairman of the Department in July 1969, a position which he held at the time of his death.

In the last several years, while firmly rooted at UWM, Fritz did not let his interest in Latin America fade. During 1967 he served as a visiting professor in the Agrarian University, Lima, Peru, by invitation of the Midwestern Universities Consortium for International Activities and the Ford Foundation. Here he was able to continue such studies as the meteorological causes of the Peruvian coastal deserts, using aerological soundings and satellite data, the stabilization of sand dunes, and the bioclimate of the Peruvian Andes. During the past several years he continued to travel widely, lecturing in this country and at the Universities of Oxford, Bonn, Freiburg, Hanover, and Stuttgart.

Professor Prohaska was a member of numerous professional and technical societies, including the Association of American Geographers, American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, International Society of Biometeorology, Association Latin- americana de Fitotecnia, Austrian Meteorological Society, Geographic Society of Argentina, International Society of Soil Science, Oesterreichische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie, and Gamma Theta Upsilon.
In addition to his teaching, administration, and consulting, Fritz managed to publish regularly in a wide variety of journals. His list of professional papers and technical reports includes over sixty titles.

In view of his demanding professional responsibilities it is all the more remarkable that he was an accomplished musician. His musical training began with the piano at age five and he added the cello to his accomplishments at age ten. Through his student years he continued playing in orchestras, and by the time he had moved to Buenos Aires he was in great demand as a harpsichordist. While in Argentina, he performed under the direction of such famous artists as Jean Martinon, later conductor of the Chicago Symphony. It was a rare concert or music lecture on the UWM campus that he did not attend, and frequently he performed as a harpsichordist with the UWM Fine Arts Quartet. His UWM colleagues in the Music Faculty had in him a source of constant encouragement and stimulus.

He is survived by his wife, Maria, a son, Miguel, a graduate of UWM working in Canada, and a daughter, Irene, currently a UWM student, his mother, Margaret Prohaska, and brother, Felix, in Austria. By them, as by the academic community, he will be sorely missed and gratefully remembered.

Professor James Flannery
Professor Abram Loft
Professor Paul Lydolph
Professor Walter Lyons
Professor Barbara Zakrzewska