

## **ARTHUR STINNER (1934-2014)**

ARTHUR STINNER B.Sc., B.A., B.Ed. (U. of Alberta), M.Sc. (York U.), D.Ed. (U. of Toronto) Professor Emeritus (U. of Manitoba) July 3, 1934 - May 29, 2014

It is with great sadness that we report that one of the most prominent members of the International History, Philosophy and Science Teaching Group, Arthur Stinner, passed away this past May in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Art was born in Gyönk, Hungary in 1934 and, as a young boy, was displaced, with his family, by the upheaval of the Second World War. In 1949, his family emigrated and settled in Prince George, British Columbia, where they lived in a log cabin. Given the opportunity to attend high school at age eighteen, Art completed all of his studies in just one year.



Art excelled in the sciences and studied physics at the University of Alberta. After completing his B.Sc., he turned his attention to the humanities, studying modern languages, and earned a B.A. in German and Russian literature, and subsequently also a B.Ed. Initially, Art found short-term teaching positions in high schools in Alberta, where he taught physics and some German. He also taught internationally at a boys' school in Jamaica. Eventually, he settled in Toronto, where he taught physics for many years.

During his time in Toronto, Art completed his M.Sc. at York University and thereafter his D.Ed. at the University of Toronto (O.I.S.E.) under the tutelage of his good friend Dr. Ian Winchester. In 1989, Art began a very productive career in post-secondary education at the University of Manitoba. In addition to teaching undergraduate physics and science education courses, Art mentored many talented students pursuing graduate degrees in Science Education, including Barbara MacMillan, Don Metz, and Stephen Klassen. Art was the inspiration and leader of the Winnipeg research group, which has been very active in education circles internationally.

An innovative and influential science educator, Art pioneered a contextual teaching approach by developing imaginative ways of linking science, the humanities, and popular culture. One of the means of accomplishing this was through writing dramas in which he integrated science and the history and philosophy of science. These plays were performed in Canada, the United States, Germany, and Hungary.

Over the years, Art enjoyed nurturing stimulating professional relationships with colleagues at home and abroad, among them Ian Winchester of Calgary, Jürgen Teichmann of Munich, and other scholars associated with the Deutsches Museum in Munich. With these and other science educators, Art was involved nationally and internationally in many rewarding conferences, summer institutes, and seminars. He was

widely published in science and teacher-education journals and was a visiting professor in Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, and China. From 2003 to 2005, Art was the President of the International History and Philosophy of Science Teaching group. Over the years, he was presented with numerous awards, most recently a Professor Emeritus from the University of Manitoba (2013).

Art had energy in abundance and a zest for life, with an almost encyclopaedic knowledge in many areas. He was an aficionado of classical music and opera, and he and his wife, Ann, loved learning about the geography, people, history, arts, and cuisine of the places they visited on their many international excursions.

Lately, he had become a fan of equestrian events, and, in the past year, he published articles on the physics of horse jumping—a fusion of two lifelong interests. Arthur, a family man at heart, was especially enthusiastic and proud about the exploits and accomplishments of his family members, his professional associates, and his graduate students. He will be deeply missed.