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Foreword to the Focused Issue on Traffic Theory (in memory of Robert Herman)

This focused issue has been put together to commemorate the life of Robert Herman (1914–1997), a past president of ORSA, the founder and past Editor of *Transportation Science*, and the founder and the first Chairman of the Transportation Science section. Although a tribute to Robert Herman appeared in an earlier issue of *Transportation Science* (Vol. 31, No. 2, May 1997) shortly after his passing, in this issue his friends and colleagues have been invited to contribute to a more thorough tribute to this truly remarkable scientist. Their contributions, along

with my own recollections as his graduate student, are presented in the tributes section. This is followed by an article entitled, "Robert Herman: The Last Renaissance Man," written by Mark Fenlon, a doctoral candidate at the Department of American Civilization at the University of Texas at Austin, who is conducting his Ph.D. research on the life of Robert Herman.

SIAMAK A. ARDEKANI
Guest Editor
The University of Texas at Arlington

Tributes To Robert Herman

Robert Herman was a gentle and modest man whose creative genius ranged over so many diverse areas—with outstanding contributions to art, science, and engineering. To his students, if traffic science were a religion, Robert Herman was its prophet. The eloquence and precision with which he did his science and the modest way he lived his life was an inspiration to all of us students. He instilled in us the highest ethical, scholarly, and human values. He continuously encouraged his students to pursue the learning of basic sciences along the applied knowledge. He hammered this point home through his favorite quotation by Leonardo da Vinci, "Those who fall in love with practice without science are like a sailor who enters a ship without a helm or a compass and does not know whither he is going."

Robert Herman will always be a guiding compass to his students and colleagues who had the great fortune and the joy of association with him. Many of us owe a profound debt to him, from whom we learned so much about science and about life. We owe much to him for our development and for all the wonderful and exciting interactions with him. He lives on in our minds and hearts and continues to shape our thoughts and the way we see the world.

SIAMAK A. ARDEKANI
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I first encountered Robert Herman as the co-author with Elliott Montroll of a pair of insightful papers, "A Manner of Characterizing the Development of Countries" and "Some Statistical Observations from a 75 Year Run of Sears Roebuck Catalogues." Inspired by this body of work and determined to try to work in their way, I contacted Bob by phone in 1984. I already knew Bob's face from the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) Members' Directory. Bob was smiling and looked a little like Groucho Marx. Quite unlike the other 1000 photos! Approached by phone, Bob immediately welcomed the new prospective explorer and suggested I come down to Austin and join in the festivities and seminar for his upcoming 70th birthday.

This 1984 meeting marked the start of a dozen years of intense interaction. With support from the NAE, we organized a Woods Hole workshop on "Cities and Their Vital Systems," highlighted by Bob's singing Russian Children's songs while we searched for a local fisherman to bring us back across the Sound from Martha's Vineyard, where a group of us had gone for dinner and missed the last scheduled ferry. The workshop led to a book which Bob and I co-edited and which helped inspire "Sim City," an instructional video game that has now sold over 2.5 million units.