

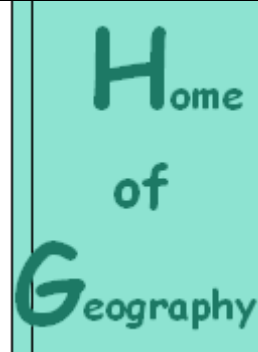


IGU E-Newsletter

Quarterly

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This Newsletter is circulated to more than 1000 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome.

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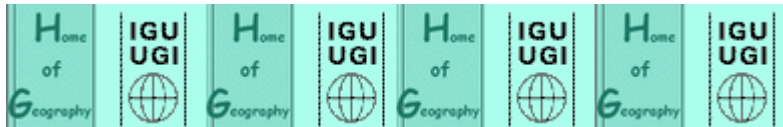
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1) IN MEMORIAM: ADALBERTO VALLEGA



Adalberto Vallega, 11th May 1934 - 22nd November 2006

1a) MESSAGE FROM THE FAMILY

It isn't easy to express in a few lines your feelings following the loss of a loved one, especially when it is still so soon after the event.

The pain caused by his loss, as a husband and as a father, is deep, since the bonds which tied us were, and still are, deep.

His purposes in life were his family, teaching and research, and he dedicated all his energy to them right till the end. Despite his numerous commitments, which often took him away from us, he managed not to burden us with the responsibility of his work. We would like to remind his colleagues and friends of the passion and diligence with which he tackled work-related problems, his helpfulness to others and his tenacity in facing the innumerable difficulties of what was, for him, a mission.

We know that he has left his mark on geography as a discipline. We hope that, in addition to geographer, he will also be remembered as a man, who lived with dignity and who wished to leave us with dignity.

The Vallega family

1b) OBITUARY

On 22nd November 2006, Adalberto Vallega finally lost his battle against cancer, after a struggle lasting more than two and a half years. He put all of his incredible energy into this fight, and, contrary to the advice of his doctor, he not only participated in every meeting of the IGU EC, but also travelled frequently to maintain personal relations with the UN, UNESCO, FAO, ALECSO, Vatican Councils, ICSU, ISSC and other important international bodies. It was therefore as late as 9th November 2006 that he informed the IGU EC that he would not be able to go to Tunis two days later to attend the committee meeting; no one imagined that Adalberto's life was to end less than two weeks later.

Born in Cairo Montenotte on 11th May 1934, he graduated from the University of Genoa in Political Science in 1958 and in Geography in 1962. His first university position was in 1961, as Assistant Professor in Geography in the University of Trieste, followed by posts at the universities of Milan and Genoa, where he became full professor in 1972, and where he was still teaching in his final days. At this University he taught courses on Regional Geography, Marine Geography, Urban and Regional Geography and Coastal Management. Director of the Institute of Geographical Sciences of the Faculty of Education (1967-88), then Head of the Faculty (1988-91), in 1996 he was appointed Head of the Department "Polis (Urban, Regional and Landscape Planning)" in the Faculty of Architecture, and Representative of the Rector to the 1998 UN International Year of the Ocean.

In the Italian geographical context, he was President of the Association of Italian Geographers (1983-1985), a member of the Executive Committee of the Italian Geographical Society (1985-1997), and Chairman of the Italian Committee of the International Geographical Union (IGU). In 1993 he was a Member of the "Comitato Nazionale V Centenario del viaggio di Amerigo Vespucci" (National Committee for the Fifth Centenary of Amerigo Vespucci's Voyage). An Honorary Member of the Italian Association of Geography Teachers, he would have received the same honour from the Società Geografica Italiana this April.

What is more unusual, for an Italian scholar whose main written works were printed in his own mother tongue, is the worldwide reputation he gained. To mention but a few of his achievements in the context of international organisations, in 1992, A. Vallega was Scientific Coordinator of the *International Conference on Ocean Management in Global Change*, convened in conjunction with the United Nations as part of the Celebrations of the Discovery of the Americas. In 1998, he served as Scientific Coordinator of the *International Conference on Education and Training in Integrated Coastal Area Management*, held in Italy with the cooperation of UNESCO, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), United Nations International Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), with the support of the European Commission, in order to celebrate the *1998 International Year of the Ocean*. Furthermore, in 1993 he designed and promoted the establishment of the International Centre for Coastal and Ocean Policy Study (ICCOPS), which was accredited to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, recognised as a non-governmental organisation of the UNEP/MAP and given observer status with regard to the Barcelona Convention.

Among his international acknowledgements, I cite the *laureae honoris causa* awarded to him by the University of Nantes, France, in 2001 and by the University of Bucharest, Romania, in 2006. An Honorary Member of the Russian Geographical Society since 1995, in 2000 the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, UK named him Member of the 2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 20th Century. In the last two years of his life he was elected Honorary Member by the Geographical Societies of Paris and Romania.

His organisational activity in the IGU began with the founding of the Study Group on Marine Geography, and then the Commission on Marine Geography. In 1996 he was elected Vice-President of IGU. Within this role, he promoted the *Oceans 21 - science for sustainable use of ocean and coastal zones*, a cooperation programme convened by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and IGU to implement interdisciplinary research on deep-ocean and coastal management, until he was appointed as UNESCO representative in the World Conference on Science (1999). In 2000 he was reappointed Vice-President by the IGU Assembly, and chosen as First Vice-President by the Executive Committee. Soon afterwards he became a member of the Executive Committee of the newly founded IGU Home of Geography. During the 30th International Geographical Congress, Glasgow 2004, he was elected President for the 2004-2008 term. In this position, he supported the Regional Networks, and the last of these, the *South East Asia and South West Pacific Network*, was established just before the Brisbane Regional Conference. Moreover, he designed and launched the Mediterranean Renaissance Programme (MRP), and the Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development (CCHD) initiative.

Oceans, marine transportation and commerce were his prime major interests (he always worked on more than one, at the highest level) and in 1989 he became a member of the Waterfront Center, Washington DC, the Law of Sea Institute and the International Coastal and Ocean Organization (USA); furthermore, he was a member of the Academia Europea Committee on Geography. In the following years, he became International Advisor of the Ocean Governance Study Group, USA, member of the Scientific Committee of the MedCoast Institute and Consultant for the Italian Navy. In 1997 he became a member of the Committee of Social Sciences of the Academia Europea and the Academy of Sciences, New York.

He produced a substantial number of written works, with some 300 papers and articles (about 100 in languages other than Italian), approximately 50 school books and 35 books (some of which have been translated into English).

His home region afforded him wide views of the open sea, and this explains his lifelong passion for oceanographic studies, always from a geographic viewpoint. Closely related with this was his interest in regional geography, mainly dedicated to coastal regions. He wrote several books and manuals in this period, of which we only cite the English ones: *Ocean change in global change: Introductory geographical analysis*, and *Sea management: A Theoretical Framework*. His passion for the oceans continued, and in the new millennium he published *The Changing Waterfront in Coastal Area Management* and *Fundamentals of Integrated Coastal Management*.

After many years of practical studies, in the 80s he became the Italian leader in the field of theoretical geography. Many Italian geographers believe this to be his most important achievement, and was the contribution which in the space of a few years advanced Italian geographical thought by decades: not only did he expound in Italy the most advanced theories, but he gave them fresh impetus. While the previous academic generation did not pay much heed to theoretical geography or epistemology, today the majority of Italian geographers commonly speak in terms of general system theory or holistic approach.

In the late 60s, only a few Italian geographers were beginning to address structuralism, functionalism and quantitative revolution, but he was already trying to go beyond these approaches, referring to the general system theory and then to the complexity theory. Many of us in Italy had to get acquainted with the names of Morin, Von Bertalanffy and Le Moigne, but the best was still to come.

In his opinion, the Cartesian background at the base of complexity was not sufficient to build up effective humanistic approaches, so he concentrated on whether and how that background could

be improved. He took post-structuralism (French philosophy) and post-modernism (American architecture and cultural theory) as non-geographical referentials. These efforts led him to build up a semiotic-based approach: one should start with the subject in building up geographical non-determinist and non-structuralist representations. His texts immediately became widely known, not least due to his ability to reduce complex matters to simple flowcharts.

From the mid-1990s, these theoretical efforts led him to investigate cultural geography taking Peirce's semiotics theory as a referential. He always took a long-term view, and on this occasion he had a three-stage plan, which I quote from the words he said when the second stage had been completed (a good example of his ability to summarise): "1st stage: the design and production of a book on the fundamentals of cultural geography; 2nd stage: research, the results of which were presented in a book, on the sense of time connoting individual places; 3rd stage: a manual of geosemiotics". In the following ten years he appeared to be totally absorbed by his duties as Vice-President, First Vice-President and President, but this did not prevent him from publishing *Geografia culturale. Luoghi, spazi, simboli* (Cultural Geography. Places, spaces, symbols) in 2003 and *La Geografia del tempo* (Geography of time) in 2006; The third part, *Geosemiotica* (Geosemiotics) will be published in a few months.

His scientific path can be described in terms of a metaphor, based on great birds. The first part of his studies, devoted to oceans and coastal regions, can be regarded as the *albatross period*. All seagulls begin to glide on air currents, learning to fly with minimum effort, but only the albatross learns to master the various currents in open oceans, covering hundreds if not thousands of miles. In a short space of time, Adalberto's studies opened up a new pathway in the geography of the sea to Italian geographers: in other words, thanks to him, new currents started to flow in the Italian geography of the oceans.

In the second phase, Adalberto, feeling unsatisfied with his gliding flight in the low atmosphere currents, took the upward currents, attaining the heights of mental reflection: we can call this the *condor period*, when he reached and moved widely at the greatest possible heights. While awaiting publication of his *Geosemiotics*, I hope his book on the *Geography of time* will soon appear in an English version. It is one of the best examples of the meaning of Culture (with a capital C): the capability to merge notions from very different fields, showing in a straightforward manner how they relate to each other, opening up new ways of thinking. The readers are sometimes disappointed: "it was so easy, why didn't I think of that before?", but this is probably because, while only albatrosses can fly over such vast areas, only condors have such a broad view and only few great men can master all this in single, concise thoughts.

Giuliano Bellezza

Università dellaTuscia, Viterbo

1c) DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF ADALBERTO VALLEGA

Donations in Adalberto's memory may be made to the IGU Promotion and Solidarity Fund at the IGU Secretariat. The fund provides travel grants and research awards to young geographers and those from developing countries. Contributions made by check or with MasterCard or Visa should be directed to:

International Geographical Union Secretariat
Department of Geography, Seoul National University
San 56-1 Sillim-dong Gwanak-gu
151-746 Seoul
South Korea

Electronic payments should be sent to:
Bank: National Agricultural Cooperative Federation
Swift Code: NACFKRSE
Account Name: YU, Woo-ik
Account Number: 000079-452-028350

1d) FROM IGU EC MEMBERS

Adalberto Vallega is one of the most unusual individuals I've ever encountered. Although we may have had glancing contacts earlier, our first serious conversations took place at an IGU conference in Moscow in the summer of 1995. Adalberto sought election as a Vice President of the IGU, I was also thinking about standing for election, and Adalberto suggested that we support each other's candidacy, which we eventually did. I admit to being somewhat taken aback at first by Adalberto's fervor, perhaps because it came from such a slight and serious, yet elegant man, who, based on appearances, might easily have aroused expectations of reserved urbanity. Polite almost to a fault, Adalberto was certainly urbane, but he was anything but reserved when it came to geography and the IGU. Over the next eleven years, Adalberto exhibited a passion for the discipline and for the IGU that I have never seen equalled.

Adalberto's dedication to our craft and to advancing its status in international science sometimes led him to excessive preparation that inundated his colleagues with memoranda that seemed too long and detailed for the matter at hand. His ideas and proposals were usually sound, and would have been welcomed and readily approved even if they had been more concise. I suspect that Adalberto's tendency to overprepare was the result of being uncertain whether his proposals



Durban Regional Conference 2002: Adalberto Vallega with Bruno Messerli and Lindisizwe Magi

would be accepted by his peers. I was pleased, therefore, to note the change in his demeanor and mode of operation that followed his election as IGU President at the 2004 IGU General Assembly. The vote of confidence the election gave him led in short order to Adalberto's formulation (in collaboration with Jean-Robert Pitte) of the IGU's Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development (CCHD) initiative, which he launched in March 2005. Among other

laudable aspects of the CCHD initiative is the international scientific leadership position it gives geography and the IGU.

The goals of the CCHD initiative are 1) to adopt approaches and undertake actions for valuing cultural identities and encouraging inter-cultural and inter-civilizational co-operation, with a view toward pursuing the Millennium goals concerned with social concerns, and helping the operation of UNESCO Conventions pertaining to intangible cultural heritage, cultural identities and manifestations of cultural diversity; and 2) to propose the United Nations the proclamation of an international year on inter-cultural and inter-civilizational collaboration for human development. Though diagnosed with stomach cancer in May 2005, Adalberto pressed forward his vision of the CCHD through a comprehensive workshop held at the Rome Home of Geography in December 2005, and through the preparation of a draft proposal for an even more broadly based workshop planned for Paris in November 2007. For the IGU, following through with these plans and bringing the CCHD to fruition would be an appropriate memorial to Adalberto's many contributions to the IGU's continued development.

There was much more to Adalberto than the CCHD, of course, in the IGU as well as in the wider arenas of Italian and world geography and science in general. His prolific scholarship and pedagogy found expression in dozens of journal articles and in a number of beautiful and elegant textbooks and monographs. Adalberto's English was correct and lucid, but the eloquence in some of his French publications makes me wish I'd mastered Italian at some point; I suspect there was poetry in his soul that found only limited expression in his English language publications and talks.

Adalberto was a perfect gentleman. He uttered not a single curse or crude expression in all the time I knew him. He was at the same time a remarkably tough individual, mentally and physically. Only someone exceedingly single-minded would carefully schedule chemotherapy sessions following surgery for stomach cancer to permit the continued discharge of his IGU duties, including chairing meetings of its executive committee. Only someone exceptionally strong and committed could lead meetings and direct an organization while reeling from the bodily and psychological effects of his medical regimen. Adalberto represented the IGU at the *Festival International de Géographie* in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges at the end of September 2006 and remained actively engaged in IGU affairs until just a few days before his untimely demise in November. I don't know the source of the courage that enabled him to maintain his habitual thoroughness and vigor in the 18 months preceding his death. I suspect that some of his strength came from more hardship in his past than he was wont to acknowledge easily. We were talking one day about the Italian Liberation Day Holiday (25 April) and he mentioned only in passing that the day had special meaning for him because "the Nazis destroyed almost my entire family during the war." I wish I knew more about that aspect of his life, but a suitable occasion to continue that discussion never arose.

Wishing I knew more about him will, I think, be my enduring sadness over Adalberto's death. I am profoundly grateful that I came to know Adalberto and to work with him for a short time. The more I got to know him, the more I realized that there was much more to learn. At the outset of our encounter, he struck me as a curious little man with outsized ambitions. During the course of our collaboration I came to love Adalberto as a Titan—a deeply committed geographer as well as a revered colleague and a dear friend. I miss him terribly, and am somewhat comforted by the certainty that Gaia has welcomed his spirit to her bosom.

Ronald F. Abler

Vice President, IGU



Adalberto Vallega presenting the CCHD program at the FIG 2006 in Saint Dié des Vosges

I first met Adalberto at the *Giornate Della Geografia* in Padua 1994. He immediately suggested a special agreement for collaboration between Irish and Italian geographers. Among Adalberto's many legacies are a host of "memoranda of agreement" (MOUs), between Italian and other IGU National Committees, as well as between IGU and diverse organizations with which collaboration on projects relating to globalization and global change might be mutually beneficial.

Ten years of service on the IGU Executive Committee with Adalberto was an eye-opening experience. His commitment to geography, his passion and energy for exploring ever new horizons for cooperation between IGU and other international scientific bodies remain indelible memories. We remember "Oceans 21", "IGU Network and Promotion", "Mediterranean Renaissance", and in latter years his initiative on "Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development". Especially gratifying for me was his untiring support for our IGU Home of Geography in Rome; gratifying, too, that he enjoyed the support of Director Giuliano Bellezza and Secretary Dawn Bissell in the achievement of his many projects.

To become President of the IGU was a deeply cherished goal for Adalberto. This he achieved in 2004 and immediately set about an energetic refurbishing of IGU structures and wider engagement with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), *Festival International de Géographie* (FIG), United Nations and UNESCO bodies as well as with the Arab World (ALESCO). He launched the IGU E-Newsletter, selected its contents which were always delivered on time. All this was done while he maintained an impressive record of publications - scientific works as well as school texts - on themes ranging from culture to sustainable development. Despite health problems, he continued to work at an amazing pace, never missing a deadline, and always meticulously well-prepared for EC meetings. It was a sad moment for us to hear that he could not attend the November 2006 meeting in Tunis. Even a sadder moment it was when we heard the news of his demise.

These opening years of the 21st century, and especially 2006, have indeed brought sadness among geographers internationally. We have lost famous leaders and supporters of IGU like Chauncy Harris, Torsten Hägerstrand, Keiichi Takeuchi, Pierre George, Gilbert White and Lucio Gambi. As we mourn the most recent loss of Adalberto Vallega, Nikita Glazowsky, Niko Beroutchachvili and

Alexander Mather, we are also grateful for their lives and careers which afford inspiration and direction for our own potential contributions.

Addio al nostro caro Adalberto!

Anne Buttner

Past President, International Geographical Union

Adalberto Vallega has certainly been a true leader: he had a broad, strategic vision of geography and wanted to improve its contact with the world of politics, practitioners, and other natural and social disciplines. He firmly believed in its relevance and its perspectives. He was perfectly able to catch new tendencies in research and society and change himself before trying to change others. Being a well-known specialist in human geography of the World Ocean, and the author of many fundamental books, he could become a brilliant expert in cultural geography. Unfortunately, he did not have enough time to develop his really strategic initiative “Cultures and Civilisations for Human Development”. I would like to hope that we could realize his numerous ideas aimed at increasing the ‘visibility’ of the geographical science. Meeting Adalberto Vallega at different conferences, I had relatively few opportunities to talk to him but I will always remember our interesting conversations and his charisma of a true outstanding scholar, of a high European intellectual and at the same time of a modest and charming person.

Vladimir Kolosov

Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences, Vice-President of the IGU

Professor Adalberto Vallega is always in my heart, as he has contributed a great deal to our IGU and world geography.

Changming Liu

Academy of Sciences, China, Vice-President of the IGU

He will be remembered in our hearts as a fine and dedicated gentle soul who took the IGU-EC and IGU as a whole to greater heights.

Lindisizwe. M. Magi

Chair of South African National Committee, Vice-President of the IGU

N.B. An Italian geographer, with a good knowledge of English, said that if people were obliged to write in English or French (IGU official languages), many non native speakers would not dare to send in a message. Accepting messages in other languages would have encouraged them, and would furthermore underline the international role of the Home. Thus, the proposal was accepted. All messages have been ordered in alphabetical order.

1e) FROM THE SOCIETA' GEOGRAFICA ITALIANA

Ho appreso tanta parte della geografia che conosco dalle pagine dei lavori di Adalberto Vallega. Ho appreso del rinnovamento nel metodo della ricerca geografica dalla lezione di Adalberto Vallega. Ho appreso il sapersi impegnare con dedizione e senso di appartenenza dall'esempio di Adalberto Vallega. Ho appreso l'entusiasmo per l'obiettivo da raggiungere con tenacia nel rispetto delle esigenze e delle aspettative altrui dall'azione di Adalberto Vallega. Ho appreso l'orgoglio di professare la geografia, di esaltarne i valori culturali, di volerne affermare i meriti in campo nazionale e internazionale attraverso la figura e l'opera di Adalberto Vallega.

Franco Salvatori

1f) FROM THE HOME OF GEOGRAPHY

Over approximately 40 years, I have amassed many memories of Adalberto, starting with the first: a sarcastic remark during a university field trip in 1968. However, it was only following my appointment as Director of the Home of Geography (2003) that we changed from being acquaintances to friends: late in the day, then, but we quickly became true friends, and I am proud to say that our friendship was based on mutual respect. At the end of 2003, my wife and I had produced a (second) CD for the Ministry of Education, intended to be used in the training of geography teacher trainers, and I gave Adalberto a copy as we had drawn considerably on his latest theoretical works. A few days later, he sent us an email, from which I have taken just an excerpt:

“Dear Ester and Giuliano,

... (I want to) point out that, in the field of teaching materials based on advanced communicative technology, you have reached a level which deserves to be known and used in the international arena. If the IGU matters which concern me should lead to a positive outcome, I would be pleased to consider this kind of project with you both.

My heartiest congratulations, see you soon – Adalberto”

Subsequently, the IGU matters led to a positive outcome and his duties as President took up all his time and energy. I was always astonished by his ability to concentrate on his work; paradoxically, I'd say that I was sorry that he seemed incapable of taking some time for himself. Consequently, I never wanted to remind him of that email.

At the Home I managed to keep pace with all of his initiatives, but the merit is not all mine. It was made possible by the decisive help of the secretaries of the Home over the years: Tania Lines, Laura Ayo and lastly Dawn Bissell: in the Home's inbox, there are dozens of emails which Adalberto wrote, thanking her for her efficiency in replying to all his requests.

Over recent years, my personal relationship with Adalberto continued to strengthen: I think I can say that we formed a practically fraternal friendship. I adopted him as an older brother, and he used to entrust me with the final revision of his latest documents and considered me as a kind of ambassador for the initiatives which were closest to his heart: CCHD and MRP. I think it's pointless to recall his contribution to geographical thought over the last few decades, but would stress that it was so major as it was preceded by decades of practical research.

Furthermore, I would like to share a glimpse of his human traits, so to speak, which probably only a few knew of, and which certainly very few people would ever imagine: during the Regional Conference in Brisbane, we would meet in the hotel foyer a couple of times a week at around 7.00 in the morning, obliged by the time zone, to excitedly discuss Italy's football matches which we had both just watched in our hotel rooms. Then, we would start bickering again: me as a Roma supporter, and he as a Juventus fan.

Giuliano Bellezza

Director, Home of Geography, Rome

I worked with Prof Vallega from October 2005, when I joined the Home of Geography. My arrival coincided with preparations for the Cultures and Civilizations workshop, a hectic time for all concerned, and I was immediately faced with a constant stream of emails from Prof Vallega. This was only an initial indication of what a hard worker he was, and I was amazed at his tenacity and energy as time went by. After the short Christmas holidays, for example, I asked him if he

had had a relaxing break, to which he replied: “Well, I wrote a few books”. I admire the stamina and enthusiasm which drove him on in what were not always easy times.

I am not a geographer by trade, but nevertheless Prof Vallega sought my comments and suggestions on his documents and bounced certain ideas off me; in fact, I saw our working relationship very much as a “team effort”. This ability and willingness to listen to people, no matter who they are, is certainly a quality that many others appreciated too.

While we certainly miss him at the Home, we aim to press ahead with the initiatives which he so believed in, as a lasting tribute to him.

Dawn Bissell

Executive Secretary, Home of Geography

1g) MEMORIES AND TRIBUTES FROM GEOGRAPHERS ALL OVER THE WORLD

Even if I did not know him so well, he conveyed the impression of being a sincere academician and a fine human being with a big heart.

Tor H. Aase

University of Bergen

He was very attentive towards Russian geographers and our National committee and we'll remember him for ever.

Maria Ananicheva

Secretary, Russian National Committee of the IGU

Con lui se ne va un alfiere della cultura geografica italiana e un'eminente figura del panorama scientifico internazionale. Per la geografia è una perdita incommensurabile: uno spreco di intelligenza, sapienza, amabilità.

Personalmente perdo un carissimo amico.

Giuliana Andreotti

Università di Trento

Adalberto, tu m'as toujours étonné,

Par ton dynamisme et ton enthousiasme, tu savais mobiliser les hommes,

Par ton amitié, tu étais proche du monde,

Par ta puissance de travail, tu pouvais publier, administrer, voyager,

Par ta croyance en la géographie, tu avais la capacité de convaincre.

Ainsi as-tu porté la géographie italienne et l'UGI sur cette planète que tu aimais. Adalberto, tu vas nous manquer.

Antoine Bailly

Président de la Commission de Géographie Appliquée

Ancien Directeur Scientifique du FIG

La morte di Adalberto Vallega lascia un profondo vuoto nella Comunità dei Geografi e in tutti quelli che, direttamente o attraverso i Suoi scritti, Lo ebbero MAESTRO.

Caro Professore Vallega, non dimenticherò mai le proficue discussioni con Lei intrattenute sulla Geografia culturale; i Suoi preziosi suggerimenti; i grandi squarci da Lei aperti in orizzonti che, altrimenti, sarebbero rimasti in ombra e che mi sono stati di fondamentale supporto per la lettura

dei fatti geografici; l'emozione e l'orgoglio provato allorché ha voluto citarmi in un Suo importante volume.

Grazie per l'attività svolta; per la preziosa produzione scientifica che ci ha lasciato e che rimarrà nel tempo come guida culturale; per avere rappresentato con il Suo fecondo lavoro la geografia italiana a livello internazionale. Le Sue Opere e le Sue Azioni si staglieranno sicuramente al di là delle contingenze, del tempo che passa. Vivrà, comunque, sempre nella memoria dei geografi e nello stile inimitabile lasciato come esempio a tutti quanti noi.

Nel rimpianto, la Sua splendida figura di GEOGRAFO continuerà ad indicare ai giovani, attraverso tutti noi che abbiamo avuto la fortuna di conoscerLa, la grande lezione dell'impegno, della comprensione, della promozione umana.

Caterina Barilaro

Università di Messina

The first time I met Adalberto Vallega was during the competitive examination that was to pave his way towards Full Professorship. Then a young assistant, I had come to Rome together with my master, the late Prof. Eliseo Bonetti, who was among the members of the examining board and had asked me to accompany him on account of his poor health.

My acquaintance with Adalberto deepened in the following years thanks to study topics – namely, the problems of port economy – common to geographers of Genoa and Trieste. His leadership of the AGEI workgroup on regionalization soon made him one of the major figures among Italian geographers, not only because of the novelty of the issue and the seriousness of the research, but for the energy he constantly displayed in the pursuit of scientifically substantial results and the attention he paid to the teaching of a group of promising young scholars. His determination to again win a place for Italian geography within the lively flow of international research was already clear at that time.

But more than that it was the issue of maritime geography, his most significant achievement, which gave me the most occasions – unfortunately not many - to follow and appreciate him during the uncountable congress meetings he organized. As a member of the AGEI committee in the years 1987-1992, I was a privileged witness to the first phases of the extraordinary adventure which was to culminate in his election to the Presidency of the USI, an objective nobody could have even dreamt of. I consider it a great privilege to have taken part in the Italian delegation at the Washington Congress and to have applauded him when he delivered his presidential speech in Glasgow. While Editor of the review *Geografia nelle Scuole* (1992-2004), I also had the opportunity of admiring him on several other occasions.

He was always exceedingly kind, ready to help, precise and constantly at the top scientific level. Each one of his works was an original contribution to the discipline. This was in fact how he conceived the geographer: an expert with the mission not only of widening knowledge, but of striving to solve mankind's tangible problems. On this altar he sacrificed himself, consuming all his energies up to the last and thus bequeathing us an everlasting lesson of style, honesty and professionalism.

Adalberto Vallega was a truly "thoroughbred horse", able to work very hard without ever slackening his pace or falling below his usual high standard. No less commendable, he used to go his way without letting himself get involved in the meanness so common in the academic world. An irreplaceable scholar, not only for Italian geographers. His loss makes us all feel poorer and more lonely.

Gianfranco Battisti

University of Trieste

I will remember him as a kind person and with a deep cultural sense of the geographical endeavour.

Gabriel Fabián Bautista

Comisión de Ecología y Defensa Ambiental, Argentina

Ho avuto il privilegio di lavorare con lui molti anni a Genova e ho con Adalberto un debito importante. A lui devo infatti gran parte della mia formazione professionale nel settore della gestione delle coste e l'interesse per gli organismi internazionali -- certamente non lavorerei oggi per la Commissione Oceanografica se non lo avessi incontrato. Ricordo molto bene il rigore intellettuale e la passione con cui affrontava ogni argomento e progetto e la sua visione di lungo periodo -- era sempre un passo avanti -- e spesso in questi anni ho cercato ispirazione per il mio lavoro nei suoi scritti. Lavorare con Adalberto è stato però anche molto divertente per via delle sue grandi doti umane e dell'ironia con cui affrontava ogni difficoltà. In questi ultimi anni ho avuto poche occasioni di incontrarlo e proprio il fine settimana scorso mi sono recato ad una conferenza a Genova dove era inizialmente previsto un suo intervento proprio per rivederlo, cosa che purtroppo non si è verificata. Sono certo che anche in quest'ultimo periodo si sia dedicato con passione alla ricerca e al suo lavoro: il mondo scientifico sentirà la mancanza di questo grande geografo.

Stefano Belfiore

UNESCO, Parigi

Our collaboration with Adalberto Vallega has been instrumental in promoting ocean sciences and the protection of cultural heritage. His contribution to science and his human qualities will long be remembered at the IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) and the WHC (World Heritage Centre).

Patricio Bernal

Assistant Director-General for UNESCO

Executive Secretary IOC

E' una gravissima perdita per la geografia intera, per lo spessore scientifico e culturale, le capacità organizzative e la forza morale di Vallega.

Alma Bianchetti

Università degli Studi di Udine

Ho appreso con profonda tristezza la notizia della scomparsa di Adalberto Vallega, illustre collega, nei confronti del quale ho nutrito profonda stima per le sue elevate doti di uomo e di studioso.

Da docente di Economia dei Trasporti, apprezzavo in lui, geografo, la lucida percezione delle problematiche connesse alla mobilità delle merci, che Vallega, tra i primi, ha collocato in una dimensione globale.

L'Università italiana e il mondo della ricerca, a livello nazionale e internazionale, registrano, con la sua uscita di scena, un vuoto che potrà essere colmato solamente se i giovani ricercatori sapranno recepirne l'elevato messaggio morale e scientifico.

Giacomo Borruso

ordinario di Economia dei Trasporti, Preside della Facoltà di Architettura ed ex Rettore dell'Università di Trieste

Le monde a perdu, ainsi, un de ses éminents savants qui, par son expérience, ses compétences et son dévouement, tenait un rôle de premier plan dans son domaine.

Mongi Bousnina

Directeur Général de l’ALECSO, Tunisia

Czech geographers and the Czech National Geographic Committee valued very much his great efforts and significant contribution to world geography and the IGU. He and his work will never fall into oblivion.

Rudolf Brazdil

Czech National Geographic Committee

Credo di poter dire senza essere smentita che il Professore ha dato un significato moderno alla Geografia italiana e che con Lui scompare una figura importante non solo per la scienza e la disciplina ma anche per l'apporto umano del suo entusiasta e costante impegno.

Lo scorso anno in questo periodo stavamo tutti noi progettando una nuova "intrapresa": CCHD.

Mi piace ricordare così il Professore, discreto e tenace anche nella malattia che purtroppo già faceva da sfondo al nostro incontro romano. Una lezione di vita.

Manuela Silvia Campanini

Università di Parma

Après une prestigieuse carrière universitaire en Italie, Adalberto Vallega avait mis son expérience au service de l’UGI, organisme qui mobilise les efforts internationaux au service de grands programmes comme: “Cultures et Civilisations pour le développement humain” et “Renaissance méditerranéenne”. C’est à ce titre qu’Adalberto Vallega avait signé en 2005, à Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, une charte de coopération avec le Festival International de Géographie.

Bien que déjà souffrant, le Président Vallega avait tenu, accompagné de son épouse, à être présent lors du dernier Festival International de Géographie.

L’Association pour le Développement du Festival International de Géographie et son Président Gérard Dorel s’associent à Christian Pierret et à son épouse pour témoigner de leur tristesse et du vide laissé par cette cheville ouvrière d’un volontarisme international à la fois scientifique, humaniste et généreux.

Laurent Carroué

Président du Directoire Scientifique du FIG, Professeur à l’Université Paris VIII

Per la mia generazione, Adalberto Vallega è stato a tutti gli effetti un maestro: uno dei geografi di cui abbiamo studiato i manuali, di cui abbiamo seguito con attenzione e rispetto le proposte di metodo, di ricerca, di sintesi – e Vallega ha avanzato metodi, ha prodotto ricerca, ha elaborato sintesi. Non posso dimenticare di aver fatto largamente ricorso ai suoi lavori sulla geografia del mare, sulla regione, sul sistema, sullo sviluppo sostenibile... solo per rimanere, appunto, ad alcuni dei testi di Vallega che per la mia generazione sono stati «libri di formazione»: una formazione soprattutto di metodo, di rigore e lucidità espositiva.

Le idee, poi, possono evolvere e divaricarsi, anche rispetto a quelle dei maestri – e si può anche non condividere tutto di un’impostazione scientifica, dei risultati di una riflessione. Ma, non per questo, ha mai potuto essere messo in discussione il grandissimo rispetto, e l’attenzione, per uno studioso che ha avuto una serie di meriti del tutto inusuali in una stessa persona: una singolare

lungimiranza nell'individuare le prospettive a breve e medio termine delle discipline geografiche; la lucidità e la costanza nel suggerire di volta in volta le più promettenti possibilità di arricchire il patrimonio di metodi e di paradigmi della geografia; un'eccelsa capacità di organizzare ed esporre un ragionamento, per quanto complesso fosse; una straordinaria capacità di ascoltare e vagliare le posizioni altrui, senza lasciarsi condizionare da ruoli accademici o convinzioni ideologiche; l'umiltà di rivolgersi a studiosi più giovani, a volte molto più giovani, per conoscerne e discuterne il parere sui suoi lavori o addirittura sui suoi progetti di lavoro. E, tutto questo, trovando il modo e il tempo di produrre da solo una quantità di lavoro scientifico che sarebbe un vanto per un intero Dipartimento di Geografia.

Claudio Cerreti

Università di Roma "Tor Vergata"

Direttore del "Bollettino della Società Geografica Italiana"

Depuis la fin des années 1970, nous nous étions souvent rencontrés à l'occasion de conférences tenues en Italie et ailleurs. J'avais appris à apprécier sa discrétion et sa compétence. Il m'envoyait ses publications. Nous partageons beaucoup de curiosités : l'organisation de l'espace depuis longtemps et plus récemment, le rôle de la culture. Je pris conscience, à travers la série de livres qu'il rédigeait, du travail énorme qu'il menait pour offrir aux collègues et étudiants italiens des bases de réflexion informées des travaux menés dans le monde entier. Ses recherches avaient en même temps un accent très personnel, celui de quelqu'un qui pense que toute connaissance applicable doit être appliquée, et a le souci d'en préciser les voies et les moyens.

Au fur et à mesure que je le connaissais mieux, je mesurais combien il était un homme de conviction. Ligure, Génois de résidence, la mer était une de ses passions – la Méditerranée en particulier. Italien, il œuvrait pour que les jeunes Italiens connaissent le monde dans lequel ils vivent, et pour que la géographie italienne soit reconnue à sa juste valeur. Citoyen du monde, il se battait pour la préservation de l'environnement, pour une meilleure entente entre les peuples et pour le respect de la diversité des cultures et des civilisations.

Homme d'action, son élection à la Présidence de l'Union Géographique Internationale lui donnait l'opportunité de peser sur les mentalités et sur les représentations que les responsables politiques se font des problèmes du monde actuel. Par tradition, et par suite de la montée des problèmes écologiques, l'Union Géographique Internationale s'attachait plus aux problèmes d'environnement qu'à ceux de géographie humaine. Pour Adalberto Vallega, l'action en faveur de l'environnement devait aller de pair avec un engagement plus complet sur le versant culturel de la discipline. Il s'était donc lancé avec passion, et avec la détermination de quelqu'un qui sait que les jours lui sont peut-être comptés, dans le grand projet d'année culturelle internationale que nous connaissons tous.

La disparition d'Adalberto Vallega m'attriste parce qu'il s'agit d'un grand géographe, d'un authentique citoyen du monde, et parce qu'elle intervient trop tôt, à un moment où il fallait quelqu'un doté d'une énergie comme la sienne pour mener à bien les initiatives de l'UGI.

Paul Claval

Professeur émérite, Université de Paris « La Sorbonne »

Adalberto Vallega è stato per me un punto di riferimento e uno sprone a stare al passo con i tempi e a sapersi rinnovare, ma è stato soprattutto un esempio di come si dovesse uscire dal guscio protettivo della geografia nazionale e avventurarsi nel mare degli stimoli della geografia internazionale. Lui ha saputo guidarci in questo, facendo da tramite fra il contesto nazionale e

quello internazionale, costruendo progetti e raccogliendo attorno ad essi studiosi di diverse impostazioni. A lui devo un grazie particolare per l'appoggio che ha dato alla IGU Commission on Gender and Geography in occasione del Seminario Internazionale di Roma, per la considerazione che ha avuto per il mio impegno nella stessa Commissione e per l'attenzione che ha riservato ai temi e all'approccio della Gender Geography nel meeting di Roma del dicembre 2005.

Gisella Cortesi

Università di Pisa

There is no doubt that Adalberto's energy and enthusiasm drove many of the initiatives forwards in the IGU over the time that he was first vice-president and then president. I certainly will not forget his support and commitment during the preparation for the Glasgow Congress.

Lorraine Craig

Imperial College, London

His passing is a great loss not only to his family, but also to our IGU. He was our most distinguished and respected President, and served IGU, and geographers of the world, with great devotion for many years. Especially in recent years, Prof Vallega made great progress on close cooperation between IGU and The Geographical Society of China.

Prof Lu Dadao: President, Geographical Society of China

Prof Zhang Guoyou: Secretary-General, Geographical Society of China

Prof Wang Wuyi: Chair, China National Committee for IGU

I met Adalberto at the beginning of his academic career at the University of Genoa, while I was taking my first steps as a geographer in Turin. Our relationship was friendly and lasting and during this period, I came to appreciate his remarkable abilities and virtues as a man and as a scientist. Thinking about his qualities, I am sure that they were a genuine expression of his land. Liguria is a land which has given us men such as Adalberto: sober, determined, diligent but, simultaneously, courageous and gifted with an attentive and productive cleverness. At the same time, Liguria is a land facing the sea, looking out on the vast world which he conquered, reaching the top of our international organisation. All his life was spent gathering together these two characteristics: strong roots and a broad openness. He was, at the same time, a researcher, well-known all over the world and a citizen caring for places. I would like to remember Adalberto in his garden facing the sea, building by hand the small walls made of stones, typical of the Ligurian landscape.

Giuseppe Dematteis

Università di Torino

I have always seen Adalberto as a true ally in our joint attempts to generate more public attention for the Geosciences. For me, that began in September 2002, during an ICSU meeting in Rio de Janeiro, when I met with Adalberto's predecessor, Anne Buttimer. There we discussed stronger cooperation between the IGU and the IUGS. That materialized in June 2003 when the IUGS Bureau was invited for a meeting with the IGU Bureau in which the then incoming IGU President, Adalberto Vallega, participated. That was the first time I enjoyed the hospitality of the Home of Geography in Villa Celimontana. That very successful meeting laid the foundation for a follow-up meeting in February 2004 in La Maison de la Geologie, where we met with IUSS and

IUGG, to jointly build the contours of the Geo-Unions. In the International Geological Congress in Florence, Adalberto spoke on behalf of IGU during the Opening Ceremony.

Adalberto was very supportive of the International Year of Planet Earth and I had many discussions with him on this matter. Our fine relations with the IGU led to our choice of the Home of Geography as the venue for a meeting in September 2005, to join the four science years. That meeting was concluded by the Celimontana Declaration. In November 2005, he invited me to share our experience in the UN system to support his initiative to get the International Year of Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development through the UN.

I feel sadness at his passing away, but also gratefulness for having known him as a colleague and friend.

Eduardo de Mulder

President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)

Chair of the Board of Officers of the International Year of Planet Earth

Come collega ed amico ricordo la sua signorilità, la grande disponibilità e dedizione scientifica che ne hanno fatto uno studioso stimato e di grande prestigio.

Come Presidente dell'Associazione Italiana Insegnanti di Geografia ho presente la sua vicinanza al sodalizio, manifestata fin dagli anni Settanta, quando assumeva la presidenza della Sezione Liguria. La sua partecipazione attiva alla vita dell'AIIG, attraverso brillanti relazioni in tanti Convegni e numerosi contributi comparsi sulla rivista sociale (della quale era divenuto recentemente consulente scientifico) gli avevano meritato la nomina a Socio d'Onore.

Gino De Vecchis

Università di Roma "La Sapienza"

Voici pour toi, cher Adalberto, quelques mots en Français, cette langue que tu connaissais bien et que tu défendais au sein de l'UGI, fidèle à la lettre de ses statuts. Inutile de revenir, on les trouve dans ta biographie officielle, sur tes titres et travaux qui donnaient toute son envergure au géographe que tu étais et justifiaient une présidence de l'UGI qui t'a permis de montrer, en deux ans seulement, les grandes possibilités de développements et d'ouvertures sur le monde extérieur d'une grande union scientifique. Le sens des relations entre les personnes que tu avais, associé à tes qualités humaines personnelles, était également un atout naturel qui facilitait la réussite des entreprises dont tu étais responsable. Aussi n'est-ce pas seulement, en se plaçant sur le seul plan professionnel, Gênes et l'Italie qui regrettent ta disparition si rapide mais également toute la communauté géographique, en particulier tous ceux et celles qui ont eu affaire à toi dans le cadre de l'UGI.

Annick Douguédroit

Présidente de la Commission de Climatologie de l'UGI

As someone who had the pleasure of working together with Adalberto for so many years within the International Geographical Union, I am well aware of Adalberto's devotion and almost fanatical engagement in matters of geography in general and of the IGU in particular. I have always admired his passion and never-ceasing engagement for the concerns of IGU both in a disciplinary as well as in an interdisciplinary context. While he was still on the IGU Executive Committee in his capacity as Vice-President, I observed his passionate engagement for the aims and goals of the IGU. And sometimes, I was even afraid that he might identify himself with these aims and goals to such a degree that he would suffer personally if things did not work out the way that he had hoped for.

Adalberto's name will always be connected with the Villa Celimontana and the Home of Geography which, to such a great extent, was very close to his heart and which has contributed so much to a better coherence and mutual understanding of all geographers on a worldwide scale. I am very sorry that he could not fulfil and experience his wish to chair the International geographical Congress in the year 2008 in Tunis, which really would have been a circum-Mediterranean event which, again, was very much in the mind of Adalberto.

Eckart Ehlers

Former President, IGU

L'ho conosciuto nel 1995, a Mosca, e poi i contatti sono ripresi solo qualche anno dopo.

Io sono un illustre signor nessuno, ma Adalberto non faceva differenze tra illustri e sconosciuti, tra ordinari e giovani. Ascoltava le persone con reale interesse e cercava o offriva collaborazione con semplicità e determinazione.

Tutte qualità "internazionali" che ne hanno fatto spesso uno straniero tra noi. E che l'hanno portato alla presidenza dell'UGI grazie anche al suo attivismo visionario, ammirevole e invidiabile.

A tutti noi geografi un augurio di poter essere all'altezza di continuare quello che Adalberto aveva così generosamente intrapreso.

Fabrizio Eva

Università di Venezia - Cà Foscari, sede di Treviso

Professor Adalberto Vallega will be long remembered as one who greatly contributed to the progress of geographic science in the world context.

Jan Feranec

The Slovak National Geographical Committee

E' con enorme sgomento che ho appreso della scomparsa del Prof Adalberto Vallega, con cui ho avuto l'onore di collaborare nella stesura, per la Utet, del testo su 'La sostenibilità ambientale del territorio', da me curato.

Con Vallega si perde una delle menti scientifiche e sistematiche piu' chiare, il cui lavoro ha avvicinato la geografia italiana alla disciplina geografica di stampo anglosassone e internazionale.

Certo che il suo metodo e i suoi insegnamenti continueranno a vivere e a svilupparsi, partecipo al condoglio per la grave perdita.

Fiorenzo Ferlino

Istituto Ricerche Economico Sociali del Piemonte

E' impossibile non aver conosciuto Adalberto Vallega, talmente tante erano le iniziative e le attività da Lui svolte. Ancora più profondamente sia io che i miei studenti lo abbiamo compreso attraverso i Suoi testi, in particolare di Geografia regionale, per la quale è stato un sistematizzatore originale e "avanguardista". Mi fa piacere averGli comunicato, in occasione della sua nomina alla Presidenza dell'UGI, la vasta platea che è riuscito a conquistare, al di fuori dell'Accademia, con il suo pensiero e con i suoi studi. Attraverso la sua compiaciuta risposta, che conserverò con cura, ho capito quanto gli stesse a cuore il risvolto didattico della Sua attività che Gli consentiva di seminare per il futuro del nostro pianeta.

Anna Maria Frallicciardi

Università di Napoli Federico II

He was a well-known person who devoted his entire life to the cause of geography. He helped numerous up-coming geographers. He took geography to new horizons.

We, the fraternity of geographers, will definitely miss him. But as members of the Rajasthan Geographical Association, India, we will draw direction from his work.

Mahesh K. Gaur

Bangur Government PG College, Pali-Marwar, India

Abbiamo perso un grande compagno di viaggio e di vita, uno di quegli amici che si vorrebbero eterni, incrollabili, infinitamente presenti nelle avventure del nostro quotidiano.

Avremmo desiderato che fosse ancora lui ad accompagnarci nell'indagare l'evolversi dello spazio e del tempo, "a cogliere il senso del tempo nel segno del luogo", come ci ha insegnato in uno dei suoi ultimi lavori.

Insegnamento che accompagnerà il tempo di tutti noi e quello delle migliaia di studenti dell'Università della Calabria, che in questi trentadue anni di storia della Sezione di Geografia "Cesare Saibene" hanno conosciuto Adalberto Vallega attraverso i suoi libri e ne hanno apprezzato la profonda complessità del suo pensiero.

Noi, qui, siamo un piccolo avamposto in una terra straordinariamente bella, ma tremendamente degradata sotto il profilo umano, nella quale dilaga il potere ignorante e per questo presuntuoso.

Siamo comunque portatori, speriamo sufficientemente capaci, della visione del mondo di Adalberto Vallega, della sua capacità di apparire semplice e profondamente umano nei rapporti personali, per poi suscitare ammirazione e stupore di fronte alla smisurata dimensione della sua cultura.

Se, in questa terra di Calabria, il nostro modo di insegnare Geografia sta maturando, è anche grazie alla presenza tra noi delle parole dei suoi libri, della imponente dimensione del suo lavoro, realizzato attraverso un'attività continua, instancabile, creativa ed entusiasmante.

Questo triste evento, se pur preannunciato da una lunga malattia, colpisce e turba ognuno di noi, non solo come geografi e discepoli anche del sapere di Adalberto Vallega, ma, soprattutto, come esseri umani ed amici, commossi e richiamati ad una pietà profonda per la moglie ed i parenti tutti.

Ora tocca ad ognuno di noi, insieme ai nostri giovani allievi, onorare la sua memoria ponendo a paragone del nostro itinerario culturale la bellezza e la grandiosità della sua opera e della sua umanità ed accompagnarci con il suo pensiero.

Piero Gagliardo, Maria Luisa Ronconi, Marcello Bernardo

Dipartimento di Ecologia, Università della Calabria

I retain vivid memories of Adalberto Vallega. I first met him in 1970 when he was a member of a Ministerial Scholarship Board for a scholarship I had won at the University of Genoa.

He was my supervisor during my research work on the ceramics of Albisola, published by the Chamber of Commerce of Savona: I was greatly influenced by that experience which marked the beginning of my career at University.

Since 1970, I have been attending the Institute of Geographic Sciences and the Faculty of Education, of which Prof Vallega was respectively Director and Dean; I participated on the board of examiners and the board of the Faculty. I collaborated on his lectures on Urban Geography, published by Bozzi (Genoa).

I participated in numerous meetings organized by Prof Vallega. I particularly remember the meeting of the Association of Teachers of Geography in Bordighera (Province of Imperia in

Liguria) in 1979 as President of the Ligurian Section, an office that I continued to hold afterwards, and the International Conference on “Ocean Management in Global Change” (Genoa, 1992) where I had the honour to share his success.

Following his valuable suggestions, I sent some notes on “Cultural Heritage” with my colleagues Antonella Primi, Mauro Spotorno and Nicoletta Varani (his collaborators at the Faculty of Architecture) to the IGU Workshop which Prof Vallega organized as IGU President in Rome, in December 2005.

I like remembering Professor Vallega at work, sharing his experience with geographers from all over the world.

Prof Graziella Galliano

University of Genoa

I remember Adalberto's wonderful eyes showing the keenest interest and the greatest satisfaction when I told him of my involvement in international geography projects, and he answered me with questions, and more questions.... wanting to know more, with the rare attitude belonging only to a perfect scientist.

A kiss to Adalberto Vallega

Adriana Galvani

Università degli Studi di Bologna

Un pensiero breve: le tavole sinottiche, segno distintivo delle pubblicazioni di A. Vallega, hanno aiutato ed aiutano moltissimi studenti e ricercatori ad “entrare” nell’ottica geografica, inducendo ad una migliore comprensione e apprezzamento delle sue valenze e criticità. Ciò ha avuto ed ha tuttora l’effetto impagabile di fornire stimolanti strumenti di lettura del mondo visto nella sua globalità e complessità.

Emanuela Gamberoni

Università degli Studi di Verona

Sebbene io non sia stato un allievo del Professore l'ho tuttavia da subito considerato un autentico vero maestro, in quanto Egli era un uomo libero che amava attorniarsi di persone libere. Da oggi, il mondo della ricerca, così troppo spesso ideologizzato e volgare, è certamente più triste, perché un grande studioso che era anzitutto un grande uomo se n'è andato per sempre.

Roberto C. Gatti

Università di Genova

Una persona che si dà da fare, lavora, riesce, che è autorevole e che muore prematuramente, è una grande perdita per la geografia italiana. Stimavo Adalberto Vallega sul piano umano oltre che scientifico.

Maria Luisa Gentileschi

Università degli Studi di Cagliari

The last time I met Professor Adalberto Vallega was in September 2006 at St Dié (France) during the International Festival of Geography (FIG), where he presented his vision in favour of a dialogue of civilizations. I didn't really have a chance to have a long conversation with him, but I still remember his kindness when I sent him an email in the beginning of the year 2006. At that time, I was the editor of a special issue of the journal *Géographie et Cultures* dedicated to “multiculturalism and globalization” (n°58, 2006, 118-122), and I asked Professor Vallega

whether he was willing to participate in this issue. In spite of his numerous responsibilities as President of the International Geographical Union, he agreed to write a paper on the program he had initiated: Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development (Rome, December 2005). I sincerely thank him for his dedication to the dialogue of civilizations and I hope his program will be carried on by the IGU.

Cynthia Ghorra-Gobin

Director of Research, CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), France

Non ho avuto modo di conoscere personalmente Adalberto Vallega, solamente ho ascoltato alcuni Suoi interventi in occasione di qualche manifestazione scientifica e ho letto alcuni Suoi testi. Desidero ricordarLo per aver tra i primi, all'interno del panorama geografico italiano, approfondito e divulgato i fondamentali temi riconducibili al principio della sostenibilità.

Andrea Guaran

Università di Udine

Professor Vallega will remain an outstanding figure who dedicated his energies to consolidating IGU programs and enlarging its horizons. His absence is keenly felt as he has left a gap.

May his soul dwell in peace. God bless his soul.

May his contribution serve future generations of geographers.

May his colleagues and friends ensure they honor his works and thus may his spirit dwell among us forever.

Adnane Hayder

Chair, Association of Tunisian Geographers.

Chair, CNOC Tunis 2008

Adalberto looked quite bright when we met in Brisbane, talking tirelessly on "Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development" and other important IGU initiatives. I hope the IGU overcomes this hardship, and realizes his ideals. I would like to thank Adalberto for his warm support of the IGU Commission on Land Use/Cover Change, which I chaired till 2004, his kind friendship, and his superb leadership of the IGU, particularly in CCHD and Oceans.

Yukio Himiyama

Hokkaido University of Education. Japan

Conobbi Adalberto Vallega a Washington al congresso internazionale dell'UGI nel 1992, 15 anni fa: forse pochi per chi lo conosceva da sempre, tanti per me, anche perché proprio in quell'occasione facevo ingresso nella comunità dei geografi. Anche lì, tra decine di colleghi di ogni provenienza, aveva trovato il modo di rivolgermi una parola di incoraggiamento e di dedicarmi qualche minuto, per discutere di geografia, in genere del senso del nostro lavoro e della necessità di confrontarsi continuamente con chi fa geografia oltre confine.

Soprattutto, in questa occasione, non posso che ricordare la comunicazione del marzo 2005 con la quale Adalberto Vallega mi incoraggiava nella iniziativa dell'organizzazione della scuola estiva in geografia economico-politica.

Penso che continuerò ad onorarne la memoria proprio in questo modo, coltivando i contatti con i geografi di altre parti del mondo, semplicemente continuando a operare seguendo il Suo esempio e l'esempio della Sua dedizione.

Igor Jelen

Università di Trieste

Sa mémoire et les joyeux moments partagés continueront à animer nos souvenirs.

Gérard Joly

Ingénieur de recherche du CNRS, Paris

I am still in shock at the sad news of our shared loss: the sudden passing of the dear late Adalberto. I was impressed by him as a man who never gave up, and as such he continued his energetic and devoted work and service despite suffering from his illness. I was sure that he would make it and overcome his illness. Unfortunately, there are stronger bad forces touching us.

For me, Adalberto was a man who combined wide and high visions with a devotion to realizing them. His vision to make geography contribute to more tolerance and understanding in a world of intercultural struggles has put him in the front line of world figures of dignity and spiritual beauty. This vision was coupled with his vision to see his beloved world region, the Mediterranean, flourish and prosper, under the focus of professional attention.

I had the excellent opportunity to work closely with him on these two projects, as well as on other issues, and could continuously feel and enjoy his warmth, energies and devotion. He had high expectations, above all from himself. Hence his replies to messages extremely early every morning. He was able to make several of us enthusiastic about our joint global work and cooperation!

Adalberto was loved and honored by numerous colleagues in the global and rather diversified geographical community.

Prof Aharon Kellerman

Chair, IGU Commission on the Geography of the Information Society

University of Haifa. Israel

Even if we all knew about his illness, when I last saw him in St-Dié-des-Vosges he seemed full of spirit and energy. And, as always, looking forward to new challenges and particularly to the new CCHD program which would be his important contribution to the international community. Alas, this was not to be.

I shall always remember his first visit to Edmonton when we discussed the prospects of a new study group under his chairmanship. He was, as always, precise, committed, responsible and goal-oriented. It was then, his entry into the IGU community. I had the pleasure and the honour to work with him subsequently, and always appreciated his partnership. The geographical community will miss his leadership and many of us will miss him as a friend.

Lesek Kosinski

Former President, IGU

Three notions come into my mind which, for me, are characteristic of Adalberto's attitude towards work and life. In a number of productive encounters during recent years, I was always struck by his:

- Energy: Not only in his research topics and key working fields was no recent publication left uncited and all key players were included, but hardly anyone else replies to emails within minutes
- Commitment: With full and passionate engagement in his obligations and tasks, Adalberto contributed with all his strength and heart ...

- Discipline: Notably in his last months, strong personal discipline coincided with brave, selfless compliance of word and action...

I can only admire how strongly Adalberto devoted his life to work, evocative of C.F. Gellert's words: "Live as you would have wished to live when you are dying".

Frauke Kraas

Cologne, Germany

Nell'ottobre 2004, trascorsi due mesi dalla sua elezione a presidente dell'IGU, il nome di Adalberto Vallega venne fatto durante l'esame di Istituzioni di geografia presso la facoltà di Scienze della comunicazione della Sapienza, da uno studente del primo anno, straordinariamente informato. Rimasi folgorato, ma non è finita: solo così non basterebbe per partecipare a questa commemorazione. Adalberto Vallega era già noto al mio allievo perché in casa aveva trovato e consultato nel tempo, fruttuosamente, un Suo testo di geografia per la scuola media, utilizzato nei primi anni settanta da sua madre.

L'insegnamento e l'impegno di Adalberto non ha veramente confini. Sono grato a Giuliano Bellezza che consente questa informale testimonianza di un passato che non passa ...

Orazio La Greca

Università di Roma "La Sapienza"

Sono stato fra gli allora giovani studiosi che, alla metà degli anni Settanta del XX secolo, più hanno apprezzato e condiviso la "rivoluzione epocale" portata nella Geografia italiana da Adalberto Vallega: non esito a dire che il Suo pensiero, particolarmente in Geografia Regionale, ha reindirizzato il mio metodo di ricerca, fornendogli una base teorica di cui, in precedenza, era decisamente carente.

Con altrettanta sincerità ricordo quando, all'inizio degli anni Novanta, Gli chiesi di porsi come il leader della disciplina, sotto il profilo scientifico e -ancor più- accademico, senza indulgere ad obiettivi di unanimità (invero, lo definii unanimità) ideologica non meritevoli di essere perseguiti. Se così fosse accaduto, credo che oggi la Geografia avrebbe, nel nostro Paese, migliore consistenza e maggiore considerazione.

Resta, comunque, lo splendido ricordo degli entusiasmi che Egli seppe suscitare e dei sostanziali risultati conseguiti sotto la Sua guida intellettuale.

Piergiorgio Landini

Università "G. d'Annunzio" di Chieti-Pescara

I met Adalberto Vallega for the last time two years ago at the Assembly in Glasgow, when he was elected President of the IGU. I had been well aware of Adalberto's exceptional intellectual qualities, by means of which he could place the complicated problems of land structure and evolution in a real context, since we took part, 35 years ago, with many other colleagues, in research on the Alpine cities. I always appreciated Adalberto's ability to get to the heart of the most complex situations, together with an epistemological precision of which he gave a masterly demonstration in his last work on the Geography of Time, by himself modestly defined as an essay on Cultural Geography. He was, in fact, a person with sincere modesty, typical of great minds. We will be forever indebted to Adalberto for his very precious lesson.

Lamberto Laureti

University of Pavia, Italy

He was energetic, open, always with a bright face, and an internationally known scholar. We, all the Korean geographers, loved him and will miss him very much.

Ki-Suk Lee

Prof. Emeritus of Seoul National University

It is hard to believe that a man who was so energetic and so dedicated to promoting geographical research on an international scale recently left us so suddenly.

Among the many IGU Presidents who visited us in the past, Professor Vallega made an exceptional academic contribution to Taiwan. He was most instrumental in getting Taiwan geographers to initiate the Commission on Islands, which was preceded by several memorable occasions, including our meeting at the 30th IGC in Glasgow, and the International Conference on Islands of the World, “Changing Islands – Changing Worlds”, held in Kinmen Island, Taiwan, 1-7 November 2004, etc.

As a professor of urban and regional geography, he outdid many of his contemporaries. He is an exemplar in co-ordination, collaboration, and the advancement of frontier geographical science at global and national levels. He will be very well remembered by those of us who met him, and by our students who have read or heard about him.

J.C.Lin

President of the Geographical Society of China (Taipei)

It is not easy to voice my sentiments for Adalberto Vallega, a person who for me has represented an example of the possibility to combine a high scientific attitude with a rare gentle personality. I had the honour to work with him for a long time and I took advantages of his cognitive suggestions, but everything that Adalberto Vallega gave me is so much that I will never be able to forget, and no expression can voice my gratitude.

I can promise in any case that Adalberto will always be with me and my students, having in his books a basic reference to an accurate, modern advancement on reflections on the “key” territorial problems of our time.

All my affection for ever Adalberto.

Elvira Lussana

University of Perugia

The news of the sudden death of Professor Adalberto Vallega shocked the geographical community in Saudi Arabia. Saudi geographers came to know Prof. Vallega from remarks made by the Saudi Geographical Society and its Chairman, Professor Mohammad Makki, about this outstanding personality in Assembly meetings. Professor Makki met Professor Vallega only twice: at the International Congress of the International Geographical Union in the city of Glasgow in 2004, and the Regional Conference of the Union in Brisbane, Australia, in 2006. They had regular e-mail correspondence. These meetings sufficed to show his personal characteristics of mild manners and respect for others, with scientific and cultural depth, and dedication in the service of the Union and its members.

A meeting in Glasgow with representatives of the Saudi Geographical Society and the Tunisian Geographical Society led to a mutual understanding to promote coordination between them and IGU in the forthcoming International Congress of the Union in Tunisia in order to define the status of geography in the Arab world.

At the Brisbane meeting, the SGS was enthusiastic when asked to complete the translation of the IGU website into Arabic, and it was decided to draft an official agreement regarding this work as

soon as possible in view of Prof Vallega's strong interest in helping geographers who do not speak English or French, underlining his dedication to the service of the international geographical community without prejudice.

We have lost a truly distinguished, modest, world geographer. We Ask God to bless his soul and to aid his successor to follow the same approach.

Professor Mohamed S. Makki

President of the Saudi Geographical Society

Professor Adalberto Vallega, eminent scientist and expert in Integrated Coastal Zone Management, founded ICCOPS - International Centre for Coastal and Ocean Policy Studies, with the aim of assisting the implementation of the sustainability criteria adopted by the UNCED Rio Conference in coastal management.

Notwithstanding his international commitments, he has always played an active role in the Association, contributing with scientific authority and organisational talent to the Association's development, to the launch of many scientific initiatives, to a continuous and productive exchange of experience with the most important international Institutions and of contacts with scientists and professionals.

Along the years, ICCOPS, thanks to the formulation received by its founder, has become a promoter of high-level events and important initiatives for education and information.

Professor Adalberto Vallega regarded with constant care the achievements and evolution of coastal studies, also with reference to the landscape and historical and cultural heritage, offering useful answers to administrators and operators in this field.

Those who had the pleasure to work with him appreciated his exceptional scientific knowledge, commitment and uncommon efficiency in starting and carrying out new and demanding studies and research, as well as his extraordinary human gift.

The scientific community will greatly miss Professor Adalberto Vallega. His friends, colleagues and collaborators have lost a precious guide, who was selfless in his work as well as in his life.

Annalisa Maniglio Calcagno, President of ICCOPS, and

Emanuele Roccatagliata, Secretary-General of ICCOPS

Adalberto Vallega: you are present in the hearts and minds of both Italian and international geographers for your enormous working capacity, your wide appeal in the international arena and strong sense of geographical honour. But I know another "secret" quality of yours: that of an expert of "balloons" and "comics", and an attentive reader of it, particularly those with far and fascinating geographical locations.

So, dear Adalberto, you shall land in two Paradises: that of geographers, and the other, of comics lovers.

Elio Manzi

Università di Palermo

Adalberto était un grand géographe, un grand travailleur qui savait être agréable et chaleureux.

Jacques Marcadon

Université de Nantes, France

He had been expanding the scope of geography in so many fields and it is a great loss to the fraternity. Personally I was in touch with him while holding the 1st International Indian

Geography Congress in October 2006, and he was ever so helpful with suggestions, messages and moral support.

Kalpana Markandey

Osmania University, Hyderabad, India

The Spanish Committee of the IGU wishes to pay homage to the praiseworthy work of Prof Vallega as President of the IGU. His initiative, the "Mediterranean Renaissance Program", which the Spanish Committee has joined, brings us fond memories.

Also, the Spanish Geographers' Association (AGE) wishes to publicly express its gratitude to, and fondness for, Prof. Vallega and his intense and fecund dedication to the IGU.

Rafael Mata Olmo

President of the the Spanish Geographers' Association (AGE)

Past Chair of the Spanish Committee of the IGU

Prof Vallega was a distinguished scientist. He will be remembered with gratitude by all who knew him.

René Matlovič

President, Slovak Geographical Society

Du géographe italien Adalberto Vallega, on soulignera sa dimension internationale et son ouverture vers de nouveaux thèmes de la géographie - peut-être pas assez appréciées en Italie. Parfaitement trilingue (bonne maîtrise du français et de l'anglais), Docteur Honoris Causa de l'Université de Nantes, il fut nommé Vice-Président puis Président de l'Union Géographique Internationale où il consolida un réseau efficace avec de nombreux collègues étrangers, notamment Anne Buttimer. En 2005, il établit un protocole d'entente "pour la promotion de la Géographie dans l'éducation, les médias et le public" avec le Festival International de Géographie de Saint-Dié-des-Vosges (F), où il fut reçu comme Invité d'Honneur en 2006— ce fut pour nous un plaisir que de collaborer avec lui, à ces occasions et sur sa demande, pour concrétiser ces échanges, établir des liens avec les géographes des pays méditerranéens, aussi en vue de son programme idéaliste "Cultures et Civilisations pour un Monde Nouveau" et du prochain Congrès UGI de Tunis.

Parmi ses nombreuses publications, notamment de riches manuels destinés au milieu universitaire, nous préférerons finalement son plus petit...peut-être son plus grand: "*Introduzione alla Geografia umana*" (Milano, Mursia, 1999), moderne et concis en 128 p., comme un "Que sais-je?" français!

Géographe génois, spécialiste de la mer et du développement soutenable, on se souviendra de l'avoir vu tirer un jour de sa sacoche, lors d'un colloque, un nodule polymétallique, extrait des abysses océaniques, pour illustrer de potentielles ressources de la planète...

Et dans ses multiples intérêts, l'eau, déjà dans un article de 1967, puis dans une docte communication à un colloque à Naples en 1998 - encore un sujet d'actualité nous rapprochant de ce maître de la géographie humaine en Italie, discret mais ferme, froid mais courtois.

René G. Maury

Geografia – Università "L'Orientale" di Napoli

Il più che trentennale rapporto di cordiale colleganza con Adalberto venne consolidandosi nel lungo periodo in cui, in particolare, condividemmo interessi per gli studi su quello che egli definiva il "trittico" del mare: navi, porti, cantieri. In ragione della sua già consolidata esperienza

in questo filone di ricerche, quando mi trovai a dirigere la rivista trimestrale “Studi marittimi” (1977-97) Egli accettò di far parte del Comitato scientifico. Fu prodigo di suoi scritti di elevato livello ed interesse ed indirizzò verso tale pubblicazione numerosi lavori di suoi allievi. Vorrei anche ricordare che quando il prof. Francesco Compagna, mio maestro, chiamato a reggere il Ministero della Marina Mercantile, organizzò la I Conferenza Nazionale sul Mare, affidò ad Adalberto la relazione scientifica introduttiva.

Ernesto Mazzetti

Ordinario di Geografia Politica ed Economica
Università di Napoli “Federico II”

My presidency of the IGU 1996 – 2000 started with the knowledge that this four-year period would be dominated by marine and coastal geography, based on three important decisions which were taken inside and outside the geographical community:

- 1996: IGU–Congress in the Hague with the title “Land, Sea and Human Effort”.

- 1998: International Year of the Ocean

-1998: IGU-Regional Congress in Lisbon with the title “ The Atlantic - Past, Present and Future”.

The President, a mountain-man, was forced to find an ocean–man in order to mobilise the most relevant geographical commissions, to initiate projects and meetings, to present geography in the international scientific community and in appropriate UN organisations such as UNESCO. It was indeed a unique chance that Adalberto Vallega was elected as Vice-president of IGU precisely in 1996. He immediately became the most important ocean-representative of IGU and in addition to his tremendous workload, he began planning a special geographical conference in Genoa (May 1998) on “Education and Training in Integrated Coastal Area Management” and a special seminar after the Lisbon conference (Sept. 1998) on “The Role of Ocean Science and Geography in Facing Ocean Management for the 21st Century”, convened jointly by IGU and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

Looking back on these years I must say that Adalberto Vallega made an outstanding contribution to the international reputation of IGU and to an efficient cooperation in global programmes. In his view, ocean geography was based on an approach integrating natural and social sciences with a focus on spatial implications. Adalberto was a real geographer, highly motivated, without setting limits. All of us who have worked and lived with him are very grateful for everything he has done for geography in general and for IGU in particular.

Bruno Messerli

Former President IGU

Adalberto Vallega did so much for IGU development, was highly knowledgeable and very cooperative with our and other Commissions, and took an active part in conferences and meetings. His teaching activities on human, urban and regional geography was tremendous and widely known.

Elena Milanova

Deputy Chair, IGU Land Use And Land Cover Change Commission

He came to visit us in Ireland in 2001 to give a guest lecture in an exchange series that I had organised with Canadian and European students on Coastal Issues. His talk was really stimulating and I found him to be a warm, amiable and really engaging person. Professionally he will be sadly missed by anyone with an interest in the Mediterranean and Coastal Environments.

Niamh Moore

UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, Ireland

Non ci siamo mai frequentati molto, benché ci fosse capitata qualche occasione di stare assieme come quando andammo a Nizza, molti anni fa, nello stesso piccolo aereo squassato da una furiosa tempesta che lo aveva sconvolto. Del resto non era uomo che fraternizzasse facilmente. Dovessi delinearne in due parole un ritratto, lo avrei detto uno scalatore solitario. Mentalmente mi piaceva paragonarlo a Mennea, l'atleta che si era fatto da solo a forza di volontà e mi auguro che questa mia suggestione venga suffragata da quanto altri colleghi che lo conobbero da vicino e meglio di me potranno dire di lui. Penso che la presidenza dell'Unione Geografica Internazionale, oltre che per altri meriti, gli sia stata data per questa sua dote, che rimanda alla faticosa vicenda di molti connazionali che hanno dovuto costruire tutto partendo da lontano.

Calogero Muscarà

Università di Roma "La Sapienza"

He made significant and lasting contributions to Geography and the IGU for which he shall always be remembered. May his soul rest in peace.

Chris Mutambirwa

President of the IGU Chapter of Zimbabwe

La scomparsa prematura di Adalberto Vallega mi ha rattristato come quella di un carissimo amico. Ho avuto con lui un rapporto continuo almeno da una decina d'anni e soprattutto negli ultimi tempi nella Casa della Geografia a Villa Celimontana. Ho da sempre avuto modo di apprezzare le sue eccellenti qualità di studioso e di organizzatore di programmi scientifici e didattici. Gli sono grato anche perché ha voluto scegliere me come rappresentante dell'UGI presso l'United Nations of Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) nella sessione che si è tenuta a Vienna lo scorso mese di marzo. Mi rimane un grande sconforto.

Cosimo Palagiano

Università di Roma "La Sapienza"

Sono rimasta scioccata e immensamente addolorata alla notizia della morte di Adalberto. Negli ultimi due anni Adalberto mi aveva onorata della sua fiducia includendomi in importanti progetti che aveva varato e proponendo delle sfide intellettuali e operative che egli in prima persona portava avanti più di noi.

Non sono mai stata troppo brava a comunicare con le parole le mie emozioni, vorrei però dirLe che sento di aver perso un riferimento di luce in un contesto che spesso presenta ombre e buio. Non solo Adalberto era un insigne studioso e grande intellettuale ma una persona di grande valore: era diretto mai sfuggente, credeva nel valore del lavoro come costruzione collettiva, era coraggioso, guardava e costruiva il futuro riunendo in sé grandi capacità intellettuali e di leadership. Ha suscitato una grandissima e unanime ammirazione oltre che per le sue capacità di studioso ma per la forza e tenacia che ha dimostrato di fronte alla difficoltà più grande: la malattia.

Dal mio canto posso dirLe che rinnoverò la memoria di Adalberto tra i nuovi geografi che mi capiterà di incontrare quale quella di insigne maestro e esempio di condotta alla stregua dei grandi maestri del passato e forse anche più, in quanto Adalberto aveva saputo conquistare la

stima e la fiducia dei geografi di tutto il mondo sino a diventare Presidente dei Geografi di tutte le nazioni del mondo. Sono molto addolorata.

Maria Paradiso

Università del Sannio, Benevento.

Adalberto Vallega ci ha lasciato. Troppo presto e quando la vita sembrava arridergli con riconoscimenti prestigiosi ed una produttività scientifica feconda e fortemente innovativa. Di lui ci resta un patrimonio di scritti e un modello di vita concepita come servizio, su cui riflettere a lungo, guidati dai sensi di amicizia e di profonda gratitudine.

Nelle sue pagine palpita ancora il geografo e l'uomo formatosi alla luce e al rigore delle scuole dei gesuiti. Da esse emana vivido l'esempio di uno studioso fervido e versatile che ha donato tutto il suo ingegno alla disciplina. Nelle scienze geografiche si è riconosciuto e in queste ha trovato gratificazioni, personali e pubbliche, fino alla massima investitura della presidenza UGI, legittimo onore per lui e grande gloria per la geografia italiana.

I decenni in cui la nostra amicizia si è avviata e cementata sono ormai tanti, e sempre più lontana è l'Interuniversitaria del Genovesato e Oltrepo pavese, quando compresi la passione che lo animava e coinvolgeva profondamente: il territorio nei sempre nuovi rapporti col mare, nelle proteiformi dimensioni sociali e ambientali lo affascinava e a questa scoperta si rivolgeva con metodo illuminato, spiegata conoscenza e radicati convincimenti, sì da trarvi già i primi e cospicui risultati. Ma il suo anelito non si arrestava alle problematiche locali. Ben presto varcava i confini regionali e nazionali e si dischiudeva all'orizzonte europeo e alle grandi questioni planetarie richiamando intorno a sé anche studiosi di lingua francese e successivamente gli anglofoni, disponendosi ad una collaborazione scientifica che non conosceva più limiti di spazio e cultura.

L'ho ammirato per la lucidità del suo pensiero, per l'ampiezza di vedute, per la coerenza delle azioni e per la forza con cui le sosteneva. E ho continuato ad ammirarlo per l'instancabile impegno scientifico e per la forte dedizione alla causa geografica. Sempre pronta la sua disponibilità per l'Associazione Italiana Insegnanti di Geografia, quando fummo chiamati a stendere i nuovi programmi per la Secondaria e, nei ruggenti e travagliati anni Novanta, quando, assumendone la presidenza, gli chiesi in più occasioni di affiancarmi contro gli attacchi alla geografia da parte di burocrati e politici ottusi. Vibranti le sue parole nei nostri colloqui, nei nostri convegni e corsi di aggiornamento, nobile il suo impegno nel predisporre manuali per la scuola media, forte e continuo lo sforzo di chiarezza per gli scolari, una preoccupazione di cui spesso mi metteva a parte, epici alcuni momenti di condivisione progettuale e formativa, come in occasione dell'incontro con gli insegnanti di geografia presso l'Accademia delle Scienze dello Stato del Vaticano, entusiastico il suo sostegno alle tematiche di studio sui parchi letterari, settore di ricerca che avevo da poco avviato.

Ho scritto ai suoi familiari che la geografia italiana e internazionale piangeva la sua scomparsa. E' vero. E grande è la riconoscenza per la sua opera di studioso e coraggioso ideatore di scenari di scienza, lavoratore indomito e generoso, uomo che anche nel momento finale, ha affrontato con forza e grande dignità il distacco dalle passioni scientifiche, dai colleghi, dalle persone care: soffrendone profondamente e continuando ad amarle, ma apparentemente osservando gli eventi con distacco, regista responsabile e attento anche del proprio dramma.

Grazie, Adalberto. Continueremo a rileggerci, a riflettere sul tuo pensiero e sul tuo straordinario esempio di studio e umanità.

Peris Persi

Università degli Studi di Urbino "Carlo Bo"

I had the pleasure of knowing him through his mandate of President of the International Geographical Union and I had the honour of welcoming him to Saint-Dié-des-Vosges for the geographical festival this past year.

He was cultivated, literate and passionate about geography, and his achievements speak for themselves, as well as his humanism. Tirelessly, he aimed to create links of peace for humanity and he believed that geography could serve this aim well.

Christian Pierret

Président Fondateur du Festival International de Géographie de Saint-Dié-des-Vosges

Fin da studente è sempre stato il mio MITO, il Geografo cui cercare ispirazione e consiglio. Non so le volte che ho letto e riletto i suoi preziosi testi. Non ho mai avuto il piacere e l'onore di poterGLI parlare di persona, tuttavia mi basti sapere che è sempre e costantemente presente in noi.

Ci ha lasciato una eredità veramente grande da portare.

Mauro Preda

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano

The precious lessons and advice of Professor Adalberto Vallega accompanied me from my first exam in regional geography to the preparation of my thesis in 1991. His scientific guidance was fundamental throughout my doctorate and my post-doctorate grant, and in the following years when I collaborated with him in the Faculty of Architecture of Genoa University. In that period I had the opportunity to work with him, both in the didactic field and in many research projects on the Mediterranean sea, coastal areas, sustainable development, landscape and cultural heritage, and my work with him extended into the organization of national and international congresses and workshops.

Antonella Primi

University of Genoa

Anche quando ha cominciato la sua avventura sulla scena internazionale culminata con la presidenza dell'UGI, Adalberto Vallega è sempre rimasto ai miei occhi il collega dell'Ateneo genovese col quale, fin dall'epoca del mio apprendistato, ho condiviso gli stessi spazi della ricerca e della didattica. Nella sussiegosa sede novecentesca dell'Istituto di Magistero "Adelchi Baratono" di Genova, gli spazi modesti dell'Istituto di Scienze Geografiche fondato da Gaetano Ferro a metà degli anni Sessanta ospitavano in un'unica stanza la piccola ma agguerrita task force che avrebbe in seguito segnato le vicende della geografia italiana e nel caso di Adalberto anche di quella internazionale.

Mi accomunava a lui anche la medesima origine savonese e l'appoggio che anch'io trovai nella Camera di Commercio, dove Vallega aveva fatto il suo apprendistato di geografo applicato e dove anche a me accadde di pubblicare la mia prima monografia geografica.

Ma questa forte comunanza non impedì che fin da allora i nostri itinerari di ricerca e didattici si distinguessero fino al punto da separarsi del tutto sia sul piano della visione della geografia, sia su quello dell'appartenenza a diverse strutture universitarie, finendo Vallega per essere chiamato dalla Facoltà di Architettura ed io dalla Facoltà di Lettere e filosofia.

Quanto agli itinerari di ricerca la nostra diversa formazione contribuì certamente ad accentuare la diversità dei nostri percorsi, come nel 1984 lo stesso Vallega, ricostruendo insieme a Celant la mappa del pensiero geografico in Italia, ebbe a riconoscere.

Oggi che la geografia sembra essersi acquietata nell'alveo di una scienza benpensante, ripensando a quegli infuocati dibattiti, mi coglie una certa nostalgia, non separabile da un ultimo rammarico: l'ultima opera di Adalberto incentrata sul tempo storico avrebbe potuto riaprire un dialogo che la morte prematura ha purtroppo definitivamente interrotto.

Massimo Quaini

Università di Genova

E' stato per me un insegnante di inestimabile valore, una persona di rara generosità e correttezza. Incontrarlo durante i miei studi è stato uno dei pochi regali che l'Università mi ha fatto. Ricordo con gioia e orgoglio le sue parole di stima. Ogni anno ci scambiavamo gli auguri di Natale e, con l'approssimarsi delle feste ho sentito ancora di più questa perdita.

Paola Quercia

Ordine degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori della Provincia di Genova

Del professor Adalberto Vallega conserveremo sempre un vivo ricordo sia per le sue infinite doti scientifiche sia per la sua particolare e profonda umanità. Ci sarà difficile poter scordare e ci mancherà tantissimo la sua figura così carismatica e sempre vicina anche ai giovani studiosi.

Claudio Rossit, Orietta Selva, Dragan Umek

University of Trieste

As you will remember, between 12th and 15th of December 2005, the IGU held a CCHD (Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development) workshop in Rome at the Home of Geography. The President of the Herodot Thematic Network Organization, Karl Donert, invited me and my colleague, Servet Karabag, from Turkey to this workshop. On the first day of our stay, early in the morning, we had breakfast and went to the hotel lobby. While we were sitting in the lobby, some people came and said 'welcome'. They also asked where we were from, and we told them we were from Turkey and that was the end of the conversation.



We then left to go to the Home of Geography premises. When we went into the conference hall, we saw the same man from the lobby. To our surprise, he got up and walked towards the platform to make the opening speech. This person was Prof. Adalberto Vallega. As we had hardly talked in the lobby, we were quite surprised that this person turned out to be the President of the IGU. At the first coffee break of the meeting we found a chance to have a talk with him and we took some photos. He gave us this chance despite his busy schedule and we finally talked about Turkey. He told us that he had been to Turkey before and had enjoyed it.

When we got back to our country, I hung our picture in a special corner in my room at the university. I mentioned him to my students and this picture still continues to decorate my room.

We will miss him...

Dr. Salih Şahin

Gazi University Ankara/TURKEY

Après une longue et courageuse bataille contre le cancer, il s'est éteint le 22 novembre 2006 à Vezzi Portio (Ligurie, Italie). Il a été foudroyé à mi-parcours de son mandat de Président de l'UGI (2004-2008) après avoir lutté jusqu'au bout, en étant présent à la Conférence Régionale de l'UGI à Brisbane (Australie) début juillet 2006 puis au Festival International de Géographie de Saint-Dié des Vosges (France) début octobre 2006. Adalberto Vallega laisse derrière lui une oeuvre scientifique considérable avec des livres qui sont des références. La communauté internationale des géographes, qui était sa grande famille, doit lui être reconnaissante pour le fantastique travail qu'il a réalisé en deux ans afin de renouveler, d'approfondir et d'élargir l'UGI mais aussi et surtout de la placer, de manière significative, dans les nouvelles technologies de l'information dont ce bulletin électronique trimestriel est la plus éclatante démonstration.

A son épouse, à sa famille, aux membres de l'Exécutif de l'UGI et à ses collaborateurs de la Maison de la Géographie à Rome vont nos messages de sympathie et de condoléances. Adalberto était, pour moi, non seulement un patron dynamisant et un collègue respecté mais aussi un ami personnel.

Hommage ému et adieu à un très grand géographe.

André-Louis Sanguin

Coordonnateur de la version française du Bulletin électronique de l'UGI

Président de la Commission de l'UGI de Géographie Politique

It was on 3 July 2004 when for the first time I saw Professor Adalberto Vallega at the inaugural session of the IGU conference in Glasgow, Scotland. It was thanks to Professor Anne Buttimer, the then President of the IGU, that I was brought into the IGU arena and was able to meet Professor Adalberto Vallega. Known to be a silent worker, Professor Adalberto Vallega, as I experienced for a short period of two years (2004 – 2006) through physical and email contact, was a man of principle. I will never forget the moments I spent with him at the IGC-2004 in Glasgow, and particularly in Brisbane, Australia (IGU conference July 2006). The most remarkable characteristic which I found in Adalberto Vallega during my two years of contact was that he left no email unanswered, whatever its content. Truly, we have lost a personality who worked for the cause of geography and greatly encouraged youngsters across the world, honouring their views. Now our duty, I feel, has increased manifold. We face a big challenge in advancing geography in general and the IGU in particular at this juncture.

I would like to express my deep sense of respect to Adalberto Vallega and pray to God for the eternal peace of his departed soul.

Rana Sarmah

Pandu College, Guwahati, INDIA

Gli ultimi rapporti, personali ed epistolari, che ho intrattenuto con Adalberto Vallega risalgono alla tarda primavera del 2006, allorché il Presidente dell'UGI stava cercando collaborazioni per potenziare i rapporti con la Geografia rumena e con alcune università di quel Paese, onde sviluppare forme di collaborazione scientifica e didattica. Dopo la mia risposta positiva e la Sua missiva che annunciava il successivo invio di ulteriori materiali, i contatti si erano interrotti: né io li avevo ripresi, sapendo che quando fosse stato il momento, Adalberto, preciso e puntuale com'era sempre, l'avrebbe fatto di Sua iniziativa.

A metà dicembre del 2006, del resto, l'avevo incontrato a Roma durante il convegno sulla Geografia culturale, preliminare e preparatorio alla richiesta all'ONU della proclamazione di un Anno dedicato al tema "Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development", cui avrebbe dovuto far seguito un relativo Piano d'Azione, per il quale Adalberto Vallega aveva formulato gli importanti e meditati testi preparatori, densi e chiari, com'era il Suo stile. E prima, a fine settembre, l'avevo incontrato al "Festival de la Géographie" di St. Dié-des-Vosges, dov'era intervenuto con un brillante contributo personale, aveva rappresentato l'UGI, ma, di fatto, anche la Geografia italiana.

Queste le occasioni in cui, negli ultimi tempi, avevo incontrato e visto all'opera il valoroso Collega, il quale, nel frattempo, aveva promosso, organizzato, partecipato a molte altre iniziative, aveva elaborato e scritto lavori di Geografia culturale, partecipato all'attività dell'UGI e di altri enti scientifici. E ciò nonostante -o forse proprio perché- la Sua salute vacillava, veniva meno via via.

Questo era Adalberto Vallega: un uomo riservato, perfino schivo, che però sapeva di doversi esporre e spendere per il bene della nostra disciplina, per la promozione della Geografia in Italia e della Geografia italiana nel mondo; uno studioso fine e profondo, appassionato e competente, che voleva trasmettere il sapere al più vasto pubblico degli studenti oltre che a quello ristretto degli studiosi; un teorico e un metodologo, che aveva affinato, e seguitava ad affinare, i suoi strumenti euristici nella pratica quotidiana e nel confronto meditato e diretto con la realtà terrestre.

Un vero geografo dunque, attento alla concretezza e alla varietà del mondo e capace di costruirsi gli strumenti concettuali e operativi per osservarla, studiarla, comprenderla, descriverla, renderla comprensibile a chiunque; capace di decostruire i metodi di studio e di ricostruirli formalmente e schematicamente a beneficio altrui, degli studenti e dei ricercatori di ogni età e capacità. Una lezione che i suoi libri, i suoi lavori, il suo insegnamento, il suo esempio ci conserveranno a lungo.

Annus horribilis per la Geografia il 2006: apertosi con la morte di Lelio Pagani, uno studioso raffinato e schivo, ha poi rapito il mio vecchio e caro sodale Luciano Buzzetti, e poi ancora due Maestri come Lucio Gambi e Piero Dagradi, studioso innovatore e polemista l'uno, solido e organico l'altro, per chiudere infine con Adalberto Vallega: a tutti non potrà che essere lieve la terra, la Terra cui, da geografi, hanno dedicato la loro esistenza.

Guglielmo Scaramellini

Università di Milano

Prof. Adalberto Vallega's sad demise has created a void which will be felt for a long time to come. My personal contact with him took place at various IGU Congresses beginning in 1984, where he impressed me with his simplicity and friendliness. His association with the IGU began with his seminal contribution to Marine Geography and Ocean Studies. I have known and been closely associated with Prof. Vallega, who apart from being a great scholar, was a father figure

among young Geographers. His love and affection for geographers of developing countries was well known. Needless to say, his recent role in conflict resolution through the *Cultures and Civilizations* initiative will be a beacon for all such efforts promoting this humanitarian initiative. As his Ambassador as South Asia Promoter of the CCHD, I would like to assure my support in continuing to promote this issue for a long time to come.

With his loss, we have lost a friend, philosopher and a guide.

Dr. R.B. Singh

Secretary General- National Association of Geographers, India. (NAGI)
University of Delhi, India

We were all shocked with grief and personal loss at the sad demise of our dear friend and a great inspirer of the interdisciplinary path in geography: Prof. Adalberto Vallega, who left this mortal world on 22nd November 2006. All the Indian delegates at the 30th International Geographical Congress at Glasgow on 20th August 2004 were inspired by his call to move geography forward along the path of human values and service — the heritage which nourishes our actions, and the essential resources. He was sympathetic and devoted himself to help regions suffering from poverty, disease, armed conflicts, and intolerance that result in an overpowering intelligence, spirit, vitality and creativity. His great contributions in the diverse areas of geography include themes such as: maritime, time, culture, economy, heritage, region and territory, sea management, nature and culture, as well as other topics. Though his writings, interaction and personal discourses at several international conferences, his messages encouraged our colleagues, and we promise to carry on his tradition.

We, all 24 faculty members of the Department of Geography, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (India), convey our tribute and pray that the Almighty will provide peace to his departed soul.

Prof. Rana P.B. Singh

Banaras Hindu University, India

I remember President Vallega well from the last IGU Congress in Brisbane, as an energetic individual, promoting his ideas and plans and designing a new future for the IGU. We have all lost a dear friend and colleague, whom we very much admired as a man of vision and determination and who has left us a legacy to be realized.

Michael Sofer

Chairman, IGU Commission on Local Development

I have never been one of his students but it is to Adalberto Vallega that I owe my passion for geography. At the beginning of the '80s when I had just obtained my degree in economics, I was asked by the Local Authorities to carry out a study on possible developments of harbour and industrial activities linked to coal traffic. The works and ideas of Adalberto Vallega in this field represented a milestone and could not be disregarded, so I started to approach his works. The encounter with his studies was to have a deep impact on my subsequent professional life and research work. I developed a passion for geographical issues and the painstaking scientific approach that Adalberto Vallega used to carry out all his surveys and works. Thanks to him I had discovered my calling, but I started to collaborate with him later, after becoming a researcher at the University of Genoa. Our meeting was based on a shared intellectual discovery of unforeseen horizons of the geographic research he was beginning on the basis of the cultural and humanistic tendency he was giving to his more recent studies. Unfortunately, the torch that had started to

enlighten my research extinguished itself too early, but his thought represents the Ariadne's thread I am going to follow in my studies.

Mauro Spotorno

University of Genoa

The IGU Regional Conference in Brisbane/Queensland in July 2006 gave me the last opportunity to meet Adalberto Vallega and to talk to him. We met several times on the way from the hotel near the Technical University to the conference rooms. On this journey, only some ten or twenty minutes' walk, he explained to me his ideas for further work in the IGU, and his initiatives for the major theme: "Cultures and Civilisations for Human Development". He seemed to me relaxed and enthusiastic, looking forward to new research and management. Of course, he also enjoyed the prospect of meeting the geographers' community next time in Tunisia, just across the Mediterranean Sea from his Italian homeland. Et c'est pourquoi je continue en français, parce que je sais qu' Adalberto préférerait le français comme langue internationale scientifique – un véritable homme du Sud Européen et de la Méditerranée. Quant au future de la géographie internationale, la maison de la géographie à Rome sera un monument durant de ses activités. L'installation permanente des archives de l'U.G.I. et d'un forum de discussion est sa réussite et j'espère que beaucoup rencontres à Rome feront souvenir de ce collègue ambitieux pour le progrès de la géographie au XXI siècle.

Jörg Stadelbauer

Président, Commission " Diversité dans les systèmes montagnards " de l'UGI

I have been blessed in my life to have been touched by a great man, an inspirational geographer and a charismatic leader in our cause for the Planet Earth. May he always be remembered with love and the greatest respect by his dear ones and by the international community that he so dutifully and brilliantly served in his life.

Theano S. Terkenli

University of the Aegean, Greece

I first met Adalberto Vallega in Rome in 1979. Before then, I only knew him as the author of *Regione e territorio*, the first book of many that he wrote for the seminal scientific series published by Mursia. My wish to meet him was the main reason for my attending the Conference organized by the Istituto di Geografia Economica on "Functions of Economic Geography in Economic and Professional Education". At that time, I had problems in finding a well-defined scientific and disciplinary identity because the ongoing Italian academic research in geography looked meaningless and too quickly outdated to me. In a certain sense, I was envious of researchers in economics and mathematics because of the strong theoretical roots of those disciplines.

At the Conference, Prof Vallega's claims were scientifically groundbreaking in spite of the soft style of his speech. His main point was that we need more theory in order to be more operational. When he ended his presentation and came back to his seat, he asked me (a young and unknown researcher) sitting next to him: "Did I talk nonsense?". At that very moment I fell in love both with him and with geography.

One year later the "Società di Studi Geografici" of Florence organized a meeting with him that gave rise to the research group on " Region and Regionalization", which I had the lucky chance to join. It was a great experience for us, young researchers coming from different Italian universities. We had the chance to work, discuss and interact with a real Master. As a result of

such extraordinary experience, our group published a special issue on “Theories and Methods of Regionalisation”, of the *Rivista Geografica Italiana* (1982, n. 2), with a foreword by Prof Vallega.

If Paul Krugman had known Adalberto Vallega, I think that the “New Economy Geography” would not have been so naive.

Maria Tinacci Mossello

University of Florence

We were very sorry to hear that Prof. Adalberto Vallega had passed away. He offered us a great deal of support and help in our intentions to join the International Geographical Union.

Marina Todorovic

President of the Serbian Geographical Society

Il a été un véritable militant en faveur de la promotion des sciences géographiques ainsi que de l'élargissement de la communauté internationale des Géographes. Il nous manquera physiquement mais il restera dans nos coeurs.

Ali Toumi

Secrétaire Général du CNOC Tunis 2008

Université de Tunis

Il mio ricordo del Professor Vallega si focalizza attraverso l'emblematico dipinto di Johannes Vermeer, intitolato proprio "il geografo". Il quadro, già di enorme valore per il solo figurato, ci parla trascendendo lo stesso per comunicare significati superiori, acquisendo un sommo pregio. Così sapeva fare il nostro Professore che, al di là delle immediate parole, trasmetteva concetti suggestivi ed inestimabili. Alexander Pope scrisse: "... nel vasto oceano della vita diversamente veleggiando, la mappa è la ragione, ma la passione ne è il vento..." Ed è quel vento, io credo, che spirando con straordinario impeto per il compianto Professore, ne ha contraddistinto lo spirito e l'insegnamento. Non furono mai le sole nozioni, già di per loro illuminanti, a colpire chi lo ascoltava, quanto il trasporto e la passione che caratterizzavano le sue lezioni ed il suo lavoro; quel "vento" che sapeva contenere ed insieme trasmettere. Passione ed impegno che egli, Professore di Geografia Urbana e Regionale all'Università di Genova, Presidente della International Geographical Union, sapeva approfondire tanto per gli impegni di alto carattere internazionale quanto nelle quotidiane attività dei suoi studenti.

Fabio Traverso

Architetto, ex allievo, Università di Genova

I am very sad to hear of the passing of our best friend, Prof. Adalberto Vallega.

He was so kind and encouraging to us, the geographers of Taiwan.

In memory of Prof. Vallega, I have attached a photo taken during his visit to Taiwan in October-November 2004. We will miss him. I personally think he has peacefully moved to another part of the universe, and is still looking at us with his smile.

Huei-Min Tsai

Secretary, IGU Commission on Islands



A. Vallega with Huei-Min Tsai and other friends on Kinmen Island

His wise and warm presence greatly enriched the discussion and work of our initiative on Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development. We will always be grateful for his many and valued intellectual contributions. He will be missed by all of us.

Hans van Ginkel

Rector, United Nations University, Tokyo

When recalling the many years of close cooperation with Adalberto Vallega in the context of the Executive Committee of the International Geographical Union, my most cherished feelings are those of warm friendship and deep respect for his dedication to geography.

Adalberto's main field of scientific interest was ocean- and coastal zone management and he developed this theme not only as an interdisciplinary subject of study but also placed it in a much broader, multisectoral context, including municipal authorities and other governmental institutions, international non-governmental organizations, private enterprises such as harbour authorities, shipping companies, etc. At that time all this was most innovating indeed!

It is not surprising, therefore, that when, at the beginning of my presidency, the IGU Executive Committee met in Bern in 1992 to achieve a more effective contribution of the Union, with its National Committees and Commissions/Working groups, and also that of interested geographers, in the then recently established international scientific programs, Adalberto Vallega was invited to participate in this "thinktank" The only other individual geographer invited to attend was Yalo Verhasselt (Belgium) because of her contacts with the World Health Organization (WMO) in the area of medical geography. The discussions in Bern centered around the means to improve IGU's involvement in the International Geosphere Biosphere Program (IGBP), the Human Dimension of Global Change Programme (HDGC), the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), etc. Adalberto's input was most important and much appreciated by the EC. Improved contacts and coordination between commissions and more joint activities in areas related to

global scientific programs were an first means of achieving these aims. The establishment of “taskforces” to stimulate geographical activities in specific important aspects of global science programmes that were considered insufficiently covered by IGU research. was a new and important, second means of achieving our aims.

When invited to attend an international workshop on ocean- and coastal zone management that Adalberto had organized in Genova in April 1995, I saw him at work for the first time and was impressed by the broadness of his scientific views as well as by his organizational talents and multisectoral contacts in the field of use and management of the oceans. The year after, at the IGC of 1996 in The Hague, Adalberto was elected Vice-President of the IGU and he served on the Executive Committee as Vice-President, First Vice-President and, finally, President, for a decade until his recent untimely death. The heavy workload in the EC did not prevent him from continuing his work on the management of the oceans, covering two thirds of the globe, connecting continents and people around the world. He also fathered the IGU’s “Home of Geography” in the splendid Villa Celimontana in Rome and, in December 2005, initiated a campaign to promote an “International Year on Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development” in the context of the United Nations.

We have lost an outstanding geographer and respected colleague, but above all, a dear friend of remarkable stature, devoted to those around him and to humanity at large.

Herman Th. Verstappen

Past President, International Geographical Union

Nous rendons hommage au travail que le Président Vallega a effectué pour le développement, le rayonnement et la reconnaissance de la géographie dans le monde.

Yvette Veyret

Présidente du Comité National Français de Géographie

Di Adalberto mi piace ricordare l’amore e il rispetto che aveva per la nostra disciplina. Ha lasciato a tutti noi un importante patrimonio metodologico e di conoscenze cui faremo costante riferimento per gli anni a venire. Alcuni dei suoi numerosi manuali, quello di Geografia umana, di Geografia regionale, di Geopolitica e sviluppo sostenibile, sono stati per me e per i tanti studenti dei miei corsi, strumenti preziosi e insostituibili.

Lida Viganoni

Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”

I first met Adalberto Vallega in 1984 in Paris on the occasion of the International Geographical Congress. Because I was Chairman of the U.S. National Committee, Adalberto and I had several talks about the Italian Geographical Committee and Italian Geographical Society. These conversations began a quite close relationship that lasted until his untimely passing. During the 25 years since Paris, Adalberto included me in many of his initiatives, especially during the early years of his coastal and marine endeavors. I found him so full of ideas it was difficult to keep up with him or them. Not only did he have such far-reaching plans, even more impressive was witnessing him follow through on them with determination and dedication. At a number of conferences, some of which he organized, my wife and I and Bruna and Adalberto were able to spend some meaningful time together. We also were privileged to visit with them several times as their guests in Genoa.



Adalberto, his wife Bruna and their son Giorgio, in a photo taken by H.J. Walker

Because of Adalberto, I had the privilege of presenting technical reports at some of his meetings and seeing their publication under his supervision. During the past 25 years, hardly a year went by without some new program, publication or provocative and preceptive proposition in and for the geographical sciences having Adalberto's stamp on it. He was indeed a man of vision and one whose influence will be hard to duplicate.

Harley J. Walker

Cara e gentile Signora Vallega,
ci permetta il tono confidenziale di questa lettera per la vicinanza e l'affetto che ci sentiamo di esprimerLe in tale tragica circostanza. È difficile trovare oggi le parole per ricordare a nome di tutti gli ex-allievi del Dottorato di ricerca in Geografia urbana e regionale la figura e l'attività di un grande geografo e maestro.

Perché il Vallega, quello con l'articolo, quello sui cui manuali tutti noi, giovani studenti universitari, avevamo appreso le prime nozioni geografiche, era uno studioso che indagava e, soprattutto, insegnava la Geografia; e lo faceva attraverso i suoi numerosi testi, attraverso i diversi "Vallega" -perché si sa che spesso l'Autore finisce per identificarsi con le proprie opere-. Testi spesso poco amati da noi studenti. «Non lo capirò mai!»: chissà quanti di noi hanno esordito così, chiudendo con stizza il Compendio di geografia regionale, al primo tentativo di lettura.

Libri tanto rigorosi, scientifici, convincenti che nel tempo sarebbero diventati quasi affascinanti per noi acerbi studiosi di geografia. Ma di lì a pensare di poter incontrare un giorno il Vallega, davvero era inimmaginabile: invece era lì, nel suo studio a Genova, che ci aspettava per il tradizionale seminario rivolto ai pochi privilegiati ormai 'eletti' nella cerchia dei dottorandi. Cosa dovevamo aspettarci, chi avremmo incontrato, cosa ci avrebbe detto, ma, soprattutto, com'era il Vallega?

Una persona splendida che, con grande passione ed entusiasmo, rafforzò in tutti noi l'amore per la geografia, la convinzione in quello che stavamo facendo. Sicuramente ricordiamo tutti la sua energia, la sua capacità comunicativa, la sua determinazione nel proporre una geografia

finalmente ‘progettuale’. Allora, quei ‘vecchi’ libri diventavano illuminanti e non potevi che innamorartene!

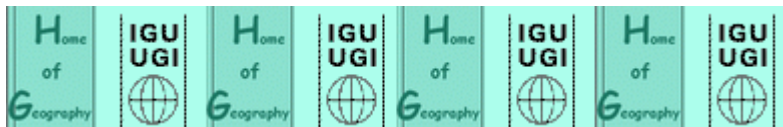
E come non ricordare, una volta ricercatori, la fermezza nel suggerire ricerche di ampio respiro o, ancora, la perfetta regia nell’organizzare ad arte interventi da parte nostra -da Lui stesso stimolati e gestiti secondo un canovaccio che ti aveva messo in tasca poco prima dell’avvio dei lavori- durante sedute scientifiche internazionali. Chi di noi, poi, ha avuto la fortuna di conoscerlo meglio come collega non può dimenticare l’attenzione e la modestia -anche dopo la nomina a Presidente dell’UGI- verso i docenti più giovani; atteggiamento che solo uno studioso di alto valore è in grado di conservare nel tempo. Un valore, umano prima ancora che scientifico, che lo contraddistingueva e che contraddistingue ancora i grandi maestri.

Questa lettera è un semplice omaggio alla memoria di un geografo, l’altezza del cui profilo scientifico e professionale non deve certamente essere sottolineata da noi; tuttavia, ci teniamo a testimoniare come la recente scomparsa del Professore equivalga per noi alla perdita di un punto di riferimento, di stimolo, di sicurezza. Continueremo nella pratica della geografia, forti dei suoi insegnamenti e dei suoi libri; d’altro canto, non sono forse i libri il modo migliore per continuare a vivere nella geografia?

Un sincero saluto di cordoglio e un abbraccio

I ‘vecchi’ allievi del Dottorato di Geografia urbana e regionale

Angelo Besana - Emanuela Bullado - Cristina Capineri - Egidio Dansero - Cesare Emanuel – Marina Faccioli - Elena Izis - Michela Lazzeroni - Enrica Lemmi - Daniela Lombardi – Marina Marengo - Monica Meini - Elisabetta Miorelli - Mario Neve - Antonella Primi – Paola Savi - Gianfranco Spinelli - Nicoletta Varani



2) IGU ORGANISATION CHANGES

2a) First Vice President to Serve as Acting President

First Vice President Professor José Palacio-Prieto will serve as Acting President of the International Geographical Union through the conclusion of the 12-15 August 2008 International Geographical Congress in Tunis, Tunisia. The IGU Statutes regarding the IGU Executive Committee provide that:

One of the Vice-Presidents shall be appointed by the Executive Committee as First Vice-President. He or she shall take the place of the President should the President be unable, temporarily or otherwise, to act [Section V-C].

Palacio-Prieto’s contact information is:

Dr. José Luis Palacio-Prieto

Director General, Postgraduate Studies

Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico

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2b) Election of Vladimir Kolossov as IGU Vice President

Professor Vladimir Kolossov of the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences was elected to complete the balance of the term of deceased Professor Nikita Glazovsky on the IGU Executive Committee. Accordingly, he will join the executive committee through the end of the 12-15 August 2008 International Geographical Congress in Tunis, Tunisia. Professor Kolossov is eligible for re-election as vice president to a single regular four-year term if he wishes to stand for election in the 2008 IGU General Assembly.

Professor Kolossov served as the Chairperson of the IGU Commission on Political Geography from 1996 to 2004. He can be reached at:

Professor Vladimir Kolossov
Institute of Geography
Russian Academy of Sciences
Staromonetny per., 29
Moscow 10917 Russia
Vox: + 7 95 959 0029
Fax: + 7 95 959 0033
E-Mail: vladk@online.ru

2c) Yu Woo-Ik takes over from Ron Abler as Secretary and Treasurer

A reminder that in accord with his 2005 decision to do so, Ronald Abler has stepped down as IGU Secretary General and Treasurer, effective 1 January 2007. The IGU Executive Committee selected Vice President Woo-ik Yu to succeed Abler through the 2008 International Geographical Congress. Professor Yu's contact information is:

Professor Woo-ik Yu
Seoul National University
Department of Geography
San 56-1 Sillim-dong, Gwanak-gu
151-746 Seoul, South Korea
Vox: +82 2 880 6448
Fax: +82 2 876 9498
E-Mail: yuik@snu.ac.kr

Please address all future correspondence regarding secretariat matters to Professor Yu.



3) INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

3a) International Geographical Congress, TUNIS, 12-15 August 2008

On the occasion of the Brisbane International Conference the Mediterranean Renaissance Project Steering Committee had a meeting, and the Executive Secretary, Maria Paradiso, wrote the following minutes (July 2006):

Proposed MRP sessions for Tunis Conference:

Aharon Kellerman proposed that MRP should provide Mediterranean contents for the congress theme: "Building together our territories!" The preferred type of contents would be sessions and presentations focusing on the oneness of the Mediterranean basin. Another option is sessions/presentations discussing Mediterranean topics on a country or regional basis. The series of Mediterranean sessions of both types could be introduced by a plenary or another general session, in which Ali Toumi will present a version of his Cairo paper: "Les Méditerranées", as an excellent introduction to the region. Sessions and presentations should be primarily sought from the Commissions and to some degree also from the National Committees. Other sessions could be organized by individuals, and he provided some examples.

Here are a few examples of sessions copied from Aharon Kellerman's detailed email, based to some degree on knowledge of work done by his colleagues at the University of Haifa, and complemented by suggestions made by Maria Paradiso in her detailed email.

1. Water: The availability of water is by far one of the more typical problems of the region, and several presentations may be made on various issues, e.g. major river waters (see books by Nurit Kliot and Arnon Sofer). A most interesting recent water project is GABARDIN (artificial recharge of ground water based on alternative sources of advanced integrated technology management). This project is financed by the EU 6th program, and it includes scholars (climatologists and hydrologists) from Portugal, Spain, UK, Germany, Greece, the Palestinian Authority, Belgium and Israel. They study five particular sites of water recharge in Portugal, Spain, Greece, Israel, and the Gaza Strip. Prof. Haim Kutiel, one of the PIs in the project, sees no problem for organizing a session on the project. His e-mail: kutiel@geo.haifa.ac.il.

2. The sea: The Blue Plan, operated through UNEP, deals with many Mediterranean issues. A striking one is the monitoring of the Mediterranean sea water. This project is probably the only one in which all Mediterranean countries participate (including Syria and Israel side by side). A relevant commission could present the Mediterranean Sea as such! Maria Paradiso recalled that in Rome, December 2005, Adalberto Vallega suggested developing links with the Blue Plan based in France: maybe he can renew these contacts and suggest that they come to Tunis in the event that an MRP session materialises.

3. Culture and tourism: These two major subjects can be presented in several sessions, separately as well as in interconnected ways. Dr. Noga Collins-Kreiner, has now begun to establish a Mediterranean network for the study of local saints in Muslim, Christian, and Jewish (mainly North African) traditions, and their impacts on tourism. Her e-mail: nogack@geo.haifa.ac.il. Much can be said about Mediterranean lifestyles, cuisines, and settlement landscapes. Maria Paradiso added that Prof. Maria Giaoutsi (Greece) has edited a book jointly with Peter Nijkamp (The Netherlands) on tourism and regional development with some emphasis on cultures and the urbanisation of the Mediterranean coasts: she could be invited to

give a paper in the session. A focus on regional development could be promising and in line with the general title of the congress. Anne Buttmer commented and suggested checking with Theano Terkenli - who proposed something similar in Cairo.

4. Politics: Prof. Andre-Louis Sanguin, Chair of the IGU Political Geography Commission, expressed his willingness to cooperate. He proposes 4 sessions of his Commission jointly with MRP, and one long presentation by him (1 hour) on ' La Méditerranée : une mer entre géographie et politique'.

This last proposal needs to be examined of course in light of general MRP decisions. Proposed session titles:

- a) Le partenariat euro-méditerranéen
- b) Conflits et paix dans le monde méditerranéen
- c) Problèmes frontaliers terrestres et maritimes dans et autour de la Méditerranée

5. Communications and information: At a later time, a call for papers will be distributed to the Commission on the Geography of the Information Society on these issues in Mediterranean countries. This might be an example of an issue on which most papers will be on specific countries. However, Aharon Kellerman intends to develop a paper on the most frequently called countries in international telephone calls for Mediterranean countries. He did once such a study for one of the international conferences on the Mediterranean at my university, and a temporal comparison might reveal some interesting patterns. Maria Paradiso also expressed the intention to develop a paper on Italian innovation examples of R&D in IT with Mediterranean foci and an international profile. In addition, colleagues working on the E-Atlas of Information Society can be encouraged to actively participate.

6. Physical geography: Two sessions for Tunis were also proposed by Maria Sala via email. The first was entitled 'Fluvial Degradation Processes in Mediterranean Environments: Natural and Human Induced', with expected publication of special issues of the journals IAHS, Zeitschrift fur Geomorphologie. The second session was entitled 'Human Mobility in the Mediterranean', possibly yielding an edited book published by Elsevier or John Wiley.

3b) Mediterranean Renaissance Project

In November the following letter was sent by the Co-ordinator, Prof. M.Ashour, to the Chairs of all IGU bodies, and we think it is appropriate that it comes to the attention of as many people as possible.

Dear Colleagues,

The Mediterranean Renaissance Program (MRP) is a special project of the IGU, initiated by its President, Prof. Adalberto Vallega. The aim of the project is the establishment of a Mediterranean regional network, focusing on the study of the region from all geographical perspectives.

MRP has begun to plan sessions and joint initiatives for the IGU 2008 Tunis Congress. We are most interested in the receipt of initial, non-binding ideas for sessions and initiatives focusing on the geographical study of the Mediterranean. We would be most grateful if you could make a call to the members of your commission or organisation, in an attempt to identify colleagues who are involved in geographical studies of the Mediterranean, and/or colleagues who would be interested in participating in the program by providing information on publications, and data, or who would be willing to contribute to the project when an opportunity arises.

In addition, we would like to solicit themes for sessions on Mediterranean topics for the Tunis Congress. We are especially, but not exclusively, interested in sessions which would fall under the general theme of the Congress: "Building our territory together".

You are cordially invited to send the names of the relevant colleagues, as well as initial suggestions for sessions, to Mahmoud Ashour, MRP Coordinator (mmashour_99@yahoo.com), and to Maria Paradiso, MRP Executive Secretary (paradiso@unisannio.it). Please include an affiliation and an e-mail address, as well as any other relevant details of your colleagues.

We most appreciate your kind effort and support.

Best Wishes

Mahmoud Ashour

Coordinator, MRP Project

Ain Shams University

Cairo, Egypt



UPDATE: ACTIVITIES OF THE HOME OF GEOGRAPHY

Following the sad passing of our President in November, the Home has been somewhat a ship without a rudder. With the loss of Adalberto, we have lost not only a friend but a tireless leader, full of enthusiasm and determined ideas about how to press forward with the various IGU initiatives. Every day, the Home would receive countless emails from him, with requests or instructions, but of course this guidance is no longer forthcoming.

Since his death, the Home has acted as a point of reference for the outpouring of grief and messages of condolence from the international geographical community, many of which we have included above.

But now we wish to celebrate the life of Adalberto: what more fitting way can there be than to continue his work in recognition of its worth and bring his goals to fruition?

As part of our routine work, we would point out that in November we hosted a 3-day meeting of SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research), an interdisciplinary committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU), which initiates, develops and coordinates high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region, and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. Moreover, as a member of the International Polar Year, SCAR is included on the roster of the International Year of Planet Earth organizers.

We have also been busy preparing the next volume in the Home of Geography Publication Series: *Managing Water Resources in a Changing Physical And Social Environment*, edited by Peter J. Robinson, University of North Carolina, Tony Jones, University of Wales, and Ming-ko Woo, McMaster University. This very topical work is currently being printed, and will be available in the second half of February from the Home of Geography.

In an attempt to reach ever greater numbers of geographers, the IGU and the Home of Geography have been endeavouring to produce translations of IGU material.

We are indebted to the volunteer translators who have helped us achieve this aim by translating the IGU e-Newsletter into French, starting with the April 2006 issue, providing their services free of charge. We are also grateful to Prof André-Louis Sanguin, Chair of the IGU Commission on Political Geography, for kindly agreed to take on the role of French Newsletter Coordinator. These newsletters are available for download on the French version of the Home of Geography website: www.homeofgeography.org, then choose "Newsletters" from the menu.

In Brisbane last July, an Agreement between the Saudi Geographical Society and the IGU was proposed in initial discussions between Prof Makki, Prof Vallega and Prof Bellezza. Subsequently, the Agreement was drafted by the Home, and following a few amendments by Prof Makki and Prof Vallega, it was signed in October last year.

On the strength of this Agreement, we are delighted to announce that the IGU website, including the e-Newsletters, has been translated into Arabic. This was the last international agreement concluded under Prof Vallega's presidency, and we are pleased to be able to make his vision a reality. We would like to thank Prof Makki, President of the SGS, and his staff for all their enthusiasm and hard work on this project. The link to the Arabic version of the website is: <http://www.saudigs.org/igu/index.html> .

Coming now to the initiatives closest to Adalberto's heart, as was pointed out in point n.3, we are closely co-operating with the CNOC (the 2008 Tunis Congress organisers), and all their messages are swiftly posted on the HofG website. The HofG is working with the CNOC and the Italian SGI to finalise the organization of an exhibition of images taken in Tunisia by the photographer Ludovico Tuminello, at the end of 19th century.

Co-ordinator Mahmoud Ashour, Theano Terkenly and Aharon Kellerman, chair of the IGU Commission on Information Society, are actively pressing ahead with the MRP Project. I will be stressing the need to appoint a new President, to substitute Adalberto Vallega, to the Steering Committee.

The CCHD Steering Committee had no President, but Adalberto was Co-ordinator: there is a pressing need to fill this position. In the meantime, the Director of the Home has renewed contact with the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.