

Obituaries

HUGH BORTON
1903–1995

Hugh Borton, one of the fathers of modern and contemporary Japanese studies in America, a founder of the Association of Asian Studies, a principal architect of United States policy towards Japan in the Occupation period, and president of Haverford College, died on August 6, 1995 at his home in Conway, Massachusetts at the age of 92.

Born on May 14, 1903 into a devout Quaker family in Moorestown, New Jersey, he attended Friends' schools and upon graduation from Haverford College in 1927 set out with his wife, Elizabeth Wilbur, to find a Friend's vocation. They turned to the American Friends Service Committee, which first invited them to accept positions teaching at a small school in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, then in 1928 to go to Tokyo to help the Committee's work there.

As has happened to so many others before and since, Borton's three years' living among the Japanese people so challenged his understanding that he determined to devote himself thereafter to the study of Japan. He turned for guidance first to Sir George Sansom, the eminent British scholar then serving in the British Consulate. In 1931 Borton returned to the United States to continue his studies. He earned a Master's degree in History at Columbia, studied briefly at Harvard, and, following further study under the guidance of Professors J. J. L. Duyvendak and Johannes Rahder at the University of Leyden and several years of research at Tokyo Imperial University, received the Ph.D. degree from Leyden in 1937.

In the same year he joined Ryusaku Tsunoda and Harold Henderson on the faculty of Columbia University, teaching modern Japanese history and language, and helping to structure the first degree program in Japanese studies in the newly expanded Department of Chinese and Japanese (now East Asian Languages and Cultures). His scholarly publications in this period include *Peasant Uprisings in Japan of the Tokugawa Period* (1938) (his dissertation revised) and *Japan Since 1931: Its Political and Social Development* (1940).

But a normal academic career was not to be, for the outbreak of war in the Pacific drew Borton quickly into public service. As a Friend he objected to joining the military, but was anxious to do all he could to prepare for the peace that would surely follow. In June 1942 he took leave from Columbia, serving that summer on the faculty of the School of Military Government at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. In the fall he transferred to the Department of State, where for the next six years, he sat at the center of the web of dedicated officials who—in spite of the massive concentration of attention on defeating Japan and the bitterness and the hostility that surrounded that effort—devoted themselves not to prosecuting the war, but to planning the peace, and not with a view to punishing Japan, but to reforming it so that such a war might never happen again. He drafted many of the proposals and argued many of the positions, including those that eventuated in such important decisions as not to hold the Emperor accountable and not to displace the Japanese government, but to work through both to secure the dissolution of the Japanese military and the wartime leadership and to bring about the fundamental reform of the Japanese constitution.

In 1948 Borton returned to Columbia, where he was a principal organizer of the East Asian Institute as the University's center of modern and contemporary East Asian studies. He became, after Sir George Sansom, the Institute's second director, and in subsequent years on the national scene helped to found the Association of Asian Studies, serving as its first treasurer and later its president. These were also productive scholarly years during which he taught many graduate students and wrote among other works "Japan Under Allied Occupation, 1945–1947" in F. C. Jones, *The Far East, 1942–1948* (1955) and *Japan's Modern Century* (1955), one of the most widely used history texts of the period.

In 1957 he left Columbia to accept the presidency of Haverford College, retiring in 1967 and five years later moving to his farm in the Berkshire hills of northwestern Massachusetts—and to the life which above all he loved, that of a farmer, doing the haying, enjoying his family, attending Friends meetings, helping neighbors.

Borton's was a varied career, but one thread runs through it all. He was a man of character, a gentle, plain spoken man—in a deep sense, a simple man—who lived his values and sought only to serve.

JAMES W. MORLEY
Columbia University

JOHN C. H. FEI
1923–1996

John C. H. Fei, professor emeritus of economics, whose writings in the field of economic development are now considered classics, died of cardiopulmonary failure on July 19 in Taipei, Taiwan. He was 73 years old. Professor Fei's five books and over 70 articles influenced the economic policies of many countries. In fact, for several decades he actively advised the Taiwan government on economic policy issues. Since retiring from Yale, he had been serving as chair of the board of trustees of the Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research in Taipei, and shortly before his death, he was appointed as a personal advisor to the President of Taiwan. In recognition of Professor Fei's contributions to that nation, the Taiwanese government held a state funeral in his honor.

Described as a "dynamic and lucid lecturer," Professor Fei inspired generations of students from the United States and abroad, some of whom later went on to top leadership positions in their countries. The latter include President Lee Teng-hui of the People's Republic of China and President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon of Mexico.

Professor Fei's research centered on development theory, in general, and its application to Asian development, in particular. He is perhaps best known for the 1964 book, *Development of the Labor Surplus Economy: Theory and Policy*, which he coauthored with Gus Ranis of Yale and which is credited with opening up new literature and debate in the development field.

Born in Beijing, China, in 1923, Professor Fei completed his undergraduate studies at Yenching University in 1945. Soon afterward, his family immigrated to the United States, and he subsequently earned a M.A. in economics from the University of Washington in 1948 and a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1952.