

Other social obstacles to family limitation, such as the preference in some societies for male children, could be considered in the same way — that is, in terms of devising socially acceptable, family-limiting substitutes for a traditional choice.

In short, it is not sufficient to decide on overall social aims alone, important though they are. Attempts to impose them against underlying resistance are never completely successful. They must be translated into choices that individuals in the society involved will wish to make. To achieve this the special knowledge and skills of anthropologists, sociologists, and psychologists, will need to be called upon.

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Dr F. Raymond Fosberg, 1908–93

With the death of Ray Fosberg in Church Falls, Virginia, on 25 September 1993, the environmental movement as well as taxonomic botany lost an outstandingly able and dedicated exponent and we ourselves mourn a staunch and loyal friend of more than fifty years. He was an Advisory Editor of our Journal — after being a Consulting Editor of its predecessor, *Biological Conservation*, from its beginning in 1968 — and was a memorably active participant in all our four International Conferences on Environmental Future, which extended from 1971 to 1990.

Born on the 20th of May 1908 in Spokane, Washington, Ray was educated in the California school system before obtaining his BA at Pomona College in 1930 and subsequently an MS at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, in 1935, and PhD in 1939 at the University of Pennsylvania. His positions held thereafter were: Assistant Botanist in the US Department of Agriculture (1939–42), US Cinchona [Quinine] Procurement Program in Colombia (1942–45), US Micronesian Economic Survey (1946), J.S. Guggenheim Memorial Fellow (1947), Visiting Professor, Department of Botany, University of Hawaii (1948), Research Associate, Catholic University of America (1949–50), Botanist, US Geological Survey (1950–65), and finally in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, where he was Special Adviser for Tropical Botany, Curator of Botany, and Senior Botanist (1966–78) before becoming Emeritus Botanist in 1978.

Those are the 'bare bones' of a career which may sound prosaic but actually was markedly the opposite: for Ray

was a vigorous producer of scholarly works and an outspoken battler for what he believed to be right — to the extent that in some quarters he was apt to be referred to as 'fighter Fosberg'. Thus according to the *New York Times* (29 September 1993) he 'published more than 600 papers on plant classification, plant distribution, ecology and conservation, and contributed to many scientific books. He was also co-Editor of *The Flora of Ceylon*, of which eight volumes have been published. He was the Founder and Editor of the *Atoll Research Bulletin*, a forum on island biology published since 1951. He was a Founder and Board Member of the Rachel Carson Council and helped to found the Nature Conservancy...'. To quote Professor David R. Stoddart in an appreciation of which he kindly sent us a copy, the '*Atoll Research Bulletin* will stand as one of Ray's chief memorials, not only for the information it records but for the way it has served to codify and institutionalize the emergent discipline of coral reef island studies during Ray's professional life.'

In these times of widespread instability, media domination by 'the media', and reverence for material gadgetry and money, it is interesting to cogitate that in the long run it is probably the kinds of things which Ray instituted and persisted with that really matter, and so if one is looking for signs of greatness, one should probably look for them among such dedicated innovators as our unforgettable friend Ray Fosberg.

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