

In Memoriam

Merle Fainsod

It is not easy to speak out of a friendship of more than forty years — unbroken and unmarred. For Merle and I were nurs'd upon the self-same hill: undergraduates together at Washington University, serving as assistants in a course on American government under our revered mentor Arnold Lien. Each of us followed the gleam to Harvard, he remaining faithful to Political Science and the University while I defected to law and then for a time to Washington. When our ways again converged in Cambridge, so enveloping was his caring and so embracing was the hospitality and gaiety of their home, that for me as for many others — how many! — Merle and Johnny made of a great university a loving community.

No one who knew Merle Fainsod even slightly could fail to sense his immense moral and intellectual authority. Some men, it is said, exert authority, while others radiate it. In his case both descriptions miss the mark, for they point the lines of force in the wrong direction. Respect and affection flowed to him and gave him, in spite of himself, the most irresistible kind of authority, because it derived from nature and not design. To explain this form of bonding in terms of principles of administration or theories — heaven help us — of interpersonal relations would be as futile as the effort to explain gravitation to a little child. The apple falls to the ground, the teacher asserts, because gravity makes it so. But, the youngster answers, it would have done it anyway. Merle took no delight in drawing on his innate authority. When he was moved to disapproval his response was delicately and precisely modulated. There was the arched eyebrow, perhaps accompanied by a sigh, signifying skepticism tempered with compassion; there was the slow shake of the head, with a faint smile, marking firm disagreement; and at the outer end of the spectrum, designating severe reproach, the headshake was accompanied by a frown. In any company of his peers a frown from him was worth a filibuster. When he spoke, nothing could disturb the gentleness of his voice or derange the measured cadence of his speech.

Given his qualities of mind and spirit, it was inevitable that he was called again and again to serve and counsel in times of hopeful innovation or anxious troubles. When these calls came, his "Here am I" was uttered without exuberance but with loyalty and fortitude. His directorship of the Russian Research Center came during its formative period. His presidency the American Political

Science Association coincided with a critical divisiveness in the profession. His chairmanship of the committee to restructure — or, some would insist, to structure — the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for collaboration and collective judgment was a crucial labor in bringing harmony out of discord. No one did more than he, by dint of quiet but heroic effort, to set this University on the road to reunion. And most recently, as Director of the University Library, he performed a task dear to his heart, one that to the uninitiated might have seemed a refuge but which in fact challenged all his gifts of learning and persuasion. To assess the strengths and weaknesses of this pre-eminent collection, subject by subject, to establish sound priorities and attract needed resources, is a charge that taxes the range of a scholar and the talents of a diplomat; one had best be a familiar of Aristotle and Maecenas alike. In an effusive moment Carlyle remarked of a great library, "I call it a church also — which every devout soul may enter — a Church but with no quarreling, no Church-rates." One wonders whether Carlyle had ever met, much less been, the Director of a Library. Surely the position proved to be for Merle no refuge from the problems — internal and external — of distributive justice. But because the Library was at the very center of the University's mission, it was at the center of Merle's concern.

Honors came to him as abundantly as responsibilities. If he answered to the latter stoically, he responded to the former quizzically. There was no streak of vanity that could be touched in him, unless when speaking of his family.

The real significance of Merle Fainsod's many episodes of service must be evident. It was this — that they were undertaken not in derogation of his commitment to a life of scholarship but in support of that commitment. He served as he did because he recognized the need to maintain and nourish the community within which scholarship could flourish. His services were undoubtedly a sacrificial digression from the individual work to which he was dedicated, but they were not a departure from his total dedication to the University where he found his habitation and his happiness. He was none of your modern breed of scholar-gypsies.

He left his deep imprint on a variety of fields. His book on American Government, written with Professor Lien, was a labor of filial piety. His writings on the regulation of the economy and on public administration have a characteristic richness

of detail and sureness of perception that give a rare vitality to their subject. Above all, of course, there are the monumental Russian studies. The latter field would have lent itself easily, seductively, to exploitation by an academic pundit, but Merle scrupulously refrained, refusing to convert honest complexities of interpretation into the meretricious simplicities of the headlines. Always he probed without illusion but with trembling faith and steady will.

We are all diminished in his passing. He should have gone hereafter. And yet, though much is taken, more remains. His life was beautifully fulfilled in all its aspects. His ever-living presence will remind us, in hours of waywardness or doubt, that the mission of the university is the steadfast and imaginative pursuit of understanding, that therein lie the duty and the joy of the scholar, and that the joy and the duty are, in the end, all one.

Paul A. Freund

Harvard University

The above were the remarks of University Professor Paul Freund at the memorial service for University Professor Merle Fainsod on February 17 at Harvard Memorial Church.

C. Warren Griffiths

C. Warren Griffiths, Professor Emeritus at Wilmington College (Ohio), died February 24, 1972, after a lingering illness which forced his early retirement and slowly destroyed his body though not his spirit.

Warren Griffiths was born January 15, 1907 in Pittsburgh. He earned the B.A. degree at Wooster College, a B.D. at Union Theological Seminary, an M.A. at the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago.

Preferring to work in a small college environment, he taught at Lawrence, Shurtleff and Monticello Colleges before joining the faculty of Wilmington College in 1948. He became Professor of History and Government and served for a decade as chairman of that department. He was a careful, scholarly teacher whose office was always open to his many students. His interest in experimentation led him to introduce new courses and a variety of educational experiences, including a special seminar in Washington which combined study and first-hand observation of the processes of government.

Warren Griffiths had a deep concern for world peace and social justice. Most of the writing he did was in support of these causes. He devoted two years of leave from teaching to serve as lobbyist and acting General Secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. He inspired and led a number of demonstrations for peace and civil rights. In the spring of 1971, though severely handicapped by his illness, he traveled to Washington to participate in a mass protest against the United States military activity in Southeast Asia.

His life and career embodied deep convictions, absolute integrity and academic excellence. For these qualities he was admired and respected. But as a former student expressed it at his memorial service, Warren was loved because of what he himself was.

Larry Gara

Wilmington College

Bertram W. Maxwell

On January 16, 1972, Bertram W. Maxwell, former Professor of Political Science at Washburn University of Topeka (1923-1942) and Adjunct Professor of History and Political Science at Wagner College (1946-1967) died in New York City. A many sided scholarly man, with wide intellectual interests, his life was a continuing search for knowledge and understanding of the "human condition." Although his chief efforts and energies were devoted to teaching and writing in the field of political science, in a professional career extending well over forty-five years, the record of his well filled life shows that he also had been a theological student, clergyman, high school teacher, military chaplain, translator, writer, editor and member of several commissions of public inquiry.

Receiving his early education in New Jersey, he attended the Princeton Theological Seminary and in 1914 completed his work for the B.D. at the McCormick Theological Seminary. He then served as a Presbyterian minister in Chicago and Minneapolis, until 1916 when he went to the Mexican border as a chaplain with the National Guard. In 1917 he returned to his duties in Minneapolis and also completed work on an A.B. degree at Hamline University. In 1917-18 he served as a military chaplain, in the U.S. Army. Upon completing his military service he was drawn to a teaching career and between 1921 and 1923 served his apprenticeship as a high school teacher in several states. At this time he also began