

MARTIN BRONFENBRENNER
1914–1997

Martin Bronfenbrenner died June 2, 1997 after a brief illness this spring. He was the Kenan Professor of Economics at Duke, where he has taught for many years. He was actively involved in the formation of Asia Pacific Studies Institute (ASPI), actually served as its first director, and continued to participate in APSI activities after he returned to Duke in 1991 from Tokyo. I know that I shall miss his gentle, wry sense of humor very much.

Martin was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 2 December 1914, graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, and received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1939. Before coming to Duke he taught briefly at Roosevelt University, and then began a career with the United States Government: at the U.S. Treasury in Washington D.C., as financial economist at the Federal Reserve Bank, three years in the U.S. Navy as Japanese language student and officer, and then back at the Federal Reserve. He returned to academe after that, teaching first at Wisconsin, Michigan State, Minnesota, and Carnegie Mellon (where he chaired the economics department) before coming to Duke. He also held visiting appointments in Japan (as a Fulbright fellow), at the University of Sussex, Adelaide, Beijing University, and Yonsei University in Seoul. He was also a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, and after retiring from Duke in 1984 he moved to Aoyama Gakuin's School of International Politics, Economics, and Business in Tokyo for seven years. He returned to Durham in 1991 and continued to teach in the economics department and to be an active faculty member in the ASPI. He was a fluent speaker of Japanese, and in addition to his five scholarly books and 250 scholarly articles, he also wrote a collection of fiction based on his service with the American Occupation of Japan. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, vice president of the American Economics Association in 1975, president of the Southern Economics Association in 1979, president of the History of Economics Society in 1983, and in January of this year he was named a distinguished fellow of the American Economics Association. A graduate fellowship in the Duke economics department has been established in his honor.

He leaves his wife, Teruko Okuaki Bronfenbrenner, a son Kenneth in New York, and daughter June and grandson in Maryland.

The Duke Economics Dept will sponsor a memorial lecture this fall. Memorials may be made to the Martin Bronfenbrenner Economics Endowment Fund, Office of Gift Records, Box 90581, Duke University.

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