

HARRY GUNNISON BROWN

At the age of 95, Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown died in Columbia, Missouri on March 18, 1975. He was a professor of economics from 1909 to 1960, having taught at Yale University until 1915, then the University of Missouri (where he was head of the Economics Department) until 1950; thereafter he taught at the New School for Social Research (New York), the University of Mississippi and Franklin and Marshall College (Pennsylvania).

Prof. Brown was an outstanding academic proponent of land value taxation and virtually all his published works expounded the principles of this measure, including his main text, Basic Principles of Economics, also The Economic Basis of Tax Reform and Fiscal Policy, Taxation and Free Enterprise. He also prepared an abridged version of Henry George's Progress and Poverty for use in his classes, and this was in demand in other colleges as well.

In addition, Prof. Brown published a number of pamphlets which were distributed widely. One of his pamphlets most in demand was "The Effective Answer to Communism and Why You Don't Get it in College," which he co-authored with his wife, Elizabeth Read Brown. Prof. Brown was as much concerned as non-academic Georgists with the lack of recognition and understanding of land value taxation in the academic world, and he worked at getting more professorial acceptance. The thousands of students who took his courses were grounded in these principles, and many of them went on to influential positions.

Prof. Brown was a frequent visitor and speaker at Georgist conferences. In 1958 the Henry George School honored him with a banquet which was attended by several former students including professors and bankers who paid him tribute. He was also honored with a conference when he was 90 at the University of Missouri.

For many years Prof. Brown was on the editorial board of the American Journal of Economics and Sociology. He also served on the Board of the Henry George Foundation of America and collaborated with the Public Revenue Education Council.

Though Harry Gunnison Brown did not adopt the title of "Georgist," he was truly one of us and we feel we have lost a distinguished colleague.

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