

TWENTY YEARS AFTER: HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE GOING STRONG

...the Henry George Institute holds that all persons have the right to the use of the earth and that all have a right to the fruits of their labor. To implement these rights it is proposed that the rent of land be taken by the community as public revenue, and that all taxes on labor and the fruits of labor be abolished.... The Institute pledges itself to bring this philosophy to the attention of the public by any suitable means.

In September 1970, a group of Georgists met in Freedom House, New York, to discuss the formation of a new organization to promote the Georgist philosophy. The outcome was the Henry George Institute, incorporated in New York State as a non profit organization on February 23, 1971.

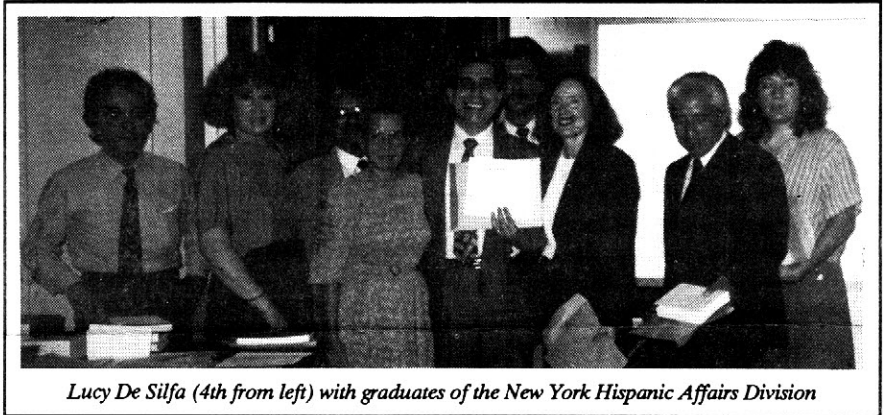
The Institute was conceived as a democratic membership group. It has a rotating board of directors of twelve members, one-third of which is elected by the general membership each year for a three-year term. An office was secured at 55 West 42nd Street in Manhattan. Invitations to join the Institute were sent out and membership has gradually increased to nearly three hundred. Dues were set at \$10, and remain so today. Members sign a statement of agreement with basic Georgist principles.

Meetings and Dinners for HGI members have been held over the years, on an annual basis. Guest speakers over the years have included luminaries such as Perry Prentice, Mildred J. Loomis, David Haggood, V. G. Peterson, Rev. Wylie Young, Fr. James Gilhooley, Roger Starr, Gurney Breckenfeld, Phil Finkelstein, Jack Schwartzman, Oscar B. Johannsen, C. Lowell Harriss, Richard Noyes, and several others.

The Institute depends upon active participation of its members for its operation. Although it is true that Bob Clancy does most of the work, he also depends upon the volunteer efforts of several HGI members. Joe Jespersen has served from the beginning as the Institute's Treasurer; Neva Bianco volunteers secretarial services; and Syd Mayers keeps up with membership renewals.

HGI's main teaching activity is a three-part correspondence course in the *Principles of Political Economy*, using the works of Henry George as texts updated with supplements. President Robert Clancy reports that over three hundred have completed the basic course in *Fundamental Economics* using George's *Progress and Poverty*. Of these, about 15 per cent go on to study the following two advanced courses. Mr. Clancy feels he has developed over the years a "sustainable program" for the correspondence course. Students find out

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Lucy De Silfa (4th from left) with graduates of the New York Hispanic Affairs Division

NEW YORK HGS FINISHES EVENTFUL SCHOOL YEAR

With its spring term graduation on June 22nd, the New York HGS completed a busy and eventful year of classes, seminars and programs. The evening represented the end of a long, rewarding effort for staff and students alike. New programs had been successfully instituted in 89-90, and old programs were revitalized. The tone of Director George Collins's address to the graduates was that of gathering momentum for the work of the School and the furthering of Henry George's message.

Revitalization: A group of fourteen students, for the first time in many years, has completed the three-part economics program based directly on the works of Henry George. George Collins taught the third class in the series, *Economic Science*, and proudly presented the students with certificates naming them graduates of *Principles of Political Economy*. Twenty-four students in the Spanish division completed the second course of the three-part study under Manuel Felix. And all told, one hundred thirty-five students completed the spring term, in ten courses.

New programs: On the initiative of the students themselves, a new alumni association has been formed for the Spanish Division. Called the *Centro Internacional de Alumnos y Exalumnos del Henry George School*, the group held its first program at the School on June 14th. The symposium on the economics of Latin America featured five speakers, including, as a special guest, Lucy de Silfa, Santo Domingo Henry George School Director.

So, students and staff gathered on the evening of June 22nd in a welcome sort of weariness. A great deal had been begun, and considerable steps had been taken. A surprising number of students, in fact, had taken three classes in one term! But that doesn't mean that they're finished with the school. The most frequent parting words that Friday night were, "See you in September!"



SANTA FE IS HOT...

Georgists are converging on the right city for their annual conference, at which the nation's housing problem will receive much attention. West Side Spirit, a New York neighborhood newspaper, in a story called "Manhattan Monopoly," asked co-op converter Francis Greenburger, "What's working in Manhattan real estate?" Greenburger quipped, "Well, Santa Fe, New Mexico is really hot."

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about it through modest advertisements placed in selected journals that appeal to the socially-minded. Ads in the international edition of *The Economist*, for example, bring in students from all parts of the world, especially Africa. Correspondence course teachers are volunteers chosen from members who have graduated (or otherwise studied) the courses, and today include: Hanno Beck, Neva Bianco, Richard Blansky, Nan Braman, Bob Clancy, Lindy Davies, Gil Herman, Joe Jespersen, Matthew Ossias, Bob Robinson, Mark Sullivan, and Tony Thomas. There have been others, too, over the past years. These thirteen teachers each have a number of individual students whose answers they read, correct, and comment upon. At present there are about one hundred twenty-five students taking the Institute's courses through the mail.

Bob Clancy emphasized that the correspondence course produces results: it finds Georgists. Among the more active individuals who came into the Georgist world via the c.c. are Hanno Beck who is now working for Common Ground USA, Charles Ellinger now teaching for the Long Island HGS, Gib Halverson in Wisconsin, Robert Willis in Iowa, and Stuart Mockford in Oregon.

Notable c.c. graduates active in Georgist work outside the US include Carlos Deltell de la Fuente and Alfredo Talarawitz in Spain, and Juan Zucotti in Argentina.

The Georgist Journal is another of the Institute's projects. Begun in October 1973, the Journal is published quarterly and is edited by Bob Clancy. It features news of Georgist activities and articles of comment by readers. The *Journal* also serves the members of the London-based International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. The circulation of the *Journal* is now about six hundred, with readers in six continents. While most of the non-US readers are members of the Union, about fifty are members of the Institute.

The Institute also distributes Georgist literature--generally inexpensive material not readily found elsewhere. HGI actively supports the Council of Georgist Organizations, which organizes the Annual Conferences in North America. HGI President Clancy has served as CGO Chairman from 1980 to 1988, and President of the International Union from 1977 to 1982.

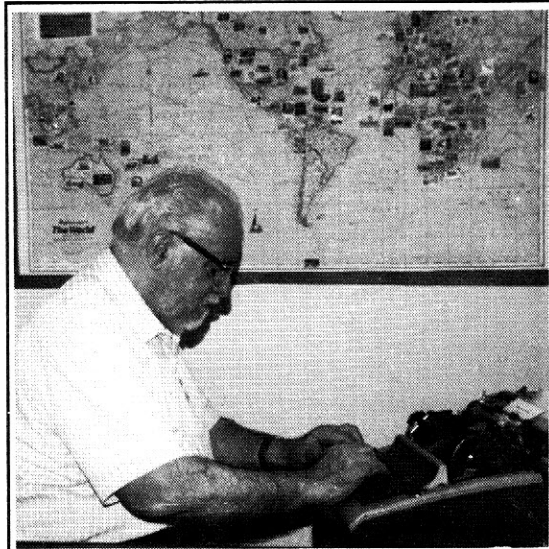
In 1980 the Institute was obliged to move out of its 42nd Street office due to extensive renovations being undertaken there. At the same time, the Henry George School was moving from 50 East 69th Street (where Mr. Clancy had served for two decades as Director until 1968) to 5 East 44th Street. The trustees of the School invited the Institute to take up quarters at 5 East 44th Street. The Institute's directors agreed, and HGI moved in at the end of July of that year.

The invitation was renewed when the School moved to its present quarters at 121 East 30th Street. HGS Director George Collins also serves as a member of the Institute's Board, and this year's HGI dinner was co-sponsored with the School. (See accompanying story.)

What are the Institute's hopes for the future? Bob Clancy would rather not speculate about what the future holds for HGI. He did hint that more work with Spanish-speaking people, especially in Latin America, was called for. Perhaps a revived and revised

correspondence course in Spanish? What about the possibility of further upgrading *The Georgist Journal* using state-of-the-art desktop publishing techniques? Perhaps... but so long as HGI members realize that the GJ still belongs to them and is open to their homestyle literary contributions. With its office located at a revitalized Henry George School, we can expect students of the School to discover, join, and participate in the work of the Henry George Institute.

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of Profiles of various groups and individuals active in promoting Georgist theory and practice.



Bob Clancy at work in front of map decorated with stamps from HGI students around the world.