

Out of the Past...

THE library of the Henry George School has recently been enriched by a donation of books and memorabilia from the library of Louis F. Post, presented by his granddaughter, Phyllis Post.

Louis Post (1849-1928) was one of Henry George's leading followers, author of several books, editor of *The Public* for many years and a member of President Wilson's Cabinet. He carefully documented his books and memorabilia, making them all the more interesting.

Tucked inside one of his own books, *Ethics of Democracy*, is a letter from Tom L. Johnson, another distinguished Georgist, who became mayor of Cleveland. Johnson wrote in part: "I have finished reading your book tonight (Dec. 29, 1903) . . . The greatest accomplishment in the work is that you have made complicated problems simple and easy to understand."

Another little treasure is a copy of the first edition of George's *The Science of Political Economy* (published posthumously), presented to Post by George's widow, Annie, along with a touching letter from her (dated April 7, 1898): "I send you today a copy of *The Science of Political Economy*. You have seen it of course but I felt you would like to have one, as it were, from the author—were he here you would certainly have it . . ."

Among the memorabilia are: a gavel presented to Post following the First Single Tax Conference in the United States at Cooper Union, September 1890 (at which Post presided); an apron used by him for his initiation as a Mason, carefully inscribed with date, place, names, etc.; drawings, sculptures and photographs, including some precious candid snapshots of Henry George riding a bicycle; a phonograph record of Post speaking; and various

pins and medals, including a medalion presented to him by students of a *Progress and Poverty* class he conducted in 1888—surely the first P & P class ever held!

Phyllis Post, an only child, lost her mother in 1965, and her father, Charles Johnson Post, died in 1956. His wife and daughter arranged to have published after his death, a haunting book, *The Little War of Private Post, An Artist Soldier's Memoir of the Spanish-American War* (Little Brown, 1960). This unique first-hand record of the author's war experience was illustrated with his paintings, now the cherished possessions of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Charles Johnson Post, who remembered Henry George from his early youth when his father took him to hear a lecture, remained throughout his life "not a devout and sentimental believer in Henry George," simply one who could not escape from his keen intellectual analysis and the logic of his economic principles. (HGN March 1960).

Agnes deMille (granddaughter of Henry George) has also recently donated family memorabilia, including photographs and wearing apparel. One is a doll's dress for Anna George's favorite doll—the same doll that was broken when the George family visited Britain, and when George saw his little daughter inconsolable over it, he went all over London until he found a doll hospital that could fix it.

Many of the Post and George items have been sent to the Henry George birthplace in Philadelphia, and some remain at the Henry George School in New York.

Another interesting item, recently donated by David Lincoln, is a framed letter sent by Tom L. Johnson to John C. Lincoln, David's father.