

ber of the Memorial Planning Society of the Piedmont, the Barracks–Rugby–Preston Neighborhood Association, the Council on Human Relations, and the Fair Housing Committee. He was also president of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Unitarian Church.

Bristol retired from the University in 1974 and was named director of the Virginia Place Name Survey that summer. He had just begun that work when he died in a Charlottesville hospital on November 3, 1974. He is survived by his wife, Ruth (Aitken) Bristol, who also was a librarian with degrees from both Boston University and Simmons College.

John B. Hench

ARTHUR HARRISON COLE

When a large group of Arthur Harrison Cole's friends gathered on November 21, 1969, to celebrate his seventieth birthday, apparently the guest of honor felt he should forestall the presumed dullness of the occasion. So he wrote, published, and distributed a 'memento.' This autobiographical doggerel was entitled 'A TORTUOUS TRAIL; OR THE Strange Case of a Man Who Could not Make up his Mind Who He Was!' The author did not get down to specifics until, after his graduation from Bowdoin College in 1911, he went to Harvard for a doctorate in economics.

Way back in the days around World War One,
 Cole tackled the Problem of Schedule K;
 There was TAUSSIG to guide—and 'twas also quite GAY;
 And Cole'd written two volumes before he was done.

Most graduate students find one sponsor of their research quite complicated enough. Cole solved the dilemma for his *American Wool Manufacture* (1926) by ascribing the 'auspicious' inauguration of the book to Taussig and its 'rapid progress' to Professor Edwin F. Gay. Cole received his doc-

torate in 1916, one of the last of the prewar P.H.Ds. As he began his 'tortuous trail,' Harvard was adjusting first to a war basis and then to peace. As an attractive and able youngster he was on hand to do chores which the 'old guard' in the Economics Department didn't want to begin or finish.

So he turned his attention to time series and such,
 With a PERSONS to steady his neophyte hands.
 He mixed prices, gold shipments, and government lands,
 And presumed to a clever statistical touch.

In the twenties as the Harvard Business School acquired a campus of its own and began turning one of the oldest of the arts into the latest of the professions, Cole became the librarian of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

Now he took up the wond'rous executive game;
 He'd splice orders with research in piloting Baker
 For research—oh, no!—he'd never forsake her—
 And, Librarian bold, he'd sail onward to fame.

One phase of his duties was, naturally, acquisition. In the mid-thirties the library acquired through the Kress Foundation the massive collection of Professor Herbert Foxwell of Cambridge University. It had 30,000 printed pieces on economic thought and development between 1474 and 1850. Contemporaneously, Cole and others busied themselves with the collection and housing of business records even when they weighed tons or were unheralded. They systematized archival work in this area. No task with which he was associated could escape the touch of friendliness. He recruited at Baker a staff of exceptional loyalty and competence.

Suddenly in the forties, the leaders among economic historians, including both Cole and Gay, began to give their discipline some sort of structure and unified direction. One path was the establishment of the Economic History Association and its publication, *The Journal of Economic History*. At about

the same time the Rockefeller Foundation established the Committee on Research in Economic History and made it a grant of \$250,000 to encourage research and writing in the field. The availability and experience, as well as the multiple talents of Cole, who was made chairman, explained both the grant and the confidence behind it. The committee started out by inaugurating a study of economic-political thought and policy in four selected states in the early nineteenth century. Incidental to this purpose, Cole cherished the objective of establishing a center for the study of those who managed business enterprise. In 1948 he prevailed upon the committee and the Rockefeller Foundation to establish the Research Center in Entrepreneurial History. At Harvard he gathered a core of mature scholars, contemporaries of the chairman. Some younger scholars with an innovative bent joined the center on an occasional basis. The latter group furnished the influential editorial base for a journal, *Explorations in Entrepreneurship*. Certainly the best statement of Cole's general program was *Business Enterprise in Its Social Setting*, which Cole had published in 1959.

By the latter date retirements brought the organized work on this and other themes to an end. At the same time personal tragedy struck Cole. He lost his peripheral vision. This compelled changes in his distinctive life style. He could no longer drive an automobile or order a luncheon from a printed menu. His reading ability contracted to the space of a few minutes. With exceptional heroism and ingenuity he continued to work out a scholar's schedule, relying upon others to read for him and to shape his generalizations by looking things up and taking dictation. No matter how dedicated and skillful he became at this, one result was to shorten his pronouncements and to write off the top of his head. The note of repetition was all the more unfortunate since the unity which he had hoped to give to economic history as 'a new social science discipline' was being shattered by the growing disin-

tegration of the discipline. Members of an economics department should not agree with one another. Even in Cole's post-doctoral years at Harvard the cluster at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration was separated at least by a river from the academics around the Yard. The former emphasized Business History. Whether it was identical with Economic History or separate, all the bridges could not give a final answer. Then in the thirties those armed with the tool of statistics fell upon the favorite theme of slavery and then upon transportation, and armies of quantifiers contended with those who believed in qualification. Cole was one of the earliest exponents of doing things with figures, but in these later years he held himself above the battle. He had become more impressed with the uniqueness of history and historical methodology and more sensitive to sociological concepts and considerations. However well this describes the shifting values of Cole's scholarship, it conceals the exceptional role he played among economic historians. He was a gifted promoter of scholarship. He could discern young talent and aid it. The pretender and the ingrate sometimes fooled him, but he shrugged off their mistakes and directed foundation funds and personal donations in the direction of newness. Economic historians beat a path to his Cambridge office and came away with a lunch, a word of friendly appreciation, and perhaps a few dollars to aid their research and to enable them to survive. In a career studded with institutional connections, it is fitting that his beneficiaries and equals in the Boston area should still gather under the rubric *The Friends of Economic History*, and that the last item in his bibliography should be a eulogy to those associated with him in making economic history a 'new social science discipline.'

Edward C. Kirkland

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