

In Memoriam

G. Lowell Field

It is with much sadness that we report the death of G. Lowell Field on April 23, 1997. Lowell spent most of his academic career at the University of Connecticut. He arrived in 1952 to take the headship of the Department of Political Science and retired in 1978. Department head from 1952 to 1967, he was called back to that position for a year in 1977–78. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts and did his undergraduate work at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. He then went to Columbia University for graduate work, receiving his M.A. in 1933 and his Ph.D., in 1938. While working for his Ph.D. he was an instructor at Columbia. After finishing his Ph.D., he became an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. After World War II he transferred to Wayne University in Detroit as an Associate Professor before accepting his appointment at the University of Connecticut as department head and full professor.

Lowell Field's original interests were in Fascist Italy; his doctoral dissertation was published as the *Syndical and Corporative Institutions of Italian Fascism* (1938). After the war he broadened his interests to the political dynamics of Western countries more generally. This resulted in his sparkling text *Governments in Modern Society* (1951).

During the heyday of the behaviorist movement in political science Lowell Field worked to develop a rigorous logical-deductive theory of comparative political development. He developed a new terminology to explain his concepts and after thirteen years' work he published the highly innovative book *Comparative Political Development: The Precedent of the West* (1967).

When it became apparent that his new terminology and concepts were not making headway within the profession, Field abandoned further work on his theory. In its place he,

along with his principal student John Higley, now at the University of Texas at Austin, developed a new approach, "neo-elitism," which they expounded in a series of monographs and articles over the next twenty years. The major statement of this position was *Elitism* (1980, published in German as *Eliten und Liberalismus* in 1983). Its thrust can be gleaned from a set of personal reflections written by Field and Higley at the end of the 1980s in which they characterized neo-elitism as holding that,

The internal workings, commitments, and actions of national elites constitute the basic distinctions to be made among the political systems of all independent states. The extent to which elites do or do not trust and cooperate with each other is logically and factually prior to constitutional and institutional arrangements, to the existence of political stability or instability, and to any practical degree of democratic politics. The existence and centrality of elites makes all utopias impossible to achieve, and major political change stems mainly from variations in elite interrelations which take place within very wide parameters set by mass political orientations. Accordingly, basic choices in politics pertain mainly to the desirability of some kinds of national elites over others and to the wisdom in any concrete situation of trying to modify or transform an existing elite (Field and Higley 1989).

Lowell was more than a scholar of politics. He was active in professional and local affairs. He served a term as President of the New England Political Science Association; he was a charter member of the University of Connecticut Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa; and he served for many years on the Library Board in Mansfield, Connecticut. He was one of the founders of the Mansfield Unitarian Fellowship. He became an active member of the local League of Women Voters after that organization accepted men as members.

References

- Field, G. Lowell, and John Higley. 1989. "Neo-Elitism in the Context of American and Australian Culture: Some Personal Reflections." *Political Theory Newsletter* 1(2):133–43.

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Harold F. Gosnell

On 8 January 1997, the discipline lost one of the last true founders of modern American political science. Harold Foote Gosnell died at his home in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 100 years old.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Gosnell pioneered the application of experimental and statistical methods to the study of political behavior in the United States and abroad. He authored pathbreaking studies of voter turnout, black politics, and Chicago's Democratic machine. From the publication of his first book in 1924 until the publication of his last in 1980, Gosnell probed the interaction of political leadership, political parties, and voters in innovative and influential ways.

Harold F. Gosnell was born on Christmas Eve, 1896, in Lockport, New York, the son of a Methodist minister. He grew up in Rochester, New York, and attended the University of Rochester, taking his bachelor's degree in 1918. After a short stint in the Army, stateside, he matriculated at the University of Chicago as the only graduate fellow in the department of political science.

At Chicago, Gosnell pursued studies in political science, sociology, economics, and law, and he wrote his doctoral dissertation, published in 1924 as *Boss Platt and his New York machine*, under the direction of his mentor, Charles E. Merriam. Upon the award of his doctorate in 1922, Gosnell joined the Chicago Political Science faculty as an Instructor, rising to Assistant Professor