

ogy, Stanford University, Stanford, California. Papers should not exceed 1,500 words in length and must be received by February 1, 1961, at the latest.

In order to provide our growing membership with the widest opportunity to participate in the annual program, each person is allowed by a long-standing rule of the Association to read only one paper if he is sole author, and to contribute to two programs only if he is joint

author in each case or is a chairman or discussant in one case.

The sessions planned by our Program Committee promise to be representative of the best of current research activity. A special effort is being made at this meeting to improve the quality of the papers. As usual, some of the sessions at the St. Louis meeting also involve intradisciplinary relations among the various fields of sociology.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOWARD BECKER 1899-1960

Howard Becker, President of our Association, died prematurely and unexpectedly of cerebral thrombosis on June 8. He was born December 9, 1899, in New York City, left school at the age of 14, and worked as a laborer in the West. He became an industrial engineer for the Dort Motor Company and the International Harvester Company. The equipment of his basement workshop and his craftsmanship at hobbies bespeak of skills acquired early in life.

In 1922 he turned to academic pursuits, entering Northwestern University after a special examination. In 1925 he was awarded the A.B., the following year, the M.A. During the summer of 1923 he visited Germany as a member of a student mission. An unpublished and engaging diary bespeaks of the sensitivity and astuteness of the "innocent abroad" in a defeated country, ridden by inflation, insurrections, Ruhr occupation, and the rest. Howard Becker observed the fumbling endeavors of wild-eyed student and youth groups groping toward the democratic way of life. In 1926 he returned to Germany where he studied at Cologne under Leopold von Wiese, Paul Honigsheim, and Max Scheler. With von Wiese's research team, he learned to know a Hunsrück village, which struck him on the eve of the Nazi landslide and the big depression as a "Sargasso Iceberg." Upon his return to this country he continued his studies at the University of Chicago, receiving the Ph.D. in 1930, with a thesis on ancient Athens and Sparta. Post-doctoral study led him to Greece and Sicily, France and Belgium, Germany and England. The legacy of ancient Greece became a lifelong intellectual commitment for him.

Howard Becker began his teaching career

at the University of Pennsylvania in 1928, and went to Smith College as an Associate Professor in 1931. In 1937, upon the retirement of E. A. Ross, he was called to Wisconsin as Professor, where for almost a quarter of a century he lent distinction to the Department of Sociology. In 1934-1935 he served as a Lecturer at Harvard University; during summers he taught at Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, and the Universities of Marburg and Cologne, Germany; and in 1951 he was a Fulbright fellow at the University of Birmingham. He was an eminent teacher and speaker before large classes, small seminars, radio and television audiences, and civic groups, both here and abroad.

For several years Professor Becker served as book review editor of the *American Sociological Review*, as editor in sociology for Henry Holt, and as Chairman of the Department of Sociology at Wisconsin. Chief of Higher Education of the American Military Government in Hesse in 1947-1948, he declined a similar post for the entire American zone in Germany because he preferred to resume his work as scholar and teacher at Wisconsin. During World War II, he was the efficient organizer of 25 Wisconsin faculty members of diverse departments teaching ASTP courses to future occupation personnel. He then joined the O.S.S.; among the "cloak and dagger boys" he managed a secret broadcasting station engaged in "Operation Capricorn" in 1945. This unit was credited with outmaneuvering the Nazi Elite Guard, so that Munich was conquered without being turned into rubble.

In 1945, Professor Becker interviewed Marianne Weber, the widow of Max Weber: her account appears in *Lebenserinnerungen* (Bremen, 1948, pp. 483 ff.); Professor Becker's own report is to be found in the

American Journal of Economics and Sociology (July 1951, pp. 401–405). This incident is an illustration of Becker's concern with the "humanistic coefficient" and his dedication to the kind of field work that was so brilliantly developed by the "Chicago School" during the 1920s. In the same vein, while in Hesse, he began his intensive study of two nearby villages of peasants, another "Sargasso Iceberg." Frances Bennett Becker, his wife and frequent collaborator since 1927, assisted him in his field work among old-world peasants in invaluable ways. This concern with "simple folk," folklore, the proverbial wisdom of olden days, with folk dances and music, was one of the aspects of Howard Becker's many-faceted and receptive mind. But this concern expressed nothing "romantic," irrational, or "conservative." His book, *German Youth: Bond or Free* (1946) makes this obvious: Scottish Highlanders and Lowlanders and Scots in the Hebrides were to him at least as interesting as traditionalistic pockets of German rural society.

This panoramic concern with "folk" of all sorts and conditions was paralleled by an equally wide preoccupation with "man's ideas about life with his fellows," to use the subtitle of the monumental work *Social Thought from Lore to Science* (1938, 1952). This work was co-authored by Harry Elmer Barnes; Emile Benoit-Smullyan and others assisted. Its dedication "to all men and women of good will the round world over" on the eve of the last war bespeaks of Howard Becker's humanistic convictions. Lest he be misunderstood as a sentimentalist, we should recall that in a paper on "Vitalizing Sociological Theory" (*American Sociological Review*, August 1954, p. 379) he chose for his "watchword": ". . . he that is not against us is for us."

In May 1959, as President-elect of the American Sociological Association, Professor Becker attended the meetings of the German Sociological Society and heard Leopold von Wiese's address in honor of Georg Simmel. Becker's first major publication had been an augmented and adapted transposition of von Wiese's *Systematic Sociology* (1932). The stronger the impact of the temporal nature of the human condition between the Great Depression and the height of victory and its aftermath, the more Becker became intrigued

by the historicity of man and his works, and by the tensions between supra-historically conceived "forms" and historically experienced "content." He devoted an increasing part of his prolific writings to the problem of typology and its constructs, the problems of prediction, and the logically possible and the empirically probable. He subtitled the over-arching polarities of "sacred" and "secular" societies by numerous subtypes and processes in either direction—in *Through Values to Social Interpretation* and its revised edition as *Soziologie als Wissenschaft vom sozialen Handeln* (Wurzberg, 1959) and other works.

Professor Becker's last years as President-elect and President of the Association kept him extremely busy; yet he was extraordinarily productive to the very end. He lectured at numerous American universities, read several papers at German and Austrian universities, gave an address at the 50th meeting of the German Sociological Society and spoke on American sociology at Oxford University. He attended the Fourth World Congress of Sociology at Stresa, supervised M.A. and Ph.D. theses, served on a number of committees, and published or sent to press an impressive list of writings, including his annual essay on "Sociology" for the 1959 *Britannica Book of the Year*. In his essays and books in theory, sociology of knowledge, the family, youth, and religion Howard Becker made an important contribution to sociology and sociologists here and abroad. He was a force.

HANS H. GERTH

University of Wisconsin

FREDERICK GERMAN DETWEILER 1881–1960

Frederick German Detweiler, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Denison University, died at the age of 79 in Dallas, Texas, on March 31, 1960, following a long illness.

Born in 1881 in Louisville, Kentucky, he graduated in 1897 from Central High School, Kansas City, Missouri. He entered the Baptist ministry after receiving the B.D. from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in 1908, and served pastorates in Ohio at Oberlin, Dayton, and Galion before becoming General Secretary of the Young People's Department of the Ohio Baptist Convention in 1911–1912. He moved to the national offices in

Philadelphia before deciding to prepare for teaching.

In 1915 he entered Denison University as an undergraduate and remained in Granville until his retirement in 1949. He became a member of the Denison faculty even before receiving his B.A. in 1917. In 1919 he received the M.A., also at Denison, and in 1922 was awarded the Ph.D. by the University of Chicago. While working on his doctorate, he prepared *The Negro Press in the United States*, published in 1922. He was an authority on races and nationalities in the United States.

At Denison University Professor Detweiler taught sociology and from 1928 to 1937 also served as Dean of Men. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Denison and was affiliated with the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He was named by the Governor of Ohio to serve on the Children's Code Commission to revise and edit statutes concerning children. Professor Detweiler was a Fellow Emeritus of the American Sociological Association, a member of the Ohio Valley Sociological Society, and the Ohio Academy of Science.

ALLEN H. KASSOF

Smith College

CURTIS HUGH MORROW 1882-1960

Professor Emeritus Curtis Hugh Morrow, Colby College's "grand old man of the classroom" and head of its Department of Economics and Sociology until his retirement in 1952, died on March 7, 1960, in Waterville, Maine.

Professor Morrow was born in Holden, Massachusetts. After graduating from the Mount Hermon School, he attended Clark University where he received the A.B. in 1910, the A.M. in 1911, and the Ph.D. in 1927. From 1912 to 1918 he was an assistant librarian in Worcester, Massachusetts, at the American Antiquarian Society Library, and also served as pastor of the nearby Jamesville Baptist Church between 1910 and 1918. He came to Colby in 1920, after a two-year period as head of the history department at the Melrose, Massachusetts, High School. During his tenure at Colby, he directed the growth of the economics and sociology curriculum.

Professor Morrow was active in several professional associations, in Waterville affairs, and in state programs concerning health and welfare. He founded the Alpha Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, the National Social Science Honor Society, and for nearly ten years was governor of the Society's Northeast Region. His scholarly publications include *Preparation of Social Science Papers* and *Political-Military Secret Societies of the Northwest, 1860-1865*.

Professor Morrow's students remember him as an exciting teacher, a hard worker, and an exacting scholar. Writing on the occasion of his retirement, one of his former students at Colby paid him an eloquent tribute: "When a student rediscovers a truth for himself under the guidance and influence of good teachers, he is not likely to forget either the truth or the teachers."

ALLEN H. KASSOF

Smith College

CHARLES NED ELLIOTT 1907-1960

Achievements in sociology include not only research and teaching, but also civic service and good collegial relations. While Charles Ned Elliott conducted significant researches on mental health, military morale, and juvenile delinquency, and was a popular teacher at several colleges, he was distinguished by his frequent services to civic causes and by his personal humanity.

Charles Ned Elliott was born in Hopkinton, New Hampshire, and was awarded the B.A. and M.A. degrees in history at the University of New Hampshire. After teaching for three years at his *alma mater*, he studied sociology at Columbia, Marburg, and Chicago, and taught at Central YMCA College in Chicago. During World War II, he was anti-aircraft officer and subsequently served in the Information and Education Division. Following the war, he did research for the Veterans Administration and the Phoenix Mental Health Center. Called to Fairmont State College, West Virginia, in 1952, he plunged into academic and community service. He was Chairman of the Faculty Planning Committee at the College, and a member of many professional and scholastic societies. He was a President of the Family Service Society, Vice President of