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THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

*Technology, Policies
and Adjustment*

PAPERS AND REPORTS

FIFTEENTH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

*Held at Parque Anhembi
São Paulo, Brazil*

19–30 AUGUST 1973

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ECONOMISTS
1974

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LEONARD KNIGHT ELMHIRST, 1893-1974

PREFACE

THE opportunity provided by the generous invitation of the Brazilian Government to hold the 15th International Conference of Agricultural Economists in São Paulo was received with deep satisfaction by IAAE members. Not only had they the prospect of excellent facilities at Anhembi Park, São Paulo, for the work of a conference but they looked forward to the possibility of learning more about the many developments which have taken place in South American countries in recent years, not least about those in Brazil itself.

The strong support of the Federal Government of Brazil, the Government of the State of São Paulo and of many private interests was shown by the distinguished presence of Governor Laudo Natel, who welcomed the Conference, and of Professor Delfim Netto who gave the closing paper. The Organizing Committee was under the chairmanship of Dr Rubens de Araujo Dias, Secretary of Agriculture of the State of São Paulo, assisted by Professor Paulo F. Cidade de Araujo and Dr V. J. Pellegrini.

As has been customary, the host country prepared a special publication on the agricultural industry, and conference participants had the benefit of the most informative study *Brazil's Agricultural Sector: Economic Behaviour, Problems and Possibilities* prepared by Dr Ruy Miller Paiva, Salamao Schattan and Claus F. Trench de Freitas.

The IAAE is deeply appreciative of the financial support provided from sources in the host country and for the preparatory work both for the conference itself and for the post-conference tours, which were highly valued by the participants.

In relation to the Association's general activities and preparation for the Conference, the Agriculture Development Council and the Gulbenkian Foundation provided special grants which proved very helpful. Financial help towards providing travel grants to assist in attendance at the Conference were provided by the following organizations: American Agricultural Economics Association; American Bankers Association, Cargill, Inc.; Farmers Union and Grain Terminal; First National City Bank (N.Y.); The Ford Foundation; Ford Motor Company Fund; H. P. Hood & Sons, Inc.; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; International Harvester Company; Lever Brothers Company; Massey Ferguson, Ltd.; National Milk Producers Federation;

Oscar Mayer & Co.; Pillsbury Company; Robert R. Nathan Associates; Shell International Petroleum Company, Ltd.; U.S. Cane Sugar Refiners' Association; William C. Whitney Foundation.

A number of firms, institutions and organizations supported the conference by financing the attendance of staff members.

Mr Kenneth Hunt, the Vice President, was responsible for building the programme and arranging speakers and other designated participants for the Plenary and Special Group sections of the Programme. He was also responsible for the record of the discussion and academic activities of the Conference and the editing of these *Proceedings* and of the *International Journal of Agrarian Affairs*. The Association is grateful to him and to the University of Oxford for the facilities provided in support of this work.

Mr Emerson Brooks was responsible for the Discussion Groups and the IAAE is particularly in his debt for all that he has done in connection with the Discussion Groups since this feature of the Conference was introduced under Dr Harry Trelogan in 1958.

Dr Kenneth Farrell and his colleagues in the U.S. Department of Agriculture dealt with the contributed papers section which had expanded greatly since the 1970 Conference.

The IAAE is much indebted to their Secretary-Treasurer, Dr Joseph Ackerman, and to Dr R. J. Hildreth of the Farm Foundation, Chicago, who carried much of the office work of the secretariat.

Two meetings of the council were held during the conference and a revision of the Constitution providing, *inter alia*, for the position of a President-Elect, for two Vice-Presidents—one with special responsibilities for programme building, the other for administration—and for the election of Honorary Life Members. The new constitution is printed in this volume of the proceedings.

Dr Ackerman had expressed his wish to retire as Secretary-Treasurer and Mr Hunt from responsibility for building the programme in addition to acting as editor. The Council elected Dr S. R. Sen as President for the 1973–76 conference period, Professor D. K. Britton as President-Elect, Professor Theodor Dams as Vice-President (Programme), Professor Keith Campbell as Vice-President (Administration) and Dr R. J. Hildreth as Secretary-Treasurer. They elected Dr Joseph Ackerman and Dr Sherman Johnson as the first Honorary Life Members.

Dr Leonard Elmhirst, the Founder-President, could not attend the Conference because of ill health. But he sent an inspiring message. It is a matter of great sadness that this should turn out to be his last. But the sound traditions established by him will continue to guide the IAAE to build further on the foundation that he laid and promote the cause of the social science in which he set such great store.

SAMAR R. SEN

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Founder–President
of the IAAE

Leonard Knight Elmhirst
1893–1974

Leonard Knight Elmhirst, Founder–President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists, died suddenly in California on 16 April 1974. He was born in Yorkshire, England, on 6 June 1893, the second of eight sons in a family whose members had been in landowning, the church and the law for generations. His father was both the parson of the village and the owner of an estate. Hard work and concern for others was part of the established order of the household in which he grew up. One who knew him as a small boy spoke of him, even then, as showing determination to know all that could be learnt from any given situation, his early schooling reinforced this and the characteristics never left him.

In due course, he went on to Repton—a public school in the English sense, a boarding school for boys outside the state educational system where William Temple who was to become one of the most widely loved and respected Archbishops of Canterbury, was a master. In 1912 he went on to Trinity College, Cambridge University, to study History and Theology, studies which might readily have been a prelude to ordination as a minister of the Church but the war intervened. He was not medically fit for army service, but on the staff of the YMCA he went to India in 1915, and later to Mesopotamia, where he saw something of the reality of the situation in what are now called ‘developing countries’, and became interested in their rural problems. After a serious illness, he spent a period helping Lionel Curtis when he was engaged in studies of the overall political problems of India and her future and these and other contacts at this period probably largely determined his future. His introduction to Sam Higginbottam, the American farmer-missionary who had devoted his life to improving the living conditions of Indian farmers by improving their farming methods, both steered Leonard Elmhirst’s attention more firmly to practical social service and led him to go to Cornell to take a degree in agriculture.

After completing his degree in 1921 he returned to India as secretary to Rabindranath Tagore, to the founding of the Institute of Rural Reconstruction at Sriniketan later to become incorporated in the All-India

University of Visva-Bharati, and to a period working with a group of young Indians in the creation of skill of hand and brain and the desire to play a part in helping their country to adjust to a changing world. Later he travelled with Rabindranath Tagore in China, Japan, South America and Italy.

While at Cornell he had met Mrs Dorothy Whitney Straight. She had inherited a considerable fortune on her father's early death and believed that wealth entailed social responsibility. Since her husband had died in 1918 she had been, as she said, 'immersed . . . in work of many kinds: social and educational, industrial and economic, and I tried to do what I could to keep alive a spirit of toleration and freedom of thought during a period of great intolerance'. In 1925 they were married and in the same year they bought the Dartington Hall Estate in Devon, England, to embark on an experiment in rural reconstruction and education with the purpose of creating a rural area where people could not only enjoy reasonable wages and physical living conditions but could live a full life in the widest sense of that term. It operated through the Dartington businesses which were designed to develop commercial and rural industrial activities—farming, forestry, furniture-making, textiles, pottery, glass amongst others, and through the Trust with its educational interests, particularly in music and the arts.

In the early part of its life the Dartington experiment produced highly diverse responses—many of them very far from sympathetic or informed. Over the years, similar educational, social, economic and cultural aims have come to be favoured much more widely and Dartington's achievements have made their own effective impact.

In its agricultural interests the work at Dartington was from the start influenced by the impact of the intimate relationship between science and farm business which had impressed Leonard Elmhirst at Cornell. Apart from technical developments—the cattle breeding programme of later years was a notable example—agricultural and forestry economic units were early established, feeding their results back to practical management. The need to identify better methods and get them adopted quickly was a key principle from the start.

Though Dartington was demanding, Elmhirst's interests were not confined to the more central Dartington themes. Exeter University, Political and Economic Planning—a social and economic survey and research organization many amenity activities connected with the south-west of England, amongst others, benefited from his interest and concern. In the Second World War he worked in the Middle East and U.S.A. and after the war was again in India on the Rural Higher Education Committee and as adviser on the Damodar Valley Scheme.

In 1968 Mrs Dorothy Elmhirst died. Though Leonard Elmhirst never stinted his efforts for any activity he took on, he began in these recent years methodically to transfer to those whom he had influenced the responsibilities which he had carried for so long. When one talked to him, his interest and concern were no less lively but one sensed that he saw

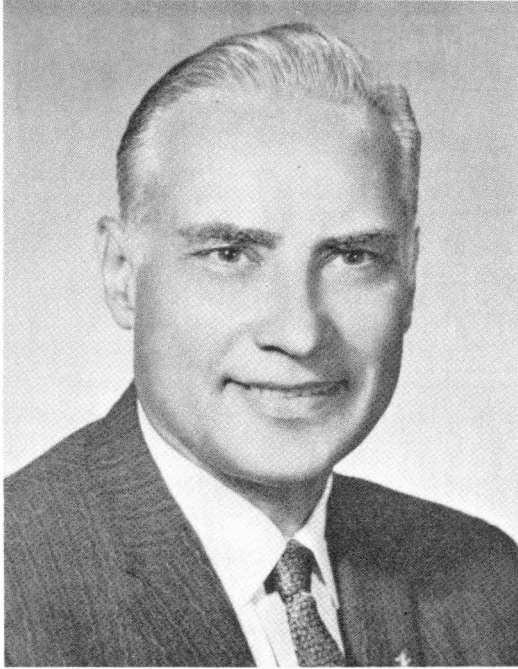
himself as a looker-on in many of his former hunting grounds. In 1972 he married Dr Susanna Issacs, a family friend of many years.

There can be few who talked agricultural economics with him whose contact was confined to that alone, but to those in that profession he will be remembered especially for his work for the International Association of Agricultural Economists. Since there are many agrarian problems common to a number of countries it may well have happened that an international society for the study of agricultural economics would have come into being even without his help but it is hard to believe that it would not have been narrower in its outlook, less constructive in its debate, less integrative in its approach and touching the concern of fewer people who were in a position and had a mind to benefit their fellow men. The true origin of the Association may in fact rest with Rabindranath Tagore—perhaps even with William Temple—and their influence on Elmhirst. An immediate occasion, however, was his contact at Cornell with G. F. Warren and W. I. Myers and the new international horizons which grew out of this; the specific step came from a stay of Dr Carl Ladd, Head of the Cornell Agricultural Extension Service, at Dartington in 1928. From these exchanges developed the decision to bring together a group of agricultural economists from several countries to see how they interacted and how professional discussion developed so as to be able to judge the usefulness of an international organization to continue such meetings. This first meeting at Dartington Hall in 1929 showed the practicability the usefulness and the promise of such an organization and a second conference was called for 1930 at Cornell. At that meeting a constitution—which steered the institution through over 40 years of constructive meetings—was developed. Leonard Elmhirst was elected President and continued in that office until 1961 when he was elected Founder President. He preferred to give the credit for the creation of the IAAE to Carl Ladd, G. F. Warren, John Maxton and Jock Currie. Be that as it may, that it has functioned so well and so economically is probably in large measure due to the atmosphere he succeeded in creating during his presidency in which voluntary help was willingly given—a tradition which has continued.

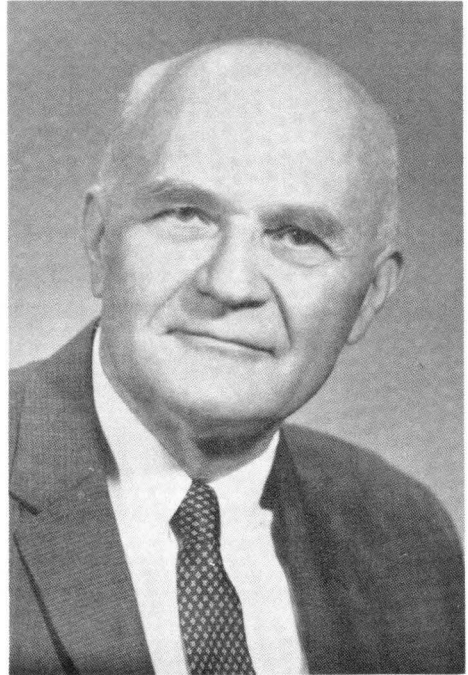
How many other institutions and individuals have given their service so fully because of his guidance, encouragement, and financial and other support would be difficult to assess. Through his influence Dartington Hall Trustees set up in 1934 '3 Magpie Lane, Oxford', later to become the Institute of Agrarian Affairs which formed the home from which John Maxton created the pattern of the IAAE Conference Proceedings and from which they continued to be edited after his death. Elmhirst was likewise influential, with the IAAE, in making possible the effective establishment in Oxford of an international abstracting organization under the Commonwealth Bureaux, which since 1965 has published the *World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts*.

Founder-President of IAAE, with honorary doctorates from Freiburg, Visura Bharati, Durham and Oxford, Fellow of the American Farm

Economics Association, Honorary Life Member of the British Agricultural Economic Society, member of governmental study committees on recreational facilities in Britain, on rural education in Britain and India, fifteen years a county court member—a lover of music and the arts, a man of many parts, striking different people in widely different ways—Leonard Elmhirst was above all a man with a great gift of friendship and an abounding concern that men and women everywhere should have the opportunity to use all their human resources to the full.



JOSEPH A. ACKERMAN



SHERMAN ELLSWORTH JOHNSON

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Joseph A. Ackerman

Joseph Ackerman had been for many years one of the key figures in the organization of the International Association of Agricultural Economists when he succeeded H. C. M. Case as Secretary-Treasurer at the end of the Tenth Conference held in Mysore in 1958, holding this office until the end of the 1973 Conference.

He was born on 20 July 1904 in Illinois and attended the University of Illinois, graduating B.S. in 1929, M.S. in 1930 and Ph.D. in 1938. His professional life has been intimately concerned with improving the effectiveness of agricultural economics research and teaching at all levels. He worked as a professional farm manager after completing his M.S. degree, then spent a year in 1931-32 at Harvard on a research fellowship in agricultural economics. For much of the period up to 1939 he was working on Farm Management extension at the University of Illinois; in 1939 he joined the staff of the Farm Foundation where he became associate managing director in 1955. The Foundation has been responsible for important parts of the stimulus to advance in agricultural economics in the U.S.A. through its regional committees, the studies that it has sponsored and encouragement to the professional development of younger agricultural economists. Joe Ackerman was intimately and forcefully a part of this influence until his retirement in 1970. Among his most effective contributions have been those coming from his skill in breaking down barriers between initially opposing groups and fostering unified working.

Many organizations, especially those with a rural interest, benefited from his enthusiasm and energy. School affairs held a particular interest for him, and he participated at all levels from the local to the national. After retirement from the Farm Foundation he spent three years with the Ford Foundation in Delhi applying the experience he had built up with the Foundation.

His sensitivity to the skills and aspirations of individual economists and to the constraints and opportunities surrounding members of the profession in the many countries which he visited made a major contribution to the growth of the International Association of Agricultural Economists. He built up close contacts with national correspondents, and did all in his power to see that younger members of the profession across the world had a chance to enjoy the experience of an international conference. He was untiring in seeking support for the work of the IAAE and has provided the channel through which the fund of experience built

up over the years has been passed to each successive local organizing committee so that each conference was planned effectively and efficiently.

Sherman Ellsworth Johnson

Sherman Johnson took over the Presidency of the International Conference of Agricultural Economists at the end of the Mysore conference in 1958 for the 1958–61 period, culminating in the conference in Mexico. There the reality of the continuing contact of agricultural economists across national boundaries which had developed and consolidated since 1929 was reflected by the change of name to the 'International Association of Agricultural Economists'. His services as President were but a small part of his contribution to the IAAE. His sound counsel and perceptive judgement were drawn on for many years before the Mysore meeting, and throughout the period since. Moreover, the opportunities for professional training for many agricultural economists, particularly in the United Kingdom and India, were the fuller as a result of his work as a consultant in their countries in the 1950s. Many more who visited the U.S. Department in Washington over the years have gained from his interest and advice.

He was born at Scandia, Minnesota, in 1896, grew up on a farm, took his B.S. degree in 1924 and his M.S. in 1926 at the University of Minnesota. He took his doctorate at Harvard in 1938. Before joining the United States Department of Agriculture in 1934 he had experience of teaching extension and research in universities in four states and at the Brookings Institution. Since 1934 his service in the USDA was practically continuous until his retirement, first in the management and costs field and later in many activities concerned with analysing and administering agricultural production policies.

His evident appreciation of the realities of farming and of the part which research in the experimental sciences and in economics could play in providing for agricultural change inspired confidence in workers in all these fields and the closer relations which mutual confidence can bring.

In 1958 he was a recipient of one of the Department of Agriculture's Distinguished Service Honor Awards, cited for 'distinguished national and world leadership in research on the economics of agricultural production'.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The aim in preparing the proceedings of the XIVth International Conference of Agricultural Economists held in 1970 was to place a serviceable record of the papers and discussions at the conference in the hands of members at the earliest possible moment; proofs were not returned to authors and contributors for checking. Though it inevitably resulted in certain imperfections this plan clearly met with the approval of members and a similar aim has been followed for the Proceedings of the XVth Conference. Papers and rapporteurs' reports of discussions have generally been printed in the form in which they were received. Corrections specifically notified to the Editor have been included and verbal adjustments of a minor nature have been made where this seemed desirable in the interests of ease of understanding.

Unhappily the Proceedings went to the printer at the start of the fuel crisis and delay in publication has been unavoidable.

Contributors to the discussion following the plenary papers were advised that if they wished for their contributions to be available to the Editor when the Proceedings volume was being prepared they should supply a written version. Many did so and these contributions are included, translated where necessary. (Contributions were received in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.) In other cases, where a clear tape-recording of the English Language channel of the simultaneous interpretation system was available, an edited transcription of this record was used to provide as complete a record as possible.

The organization of the various sessions of this conference, particularly the Special Group discussions, was somewhat more flexible than for previous conferences. Some departures from the strict form of Plenary and Special Group sessions with paper reader, opener, rapporteur, etc., were necessary either through absence of a participant or because some other arrangement seemed more likely to create the best atmosphere for constructive discussion. In consequence, there were certain sessions where a series of sectional presentations replaced a formal paper and some where there was a paper but no rapporteur's report.

No tape recordings were made at the Special Groups and rapporteurs' reports were based on their notes of the progress of the discussion. They were asked to omit any summarization of the paper circulated for that group, but were asked to include notes of the statements of those who had undertaken to open the discussion on the circulated paper. Unfortunately not all found it possible to include any effective indication of the openers' remarks. This had the regrettable result that the openers of the discussion, many of whom had spent considerable time in preparing their remarks, are

less effectively recorded in this volume than has been the practice in the past. The Editor expresses deep regret for this result and in his capacity as organizer of the Conference Programme sincerely thanks them for the valuable contribution which they made to the effective discussion of their several subjects.

At this Conference contributed Papers formed a separate section. Summaries are included here and publication of the Papers in full in the 'International Journal of Agrarian Affairs' is planned.

The Discussion Group reports, with the photographs and lists of participants, have been included in this report of the Proceedings as in that of the XIVth Conference. They were prepared by Mr Emerson Brookes and Dr William Kibler (U.S.A.). On this occasion a list of all participants in alphabetical order has been added indicating the discussion groups in which they participated. It is hoped that this will provide those who attended the conference with a means of locating individuals with whom they might wish to resume contact.

The volumes of Conference Proceedings, up to Volume 13, have customary included both the Constitution and a list of members. In this case the Constitution is included, but, as in the 14th volume, the list of members has been reserved for circulation later. As has been customary, the presentations at the symposium dealing with the agriculture of the host country have not been included in this volume. Special publications by the local Organizing Committee included most of this material.

Since 1934 the publications of the International Association of Agricultural Economists—in the early part of this period the International Conference of Agricultural Economists—have been prepared in the Institute of Agrarian Affairs, University of Oxford. Throughout that period the Institute was supported by a grant from the Dartington Hall Trustees. In 1972 the Institute of Agrarian Affairs was merged with the Institute of Agricultural Economics in the university which this report was prepared. Throughout the period from 1934–73 Miss Phyllis Hooke was secretary to a succession of Directors of the Institute of Agrarian Affairs who edited the Proceedings and Journal. She carried many of the responsibilities for the distribution of the publications of the International Association and the handling of conference papers. She managed the editorial office and all transcription of discussion at most of the conferences since the end of the war. As the last of the directors of the Institute of Agrarian Affairs who benefited from all her help and kindness the Editor would like to place on record the great debt which the Association members owe to Miss Hooke for her work and thoughtfulness over the four decades of the Association's history and wish her a very happy retirement.

KENNETH HUNT
Agricultural Economics Institute
University of Oxford
England