

Frank H. Golay

July 2, 1915 — August 31, 1990

Frank Hindman Golay, former president of the Association for Asian Studies and foremost economic historian of the Philippines, died in the Veterans Hospital, Oxford, New York, on August 31, 1990, after a long illness. Born in Windsor, Missouri, on July 2, 1915, he served as a submarine officer in the U.S. Navy in World War II and received his Ph.D. degree in economics from the University of Chicago in 1951. After working in the international division of the Federal Reserve Board, he came to Cornell in 1953 as an assistant professor of economics and Asian studies. He became a full professor in 1962 and remained at Cornell until his retirement in 1981. He was chair of Cornell's Department of Economics from 1963 to 1967 and director of the Southeast Asia Program from 1970 to 1976.

During the 28 years of his service, Frank Golay was a rock of dependability within the Department of Economics. The chairman could count upon him invariably for staunch support; and as chairman, he demanded the same kind of responsible service as he himself was always prepared to give. In addition to his own specialties, in particular the fields of economic development and the economics of Southeast Asia, he regularly taught basic departmental courses—elementary economics, money and banking, international trade and finance. His work on the Philippines exhibited the same kind of soundness, thoroughness, and excellence of judgment as he could always be depended upon to provide in his service to the University.

As director of the Southeast Asia Program's Philippine Project (1967-73) and London-Cornell Project (1968-70), Frank contributed much to strengthening Southeast Asian studies at Cornell. He was appointed to visiting professorships at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (Fulbright-Hays) in 1965-66 and at the University of the Philippines (Rockefeller Foundation) in 1973-74. For his scholarship on the Philippines, Frank was awarded an honorary L.L.D. degree by the Ateneo de Manila in 1966. He was awarded research fellowships by the Guggenheim and the Luce Foundations, the Social Science Research Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the United States Educational Foundation (Fulbright). He served as chairman of the Philippines Council of the Asia Society of New York (1964-67) and as a member of the Southeast Asia regional committee of the Association for Asian Studies (1963-65).

His major publications include *The Philippines: Public Policy and National Economic Development* (Cornell University Press, 1961) and four coauthored books: *The United States and the Philippines* (Prentice-Hall, 1966), *Land and Man in 1990: Philippine Rice Needs in 1990, Output and Input Requirements* (Agency for International

Development, 1967), *Underdevelopment and Economic Nationalism in Southeast Asia* (Cornell University Press, 1969), and *Diversity and Development in Southeast Asia* (McGraw-Hill/Council on Foreign Relations, 1977). Shortly before his illness he was close to completing a comprehensive study of United States-Philippine economic and political relations before Philippine independence.

It was not only through his many publications that Frank contributed to the development of a formal program of Southeast Asian studies at Cornell; he accepted leadership roles that significantly defined the scope and character of Cornell's teaching and research on that area. It was during his service as the third director of the Southeast Asia Program, from 1970 to 1976, that Frank Golay made his crucial contribution. The war in Vietnam was winding down, area and language programs were fading, and the government and foundations began to question the costs and the value of such programs. To such questions Frank Golay, with his financial and management sagacity and skills, added to his impressive scholarship, could provide persuasive answers, and he did. An official of one of the foundations called him his "best client." The U.S. Department of Education and several foundations began or continued their aid to Cornell's funding of the program.

A climax of Frank Golay's preeminent career in the field of Asian scholarship came with his 1984 election to the presidency of the Association for Asian Studies. In his presidential address, he noted that over time he found that "the outside world considered my role to be that of a Filipinist." It was certainly that and very much more.

So Frank Golay lived—serving extraordinarily well his university, his profession, and the peoples, students and others, common and uncommon, of both his country and of Southeast Asia. What Thucydides said of his friend can well be said of him: "The whole earth is the tomb of heroic men and their story is not graven only in stone over their clay, but abides everywhere, without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men's lives."

George McT. Kahin, Alfred E. Kahn, Lauriston Sharp, Tom E. Davis