

NATIONAL REVIEW, June 10, 1983 —T. BETHELL

Leonard E. Read, RIP

He dropped in on an editorial writer for the *New York Times*, introduced himself as general manager of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and said he was thinking of a wider enterprise. He was looking to preach the virtues of free enterprise. In 1946, having raised the funds, he started the Foundation for Economic Education for kindred spirits. As a result he was understood, despite his success. His books, a small but called output, should last the longer as a result.

The following year Friedrich Hayek, impressed by Read's action, called a conference at Vevey, Switzerland, of some 43 libertarian writers, mainly economists, from half a dozen countries. From the U.S. there were ten, including Ludwig von Mises, Milton Friedman, George Stigler—and Leonard Read. That was the beginning of the still flourishing Mont Pèlerin Society.

Temple Fielding, RIP

It was great sport for travelers who say such things as that Temple Fielding only notice the Parthenon millions of other things. Inside the Parthenon, Temple Fielding was sitting.

He served as an aircraft rigger in the First World War, and like many who have labored long and hard he learned to savor the exquisite things—music, wine, and the best cuisines. Tall, spare, handsome, and affable, he used to promise his friends, "I'll keep going till I fall off my bicycle." As always, he was as good as his word. He put in a full day's work on May 13. For many thousands around the world a gentle monument has fallen.

—H. HAZLITT

Some years later F. A. Harper, who had been working as an economist with Read's group, broke off to start the Institute for Humane Studies. Then Anthony Fisher set up similar organizations in England, Canada, and, eventually, the United States. Manuel Ayau in Guatemala established his Universidad Francisco Marroquín. Other groups, in Latin America and around the world, have followed Read's example. He produced not only living organizations but a constant stream of works—correspondence, seminars, articles, books. His 29 books, all variations on the great themes of liberty, capitalism, and their necessary moral foundations, may not all be remembered, but he did produce one essay ("I, Pencil") that it is safe to say will earn him immortality. In this, with his gift for simple lucid statement, he shows how the miracle of cooperation in free markets can produce an object, a simple lead pencil, that enfolds whole clusters of globe-circling technologies beyond the comprehension of any one mind.

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