



In memoriam Peter R. Senn (1923-2007)

The 2008 volume of *Halduskultuur* is dedicated to the memory of Peter R. Senn, scholar, mentor, and friend to several of our editors and contributors for almost twenty years, who passed away on 11 December 2007 in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

Peter was Professor emeritus of Economics and Social Science at Wilbur Wright College (City Colleges of Chicago) and an internationally recognized educator and authority on the history of social science. Born, on 22 November 1923, and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he left for a football scholarship at Oregon State University where he majored in Physics. Immediately after World War II, in which he served in the South Pacific, he entered the University of Chicago and received an MA in Economics in 1947. He went on to study at the Sorbonne, where he earned the degree of Doctor of Laws, with honors, in 1951. Before coming to Chicago, he was a faculty member at Pennsylvania State College. He received several fellowships from the Ford and National Science Foundations and was a founding member of the Social Science Education Consortium, as well as Executive Director of the Law in America Foundation. Until his retirement in 1984, he was also active in the business world both as a registered investment adviser and member of the Board of Directors of several corporations.

Peter's academic career included visiting professorships at the University of Chicago, Roosevelt University, Northwestern University, DePaul University, and finally, in 2000, of Public Finance at the University of Tartu's Department of Public Administration, where many of us worked back then and where he was a great success with students and colleagues alike. He took a great, also active, interest in Estonia, both generally and in the development of its academic sector, especially the social sciences and joined several commissions and advisory boards as well.

Peter was, among others, the author of a standard textbook on *Social Science and Its Methods* (1971) and co-author of another one on *Urban Communities* (1978), which went through several editions. A pioneer in e-learning scholarship, he also co-wrote a book on *The Internet and Problem-Based Learning* (2001), as well as several educational CD's in economics. But after his retirement, he mainly focused on studies of primarily 19th century German scholars, economists and *Staatswissenschaftler* on today's science by way of careful and thorough bibliographical research and analysis. They contribute greatly to our understanding of the people, the times, and the ideas, and they are important for making the connection between development, economics, state, and administration. His work on Gustav v. Schmoller, Friedrich Althoff, Werner Sombart, Christian Wolff, Adolf Wagner, Heinrich v. Stackelberg, and Karl Bücher – the last three with a significant Estonia connection –, to name just a few, was genuinely unique.

Peter was unideological to the core – one of the least prejudiced people one could ever meet. He did believe in the progress of science, in rationality, and in the scientific ascertainability of all things. He stood against scholarship without craft and reason, and in this, he had great impact on many students and colleagues, not least in Estonia. As a scholar and colleague, and even more as a friend, he will greatly be missed, but we are happy and grateful we had the privilege to know him, work with him, and count among his friends. (WD)