

Obituaries

J. HENRY KORSON

1930–1995

J. Henry Korson died at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston on July 4, 1995, after a brief illness. He was born in Philadelphia on January 9, 1930, the son of Morris and Sophia Korson, but spent his early years on a farm in New Jersey. He was educated at Villanova University and earned his Ph.D. in Sociology at Yale. He taught at New York University from 1940 to 1941, and at Bowdoin College 1942 to 1944. He came to Massachusetts State College in 1944 as a member of the History and Sociology Department—as the only sociologist, with the assignment to develop a sociology program. In 1948 he was named professor, and, with the addition of several members, sociology became a separate department in 1950. He continued as department head until 1966 and was named professor emeritus in 1976. He initiated the program in anthropology in 1960.

In 1939 he married Abigail Adams Scott, who died in 1979. In 1988 he married Sabra Rogers MacLeod, who survives him.

His early research interests were in unemployment studies, and he contributed to *The Unemployed Man* and *Citizens Without Work*, both edited by E. Wight Bakke, Yale University Press, 1940. He later published papers, with Albert Chevan, on the widowed population in the United States. Over a period of twenty-five years he concentrated entirely on modernization and social change in a traditional Muslim society—Pakistan, and in 1974 he edited a volume, *Contemporary Problems in Pakistan* (Leiden, E. J. Brill) and coauthored, with P. Zahn, *The Economic Value of Children* (Islamabad, 1988) and edited an entirely new volume, *Contemporary Problems of Pakistan* (Westview Press, 1993).

He was a former member of the editorial boards of three sociological journals. He was a National Science Foundation Visiting Scientist, 1967–69; Visiting Professor, Mount Holyoke College, 1950–51; Kwansai Gakuin University, Japan, 1957; and Smith College, 1971; and a Fulbright Professor, University of Karachi, Pakistan, 1964–65; a Fellow at the Population Institute, East-West Center, Honolulu, 1980 and 1981; Senior Research Consultant, National Institute of Population Studies, Islamabad, 1986; a member of the National Seminar on Pakistan, at the Southern Asia Institute at Columbia University, 1970–74; and trustee of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, 1974–79. He was a member of the American Sociological Association, the Association for Asian Studies, the Sierra Club, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Chocorua Mountain Club.

In addition to his wife, he leaves his son, Thomas Eliot Korson, his daughter-in-law, Mary Mularkey Korson, and a grandson, Andrew Steffes Korson, all of Denver; six stepsons, eight stepgrandchildren, a nephew, and several cousins. Contributions may be made to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst, P.O. Box 502, Amherst, Mass. 01004, or the Sociology Graduate Student Fellowship Program, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass. 01003.